4-1-1977

Lumières, April 1977

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/foll

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/foll/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at LSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Friends of the LSU Libraries by an authorized administrator of LSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact gcoste1@lsu.edu.
Message from the President

The Friends of the Library group was organized through a sense of urgency to see that Louisiana is provided with a topnotch research library to meet the needs of our state. Although statistics comparing LSU’s Library with other Southeast states’ libraries give us a basis for judging our requirements, we do want primarily to be sure we are meeting the demands and needs of the state of Louisiana. Again, we are lacking with too little, but we hope not too late.

Louisiana’s position in the cradle of the Sunbelt, with unlimited potential for development in the near future, requires that our citizenry be ready through the technical education of our youth so they will be equipped to handle the jobs and to provide the necessary leadership. Such higher education is dependent upon extensive research materials not now adequately available anywhere in the state. Industries already here frequently turn to Rice University and the University of Texas for help.

For lack of funds, LSU’s Library has not kept pace in the last 20 years in spite of the technological changes and advances that have occurred in that time. Some one place in Louisiana needs to be the repository, with its materials available, as is now the system through inter-library loan, to all the libraries of the state. Louisiana deserves better than being at the bottom of the heap in education and in research materials.

Eileen M. Kean, President
Friends of the LSU Library

Message from the Director

Perhaps as never before, this is a time when the LSU Library needs good Friends. Inadequate book funds and inflationary book and serial costs have had an eroding effect upon the Library’s stature as a major research library. A concerned University Administration has done as much as possible within available University funds to supplement the Library’s materials budget. The increases, however, have not kept pace with the 15 percent inflation factor for books and serials, and over the past several years, the Library has steadily slipped in rank in practically every statistical category among fellow members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries and the prestigious Association of Research Libraries.

Nevertheless, it is gratifying to note the attention being given the Library by the Board of Supervisors and the extra million dollar appropriation requested by the University Administration for fiscal year 1977-78. A special task force on libraries has been appointed by the Board and the Library Administration has been given the opportunity to appear before the task force to present their needs.

Continued on page 2
Profile of a Bibliophile -- Dr. E.M. Boagni

‘I’m not a bibliophile, says Dr. Edward M. Boagni, III. ‘I’m a bibliomaniac.’

If not an actual mania, certainly a dedicated passion for books is reflected in Dr. Boagni’s extensive and exceptionally well-organized library.

A pathologist at Baton Rouge General Hospital, Dr. Boagni graduated from the LSU Medical School and completed his residency at the Tulane University Medical School. He is a native of Opelousas, the son of former state senator Edward M. Boagni, Jr., with deep familial roots in St. Landry Parish, where he began collecting books in 1940 at the age of 10.

Dr. Boagni’s great-grandfather was an 1848 Medical School graduate of the University of Louisiana (now Tulane) whose confederate documents, including some Louisiana newspapers printed on wallpaper, and other Civil War materials were stored in the barn of Dr. Boagni’s grandfather, an Opelousas banker.

It was in this barn as a boy that Dr. Boagni’s interest in military history began to develop, spurred by library inheritances from two uncles who were naval academy graduates. He got his early literary and historical indoctrination in the pages of the “great sets” of classics that had been published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Dr. Boagni’s library is divided into a comfortable reading room, opening into a larger room containing attractive white wooden library stacks. His collection reflects his continuing strong interest in world military history and enthusiasm for the history of the confederacy, but is by no means confined to these fields. Not surprisingly, Dr. Boagni’s shelves contain vintage medical books and volumes on forensic pathology and criminology. More surprising at first glance is his section on black magic, until one realizes the historical relationship of the so-called “black arts” to medicine: “If you go back far enough,” he says, “they’re one.” Other books deal with archaeology, “collectibles” (such as stamps, coins, and antiques), Western Americana (which he’s just getting into, and wishes he’d embarked on years earlier), and a variety of the literature of the world. Books are arranged geographically: American, British (“I love London; I fell in love with the British Empire”), French, German, Italian, Russian, Polish, Mideastern and Oriental. (Dr. Boagni traveled throughout the Orient during a three-year stint with the Marines after the Korean War, and developed a fondness for that part of the world.) In addition to English, he reads in French and German.

Dr. Boagni’s wife — an anesthesiologist at Earl K. Long Hospital — is from St. Tammany Parish, and likes Louisiana history. But Dr. Boagni says he doesn’t have “much of a Louisiana library, only 400 or 500 volumes.”

The four Boagni children, two boys and two girls ranging in age from 6 to 12, have spaces for their own books in the household library, know the rules (“no eating, no drinking”), and borrow their parents’ books as their interests grow with age.

Dr. Boagni is the Louisiana member of the Board of Regents for the Confederate Museum in Richmond, belongs to the Company of Military Historians and the Louisiana Historical Society, and is past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table — an organization of which he is particularly fond.

Dr. Boagni has no exact idea of the number of books in his Baton Rouge library, nor in the “overflow” library at his mother’s home in Opelousas. “The first hundred,” he says, “are the hardest. After a thousand, you feel like you’re in the big time. And when you get over 10,000, it doesn’t matter.” He even speaks wistfully of starting another library from a 100-to-200-book core collection, because “the fun of the collecting is in the reading.”

Loyce McLhenny
Office of Publications

Message from the Director continued

Another great concern of the Library is the critical need for additional space. The present building reached its million volume capacity in 1968. The old stack area in the Hill Memorial Building is being used to house the overflow, but this area is also rapidly approaching capacity. The Library is not only faced with inadequate space for book materials, but has been unable to provide increased seating accommodations to correspond to the growth in student enrollment. In fact, seating and study areas have been taken to make room for book shelves.

I would be remiss if I failed to commend the Friends for the concern and excellent support being given the Library. Over this past year, the Friends have made several outstanding purchases that would not have been possible within budgeted funds. We are indebted to each of you for your efforts on behalf of the Library and its needs.

George J. Guidry, Jr., Director
LSU Library
A History of the LSU Law Library

May 10, 1906

LSU Board of Supervisors approve the establishment of a Department of Law. Collection consists of U. S. Supreme Court Reports, an encyclopedia and some texts on civil and common law. Dean Joseph I. Kelly is the only full-time faculty member.

1924

Accreditation from the American Bar Association and membership in the American Association of Law Schools are received as a result of Professor Ira S. Flory's efforts. Alumni are visited throughout the state to raise the $10,000 needed to buy the required 5,000 volumes.

1925-34

The Law School Library moves to the new campus and for a time is housed in one room in Thomas D. Boyd Hall. Legal English texts and periodicals are acquired until the collection totals about 14,000 volumes.

1934-37

The collection is increased by the 6,000-volume library of Professor Otto Lenel, Roman law scholar of Heidelberg, Germany. The first full-time law librarian, Leavenworth Colby, is appointed.

1938-42

Addition of 5,000 volumes annually greatly expands the collection. Faculty contribute their publications and obtain American and foreign books through their connections with scholars in many states and foreign countries. Louisiana senators and congressmen help procure government documents. Several retiring justices of the Supreme Court, judges, and attorneys donate entire or parts of their collections to the Law Library. Alice Daspit Greenburg is librarian during this time of greatest expansion.

1943-49

Librarians change frequently during the war years. In 1943, a special appropriation of $25,000 is received from the University. It is used for expansion of American holdings, English, and Dominion materials and for the strengthening of the Latin American section. By 1946 the LSU Law Library ranks second among the Southern University Law Libraries.

1949-59

Because of the civil law background of Louisiana Law, the civil law collection is increased. Continental and South American Law sections are enlarged through support from special funds from the University for three years. The Main Library donates legal materials from the DeForest collection, which include a set of early Spanish Codes and English and French volumes from the collection of the noted English scholar of comparative law, Frederic P. Walton. In 1957, Judge Robert L. Henry presents his working library, assembled when he served as a judge on the Mixed Court of Egypt. A set of Interstate Commerce Commission Valuation Reports is presented by Esso Standard Oil, Baton Rouge in 1958.

By 1952 the collection totals 85,000 volumes and the Law Library is a statutory depository for Louisiana and a selective depository for U. S. Government documents.

1960-1976

Law School alumni donate the first book copying machine. In 1963, Colonel John H. Tucker, Jr. of Shreveport donates his Civil Law collection of 3,141 volumes. The growth of civil law from its beginning, Roman law, through the various stages of development in France and Louisiana, plus comparative sources from other countries is excellently represented. A later gift by Colonel Tucker adds new texts on French and Roman Law, Scottish treatises and a number of choice Louisiana items. This collection is housed in separate quarters for the use of visiting scholars, faculty and students. Four hundred volumes are selected from the Garland Collection in the Main Library, mostly pre-Code French materials, which supplement the Law Library's collections.

Mr. and Mrs. Jules Landry of Baton Rouge give an almost complete set of Louisiana Session Acts, plus provision to purchase missing items. These early items are the primary source for historical research of Louisiana legislation and are very difficult to find. A rare volume, Kerr's Exposition of the Criminal Laws of the Territory of Orleans, 1806, is acquired through the generosity of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the LSU Law Alumni Association. In 1968, Justice Albert Tate, Jr. donates over 900 volumes of Federal Reports in honor of his father, Judge and Mrs. Minos D. Miller of Jennings donate many reports over a period of years. The French Embassy makes a substantial gift of legal and economic texts.

In 1970, spacious library quarters are provided in the new Law Center with open stack arrangement. The graduating class of 1977 donates books in memory of Arthur D. Ensminger.

These first years have resulted in the development of one of the leading legal research collections in the country.

Kate Wallach
**Friends' Annual Banquet**

Waldemar H. Fries, author of *The Double Elephant Folio: The Story of Audubon's Birds of America*, delighted Friends and their guests with his experiences in unravelling the mystery of how many complete sets Audubon originally published. The "elephant hunter," a retired businessman and native of Providence, R.I., spoke to guests at the annual banquet, April 14 at the Baton Rouge Country Club. On behalf of the Library, Mary Jane Kahao invited *Friends* to the McIlhenny Room on the following day to view LSU's double elephant folio.

Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, president, welcomed the group and introduced Dr. John Wildman, chairman of the Awards Committee. Dr. Wildman announced the recipients of the 1976 FRIENDS OF THE LSU LIBRARY AWARD "for an outstanding service to the LSU Library during the past year." Bronze plaques were presented to Dr. A. B. Cronin for his donation of pictures and books and to Dr. T. Harry Williams for the gift of the Lincoln dictionary and numerous history books.

After a short business meeting, the following officers were elected: E. Leland Richardson, president; Mrs. H. Leslie McKenzie, vice-president; Mary Jane Kahao, secretary; and Caroline Wire, treasurer. Mrs. Kean reviewed the activities of the *Friends*, citing the success of the Book Bazaar, the growth of the Endowment Fund, and efforts to gain additional financial support by informing Louisianians of the plight of their largest research library.

Mr. Richardson, incoming president, spoke briefly on his hopes for the *Friends* and the Library, and introduced the members of the Board of Directors as follows: Mrs. Calvin Schwing, Miss Kate Wallach, Mr. John Wildman, Mrs. Patt Foster Roberson, Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor, Dean Emeritus Max Goodrich, Mr. Charest Thibaut, Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Dr. T. Harry Williams, Mrs. Charles Morton, Mr. Powell Casey, Mrs. T. O. Perry, Ex-officio Mr. George Guidry, Jr., and Dr. Donald Foos.

**On the Trail of the Laffites**

Robert C. Vogel of Saint Paul, Minnesota, introduced himself to me with a letter dated March 2, 1971, in which he said that for two years he had been doing a great deal of research on Jean and Pierre Laffite. Robert was then an undergraduate history major at the University of Minnesota. Somehow, in the next four years, he found time to get married, start a family (he now has two daughters), visit all the stomping grounds of the Laffites (including land offices and other archives in each area), meet others on the trail of the Laffites, and complete requirements for the A.B. degree.

During this time Robert acquired considerable expertise in geography and is currently doing graduate work in that field at the University of Minnesota. His huge file of Laffite data continues to swell in volume as he strives to fulfill his goal; that is, to assemble all the contradictory views and sort them out, cross-checking and investigating everything.


The second *Life and Times of Jean Laffite* will appear soon. Send inquiries to Robert C. Vogel, 1775 Jefferson Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55105.

*Jane DeGrummond*

**Book Bazaar**

The goal for this October's second annual Bazaar is 30,000 books, and *Friends* are urged to sort through their books and ask their children to do the same. The demand for young people's books far exceeded the supply at last year's Bazaar.

A drop box has been installed just inside the double-door back entrance of the Hill Memorial Building and is open 24 hours a day. Parking is convenient in the driveway for the few minutes needed to unload.

Book gifts are tax-deductible. If a receipt is needed, call 926-7702 before delivery. If books cannot be delivered, call the same number to arrange for pickup or the name of a Bazaar volunteer in the neighborhood with whom books may be left.

Good used books of all kinds in good condition, magazines of lasting interest, and phonograph records are needed. Bazaar proceeds enable the Library to acquire valuable items not provided for in its budget.
**Gifts**

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

**FRIENDS OF THE LSU LIBRARY 1976**


This rare book is significant not only for its historical and geographical worth but also for its unique biographical interest. It appears to have belonged to Lieutenant-Colonel Rollo, a British officer who effected a landing at Great Breton and who, along with Brigadier-General Murry, was instrumental in the advance against Montreal and the subsequent conquest of all of Canada. Rollo's signature appears on the first page, and particulars of the battles in which he is mentioned have been noted and amended along the margins in the same hand.

The full title page indicates the thoroughness of the history, "... giving a particular account of the climate, soil, minerals, animals, vegetables, manufactures, trade, commerce, and languages, together with the religion, government, genius, character, manners and customs of the indians and other inhabitants." The section on Louisiana describes a number of animals including a small, bright bay coloured tiger.

Jefferys was geographer to the Prince of Wales. He edited a number of geographical histories of the Americas—and was also the engraver. An excellent sample of his artistry is the map (see illustration) "The Siege of Quebec," in which the various ships are drawn to scale in their areas of attack and retreat.


The press, which played a central role in making public the events of Watergate, is represented in a unique collection of materials.

These include all original unabridged wires from the Washington Bureau of United Press International (UPI) from the date of the break-in through Judge Sirica's sentencing of Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Mardian in January, 1975. The coverage by UPI reporters Wesley Pippert and Jane Dennison is outstanding. They provide the introduction to these materials. This organized chronology provides a day-by-day (6/17/72 — 4/21/75) unfolding of this period in United States history.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

For purchase of library books in memory of:

Sam Cashio
W. M. Dickey
Mrs. Viola Emel
Maj. Gen. Jjunius Jones
P. J. LeBlanc, Sr.
Lanier McKowen
Gen. Troy H. Middleton
Ms. Amy Moreland
W. A. Richards
Dr. Shirley K. Stephenson
Abner Wimberly

**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.


An extraordinary reproduction of the most important critical assessment of Andrea Palladio done in the 18th century.


**THE EGYPTIAN SUDAN: ITS HISTORY AND MONUMENTS.** London, 1907. AMS reprint, 1976. $65.00

**UNDERGROUND PRESS COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPERS.** Supplement. Bell & Howell. $386.46

**TRANSCRIPTS OF NBC NEWS MEET THE PRESS, 1957-1977.** Bell & Howell. $550.00

**RICHARD WAGNER, GESAMMELTE SCHRIFTEN UND DICTUNGEN.** Hildesheim & Moers, 1976. $244.56
The distinguished scholar and librarian Fremont Ryder once declared that mankind's knowledge tends to double itself at an exponential rate about every 15 years as evidenced in the growth of published and unpublished materials covering all subjects. If such is indeed the case, the primary task of a bibliographer must be the relentless effort to ensure that the fruits of mankind's knowledge are obtained and preserved as far as relevancy, financial confines, and practical considerations allow for use in the teaching, research, and learning processes of a University. Access to research materials such as those held by the Center for Research Libraries is also of primary concern to the collection development staff.

At the Louisiana State University Library in Baton Rouge, the chief bibliographer and other librarians assume financial and intellectual responsibilities in carrying out collection development activities. Such activities are usually influenced by curriculum changes, research trends, developments in the book world and changes in the library world.

On a day-to-day basis, collection development activities include selection of materials, weeding of the collection, decision-making on gift and exchange materials, liaison with students and faculty, coordination of activities with other librarians, and providing various forms of bibliographical assistance.

The chief bibliographer's office is also active in the external environment of book dealers and publishers. A bibliographer's expenditure and administration of funds for library materials take place within the framework of a set of priorities in selection. The bibliographer makes certain that such priorities are realistic, sound, and respected. A joint effort by teaching faculty and several librarians has already begun toward the formulation of a written collection development policy for the library.

Thein Swe, Chief Bibliographer