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Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LUMIÈRES

T. HARRY WILLIAMS: NAPOLEON IN ACADEME

T Harry Williams was widely known and highly acclaimed as a scholar and teacher, but he was more than that—he was a very special person.


Clever and witty, he was a superb raconteur and conversationalist. He loved to come out to the history department's big reception room, or "bull pen," and sit at the large conference table near the back of the room and engage in lively banter with the graduate students and younger faculty members who would quickly gather around him. His curiosity was insatiable, and his interests were broad. Consequently, the subjects of discussion ranged from people and politics on every level to historical questions of a very specific kind. Harry enjoyed teasing his junior colleagues about their professional triumphs and the threat they posed to his standing in the University and the historical fraternity. Along with all the fun and jesting, Harry had a serious purpose in these exchanges. He was taking measure of his colleagues—finding out something about what they knew and how their minds worked.

At the same time, Harry was very considerate of his junior associates. A few years ago, the department acquired a very shy young assistant professor. Not wishing to "pester" anyone, as he later explained it, the young man kept pretty much to himself, generally avoiding his colleagues, and especially the distinguished Professor Williams. This state of affairs continued for a few weeks until, as the young man later described it, "One morning Harry appeared in my office and plopped one of his manuscripts down on my desk. He said he was working on a subject I was supposed to know something about and

asked me to read his work and tell him what I thought of it. He did a whole lot for the confidence of a very nervous assistant professor that morning and I think he knew it. I think that's why he did it."


Harry was not just a congenial and friendly man; he was a very generous person, giving freely of both his time and money to worthwhile endeavors. He always seemed willing to read and criticize the manuscripts of articles or books written by colleagues at LSU or elsewhere or by an ambitious student. And although he often found much to fault in the work of others, he also managed to find something to praise and a way to offer encouragement. He was ever the champion and advocate of his students, and they responded by giving him their unqualified respect and devotion. Harry gave of his valuable time not only to students and colleagues but also to many University activities—from serving on a committee to choose a dean or a president to acting as faculty adviser to a social fraternity. He faithfully attended virtually every history department function, whether social or professional, and he was always the center of attention and the life of the party.

One of Harry's special concerns was the Middleton Library. He was particularly interested in its role as a resource for research. He realized that for the Library to be able to carry out its research function properly it needed more support than it was receiving from state-appropriated funds. He, therefore, worked actively and constantly to secure for it private contributions of books and other materials, as well as money. He played an important role in securing the Warren L. Jones



Friends of the Library

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge



Lincoln Collection, and he was always buying something—a rare dictionary once owned by Lincoln, or some microfilm needed by one of his students for his dissertation research—or giving money for memorial gifts for the Library. He was one of the most ardent and active supporters of the *Friends of the Library*. After serving as president of the organization, he became a member of its board of directors and remained on the board until his death. As a final testament of his great

concern for the Library, he willed it his personal library and other literary effects.

T. Harry Williams was indeed an uncommon man. He has left us a legacy of many good works and a host of imperishable memories. One of his distinguished colleagues recently described him as “one of the most decent, humane, and thoughtful historians I have known.”

John L. Loos

Chairman, History Department



Book Bazaar News



Bright October sunshine, autumn leaves, and golden pumpkins herald the bargain time of year for Baton Rouge book lovers. These seasonal signs were evidenced in the sunny smiles above golden aprons which greeted a lengthy line of eager buyers on opening day at the fourth annual *Friends of the LSU Library* Book Bazaar held again in Bon Marche Mall. Throughout the three-day sale, over 400 volunteers worked to keep tables stocked for purchasers to browse through. In typically “gold in the attic” fashion, several buyers excitedly proclaimed having made valuable “finds” among the 43,000 items available for sale. When it was all over, the total proceeds set a new record as the largest sum earned from a *Friends'* bazaar. Over \$18,000 in nickles, dimes, dollars, and checks turned into a golden total to enrich the coffers of the *Friends* and the shelves of the Library.

Gold stars are awarded to all of the Book Bazaar workers, especially Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, chairman of the event. The major effort behind the three-day sale is the year-long job of sorting and pricing carried out at the Book Barn, chaired by Mrs. Eugene H. Owen. Well

in advance of the sale, publicity is begun to pull in a large number of purchasers. Publicity for the 1979 Bazaar was handled by Mrs. David Crockett with Mrs. Robert Holtman in charge of newspaper releases and Jean Wheeler in charge of TV and radio spots. Their efforts brought a record number of buyers to the sale.

The monumental task of having the 43,000 books moved to the sale was accomplished by Mrs. Robert Stuart and her helpers. The job of continually stocking the tables fell to Mrs. T. O. Perry and Mrs. John E. Gonce with help from LSU students and area high schoolers. The information desk was chaired by Mrs. Leslie McKenzie. Sales chairman was Mrs. E. D. Bateman; arrangements chairman was Mrs. John Bateman. The task of recruiting volunteers to work was jointly accomplished by Mrs. Warren Ogden and Mrs. Ruby Beardon.

As one successful bazaar is wrapped up, plans are underway for the next. Mrs. Joseph Simmons, collections chairman, will be chairman of the 1980 Book Bazaar.

Books Are Sensitive too!

If you know that books can be funny, sad, dull, exciting, short, long, good or bad, you may know that they can be sensitive, too. Shortly before the school term began this fall, many volumes in the Middleton Library developed a special kind of sensitivity — an electronic security system was installed at the front doors of the Library. While the books are closemouthed about the exact details of how the system works, they do “scream” if some person tries to kidnap a volume without going through Library check-out procedures. If an item is not desensitized when it is checked out, an alarm beeps and the exit gates automatically lock.

Many *Friends of the Library* who had expressed an interest in better security for Library materials will be happy to hear of the installation of the electronic security system. Our “sensitive” books will help Library users become “sensitive” to the proper regard for circulation procedures.

ESTC at LSU

The North American headquarters of an international bibliographical project, the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalog, will be housed in the Middleton Library. Under the direction of Arts and Sciences Dean Henry L. Snyder, a *Friends'* board member, the project has been given a three-year grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities. A staff especially hired for the project at LSU will work in tandem with the ESTC staff at the British Library in London to locate and catalog every existing item published in the English language during the eighteenth century and in Great Britain and its colonies in *any* language during the same time span. The North American ESTC project at LSU will try to locate as many as possible of the one and one-half million pieces of eighteenth-century material estimated to be in U.S. libraries. This very prestigious project for the University and the Library will result in a master compilation of data which will eventually be available in microfiche and through computer data-base searching methods.

Profile of a Bibliophile--Dr. Milburn Calhoun

He has a full-time family medical practice. He's a full-time book publisher. He serves on the clinical staffs of the LSU and Tulane Schools of Medicine. He operates a bookstore. He qualifies as an expert appraiser of libraries and rare books, which he also collects for himself.

Obviously, Dr. Milburn Calhoun of Marrero either has a time machine in his attic or is exceptionally well organized.

"Whatever I do," he says, "I do completely and intensely. I don't care for golf. I don't fish. These other things are my golfing and fishing." He immediately emphasizes that success in his multifaceted pursuits would be impossible without his wife Nancy's wholehearted support and total commitment to all of them.

Born in West Monroe, Louisiana, Dr. Calhoun recalls that "I fell in love with books the minute I saw the first one. I grew up in a rural area where there was limited contact with the outside world—a world that reading opened up." The first book he ever owned was a first-grade reading prize, *The Gray Kitten and Her Friends*, which he still has. In the third grade, he encountered a book that particularly impressed him—*Robinson Crusoe*, which he re-read many times subsequently: "Maybe that helped shape my life, with its lesson that everyone should work out his own needs and take care of them."

After two years at Northeast Louisiana State University, Dr. Calhoun in 1949 came to Baton Rouge and LSU, where he busied himself in characteristic diversity. Working simultaneously as night librarian in the Louisiana Room, a waiter in a women's dorm, and a choir director at a Livingston Parish church, he one semester carried a 25-hour courseload (but did, after a few weeks, drop five hours—in Russian).

After graduation from the LSU School of Medicine and an internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, he opened a private practice in Buras, Louisiana, which was interrupted by two years in the Air Force.

In 1965, Dr. Calhoun moved his medical practice to Marrero. By then he had embarked on building a personal library in earnest, buying collections and opening a mail-order used book business. Perhaps a natural outgrowth of all this bibliophilic activity was the decision of Dr. and Mrs. Calhoun to open their own bookstore. Their "Bayou Books" in Gretna maintains some 6,000 to 8,000 display titles of new and used books, and specializes in a search service: If it's been published, they usually can find it.

The Calhouns' next venture into the world of books came in March 1970. Hodding Carter, editor and publisher of the *Delta Democrat-Times* in Greenville, Mississippi, also owned Pelican Publishing Company and decided to sell it. The Calhouns and his brother Jim (who is coordinator of information services for the LSU System) bought Pelican, moved it to Gretna, and

in a few years had turned it from a small regional publishing house into a medium-sized major firm of national and international significance.

"Publishing," according to Dr. Calhoun, "is an art, not a science." The subject matter, quality of writing, knowledge of the market, and intuition all play a part in deciding which of the 1,000 or so manuscripts received each year to publish. (Dr. Calhoun doesn't personally read all of them; many are weeded out by others on the Pelican staff.)

The art of publishing judgment is best exemplified by a current Pelican best seller, *See You at the Top*, a motivational book by Zig Ziglar, who originally was so unsuccessful at interesting a publisher that he printed the first copies himself; since Pelican took the book over, it has entered its twentieth printing, with sales approaching a half million. Another example is to be found in the twin *Maverick Guide to Hawaii* and *Maverick Guide to Australia*, whose author received 125 rejections before they were accepted by the Calhouns, who describe them as "the best books of their kind anywhere."

Mrs. Calhoun is far from being a figurehead in the family's book businesses. She supervises the running of Bayou Books and handles business and promotion for Pelican. She is on the steering committee of the Smaller Publishers' Group in the American Association of Publishers (which up until ten years ago was totally dominated by New York firms), and has been invited for the second year in a row to lecture at the Denver Publishing Institute. Daughter Kathleen, 21, who represents Pelican at trade shows when her LSU classwork permits, plans a career in publishing. Son David, 20, also an LSU student, has his own band and wants to become a professional musician; he has, however, worked both as an editor and shipping supervisor at the publishing house.

Dr. Calhoun's personal literary tastes run to history and politics. He's particularly interested in how history has been affected by the movement of cultures. He also notes the importance of the Bible in revealing the nature of man, "providing the only rational meaning of life as we know it, and forming the whole basis of Western civilization."

And is he moved to write a book of his own? He's researching one that, if he does write, would be titled "America's Colony"—based on the premise that the South was so long kept in poverty from which it is just now beginning to emerge because it provided the resources for the rest of the country.

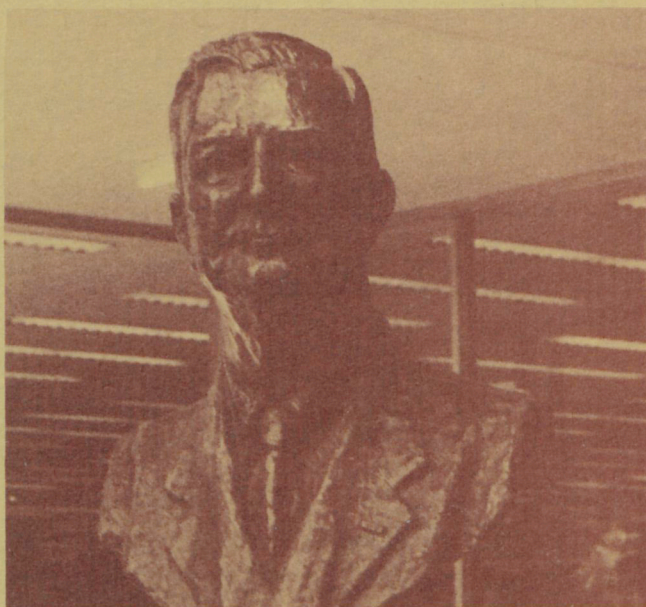
If he ever does write a book, he promises that he will become the field's "revisionist historian." And after he expounds on his strong feelings regarding the South's past, present, and future, he leaves little doubt that he would become just that.

Loyce McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications

A Three-Star Library

In two days of ceremonies, October 25 and 26, the LSU Library was formally named the Troy H. Middleton Library, in honor of the man who considered its construction his major accomplishment as President of the University.

The naming ceremonies began with a symposium on "Information, Research Libraries, and the Scholar," at which four nationally prominent librarians delivered papers entitled "Why Research Libraries?"; "Book Publishing and the Future of the Book"; "The Research Library in the Network Environment"; and "The Research Library of 2001." The following day, General J. Lawton Collins, a long-time friend and military colleague of General Middleton, was the principal speaker at the ceremony in which the unveiling of a bronze plaque and a bust of General Middleton took place.



In Pursuit of the "Cathead Biscuit"

Recently the telephone rang at Central Reference (in fact, all three telephones were ringing) and we were asked by a disc jockey to trace the origin of the term "cathead biscuit." The caller wanted to tape a librarian answering the question. Edith Sims, Silvia Espinosa and Sandra Mooney pitched in, and, in a short time we were able to document on tape for radio station WYNK that "cathead" and "biscuit" were synonymous in that the former is an East Tennessee-West Virginia slang term for the latter, as in "I ate six catheads for breakfast." Somehow, during the passage of information and recipe down through several generations of settlers moving west, it became known in Louisiana as a "cathead biscuit."

The story is illustrative of the great variety of mysteries that the Middleton Library's Reference Services Division is called upon to interpret and unravel. We must be able to think and communicate on many levels. We must be able to understand the Ph.D. candidate in search of esoteric evidence of the validity (or invalidity) of some arcane scientific treatise. We must not disdain the information needs of the student who requests the shortest book available on the subject of his assignment, or the freshman who, after consulting the reference card catalog thinking it is the main card catalog, asks, "You got any books on history? My teacher wants me to read a book on history." (The question in that form may be rare, but the naiveté is not.)

We must be sympathetic to the same needs of the New Orleans banker or Thibodaux lawyer who turns to the largest library in the state as a last resort. We are, in fact, a library of last resort for many of our clients—individual and institutional. We provide information not only to LSU students and faculty, but to the larger community as well. By larger community we mean, quite literally, the entire world, for LSU lends to and borrows from libraries throughout the United States, Canada, and many other countries. During the first six

weeks of the present semester, for example, we lent books or sent photocopy to Mexico, Australia, Barbados, France, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the USSR.

In our own country we are the largest library in an area bordered to the west by Austin, Texas, to the north by Columbia, Missouri, and to the east by Athens, Georgia, and Gainesville, Florida. And none of the great university libraries located in those cities is *that* much larger than ours. We always must be acutely aware that on this world scholarship scene we are *the* major research institution in certain fields, and regionally we are *the* major research institution, period.

It has been several years since the reorganization of reference services at LSU was begun, a concept based upon a practical recognition that students and faculty in need of information do not stop to categorize their requests in advance. The disc jockey would not naturally ask himself whether the origin of "cathead biscuit" was a science, a social science, or humanities subject. He just wants to know where it came from.

The new structure of reference services has allowed the librarians to remain specialists in certain subject areas. But it also has allowed them to continue the development of specialized reference knowledge in such activities as on-line bibliographic searching, while encouraging them to develop general reference skills as well as skills in subject areas not their specialty.

In the daily job of providing reference service to the LSU community and beyond, the librarians and staff in the Reference Services Division stand ever ready "in pursuit of the 'cathead biscuit.'"

John M. Carter, Head
Reference Services Division

Gifts

Since the reactivation of the *Friends* organization in 1974, many dollars have been raised for the Middleton Library. A purchase committee was created several years ago to select items to be purchased with funds raised through the Book Bazaar or for special occasions such as 80th and 90th birthdays. Purchases made to date from *Friends'* funds are listed here. Individually and collectively, the items make quite an impressive list. The contributions made by *Friends'* hard work and dedication show in the research value of this list.

General

- Album of Louisiana Civil War Photographs*. 1861-1865. Two-hundred views of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and various locations in Louisiana, and federal naval vessels with crews and armaments. \$2200.00.
- Bailey, Nathan. *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary*. 1755, 16th edition. \$857.43.
- Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Kelmscott Chaucer*. Basilisk Press. \$506.25.
- Columbia University Oral History Collection. 404 memoirs on 4x6 microfiche. Includes index. \$3702.28.
- Confederate Imprints*. Microfilm of the text of almost 7,000 items listed in *Confederate Imprints* by Crandall and Harwell.
- Daumier, Honore Victorin. *Honore Daumier: Catalogue Raisonne of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Drawings*. New York Graphic Society. 1968. \$153.08.
- Diderot, Denis. *Oeuvres completes*. Hermann. 1975-____. \$1152.76.
- Historic American Building Survey*. Microfilm. Library of Congress Photoduplication Service. 1974. \$882.00.
- The Index of American Design*. On color microfiche with printed catalogs. Ten parts. Somerset/Chadwyck. \$2635.00.
- Jefferys, Thomas. *The Natural and Civil History of the French Dominions in North and South America*. 1760. \$2000.00.
- L'isle, Guillaume de. *Mississippi seu Provinciae Ludoviciana*. 1687. A map of Louisiana territory during the French regime commissioned from a famous cartographer. and
- Suetter, Matthaeus. *Accurata Delineatio Celeberrimae Regionis Ludoviciana Vel Gallice Louisiane ol. Canadae et Floridae*. 1734. A rare map commissioned by the French government, showing Louisiana and surrounding geography. Both maps were \$700.00.
- The Madrid Codices of Leonardo da Vinci*. Zeitlin & Verbrugge. 1974. \$765.00.
- New York Graphic Society Standing Order Plan. \$500.00 yearly.
- The Nixon Administration: Watergate. United Press International News Coverage*. Fourth estate section only. Johnson Associates, Inc. 1975. \$1137.87.
- Stanton, Edwin McMasters. *Papers*. Library of Congress Photoduplication Service. \$3042.00.
- United States Census of Louisiana*. 1900. On microfilm with index. \$2127.00.

Victoria and Albert Museum. Microfiche of the Collection. The complete set of five Departmental Collections in separate binders. \$1500.00.

William T. Sherman. *Letters*. Two letters dated 1860 and 1861, to his adopted father, written as superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy. \$1950.00.

William T. Sherman. *Papers*. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. Microfilm edition. 51 reels. \$700.00.



From the Victoria and Albert Museum Microfiche Collection

Durieux Birthday

Hirth, Georg. *Picture book of the graphic arts: 3500 woodcuts, etchings, and engravings by the masters 1500-1800*. 1881. Benjamin Blom. 1976. \$255.41.

Heberle Birthday

25 books on social and political thought were purchased for \$325.00.

Major Birthday

- Girard, Patrick. *Les juifs de France de 1789 à 1860: de l'émancipation à l'égalité*. Calmann-Levy. 1976. \$10.80.
- Karaïskakis, Georges. *Bibliographie des oeuvres de Paul Valéry: publiées de 1889 à 1965*. Blaizot. 1976. \$106.60.
- Malaurie, Jean. *Les derniers rois de Thulé*. Plon. 1976. \$15.45.
- Martin, Claude. *La Maturité d'André Gide: De Paludes à L'imoraliste, 1895-1902*. Klincksieck. 1977. \$32.50.
- Proust, Marcel. *Correspondence, Texte établi: présenté et annoté par Philip Kolb*. Plon. 1970-____. \$54.50 each. 4 volumes.

Dean Paul M. Hebert Memorial

Recopilacion de las Leyes de Estos Reinos. Madrid. 1640. Three volumes. Purchased for the Law School Library.

Richardson Memorial

- Friedlander, Lee. *The American Monument*. Eakins. 1976. \$54.49.
- Kauffman, Richard. *Headlands*. Limited edition of photographs of AIGA award winner 1976. \$125.00.

Lumières

Published by the Friends of the LSU Library
131 Pleasant Hall, Louisiana State University, Anna Perrault, editor

Volume 5 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.

Memorials

In Memory of:

Mrs. Henry Barousse
by Mrs. Marguerite D. Broussard

Mr. Willie R. Booker, Jr.
by Mrs. Mary B. Mills, the Library Office staff

Major J. Perry Cole
by Mrs. Lonnie A. Davis

Mr. W. S. Dupont
by Mrs. Gisela J. Lozada, Mrs. Mary B. Mills, the Library Office staff

Mrs. Annie Boyd Grayson
by Mr. and Mrs. M. Stone Miller, Jr.

Mrs. Mildred Harrison
by Dr. and Mrs. Max Goodrich

Mr. Harold Heres
by members of the Patchwork Pelican's Quilting Club

Dr. T. Harry Williams
by Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leslie McKenzie

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