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Lumières, April 1976

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LUMIÈRES

The Grace Lane Skolfield Memorial Fund

The Louisiana Room has marked the United States Bicentennial with the purchase of a unique Louisiana imprint, "Report of the Board of Managers of the Louisiana Bible Society, Read and Approved the 20th April, 1815," from the Grace Lane Skolfield Memorial Fund. According to the Louisiana Union Catalog this particular report, published in New Orleans by Godwin B. Cotten in 1815, is not found in any other Louisiana library.

The verso of the title page is noteworthy for its list of names of famous citizens comprising the first board of managers of the Society.

One of the vice-presidents was General Philemon Thomas, statesman and soldier who in 1810 led a successful uprising against the Spanish authorities in Baton Rouge and later settled there. The treasurer was the Honorable François Xavier Martin, well-known jurist and author of *The History of Louisiana*.

The Louisiana Bible Society dedicated its activities to obtaining and distributing copies of the *Bible* in English and the *New Testament* in French. The importance of its work is revealed in a paragraph of the report which states, "The want of *Bibles* in Louisiana is extreme," and concludes with the words "... nor is there



at this moment a *Bible* to be purchased in any Book Store in the city of New Orleans."

Interesting bits of information concerning the variety of recipients are disclosed in the following passages: "The British prisoners, to whom a portion of the English *Bibles* were distributed, manifested the sincerest gratitude . . . The young and the old, the rich and the poor as if alike conscious of their wants pressed forward with out-stretched hands . . .

112 have been sent for distribution to the county of Natchitoches

. . . Those children whose parents were unable from the exorbitant price

of school books, and the pressure of war, to furnish them, have now a book."

The Grace Lane Skolfield Memorial Fund was established in 1968 by Mrs. Elizabeth Skolfield Warrick and Mrs. Edith Skolfield Herlitz in memory of their mother, and the lovely tribute has resulted in the addition to the Louisiana Collection of many valuable research materials. Each item acquired through this fund contains a bookplate with a picture of Grace Lane Skolfield and the words "From the Grace Lane Skolfield Collection."

Evangeline Lynch
Louisiana and Rare Book Rooms

Friends of the Library

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge

Message from the President

The Friends of the LSU Library have honored me by choosing me as their president for the ensuing year. I will be associated with a distinguished group in furthering the interests of our great University's Library, the intellectual heart and nerve center of the campus. Without a quality library, the many disciplines of the University are hampered and our academic standing is imperiled.

I am indebted to my predecessor, Charest Thibaut, for an all-encompassing statement of the aims and purposes of the Friends and for the thought and effort he has put into achieving those goals. Plans are being made, and an enormous amount of energy is being spent, in seeing that our Library maintains the position it has had for many decades as one of the leading university libraries in the South. Never again can we allow important collections to escape our acquisition because of insufficient funds. We must be prepared, with monies available, when opportunities arise to add important collections to our Library. With this need in mind, the Book Bazaar was initiated as a fund-raising project. This is a call to all who love books, who love the University, who are Librarians past or present, to rally to our support by joining the Friends!

We must be alert to the Library's needs and opportunities, and give every assistance we can to make this the best possible Library!

Eilleen M. (Mrs. R. Gordon) Kean
President, Friends of the LSU Library

Profile of a Bibliophile--Judge J. St. Claire Favrot

He calls it "a small working library."

He doesn't know exactly how many volumes he has, but he does know that he has run out of shelf space, and now is to the point where he has them "all over the house—in the attic, under the beds, in the garage—so that they've become almost overwhelming."

His forte is books on the history of Louisiana, and especially Baton Rouge, plus maps, prints, and paintings. As he says, "They all go together."

He is Judge J. St. Clair Favrot, a graduate of the LSU Law School, who started his legal practice in Baton Rouge in 1938, was elected city judge in 1943 (and re-elected), was elected district attorney in 1952 (and re-elected, choosing in 1960 not to run for a third term).

Almost a native Louisianan (his then-pregnant mother was sent to her native Texas because of a yellow fever epidemic in Louisiana, and he says he "went along for the ride"), Judge Favrot was born in Dallas in 1906. He grew up and went to school in Louisiana, and was always an avid reader.

When he married the former Dorris Coleman of Jena, Louisiana, in 1940, it was also a merger of two book lovers. They discussed books, they bought them, they collected them, and they read them. And when they married, they determined that there should be some purpose to a library. His abiding interest in local history gave direction to that library, which is now almost definitive.

Judge Favrot's personal tastes in fiction tend toward realistic authors such as Dos Passos and Marquand. But his real loves center on regional books, and his favorite is *Life in the Confederate Army* by William Watson.

Whoever heard of William Watson? Judge Favrot, is who. Watson was a Scottish engineer (and a partner of John Hill, who donated the first library on LSU's former campus on the old state capitol grounds), who

finally wound up in the Third Louisiana Infantry Regiment. His book describes the outbreak of the Civil War, its effect on the people of Baton Rouge, and the futility of the whole thing.

Not content with just reading a book, Judge Favrot is something of a literary detective. He probably knows more than anybody else in the state (possibly the world) about Watson (whose grave he's visited in Scotland), and such other notables as Col. William H. Sparks (Whoever heard of him? Judge Favrot, is who). He tracks down the life stories of authors, their ancestors, their descendants, and their foibles.

He collects authors as "characters," and he has written—and is writing—articles about them. Seven have appeared in *Entrée* magazine under the cover title "Tales of Our Town."

Judge Favrot knows a great deal about the Civil War, but refuses to describe himself as a "buff," because his interests are so much wider in scope.

Of the legal volumes in his library, Judge Favrot shrugs off, "Oh, nothing special, but there are a few early gems...hard to get, but of no real value." Then he resumes talking about books on Louisiana and Baton Rouge, such as the first book that mentions the name of Louisiana (*The History of Louisiana*, published in 1683, by Father Louis Hennepin, who made a highly inaccurate map of the Mississippi River sight unseen), or the first book that mentions the name of Baton Rouge (*The Journal of Father Charlevoix*, which was published in Paris in 1744).

It would seem probable that a man such as Judge Favrot—who has not only a wealth of books but also a wealth of stories about Louisiana history—could be considered an expert in the field.

Is he?

A candid answer from a candid gentleman: "Yes."

Loyce J. McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications

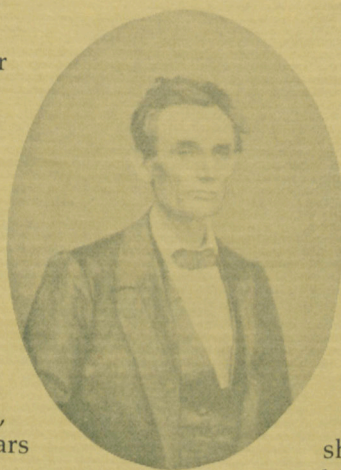
"Abraham Lincoln his book...."

Dr. T. Harry Williams, Boyd professor of history, has made a gift through the LSU Foundation to enable the Friends of the Library to purchase a dictionary that once belonged to Abraham Lincoln.

Bound in a deerskin cover with what purports to be a bullet hole in one corner, *Bailey's Etymological English Dictionary* bears the handwritten inscription, "Abraham Lincoln his book, bought in the year of our Lord 1795." (The dictionary had formerly belonged to his uncle, Mordecai Lincoln, whose signature appears four times in the book.)

As fascinating as the book itself is the history of its relationship with LSU, which begins in about 1879 when the aunt of James A. McMillen—later to become LSU librarian—found the volume in the attic of her house in Hancock County, Illinois. (The house had been formerly occupied by a cousin of the President.)

The book was at one time in Mr. McMillen's possession, and he had wanted it for the LSU Library, but it



seems to have been owned by a woman in Alton, Illinois—a relative of Mr. McMillen's aunt.

The book was then bought by a bookstore owner in Chicago on behalf of a client in Illinois, whose avowed intention was to have it restored and presented as a gift to LSU. The book (along with another copy of the same edition procured in England by the bookstore owner and to be used in the restoration) was sent to a bindery. But the binder never received a contract, and shelved the books, because the purported philanthropist never paid the bill.

More than 20 years went by. University administrators periodically inquired about the books—to no avail.

Finally, the binder reached retirement time, and in tidying up his affairs, came across the books. The matter was re-opened, the donor who never donated had died, Dr. Williams became the donor in fact, and LSU should soon get the book it has so long wanted.

Loyce J. McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications



In Saecula Saeculorum



The term *curator* is ultimately derived from the Latin *curare*, meaning to care for or protect. One of the primary tasks of a curator is to physically care for books and other objects for which he is responsible. Further, however, I believe that he has the additional obligation to inform others of the procedures which they may follow to preserve and care for their own books: a fine old volume needlessly ruined is unmeet, and unnecessary into the bargain.

The basic rules for caring for books are simple: keep them clean, keep them dry, and avoid sudden temperature changes or strong lights. Cleanliness will avoid damage to pages (dust under a microscope is as jagged as lava outcroppings) and reduce the amount of insects and mould. There is no really safe light for viewing books, but ordinary incandescent bulbs are the least harmful—and much more pleasant visually. The ultraviolet rays in both daylight and fluorescent light are quite harmful.

If you have a book whose paper is becoming brittle and discoloured, there is unfortunately little that can be done economically in the present state of technology. The only really effective method of stabilizing the paper requires the book to be taken apart and then rebound. For cleaning pages, however, a soft art gum eraser does well. Above all, never employ Scotch tape to repair pages; over time, tapes discolour and leave a residue that is irremovable. If there is any Scotch tape

on a book now, it can be removed using acetone (fingernail polish remover), but the stains are permanent.

Bindings are a different matter. These serve to both hold the book together and also to add to its beauty, and a good deal more can be done with them.

The chief problem with leather bindings is that they have dried out. Do not put any kind of plastic spray on them—this is not restoration, it is embalming. Only if the leather is actually powdery (like suede) should you use a kind of wax to hold the leather together. Otherwise, clean the leather, if needed, using a good saddle soap and not much water; follow this up with a coating of petroleum jelly. Let the jelly soak in for an hour or two, then wipe it off gently—the result will surprise you.

Petroleum jelly will also work reasonably well on cloth covers. Generally, attempts to colour book covers to hide fading are not successful, the result being what our foremothers referred to as "painted husies."

Broadly speaking, old books should be treated as any elderly relations: handle them gently, provide for their physical infirmities, and derive from them wisdom.

Donald Bruce McKeon
Curator, E. A. McIlhenny Collection



First Honorary Member

The Board of Directors of the *Friends* has designated Dr. Joseph Brouillette as the first Honorary Life Member in recognition of his extraordinary service to the *Friends* organization. Dr. Brouillette, a native of Marksville, who retired as director of LSU's General Extension Division after 20 years, served as chairman of the *Friends* from 1965-67. As chairman, Dr. Brouillette worked diligently in the interest of the Library and its collections. He was instrumental in gaining the financial support of the faculty and staff to acquire 100 plates, double elephant folio edition volume I, of Audubon's *Birds of America*. In a speech, Dr. Brouillette once quoted a noted biologist as saying: "There is a golden age ahead for our species; if only we use to their utmost capacity our heads and our hearts, our intelligence and our natural intuitive love for all that is within nature, for that beauty which is life itself. It becomes essential that man have a purpose in mind, a concept of the future to give meaning to his fateful moves."

Dr. Brouillette's sense of purpose and his concept of the future in supporting and continuing the leadership of the *Friends* were acknowledged by his fellow members at the *Friends*' annual banquet.

Friends' Annual Banquet

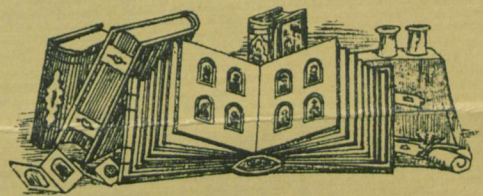
Members and guests were welcomed by Charest Thibaut, president of the *Friends*, at their annual banquet held Thursday, March 25 at the Baton Rouge Country Club. Mrs. Marian Orgain, assistant director and curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts of the University of Houston, spoke on "Adventures in Book Hunting."

Dr. John Wildman, chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the 1975 *Friends of the LSU Library* Award to "an individual, individuals, or organizations who have performed an outstanding service to the Library in the 12 months preceding the Annual Meeting." Recipients were: The Interfraternity Council, which donated \$1,000 from a benefit barbecue, and James Alvey Smith, who gave a Dorothy Doughty ceramic bird and a cash donation matched by EXXON. Bronze plaques were presented to the donors in appreciation of their gifts to the Library.

Dr. Joseph Brouillette was designated the first Honorary Life Member in recognition of his extraordinary service to the *Friends* organization over a period of years.

A report of the *Friends*' first fund-raising project was given by Mrs. Leslie McKenzie, chairman of the Book Bazaar. Members were urged to find books for recycling as well as to attend the Mini-Book Bazaar to be held at the Union Flea Market, Sunday, March 28th. The main Book Bazaar will be held this Fall.

President Thibaut praised the progress of the group in the number of memberships, gifts to the Library, and in the first fund-raising project. He thanked the *Friends* and the Board of Directors for their support, and introduced the new slate of officers: Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, president; E. Leland Richardson, vice-president; Caroline Wire, treasurer; and Mary Jane Kahao, secretary. Mrs. Kean then spoke briefly on the importance of the *Friends*' efforts and introduced the new board members.



Book Bazaar

The Book Bazaar netted \$877.54 from the sale of used books in the mini-sale held under the oaks at LSU, March 28. Committee enthusiasm is now running high for the big sale October 1-2 in the Bon Marché Mall.

We must have books coming in steadily from now until then. Please ask your friends and neighbors to donate their used books and phonograph records. Bring them to the basement of the Old Hill Memorial Library, across the street from the Indian Mounds, any Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A yellow sign, "Book Bazaar Barn," marks the double door during delivery hours. You may park in the driveway long enough to unload. If you prefer to have books picked up at your house, please call 344-1807 or 343-2340.

Donations of books or records are tax deductible.

Rosalind McKenzie
Chairman, Book Bazaar Committee

LUMIÈRES

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

Volume 1 Number 2

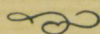
Literally "lights" in French, lumières is frequently used to denote enlightenment or knowledge. As such, it illustrates the purpose of the newsletter: to enlighten members of the Friends of the LSU Library with news of the organization and with needs of the LSU Library. The cover design is based on an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



From the library of Jean Grolier

Gifts

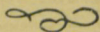
The LSU Library would like to express appreciation to those who have generously donated the following gifts to the Library.



LeRoux de Lincy, Antoine, J. V. **RESEARCHES CONCERNING JEAN GROLIER: HIS LIFE AND HIS LIBRARY.** 1909. Tr. by Carolyn Shipman. B. Franklin reprint. *Gift of Ada M. Sabatier.*

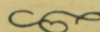
Jean Grolier, a sixteenth-century treasurer of France, was one of the greatest book collectors of all time. His *ex libris* expresses the sentiment of a true collector: *Ex Libris Joannis Grolierii et amicorum* (from the library of Jean Grolier and his friends). Grolier was born in Lyon and accompanied his father, treasurer of war, with the French armies invading Italy. Succeeding his father, he continued on in a long career (1470-1565) to become one of the six treasurers of France.

Grolier was a patron of scholars and printers and began collecting books in his 20's. Publications by Aldus Manutius, the great Venetian printer, were particularly prized by Grolier. He acquired a taste for the fine Italian leather bindings of the time and was probably the chief promoter of fine binding in France from 1530 until his death. Of his library, 600 volumes have survived, although he is reputed to have had over 3,000.



Hirth, Georg. **PICTURE BOOK OF THE GRAPHIC ARTS: 3500 WOODCUTS, ETCHINGS AND ENGRAVINGS BY THE MASTERS 1500-1800.** 1881. B. Blom, 1969, reprint. *Given in honor of Professor Emeritus Caroline Durieux's 80th birthday by her friends and the Friends of the LSU Library.*

A corpus of reproductions by German, French, Dutch and other artists, illustrating history and customs of the 16th to 18th centuries.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION. 404 memoirs on 4x6 microfiche. *Gift of Friends of the LSU Library.*

A collection begun by the late Allen Nevins, distinguished author, teacher, and historian. This is the largest group of personal memoirs ever assembled, and is a valuable unique research tool perpetuating the words, thoughts, and deeds of prominent people in all walks of life.

BAILEY'S ETYMOLOGICAL ENGLISH DICTIONARY. (See Abraham Lincoln, his book . . . , page 3.) *Gift of Dr. T. Harry Williams through the LSU Foundation.*

MEMORIAL FUNDS

For purchase of library books in memory of

Professor Emeritus Stanley Preston
Mrs. J. Norman Efferson
L. O. Jamerson
Mrs. Sallie S. Clark
Richard A. Morhinveg
Mrs. Thomas P. Singletary
Floyd Randall Eldred
Thomas Cary Richardson

Desiderata

The following is a partial list of items needed for the LSU Library. We hope that a *Friend* will want to give one of these tax deductible research treasures.

Claudin, Anatole. **HISTOIRE DE L'IMPRIMERIE EN FRANCE AUX XV^e ET XVI^e Siècles**, réunis par Seymour De Ricci. Kraus. \$54.00.

An *index* to a volume in our Rare Book Room illustrating the history of printing in France in these two centuries.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOG OF SUNG DYNASTY PORCELAIN. 8 v. Tuttle. Limited edition. \$750.00.

Color plates of the National Palace Museum Collection from this most brilliant era in the history of Chinese art.

Yeats, William Butler. **WILD SWANS AT COOLE, OTHER VERSES AND A PLAY IN VERSE.** Cuala Press, 1907. Battery Park Catalog #49, 217. \$150.00.

CATALOG OF THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 6 v. G. K. Hall. \$490.00.

Important listing of Astronomy literature.

ARCTIC EXPEDITION DIARIES OF VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON. Dartmouth College Library and Canadian National Archives with Xerox University Microfilms. 35mm. film. \$180.00.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RELEASES, 1933-1973. Microfiche. \$1,890.00.

Picken, Laurence. **FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF TURKEY.** Oxford U. Press. \$108.00.

U. S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE PRINTS FROM THE FIRST ISSUED THROUGH 1969. *Phase 1: Committee prints in the U. S. Senate Library.* \$8,975.00.

This important resource would be used daily in the Documents Division.

FRITZ SCHOLDER LITHOGRAPHS. N. Y. Graphic, 1975. \$200.00

Lithographs by an American artist of Indian descent, plus text, chronology and bibliography.

Joyce, James. **ULYSSES.** Facsimile of the manuscript. Farrar, Straus & Giroux in association with Philip H. & A. W. Rosenback Foundation, Philadelphia. 3 v. \$150.00.

Financial Statement

January 1975-January 1976

Balance in LSU Foundation Account
December 31, 1974 \$3,210.30

Income:

Memberships, Memorials, \$8,073.40
Gifts in Honor of Individuals
Interest 448.00

TOTAL \$8,521.40

Expenditures:

Jan. '75 Transfer to 175-30-6305 \$ 250.00
Friends' book account
Apr. '75 Supplies (stationery, member-
ship cards, certificates, 400.00
brochures)
May '75 Annual banquet expenses
including speaker's expenses 275.73
June '75 Working account established
with Accounting Services for
supplies 173.73
Nov. '75 Transfer to 175-30-6305 for
approved book purchases 750.00
Jan. '76 Transfer to 175-30-6305
for approved book purchases 2,050.00

TOTAL \$3,899.46

Total income less expenditures \$4,621.94

Balance in LSU Foundation Account
January 31, 1976 \$7,832.24

Library Endowment Fund \$16,889.82

Officers

Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, President
E. Leland Richardson, Vice-President
Caroline Wire, Treasurer
Mary Jane Kahao, Secretary

Classes of Membership

- ☐ A. Student Member (annually) \$2.00
☐ B. Regular Member (annually) \$10.00
☐ C. Contributing Member (annually) \$25.00
☐ D. Sustaining Member (annually) \$50.00
☐ E. Patron Member (annually) \$100.00
☐ F. Life Member \$1000.00 or more
or the donation of unusual and distinc-
tive material valued at \$1000 or more
☐ G. Institutional or Corporate
Member (annually) \$500.00
☐ H. Honorary Life Member
☐ Check payable to LSU Foundation for Friends of the Library
☐ I prefer to pay as follows: _____

Member's signature

Address

City and State

Date

Friends of the LSU Library

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

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