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# Lumières, November 1975

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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# LUMIÈRES

## Message from the President

The library provides the center for academic achievement and helps to marshal the intellectual resources of every great university. It fulfills its purpose when it can provide the materials to adequately support research and attract scholars.

If a library is to conserve, transmit, and advance knowledge it must constantly promote expansion of its resources to meet the demands of inquiring minds.

Alumni and friends of the University, together with faculty members and students, are uniting as *Friends of the Library* and together will be able to do what none could do alone. Supporting the growth of collections and the improvement of physical facilities constitutes a common goal for all who are interested in excellence for the LSU Library.

We ask you to join the *Friends of the Library* and invite you to add your strength to this program by providing funds for the purchase of books and special collections, by donating books and private libraries, by establishing new, and contributing to existing, memorials, and by providing endowment funds.

All contributions are tax deductible. A variety of membership plans are available, making it possible for interested persons to participate to whatever extent desired. We welcome your inquiries and assure you that whichever plan you choose, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that you are part of an effort to bring LSU an even more distinguished library—a true asset for generations to come.

Charest Thibaut, Jr.  
President, Friends of the Library

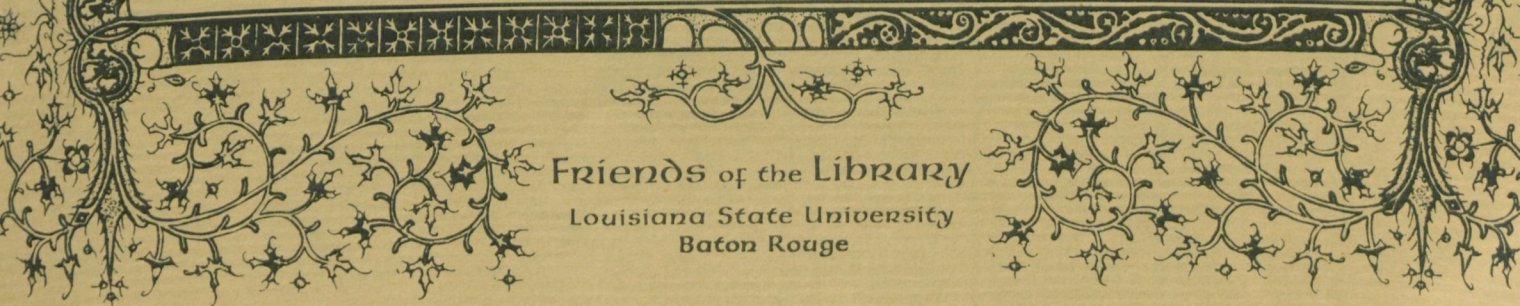
## Message from the Director

Just a word of appreciation to each of you individually for the positive influence that the "Friends" organization is radiating on behalf of the Library. In these days of financial stringency, good "Friends" are needed even more to help in the acquisition of those outstanding or unique items that cannot be purchased within the resources of a limited book budget.

If you have occasion to visit the Library soon, you will notice that service to an increased student body has the Library humming. During peak hours, there seems to be standing-room-only for Library users. These eager students must have the resources of a strong library to support their studies. The contribution being made by the Friends organization is adding to the Library's efforts to develop an even stronger collection.

It is gratifying to know that we are participants in the future—the future of these students today and of those to come tomorrow.

George J. Guidry, Jr.  
Director, LSU Library



Friends of the Library  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge



## B.R. in BR

To local geographic chauvinists, the initials BR mean Baton Rouge, La. But to those in the rarified world of typography and book design, special presses and limited editions, these initials affectionately denote Bruce Rogers, the master American book designer. During a long career, which began in 1896 at the Riverside Press and did not end until his death in 1957, Bruce Rogers made a profession and an art form of designing books.

The Rare Book Room of the LSU Library contains nearly all of the books considered Rogers' outstanding achievements in the art of book design. Two of the most notable works, acquired by the Library in 1974, are both praised for the same reasons: not only did B.R. do his usual design and selection work, he also designed the type for each volume.

The first is an edition of the *Essays* of Michael de Montaigne, published 1902-04. The type, modeled on the classic type of Nicholas Jenson and appropriately named *Montaigne*, was B.R.'s first attempt to fulfill his dream of designing an ideal typeface. About a decade later, Rogers refined *Montaigne* for an edition of *The Centaur* by Maurice de Guérin. The new type, *Centaur*, is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful ever designed. *The Centaur*, eclipsed in reputation and scarcity only by B.R.'s masterpiece the *Oxford Lectern Bible*, has become



one of the most sought after of Rogers' works. LSU's copy is a signed presentation copy.

Bruce Rogers had a particular affection for his initials. He signed much of his work with a self-designed colophon of a thistle, flanked by his initials. A humorous anecdote concerning the famous initials is related by Christopher Morley in *Two Centuries of Bruce Rogers*: "I recall with pleasure finding him in the lobby, peaceably studying the brass indicator on the elevator shaft. At the foot of the numbered dial the bottom and top swing of the pointers come together in two handsomely polished letters. 'I always like to take the elevator that has my initials on it,' he said with demure astonishment at this mysterious tribute. Sure enough, there they were, B.R. In unguarded impulse I explained that they meant Basement and Roof. I've always regretted having exploded for the great typothete this innocent hallucination; but I still regard them as symbolic . . . the man who knows his art from bottom to top, from rag to colophon."

How pleased B.R. would be to know many of his fine productions have found a home in—"innocent hallucination"—a town named after him!

Anna Perrault

Louisiana and Rare Book Rooms

## Profile of a Bibliophile--John S. McIlhenny

Retired Esso chemist John S. McIlhenny of Baton Rouge has a love for books that sprang understandably from a family with diverse interests in books and in science—particularly natural history. (His uncle, E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, was one of the world's leading naturalists.)

John McIlhenny's extensive library had its roots in his own interests in natural history, and had its serious beginnings one day when he was walking down Royal Street in New Orleans. Attracted by some Audubon plates in the window of the Southern Book Mart, he went inside. There he met an Austrian refugee, a doctor-turned-bookbinder, who showed him some books on natural history that had been sent from England, with the result that for years thereafter, he notified Mr. McIlhenny when he received such volumes.

Subsequently, Mr. McIlhenny visited Scribner's rare-book department in New York, bought several books, and had his name placed on their mailing list. Scribner's then sent him lists frequently, and he selected the books in which he was interested, for delivery on an approval basis.

Today, he gets catalogs from book dealers all over the world. His worldwide book collection has also been considerably enhanced by his frequent and far-flung travels: Either for business or pleasure, he's

visited Europe many times, Africa a number of times, and has traveled widely in South and Central America, New Zealand, Polynesia, Canada, and many parts of the U.S.

Mr. McIlhenny's personal favorite in his library is a two-volume elephant folio edition of Gould's *Hummingbirds*—a set bound in blue leather with gold tooling, from the personal collection of one of the banking Rothschilds of Europe.

The LSU Library has received many rare and valuable books as gifts from Mr. McIlhenny, who expresses hope that this will encourage other collectors to follow suit.

Mr. McIlhenny continues to be an avid book collector, but notes that prices have risen so fantastically that some books in which he is especially interested are now too expensive. One problem is that the Germans, the Japanese, and the Middle East oil shieks today have so much money that they buy up books without even bothering to look at them; their agents purchase the rarer items, knowing that they will continue to rise in value, simply as a hard financial investment.

Mr. McIlhenny has a significant financial investment in books, too, but his real investment is based on the affectionate appreciation of a true bibliophile.

Loyce J. McIlhenny



# 115 Years of the LSU Library

## January 2, 1860

The first academic session of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy began in Pineville, La., with five professors and 19 students.

## October 14, 1869

Fire leveled the building at Pineville, but the Library collection of 6,000 volumes was saved. Two weeks later, the seminary began functioning at the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind in Baton Rouge, although the inmates were not moved to other quarters until nine years later.

## 1880-1888

The Board of Supervisors, apparently with little knowledge of the value of the Library, directed that those books which were not immediately useful should be sold. Thus, some of the rare volumes were lost to the Library and the collection of 16,905 volumes and 3,100 pamphlets was increased by only 1,900 volumes during this period.

## 1886-1926

The University moved from the institute to the grounds of the old military post in Baton Rouge, donated by the federal government for University use. By 1900, the Library had 20,000 volumes and had outgrown its quarters. The gift of an alumnus, John Hill, provided a new library building, completed in 1903: the "Hill Memorial Library." The first trained librarian, Miss Inez Mortland, directed the Library from 1909-1915. Her predecessors had been professors by vocation and librarians only extracurricularly. By 1920, the collection numbered 50,376 volumes and was growing steadily. The University moved from the barracks to the present campus in 1925 and the Library, retaining the name of Hill Memorial, moved into its new building (with rocking chairs in the reference room) the following year.

## 1927-1944

This was a formative period for the Library as a research institution, with acquisitions of private libraries and the development of special collections. Under the guidance of James A. McMillen, director of libraries for this period, holdings expanded from 64,042 to 272,350 volumes. Departmental libraries became necessary as space-saving measures. In 1930 the Library was invited to join the Association of

Research Libraries, a recognition of the expansion of research at the University, improvement of graduate programs, and the resultant growth of the Library and its efficiency. One of the most notable events in the history of LSU libraries was the Board of Supervisors' appropriation early in 1944 of a special fund of \$200,000 for the purchase of sets of scientific journals and other research materials.

## 1944-1954

Under the direction of Guy R. Lyle, the collection increased from 286,672 to 491,717 volumes. The 12 departmental libraries were becoming increasingly difficult to staff, particularly during war-time. This period was characterized by a deep concern for inadequate physical conditions, congested space, widely scattered materials, and the resultant difficulty of providing good library service. The need to consolidate some of the departmental libraries was recognized, as was the need for a larger staff with thorough training in the professional subject fields. Two events, the selection of the LSU Library as a depository for U.N. Documents in 1946 and the installation of the microphotography unit in 1948, contributed greatly to the research capabilities of the Library.

## 1955-1960

This brief period under the direction of Sidney B. Smith saw the costly flood in the basement of Hill Memorial in September 1957 and the long awaited move to the new building in August 1958, pulling together resources from 11 different parts of the campus under a central administration. The dedication in October 1959 was the first major event of LSU's centennial year. A high point in the convocation was the conferring of an honorary doctoral degree on Miss Essae M. Culver, state librarian, the first woman and the first librarian to be so honored. The LSU Library collection expanded during these years from 517,592 to 671,560 volumes.

The first hundred years were a period of continued steady growth, evaluation, and vigorous effort toward better library service to the University community. The next hundred years would have the support of the "Friends of the LSU Library," an adjunct of the University Foundation, to widen the scope of interest in the Library and to gain financial support and private collections for the Library.

Sister Marie L. Cairns

## LUMIÈRES

Published by the Friends of the Library  
131 Pleasant Hall, Louisiana State University, Mary Jane Kahao, editor

Volume I Number I

Literally "lights" in French, lumières is frequently used to denote enlightenment or knowledge. As such, it illustrates the purpose of the newsletter: to enlighten members of the Friends of the Library with news of the organization and with needs of the LSU Library. The cover design is based on an exquisite hand-illuminated border from a 15th century French religious manuscript.



# The LSU Archives

Situated on the second floor of the Library, contiguous to the Louisiana Room, is the LSU Department of Archives and Manuscripts. The collection is one of the oldest in the Mississippi River Valley and contains the richest assembly of original source material on Louisiana in existence today.

In the department are over 3500 individual collections comprising between three and one-half and four million items. Materials housed here were accumulated by persons representing practically every type of occupation and avocation imaginable and reflect many aspects of life from the very distant to the very recent past.

During the 1974-1975 academic year, 131 collections were added to the department's holdings. Of particular interest to those favoring the colonial period was the acquisition of the Chevalier Jean Charles de Pradel and Family Papers, dating from 1719. Other valuable research collections acquired include those of the following families: Hardy Richardson, Herman L. Duncan, Annie Jeter Carmouche, Annabel Smith, Robert R. Reid, Anatole Keller, Joseph Monget and Henderson, Layssard and Meyer.

The department would like to remind the Friends of the Library that it is actively engaged in acquiring, preserving, and making available for scholarly research, family and business manuscript materials. Letters, diaries, memoirs and recollections, speeches, essays and other writings, scrapbooks, photographs, bills and receipts, other personal financial papers, and business and organizational records are particularly useful for supplying facts on personalities, developments, and conditions in the past, which would be unavailable elsewhere. Papers of a purely personal nature are frequently overlooked as valuable sources by those possessing them, though they may furnish a wealth of information for social and economic studies.

Should you have a collection of family or business papers, or know of individuals having such items, we would appreciate your contacting M. Stone Miller, Jr., Head, LSU Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Baton Rouge, La., Tel. (504) 388-2240.

**M. Stone Miller, Jr.**  
LSU Archives



## Book Bazaar

All Friends are urged to gather their used books and phonograph records and to donate them for resale by the Book Bazaar Committee, headed by Mrs. H. Leslie McKenzie. Funds accrued from the project will be used for special acquisitions for the Library. Three sales are planned for 1976: March 28 at the LSU Union Flea Market; July 10 at the Baton Rouge Arts Festival; and a week-long event, the BIG BOOK BAZAAR, the last week in September.

Please call 343-2340 or 766-2750 to arrange for pickup of books and records. The value of used donated items is tax deductible.



## n Memoriam

John A. Campagnaro became the first curator of the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection on September 1, 1971, the position he held until his death on July 30, 1975.

Mr. Campagnaro was a graduate of the St. Anselmo University in Rome and the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Library Science. He also received training in the history and restoration of books and manuscripts from the Vatican Book Institute and Laboratory, the Italian Institute for the Pathology of the Book, and the Badia Grottaferrata in Rome. He established the Institute del Restauro del Libro in Padua, Italy.

His outstanding work with the McIlhenny Collection, his devoted service to the Library, and his friendship and concern for his fellow man will be a lasting tribute to John Campagnaro.

## The LSU Faculty Collection

The LSU Faculty Collection is a relatively unknown group of materials presented to the Louisiana Room by the authors. This collection of books, articles, poems, essays, short stories, etc. attempts to bring together in a single area, without regard to subject matter, the various works of individual faculty authors. As no materials are purchased for the Faculty Collection, its scope and development depend entirely upon the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donors.

Faithful contributors of many years who continue to send materials include Dr. Waldo W. Braden, Department of Speech and Dr. John Hazard Wildman, Department of English. Dr. Wildman's most recent gift is of unique interest: it is a copy of a Russian magazine containing his short story "Folly Fighting Death" translated into Russian.

Some extensive acquisitions recently acquired include the following:

A complete collection of the works of Dean Richard Joel Russell, given in his memory by the LSU Coastal Studies Institute.

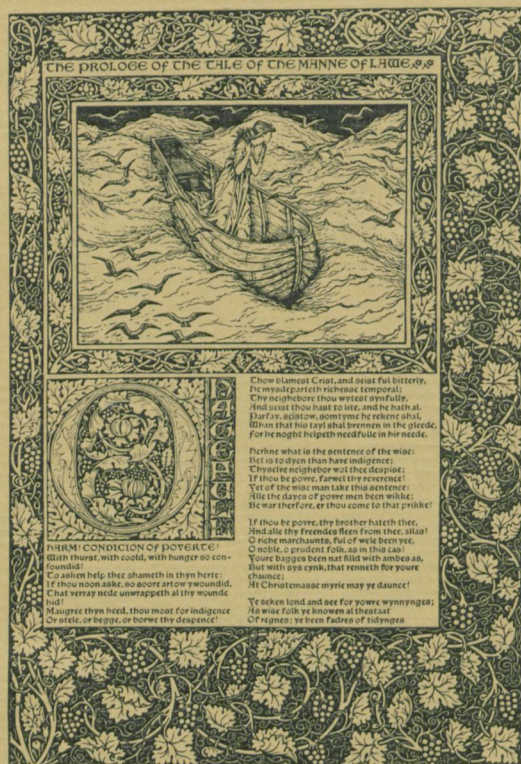
A complete collection of the articles and maps of Dr. Donald H. Kupfer, Department of Geology.

A complete collection of the books, essays, short stories, poems, and book reviews of David Madden, writer-in-residence, Department of English.

Faculty and research staff members are invited to make contributions either directly to the Louisiana Room or through the Gifts and Exchange Department.

**Evangeline Lynch**  
Louisiana Room





*The Kelmscott Chaucer*

## Gifts

The LSU Library would like to express appreciation to the following groups and individuals who have generously donated gifts to the Library in the past year.

### FRIENDS OF THE LSU LIBRARY 1975

THE MADRID CODICES OF LEONARDO DaVINCI. 5 volumes. Translation and commentary by Dr. Ladislao Reti. New York, 1974.

Upon Leonardo's death, the codices almost immediately vanished into obscurity. In time they were traced to the private collection of Philip V in Madrid. As the result of transfer to the National Library in the early 19th century, they were lost again until 1965. These codices change our view of the intellectual history of mankind and of Leonardo's place in it by throwing a new light on his monumental achievements as a scientist, inventor, and engineer.

THE RED BOOKS OF HUMPHRY REPTON. 4 volumes. London, Basilisk Press.

This English landscape gardener created books with overlays to show his patrons how he proposed to improve their properties. His work became the byword of good taste among 18th century landowners. None of Repton's works has been previously published.

THE KELMSCOTT CHAUCER. 2 volumes. London, John Roberts Press.

Reproduction of William Morris' Kelmscott Press book of 1894, *The Collected Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Hailed by artists, critics, bibliophiles and literary magazines as "the noblest book yet achieved by any English printer." A second volume includes Byrne-Jones' preliminary drawings, which translate Chaucer's lines of poetry into highly literal pictorial compositions. Byrne-Jones' woodcuts designed for this Chaucer are now in the British Museum.

## STUDENT GROUPS

\$1,000.00 from the Interfraternity Council barbeque for the Library. \$365.00 from the Student Government Association royalties on their "Freshman Register."

## MEMORIAL FUNDS

For purchase of Library books in memory of:

Marguerite Hanchey  
Mrs. J. Norman Efferson  
Mrs. Gayle Duncan Bougeus  
Richard A. Mornhinveg  
Lewis Gottlieb

John A. Campagnaro  
Thomas Shuler Shaw  
Dean Arthur R. Choppin  
Professor John Olive  
Robert A. Rentz Jr.

## Desiderata

The following is a partial listing of desirable additions to the Library. These items have been chosen to follow the Friends' criteria for selection of gifts for library use, i.e. (1) that they be research documents, (2) that they represent an expansion of what exists in modest coverage, or (3) that they add to an area which is already strong. We hope that a Friend will want to give one of these tax deductible treasures.

OXFORD LECTERN BIBLE. Oxford Publishing Co., 1935. Design and type by Bruce Rogers. The first folio bible since the *Baskerville* of 1763 that compares with the bibles of early printers in quality of design and workmanship. Copies of this desirable volume are extremely difficult to acquire.

Leroux de Lincy, Antoine. J. V. RESEARCHES CONCERNING JEAN GROlier: HIS LIFE AND HIS LIBRARY. 1909. Tr. and rev. by Carolyn Shipman. B. Franklin. An account of the great French bibliophile of the Renaissance. \$35.00

Claudin, Anatole. HISTOIRE DE L'IMPRIMERIE EN FRANCE AUX XV<sup>e</sup> ET XVI<sup>e</sup> siècles, réunis par Symour De Ricci. Index, Kraus. Index to volume in our Rare Book Room containing facsimiles of title pages, woodcuts, and type specimens illustrating the history of printing in all major French printing centers of the 15th and 16th centuries. \$54.00

Melville, Herman. MOBY DICK. Limited edition. New York, Abramson. Illustrated by LeRoy Neiman, signed by Jacques Cousteau, who wrote the preface. \$450.00

U.S. Library of Congress. Rare Books Division. CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE RARE BOOK DIVISION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. 2 volumes. N. J., Rowman & Littlefield, 1975. \$100.00

LIBRARY CATALOG OF THE SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE. 19 volumes. A listing of books and pamphlets significant to the whole field of knowledge pertaining to Arctic and Antarctic regions. \$1,700.00

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RELEASES, 1933-1973. (microfiche) \$1,890.00

EDWIN M. STANTON PAPERS. Library of Congress. Microfilm of 20,000 papers of this controversial member of Lincoln's cabinet stored in the Library of Congress. \$2,420.00

U.S. GOVERNMENT BIBLIOGRAPHY MASTERFILE, 1924-1973. (microfiche) \$15,850.00 Cumulative subject guide to the above. 7 volumes. \$620.00

A HISTORY OF WOMEN; A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION. (microfilm) \$24,000.00

Humboldt, Alexander von. VOYAGE AUX REGIONS EQUINOXIALES DU NOUVEAU CONTINENT. 30 volumes. 1805-1834. Netherlands, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. Reprint. \$12,279.00



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