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LUMIÈRES

The Russell B. Long Papers

One of Louisiana's most noted sons, Russell B. Long, began the transfer of his noncurrent papers to the Troy H. Middleton Library in August of this year. Such action followed his public announcement in May naming Louisiana State University as the repository for his official files. Prior to his decision, Long had been approached by both the University and the Library of Congress for the donation of his papers.

The Department of Archives and Manuscripts, since its inception in the 1930s, has actively sought and acquired manuscript collections of governmental figures. Such materials provide a veritable treasure house of information about the political scene on local, state, and national levels. Today, there are at LSU many collections of prominent individuals in public life dating from the early nineteenth century to the very recent past, including a number of United States senators and congressmen.

The Russell B. Long Papers, however, represent the largest single collection ever designated for the Middleton Library. At this time, it consists of some 2.7 million pages, weighing 13.5 tons, but this will be by no means the final size. Rather, the volume of the senator's papers could increase for more than a decade, since he has indicated publicly that retirement is not in his plans at the conclusion of his present term in 1986.

Russell Long, the son of the late Huey P. and Rose McConnell Long, was born in Shreveport in 1918. He was an outstanding student at LSU where he served as student body president and obtained his B. A. and law degrees. During World War II, Long was a Navy officer and participated in campaigns in Africa, Italy, and

France. Prior to his first election to the U. S. Senate on November 2, 1948, he practiced law in Baton Rouge and served as executive counsel to his uncle, Governor Earl K. Long.

Senator Long ranks second in seniority among one hundred senators in Washington, and until the Republican Party won a majority of senate seats in 1981, served as chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee for fourteen years. Long was Assistant Majority Leader of the senate for four years, 1965-1968.

During his extended career in governmental service, Long has gained recognition in many spheres. He was named LSU Alumnus of the Year for 1976. Most recently, he was acknowledged by his colleagues in the U. S. Congress in three different surveys, as the most influential and persuasive Democrat in the senate, as the most respected senator, and as the best senate debater, respectively.

At first, for an unspecified period, the Long collection will remain closed to researchers. Nevertheless, it constitutes a large, significant body of manuscript materials and ephemera from the past four decades and contains most valuable data for future studies relevant to United States and local history. Moreover, the papers will provide original sources for a variety of scholars working in other fields, such as finance, economics, political science, and related disciplines.

The initial shipment received by the Department of Archives and Manuscripts contains papers dating prior to the beginning of Long's senatorial career in 1948. As preliminary work is

continued on page 3

Seven Is a Lucky Number

Fortune again smiled on the *Friends of the LSU Library* Book Bazaar as the seventh sale was another remarkable success. The crowds were larger than ever on opening day with scores of people waiting to take a chance on finding a prize volume among the books piled on tables.

The book bazaar is a game at which everyone wins. The buyers get books, magazines, music, and records at bargain prices and the *Friends of the LSU Library* organization adds to its treasury. This year the *Friends* made a total of \$27,000 to add to the \$97,000 raised by previous sales.

The leadership for this year's bazaar was provided by Mrs. John M. West, III, chairman. Mrs. Charles Bryant Smith served as secretary. Mrs. Raymie Edmons was treasurer, assisted by cochairman Mrs. Warren David Millican. The book barn chairman was Mrs. Eugene Owen with cochair Mrs. R. Gordon Kean. The job of book collections was handled by Mrs. Charles Prosser, assisted by Mrs. Simmons Barry. Transport chairman was Mrs. Robert Stuart with assistant chairman Mrs. H. F. Bradford. In charge of sales was Mrs. Delroy O. Spann assisted by Mrs. John Keenon. Stockroom chairman and cochairman were Mrs. T. O. Perry and Mrs. John Gonce, with assistant chairman Mrs. R. T. Brown, III. Volunteers to work at the sale were recruited by staffing chairman Mrs. John O. Cook, whose assistant chairmen were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stubbs. The hospitality crew was made up of Mrs. Lewis W. Eaton, Jr., chairman with cochairs Miss Susan Eaton and Miss Barbara Ann Eaton. Publicity for the sale was the province of Mrs. John Munson. The scrapbook is kept by Ms. Sandra Mooney. Library liaison is Mrs. Kenneth Kahao. The information desk at the sale was supervised by the chairman Mrs. Chauvin Wilkinson assisted by Mrs. John C. Fisher.

These people's generous donation of their time made the book bazaar an outstanding success for the seventh consecutive year.



Sales chairman Marion Spann, Book Barn chairman and *Friends* vice-president Cherry Owen, and 1982 Bazaar chairman Anne West chat with high-school librarian and customer Paula Watts.



Volunteers at the checkout table are ready to ring up sales.



Hospitality cochairman Susan Eaton, Marian Selbin, and staffing chairman Gwen Cook work tables on the first morning of the sale.



Sally Whitlock, who oversees the children's book section, and co-treasurer Pat Millican pitch in to help keep the tables stocked.

Profile of a Bibliophile

"I want to give back to LSU just part of what they gave me," says Dr. Brooks Cronan. "I'm going to support the Library. I'm going to support the University in the area that's going to make the University great."

The doctor is a tall man, with a smile to match his large presence. He has practiced family medicine in Sunshine and St. Gabriel since 1962, following his graduation from LSU Medical School. And for the better part of those twenty-odd years, he has collected—books, paintings, pottery—and with his donations he has enriched the collections of LSU's library and the Anglo-American Art Museum.

A native of Baton Rouge, Brooks Cronan attended Nicholson School and Catholic High School before entering LSU. There he chose between his two childhood ambitions—to be a cowboy or a doctor—and embarked on a premed curriculum that led him to New Orleans. While an intern at Charity Hospital, he met Diana Boh, an employee of the Tulane Medical School, and they were married. They now have six children, three of whom—Brooks, Becky, and Peter—now attend LSU. Three younger children, Patrick, Diana, and Meredith, presumably will follow.

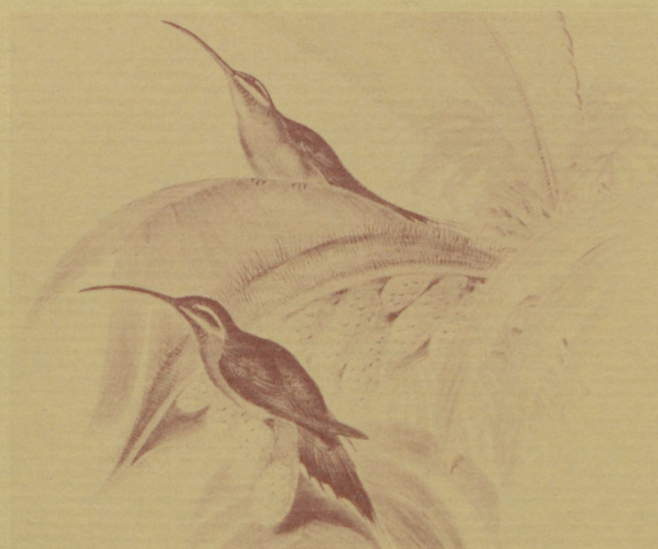
Dr. Cronan's life as collector began when he sought frames for some paintings and was referred to John Carver, who showed him a colored, plated John Gould Imperial Folio. Before long, his collection of Gould prints and lithographs was so extensive that he began giving hummingbirds with iridescent gold as gifts to friends.

The Gould collecting led him eventually to the shop of Bernard Quaritch in London and, by mail, to Howard Redcliffe, who worked for Quaritch. "I told him, 'I'd like for you to buy me some books,'" Dr. Cronan recalls. "I gave him ten percent, and sometimes he'd buy against his own house. He'd go to Christie's, travel to Paris, to Germany."

If the association with Redcliffe started the collections rolling, a friendship with Merritt Schilg sent them into high gear. "He was always questioning what I knew, and I was always questioning what he knew. We would go through catalogs together, go to auctions. And we bought! I remember coming home one night with the car filled!"

At a certain point, Dr. Cronan faced a decision: turn his house into a museum or find one to house his materials. "Somewhere along the line, I had about 4,000 Goulds and I don't know how many Audubons. I realized I shouldn't hide them away; they could be of more benefit at the LSU Library."

And so a collection that included such items as the Treaty of Paris, broadsides, first editions from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, reference books, and indexes found its way into the library.



From *A Monograph of the Trochilidae or Family of Hummingbirds* by John Gould in the McIlhenny Collection of the Middleton Library, given by Dr. and Mrs. Brooks Cronan.

Since then, the Anglo-American Art Museum has profited, too, from Dr. Cronan's collecting, with Newcomb pottery, coin silver, and paintings.

But life amidst books and art has been merely complementary to the personal friendships it has brought. Of Merritt Schilg, Dr. Cronan says, "I really enjoyed that association. Just thinking about those days again, I really enjoy them. I enjoy the human relationship one to another."

And of his philosophy of collecting, he is succinct, as he sums up, after hours of conversation. "I buy quality first," he says, "signatures second, at a reasonable price. Anything I buy has to meet the criteria that make it the best that's available."

Joel Gardner

Long continued from page 1

completed on more noncurrent series in Washington, these will be forwarded to LSU, with the bulk of the files through the mid-1970s scheduled to arrive over a one-year period. All papers will be processed, described, and administered by a curator to be hired by the Library in the near future.

LSU is indeed fortunate and most pleased to have been chosen as the recipient of this valuable and complete corpus of manuscript and printed materials, the Russell B. Long Papers. A fuller description of the nature and scope of that collection will follow in a future issue of *Lumières*.

M. Stone Miller, Jr.
Department of Archives and Manuscripts

A Message from the President

The library is important to each of us for different reasons and at different times in our lives. It may have introduced you to the wide-eyed world of fairy tales and adventure stories. It may have been the place in which your interest was first kindled in what was to become your career. It may have been a needed island of quiet and politeness in an otherwise inconsiderate world. In college you may simply have used it for dating or actually realized your first real educational experience and felt your initial kinship with the scholastic world there. It may have fueled your contribution to the future or shown you a slice of the past. It may have opened up to you the world of art, music, philosophy. A library is all the past generations' legacy to us and our legacy to those who will follow—the DNA of knowledge and wisdom.

Supporting your library is thus an obligation and a privilege and with the *Friends of the LSU Library* it is even fun! We hope to sustain the *Friends* as the vital organization it is and to nurture it into becoming an ever increasing source of support for the Middleton Library.

Charles Prosser, M.D.

Memorials

In memory of:

Mrs. John G. Allen
by Mrs. L. E. Conradi, Miss M. Margaret Jameson

Mr. Fred G. Benton, Sr.
by Mr. Powell A. Casey

Dr. Leo Broussard
by Dr. and Mrs. Max Goodrich

Mrs. Marguerite D. Broussard
by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin G. Dakin, the Staff of the Middleton Library

Dr. Clair A. Brown
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