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Lumières, January 1978

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LUMIÈRES



Nile Fever

Nile fever first appeared in ancient Egypt and quickly spread to Greece. The pyramids became the world's first tourist attraction with the Great Pyramid at Giza designated one of the seven

wonders of the world. Following the Greeks, the Romans began the foreign plunder of the ancient ruins. As all good tourists do, the Romans took back souvenirs for their villas.

The royal, wealthy, and powerful have been particularly susceptible to Nile fever. The most famous case in history is that of Napoleon who took a French expedition to Egypt in 1798. This expedition was not exclusively military; there were 167 "savants," learned men in the arts and sciences, accompanying the French troops. This group had as its mission the examination of the country to complete with drawings in 1802. *Voyage dans la Basse et al antiquity*. The savants spent three years at their work. To the architectural and topographical plans of the sites of the famous cities of antiquity were added separate and minute drawings of the sculptures.

The principal artist for the expedition was Vivant Denon, a rakish sometime diplomat. Denon wrote an account of the Egyptian expedition which he published complete with drawings in 1802. *Voyage dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte* was an instant best seller and was quickly translated into English and German. Denon's book can be credited with the immediate upsurge in Nile fever after the expedition. A copy of the French edition of this work is in the LSU Library Rare Book Room.

Although the British were quick to join the rush for Egyptian antiquities, they did not have scholars accompanying their army and looked upon the French contemptuously for doing so. In the Rare Book Room is *A Journal of*

the Late Campaign in Egypt published in 1803 by Thomas Walsh, a captain in a British regiment. Needless to say, the British side of the story is different from the French.

The British were responsible for the military failure of the French expedition, but the work of the savants was preserved. The French government directed that the memoirs, charts, and drawings, and all observations of the expedition should be consolidated and published in one grand work. The copy in the Rare Book Room is believed to be one of the most expensive sets presented as national gifts.

The Description de l'Egypte, published over a thirteen year period, divided into three classes: Antiquities, Etat Moderne, and Histoire Naturelle with each class having a text and plate volumes. There are three extremely large volumes, the Carte and Grand Monde. These volumes are the largest in the Rare Book Room.

Although the LSU set is incomplete, it does contain all of the plate volumes, the most remarkable aspect of the publication. A special engraving process was invented for reproducing the color plates to give an accurate rendering of the artistry of the ancient Egyptians. *The Description de l'Egypte* is a publication which details the work of one of the most extraordinary expeditions in history.

All those whose artistic curiosity has been piqued by the Tut exhibit can learn more about Egyptian antiquities through these works in the Rare Book Room and many others in the LSU Library.

—Anna Perrault
Humanities Bibliographer



Friends of the Library

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge



Profile of a Bibliophile

Mrs. Leon Weiss



Like many bibliophiles to whom mere numbers of volumes have little meaning, Mrs. Leon Weiss says, "I haven't the faintest idea how many books we have."

Mrs. Weiss describes the combination living room-library that she and her husband established in their New Orleans home as "four walls, floor to ceiling, all completely lined with books." Mr. and Mrs. Weiss started their library together, and it was his deep interest in the state's history that formed the core of what is now a comprehensive historical Louisiana collection.

Prominent among Mrs. Weiss' wide interests is gardening, especially herb gardening, and so it is natural that the library has a prominent gardening section. Carrying her herb expertise beyond the bounds of her own library and her own garden, Mrs. Weiss recently assisted the Temple Sinai Congregation in New Orleans in its establishment of a garden for the blind. She advised them that her herbs would be especially appropriate "because they are so full of different flavors and fragrances . . . they are ideal." (There are several gardens for the blind in the United States, but Mrs. Weiss thinks this will be the first one in New Orleans.)

Mrs. Weiss by no means limits her book collection to state history, herbs, and gardening. Her shelves also abound with volumes on art, literature, and travel. Bitten by a travel bug as a child when her father regularly took the family on extensive travels here and abroad, the former Caroline Dreyfous — a native New Orleanian for generations back — has been casting her eyes toward China of late. It's one of the few places she's never been.

Mrs. Weiss' involvement with books does not stop

with collecting or reading them: she's a bookbinder of some expertise. She originally embarked on bookbinding at the Craft Council in New Orleans (where she now periodically gives lessons in the art), then went to New York for training, and participated in a book restoration seminar at the Storm Bindery in Arizona.

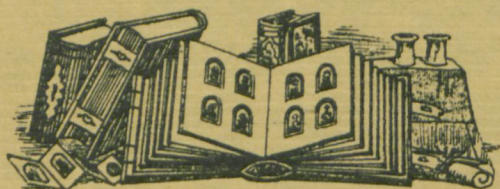
She has acquired all the leading books on binding and the techniques thereof, and has also taken every opportunity to visit and learn from binders when she's traveling. Her travels provide an additional bonus in that she can buy leathers and end papers from all over the world. "I try" she says, "to keep the whole spirit of the age of the book . . . the type of binding, the type of leather, the type of decoration, everything."

Last year, an LSU professor who is learning binding was on sabbatical leave in London, where a master bookbinder told him Mrs. Weiss — in his own back yard, so to speak — was the only Louisiana member of the Designer Bookbinders of England, a London-based world-wide organization of binders. She also holds membership in the Guild of Bookbinders, an American group.

Bookbinding, according to Mrs. Weiss, is a "very difficult, very taxing thing to do," but adds, "it's absolutely fascinating." Involved in binding for about twelve years, Mrs. Weiss describes herself as "just a beginner." In the arduous bookbinding craft, that may be true. But, as one of her fellow bibliophiles comments, "If she's a beginner, she's certainly a professional beginner."

—Loyce McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications

Book Bazaar II



October 7 and 8 found Friends' Book Bazaar volunteers in gold aprons selling used books with smiling efficiency. Book Bazaar II, staged at Bon Marche Mall, brought community book lovers out to sort through the 30,000 books collected to find what they wanted, from 15c up.

Book collection barrels placed at Kean's and AA's laundries were Book Bazaar II's great new idea of the year, stated Mrs. T. O. Perry, chairman. Books were collected from Baton Rouge and surrounding areas by

Mrs. Ned Clark, Mrs. Charles Schwing and members of the book collection committee. Mrs. Eugene Owen and the Book Bazaar committee sorted, priced and boxed the books offered for sale. Mrs. Dave Davenport and Mrs. R. T. Brown, Jr. were sale co-chairmen; Mrs. Kevin Reilly coordinated more than 250 volunteers for the two-day event, with Mrs. James L. Moore in charge of arrangements; Mrs. Stuart Stracener and Mrs. Remie Edmonds were secretary and treasurer. Media Support was obtained by Mrs. Douglas Warringer and Mrs. Richard Roberts.

Mrs. T. O. Perry and her volunteers were congratulated by Mrs. Leslie McKenzie, vice president of the Friends. This second moneyraising project netted \$11,042. The Baton Rouge community again responded with enthusiasm to the book re-cycling and the Library Endowment Fund will be enriched for future purchases of rare, expensive and unusual books or collections for the LSU Library.

Importance of the Gift

Recopilación de las Leyes de Estos Reinos

The *Recopilación de las Leyes de Estos Reinos* published in Madrid, 1640, 3 volumes, is a compilation of the laws in force in Castile, Spain, promulgated by King Philip II on March 14, 1567. To remedy legislative confusion in the early sixteenth century, consolidating existing compilations of laws and subsequent legislation and decrees was entrusted to several compilers who worked on the *Nueva Recopilación* until its completion in 1562.

Originally published in two volumes, it contained many provisions from former laws: the *Fuero Real*, the *Ordenamientos de Alcalá*, and *de Montalvo* and all of the *Leyes de Toro*. In 1745 a third volume, *Autos Acordados* or *Resoluciones del Consejo*, was added. From 1567 to 1777 the *Nueva Recopilación* went through ten editions, which were gradually augmented with new decrees. The work acquired by LSU is the 1640 edition by Jose Gonzalez and Francisco Pizarro. This compilation was in use until 1805 when the *Novisima Recopilación* replaced it.

Editions of *Nueva Recopilación* are difficult to find and it is most fortunate for the study of Louisiana legal history the LSU Law Library has been given this work as it was the only compilation in force during the Spanish colonial period in Louisiana. (Its successor, the *Novisima Recopilación*, was enacted in 1805 when Louisiana was no longer under Spanish rule).

The *Nueva Recopilación* was the principal source of Spanish law used by Louis Moreau Lislet in working on Louisiana law in the early nineteenth century. Many of the references to Spanish law found in Lislet's *Digest of the Civil Laws Now in Force in the Territory of Orleans* (1808), known as the *de la Vergne* volume, are to the *Nueva Recopilación*, which he cites as the *Recopilación de Castilla*, another designation for the work.

Until this compilation became part of the LSU Law Library collection, scholars working in the history of Louisiana civil law, and in particular with the *de la Vergne* volume, had to consult the work in other li-

braries. It will now be possible for LSU Law Library patrons to consult the original compilation directly. This three-volume work fills an important gap in the collection with the history of Louisiana civil law.

It is fitting then that the *Nueva Recopilación* be dedicated to the memory of Dean Hebert, who consistently during his career defended the civil law tradition and lent support to the study of the Spanish sources of Louisiana civil law.

—Eileen Bouniol
Comparative Law Librarian
LSU Law Library

Friend Honored

Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Jr. was honored in September by being chosen a Volunteer Activist for 1977. Her award in recognition of outstanding volunteer service reads:

"Eileen Murphy is immediate past president of Friends of the LSU Library and works at the Book Barn readying for the annual Book Bazaar. She believes that 'whereever you live, plant a tree', and her contributions to her community are many and varied. Mrs. Kean has shown her responsibility to improve lives . . . by providing leadership in the Junior League and Girl Scouts of America. She has served on the boards of the Baton Rouge Civic Symphony, Family Counseling Service, Woman's Club Inc., and the LSU Union Governing Board. She has been a Mortar Board Alumnae president, Chi Omega alumnae president and president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Auxiliary."

The Friends of the LSU Library extend their congratulations to Eileen Kean for this well-deserved honor."

In Honor Of

Hoguet Alexandre Major, Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages, was honored by colleagues on his 90th birthday. The Friends of the LSU Library, in cooperation with various departments of the University, have established funds in honor of LSU professors emeriti.

Charles S. McCleskey, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology, was honored this Spring on his 80th birthday. Paul C. Young, Professor Emeritus of Psychology; L. M. Harrison, Professor Emeritus of Education; and, W. A. Lawrence, Professor Emeritus

of Education were honored this Fall on their 80th birthdays.

Others who have been honored were Caroline W. Durieux, Fine Arts; Rudolf Herberle, Boyd Professor of Sociology; and, Ellinor H. Behre, Zoology.

Funds donated in honor of the Emeriti have made possible the purchase of important books for the LSU Library's collections. Books purchased with the funds will have the Emeritus' name on a special book plate.

Contributions to the funds should be sent to Caroline Wire, treasurer, Friends of the LSU Library, LSU, Baton Rouge 70803. Checks should be made payable to the LSU Foundation with a notation of the particular gift for whom the donation is being made.



Inside the Library Upon Retirement

In 1951 I joined the LSU Library staff as junior librarian in the Catalog Department. In those days, this was as low a rank as any; in fact, it was so low that a few years later, the University Administration okayed its abolition. Today, most of you join the library staff as senior librarians, but I had to be promoted to that rank. Not only was I employed at the lowest rank, but I was offered the fantastically fabulous salary of \$2800 per year. After telling Mr. Guy R. Lyle, director of the Library, I would think it over, I consulted Mrs. Morton, who had recommended me for for this great position. I took my courage in hand and went in to Mr. Lyle and told him under no circumstances could I accept the job for less than \$3000 per year. A few short years after, when Mr. Lyle was leaving to become library director at Emory University, he told me that the day I came into his office and told him what I would do about his offer was the day he decided he liked me because, as he said, "I like people with fire."

Not long after I began my cataloging career, Miss Foote, the chief cataloger, put me in charge of the students who prepared the materials for transfer to all branch libraries and charged collections on campus. At that time, outside the Circulation Department Office, we shelved all such materials for pickup and delivery. One day after my students had loaded the shelves for pickup, Mr. Lyle came by and all of a sudden he flew into the Catalog Department like a bat out of Hades wanting to know where was Mary C. W. Colmer! He knew the shelving of those materials was my responsibility. I couldn't possibly disappear, so I had to admit, "Here I am", although I didn't have the slightest notion what he wanted. He instructed me to come with him, that he had something to teach me. He led me to those shelves where one of the students had placed some books on their foreedges instead of placing them properly on their spines or flat side down. It made no difference that I had not placed those books there — he lectured me anyway on the proper care of books — a lesson I've never forgotten and one I practice to this very day. If you've never been lectured by Mr. Lyle, you've never been lectured! As a matter of fact, years later while teaching in Library School, I presented a unit in the undergraduate cataloging course on the proper care of books and included Mr. Lyle's lecture.

Many more incidents such as that have happened to me during these twenty-six years. Through the years I have held several positions, performed many different tasks and been cast in many roles: pupil, teacher, trainer, supervisor, counselor, referee, um-

pire, defense attorney, disciplinarian, peace-maker, friend, and confidant, to name a few. In these roles I have tried to be fair and honest. When my final library record is written, I hope it shows that I succeeded in that regard.

I have had a good career and I suppose a successful one, but as I wrote Mr. Guidry in my letter requesting retirement, "There comes a time in every career when it seems appropriate to exchange responsibilities for activities of a less demanding nature and a more leisurely pace, and such a time has come for me."

Some of you have been kind enough to ask what I plan to do in retirement. I am reminded of a retort given years ago by a former LSU librarian upon her retirement when she was asked the same question. Her reply was, "Why should I have to do anything?"

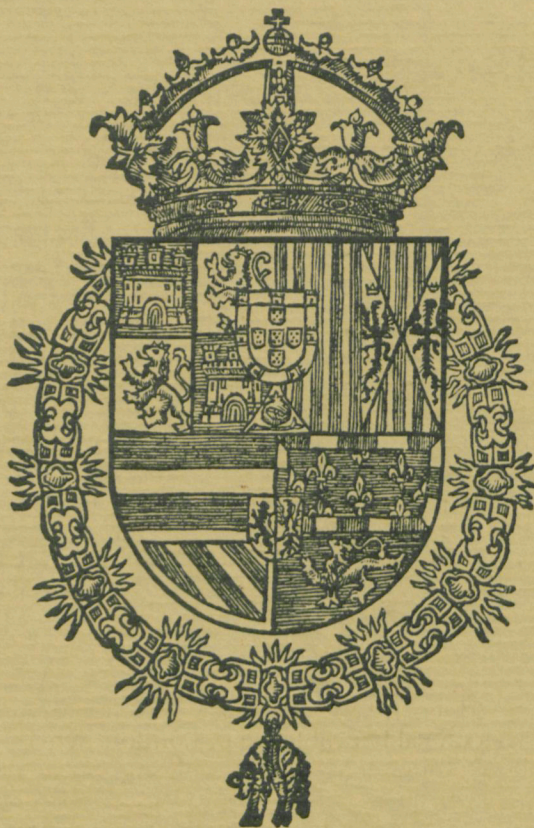
However, I shall stay very occupied: I have for twenty years been the librarian at one of the local churches — I plan to do a better job. I have a long-neglected sewing machine that is begging to be used; a yard which will be much lovelier when I can give it more attention; many recipes clipped and collected just waiting to be tried and husband-tested; and, last but not least, I have a husband who, since his retirement, is eager to keep one foot in the road, and I plan to put my foot in the road with his. I'm afraid I shall not have hours enough in the day to live this more leisurely pace I have chosen for myself

I am grateful to each of you for making this such a memorable day and I shall treasure always the lovely tray, which says: Mary W. Colmer, LSU Library, 1951-1977. Thank you;

—Mary W. Colmer
Assistant Director for
Technical Services
& Head of Reclassification

Lumières Wins Award

Friends' newsletter, *Lumières*, was awarded a third-place certificate at a recent conference of the Southwest District of the Council for Advance and Support of Education. Submitted by LSU's Office of Information Services, *Lumières* was among 666 entries from the five-state Southwest area's 69 colleges and universities. This was singular recognition of the team effort on the part of Media Services and the Friends in publication of information about the Library, its Friends, its needs and services.



The coat of arms found in Nueva Recopilación

Gifts

The LSU Library expresses its appreciation to those who have generously donated the following gifts to the Library:

Recopilacion de las Leyes de Estos Reinos. Madrid, 1640. 3 volumes. Gift of the Friends in memory of the late Paul M. Hebert, former Dean of the LSU Law Center. (See page 3).

A collection of rare 18th and 19th century American maps. Gift of Miss Annette O. Duchein, former LSU Foundation Board member. These maps include a 1792 map by Purcell of States of United States, including North Carolina, South Carolina, East and West Florida; a 1744 map by Bowen of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana; Laurie and Whittle's *The Southern Dominions Belonging to the United States of America*, 1794; a 1759 Louisiana map; New Map of Part of U.S., South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida by Cary, 1806; a map by Cadell and Davis, U.S. of America, Southern Part, 1809; Morse and Brees' 1842 map of Louisiana; Carte de la Carline et Georgie by Echelle, 1757; and D. Carolina von Florida, 1759.

Field Artillery Batallions of the U.S. Army. Dumfries, Va., 1977. Gift of Mr. Powell Casey.

Underground Press Newspapers, 1973. Microfilm. Gift of Capitol Area Correspondents Association and AFL-CIO.

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

For the purchase of Library Books:

- Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Moyse in memory of
Mrs. Lois Shortess
- Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Ruiz, Sr. in memory of
Mrs. Edwin Shortess
- Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor in memory of
Frances Burleson
- Mr. and Mrs. Shepard F. Perrin, Jr. in memory of
G. Norman David
- Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Johnson in memory of
Mr. Wilmer M. Grayson
- Mr. and Mrs. John H. Fetzer III in memory of
Mr. Albert H. Hart, Sr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello in memory of
Mr. L. P. Hinton
Mrs. Mary Tolar
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Rees in memory of
Mrs. Earl E. Klein
- Chancellor and Mrs. Paul W. Murrill in memory of
Mrs. John J. Klobas
- Mr. John J. Capdevielle in memory of
Mr. C. P. Liter
Mr. R. R. Nesbitt
- Mrs. George Herlitz in memory of
Mrs. Maude S. Robertson
Mrs. Edna S. Walthal
- Dr. and Mrs. Max Goodrich in memory of
Dorr C. Ralph

Hamilton—Richards Memorial Fund

For the purchase of books on human nutrition in memory of **MRS. TANDY H. HAMILTON** and **WILLIAM ALLAN RICHARDS**: Mrs. Julia H. Richards in memory of William Allan Richards; Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Kean in memory of William Allan Richards; Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Johnson in memory of William Allan Richards.

Ersula M. Wilson Memorial Fund

To be used to put rare Louisiana materials into beautiful bindings in memory of a loyal and devoted Library Staff member. The following volumes have been selected and will be inscribed on the inside front cover, "Bound in memory of Ersula M. Wilson":

Debouchel, Victor. *Histoire de la Louisiane*. Nouvelle-Orleans, 1841.

Brackenridge, H.M. *Views of Louisiana*. Baltimore, 1817.

Official Register of the Officers and Cadets of the State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy of Louisiana, Near Alexandria, Parish of Rapides for 1860-1 and 2. Alexandria, Louisiana, 1862.

Thomassy, Raymond. *Geologie Pratique de la Louisiane*. Nouvelle-Orleans, 1860.

LUMIÈRES

Published by the Friends of the LSU Library

131 Pleasant Hall, Louisiana State University, Mary Jane Kahao, editor

Volume 3 Number 1

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.

Financial Statement

January 1977—October 1977

Balance in LSU Foundation Account
December 31, 1976 \$21,112.24

Income:

Memberships, Memorials,	
Gifts in Honor of Individuals	\$12,211.00
Interest	1,249.00

TOTAL	\$13,460.00
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Expenditures:

Jan. '77	Transfer to 175-30-6305	
	authorized book purchases	\$ 200.00
Feb.	Transfer to Endowment Fund	3,500.00
	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for	
	authorized book purchases	2,000.00
Mar.	Transfer to operating	
	account for supply items,	
	printing cost	900.00
Apr.	Annual banquet expenses	100.00
	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for	
	authorized standing order	
	subscription	500.00
	Transfer to Law Library for	
	Hebert Memorial Volume	584.78
July	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for	
	La. Room book purchase	307.00
	Reimbursement for postage,	
	supply items	30.00
Sept.	Transfer to operating	
	account	600.00
	Transfer to 175-30-6305	
	for authorized purchase	
	for Archives	2,200.00
Oct.	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for	
	microfilm collection	900.00

TOTAL	\$11,821.78
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Balance in LSU Foundation
October 31, 1977 \$22,650.46

Library Endowment Fund	
October 31, 1977	\$23,687.82

Officers

E. Leland Richardson, President
Mrs. Leslie McKenzie, Vice-President
Caroline Wire, Treasurer
Mary Jane Kahao, Secretary

Classes of Membership

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

Member's signature _____

Address _____

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Friends of the LSU Library

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

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