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Lumières, 1979

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LUMIÈRES

Newsletters to Newspapers: The Beginnings of English Journalism to 1800

Henry L. Snyder, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at LSU, discussed the history of newsletters, news books, and newspapers from their inception in the 16th century until 1800 when "newspapers as known today had been perfected." Tuesday evening he was featured speaker at the annual meeting of Friends of the LSU Library at the LSU Faculty Club.

"Early newspapers were not very appealing to look at . . . you had to hunt for the features," Snyder said. He described the quarto format used in early papers in which pages one and two were printed early in the week. Page three was printed last and page four left blank for mailing purposes. Readers, therefore, opened the paper to page three to get the latest news. He pointed out that the early papers had their Jack Andersons, Drew Pearsons, and advice to the lovelorn.

Early newspapers in England would cost four pounds, the equivalent of \$200 for a year's subscription, even though an individual paper would sell for a hapenny (half penny). The result was that coffeehouses and businesses would take a year's subscription and each paper would be read by as many as 50 people.

In tracing the history of newspapers, Snyder pointed out the effects of censorship and taxation on their development. It was not until well into the 18th century that political news was allowed in London, he said, adding that when first permitted, papers could write about what the House of Commons had enacted, but not the debate. He explained that the House of Lords was off limits — this was known as the privilege of Parliament. It was not until the 19th century that political news was freely reported in England.

For a time, Parliament controlled papers by taxation. A hapenny tax was placed on a hapenny paper, thereby doubling its price.

One of the best sources of news was the Netherlands, where there was no censorship, Snyder observed. Dutch newspapers became an important center for the transmission of news from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

Snyder displayed examples of three news forms from his private collection to illustrate the size and type of early papers.

—Pat Baldrige
as appeared in *State Times* April 4, 1979

Profile of a Bibliophilic Photographer

Cecil Beaton and Gail Buckland, in their book *The Magic Image*, termed his work "romantic-mystical" and grouped him with the photographic geniuses of the last 140 years. *Newsweek* magazine has called him "legendary," friends and acquaintances know him to be a philosopher, and he has described himself as an extreme romantic.

Clarence John Laughlin of New Orleans—73 years old, articulate, urbane, and exuding enthusiasm—has an eminent reputation as a photographer of stunning innovation. But he is firm in stressing that he was a writer and book collector first.

Born in Lake Charles, Mr. Laughlin spent his very early years on a plantation near New Iberia before moving to New Orleans in 1910. His formal education stopped after his first year in high school, but his actual education has never stopped.

In the 1920s, the young Clarence John Laughlin began collecting books, and his library grew to over 20,000 items, with emphasis on the arts including many rare works on surrealism, dadaism, art nouveau, and art deco; science fiction and phantasy in all its manifestations; and other volumes that interested him. He also amassed a very large collection of magazines, running the gamut from thousands of the "pulp" publications to those devoted to specialized interests such as camera work, minotaure, and cahiers d'art.

About 1925, Mr. Laughlin became interested in the French symbolists and began writing prose poems and macabre fiction. It was a decade later that he embarked on a career in photography, self-taught through trial and error, with a style that became uniquely his own. In his long search to discover as much as possible of the whole range of the camera's potentials, Mr. Laughlin began to perceive that it was possible to keep the good aspects of traditional "purism," while adding another, even more penetrating, element to make the object not merely a thing-in-itself, but a thing-beyond-itself—to relate the object to things within a single individual.

From 1936 to 1941, Mr. Laughlin was a photographer with the U.S. Engineers' Office in New Orleans, where he made over 4,000 negatives of outstanding ironwork designs, statues, and old buildings. After serving during World War II as a "cloak and

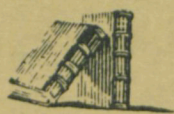
camera man" with the Office of Strategic Services—where he photographed secret documents and specialized in color photography—Mr. Laughlin went to work as an architectural photographer. His haunting expertise in this area materialized in 1948 into his well-known and well-read book of 100 extraordinary photographs of old Louisiana homes, *Ghosts Along the Mississippi*—with poetically informative text by Mr. Laughlin. Now in its sixteenth reprinting, *Ghosts* provides some excellent examples of the effectiveness of superimposition of images. (An earlier Laughlin book *New Orleans and Its Living Past*, was published in 1941 and is now a collector's item.)

Mr. Laughlin's photographs have appeared in many periodicals, including *Life*, *Look*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Town & Country*, *Art News*, *American Heritage*, and *The Architectural Review*. Photographic annuals such as *U.S. Camera*, the *British Modern Photography*, and the French *Photographie* have featured his work, which is also the subject of a book titled *The Personal Eye* by Michael Hoffman. Laughlin exhibits have appeared in museums and galleries across this country and in Europe, and he has had several hundred one-man shows. In his personal collection are over 3,000 11"x14" master prints and more than 10,000 8"x10" prints, including important material on the architecture of the South; Victorian architecture in the Mississippi Valley and the Far West; the history of sculpture; the people of the South; and many other subjects.

Comments Mr. Laughlin: "One of my basic feelings is that the mind, and the heart alike, of the photographer must be dedicated to the glory, the magic, and the mystery of light. The mystery of time, the magic of light, the enigma of reality—and their interrelationships—are my constant themes and preoccupations. Because of these metaphysical and poetic preoccupations, I frequently attempt to show in my work, in various ways, the unreality of the 'real,' and the reality of the 'unreal.' This may result, at times, in some disturbing effects. But art *should* be disturbing; it should make us both think and feel; it should infect the subconscious as well as the conscious mind; it should never allow complacency nor condone the *status quo*."

Mr. Laughlin's work fits his philosophy.

Loyce J. McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications



Book Bazaar News



October 11, 12, and 13 has been set aside for the fourth annual Book Bazaar—to be held at Bon Marche Mall. A goal of 40,000 books, hardback and paperback, has been set for sale.

Fiction, nonfiction, history, art, and books on all subjects are being accepted. Records, sheet music, and magazines in good condition are also being collected.

Donors are reminded that book deposits may be made without tax receipts at the Book Barn in the basement of the Hill Memorial Building—east of the Indian Mounds, across West Campus Drive. The drop box, located just inside the double-door entrance, is

open all day. Drop boxes are also located at Kean's and AAA dry-cleaning stores.

Gifts of books to the *Friends* are tax deductible and receipts will be provided for tax purposes, if requested. Volunteers are working at the Book Barn Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 343-6586 for pickup information.

Last year's Book Bazaar earned over \$12,000 for the *Friends*, which will enable the LSU Library to acquire valuable books and materials not provided for in its basic budget.



Friends Annual Banquet

The annual *Friends'* banquet meeting was held at the Faculty Club on April 3, 1979. Dr. Edward M. Boagni, III, President, welcomed the members and guests and presented Dr. John Wildman, Chairman of the Awards Committee. Calvin E. Hardin received the *Friends of the LSU Library Award* for his donation of cookbooks collected by his wife, the late Bulah Hardin, valued at \$15,000. Another award recipient was Powell Casey, generous donor, whose contributions are matched in triplicate by Exxon Corporation.

An addendum to the by-laws was presented by Mary Jane Kahao in the absence of Kate Wallach, Chairman of the Charter and By-Laws Committee. Ms. Kahao moved that the following be added to Article VII to clarify the *Friends of the LSU Library* tax-exempt status with regard to postage regulations:

"In case of dissolution of the organization, funds remaining in the LSU Foundation *Friends of the Library* accounts shall be distributed according to the direction of the Director of the LSU Library."

Motion carried.

Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. Dr. Boagni and the present officers were reelected by acclamation.

Dr. Henry Snyder, Dean of Arts and Sciences, was introduced by the President and he spoke on "Newsletters to Newspapers: The Beginnings of English Journalism to 1800."

Dr. Boagni thanked Mary Anna Stanford, Edith Kirkpatrick, and Josie Kirby for the banquet arrangements and spoke briefly on the need for an electronic security system for the Library.

The *Friends* were reminded of the October Book Bazaar and that the Committee is already collecting books for the sale.

Gifts

MEMORIAL GIFTS

For the purchase of library books in memory of:

Mr. Hopkins P. Breazeale, Jr.

by Mr. H. Parrott Bacot; Dr. and Mrs. Milton Harris; Mr. and Mrs. H. Leslie McKenzie; Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Mrs. Lulie England

by Mr. and Mrs. John S. White, Jr.; Mrs. Edith W. White

Mr. Matthew Evanstock

by Ms. Marie Champagne; Ms. Evelyn Jeansonne; Ms. Emily LeBlanc; Ms. Judy Whisman

Mrs. Louis Ferraro

By Ms. Florian McKnight; Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

Mrs. Annie Boyd Grayson

by Dr. and Mrs. Milton Harris; Mrs. Lillian K. Stokes; Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Mr. Vincent Guaccero

by Dr. and Mrs. William A. Johnson

Miss Mary Agnes Hebert

by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

Miss Mary Alice Hebert

by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

Mrs. Ann Bell Sheffer Hodge

By Mrs. Linda Noe Laine

Mrs. Bertha E. Caulkins Hodge

by Mrs. Linda Noe Laine

Mr. Charles Edward Hodge

by Mrs. Linda Noe Laine

Dr. Richard C. Keen

by Ms. Florian McKnight

Dr. W. D. Kimbrough

by Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Bennett; Dr. and Mrs. William A. Johnson; Ms. Florian McKnight

Mr. Walter J. LeBlanc

By Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello

Mrs. Stella LaCoste

by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello

Mr. Sam McBirney

by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Millican

Mrs. Christine Nettles

by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello

Dr. N. Philip Norman

by Mr. M. Stone Miller

Mr. Arthur Palmer

by Mrs. Marguerite D. Broussard; Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

Mr. Victor A. Sachse

by Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

LUMIÈRES

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

Volume 4 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.

Financial Statement

January 1978—December 1978

Friends of the Library

Officers

Dr. Edward M. Boagni, III, President
 Mrs. Charles H. Morton, Vice-President
 Caroline Wire, Treasurer
 Mary Jane Kahao, Secretary

Balance in LSU Foundation Account
 December 31, 1977 \$35,226.46

Income:
 Memberships, Memorials,
 Gifts in Honor of Individuals 14,745.25
 Book Bazaar 12,000.00
 Interest 2,174.00

Total \$28,919.25

Expenditures:

Jan. '78	Establishment of the Behre Foundation Account	1,000.00
Feb.	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized map purchases	700.00
	Reimbursement for fees paid	50.00
Mar.	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized book purchases	225.00
	Transfer to operating account	800.00
	Annual banquet expenses	139.00
Apr.	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized book purchases	200.00
May	Accounting Services cor- rection	130.00
	Transfer to Endowment Fund	5,000.00
	Transfer to operating account	575.00
	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized archival purchases	1,950.00
June	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized book purchases	12,473.00
	Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized La. Room purchases	206.00
	Accounting Services cor- rection	295.00
Nov.	Reimbursement for postage, supply items	49.82
Dec.	Postage due	54.25

\$23,847.07

Balance in LSU Foundation Account
 December 31, 1978 \$40,298.64

Library Endowment Fund
 December 31, 1978 \$30,750.82

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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