Drawing on the Digital Simms Edition of the Simms Initiatives, the University of South Carolina Press is issuing the major works of William Gilmore Simms in affordable Print-on-Demand editions. Perfect for use in the classroom or for casual readers, each of the more than sixty titles will feature the last version that Simms himself prepared for press or, in the case of several not separately published in his lifetime, later scholarly editions. In addition, each work as a rule will contain a biography of the author, a general bibliography of Simms studies, a select bibliography of sources related to the text at hand, and an introduction to the work by a scholar in the field.

For a complete list of the works and the schedule on which they will appear between summer 2011 and winter 2013, simply visit the Print-on-Demand section of the Simms Initiatives website (see the URL inside). Each year, the Press plans to issue an average of twenty volumes.
Why Simms?

In the mid-19th century, William Gilmore Simms did more than anyone to frame white southern self-identity, nationalism, and historical consciousness. He also did more to foster the South’s literary life and place in America’s imagination. In the second quarter of the 19th century, only James Fenimore Cooper was as popular, and Edgar Allan Poe in 1845 rated Simms “the best novelist which this country has, on the whole, produced.” He was as well the South’s most influential editor of cultural journals and was the region’s most prolific critic and poet.

Why the Simms Initiatives?

With the Simms Initiatives, generously funded by the Watson-Brown Foundation and the University of South Carolina Libraries, readers have growing access to this long neglected author’s work. That comes through both Print-on-Demand and digital editions. The Initiatives also are compiling as complete a bibliography of Simms’s writings as possible. The result will be kinds and degrees of access given to few authors.

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Begun in June 2010, the Simms Initiatives drew on a national team of advisers in its planning and had the soft launch of its database and website on June 15th, 2011. Concluding a five-month beta phase, the Initiatives prepared for the hard launch on November 15th. At that point, all major site functionalities and features became available to the user public.

The Simms Initiatives website will offer a complete array of resources for the casual reader, student, and advanced researcher:

- Full-text online versions of Simms’s books and other works
- Full-text search capabilities
- Browsing of complete collection by genre, date, and subject
- Faceted browsing of search results
- Bibliography of all Simms’s published writings
- New Simms biographical overview
- List of Simms’s works and works on Simms
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