

Spring 4-1-1983

# Lumières, Spring 1983

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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# LUMIÈRES

## The Millers – Bibliophilic Duo

Off Interstate I-10 in Jennings, Louisiana, is a sprawling ranch house which serves as home for the research efforts of Mrs. Ruth Miller. In that ranch house, in total unsuspecting array, lies resource materials carefully organized, preserved, and arranged in several sections of modern compact shelving. These materials represent the nature of Mrs. Miller's research which entails use of documents such as the Calendar of the Hatfield manuscripts, the Henslowe Papers containing the complete contents of the Diary, Theater, and Bear Garden volumes at Dulwich College in England, and others related to one of the most exciting literary-historical periods in the Western World—that of sixteenth-century England. Amidst such materials, Ruth Loyd Miller, attorney-at-law, mother, grandmother, first vice-chairman of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention, and vice-chair, chair-elect of the Board of Supervisors of the LSU System, conducts, investigates, analyzes, and researches the authorship question of Shakespeare's plays. In her quest to settle what is considered by many to be one of the world's greatest literary enigmas, she is accompanied by her husband, Judge Minos D. Miller.

The Millers make extensive use of research collections and their love for the growth and preservation of libraries matches the intensity of their use of library materials. Mrs. Miller, particularly in her capacity as a member of LSU's Board of Supervisors, has been an active, ardent supporter of libraries and the Troy H. Middleton Library has benefited greatly as a result. Judge Miller has been generous enough to have donated his legal archives and other papers to the Middleton Library and they now constitute sig-

nificant additions to the collections in Department of Archives and Manuscripts.

The Judge and Mrs. Miller's endeavors have taken them from the environmentally controlled stacks of Yale's Beinecke Rare Book Library and the Huntington in California to the secure vaults of the British Library where numerous Elizabethan manuscripts lie in deposit. The Millers' research knows no technological boundaries. Mrs. Miller uses taped oral interviews, reels of microfilm, microfiche, and slides in her investigative work. A word processor has also become a familiar piece of equipment in the Millers' quest to establish Shakespearean authorship.

Perhaps the most prominent and intriguing figure in Mrs. Miller's primary research is Edward De Vere, seventeenth Earl of Oxford. She is presently working toward updating Looney's *Shakespeare Identified* which proposes De Vere as the author of Shakespeare's plays. Undoubtedly, this updating is, as Judge Miller admits, "a monumental task." Research also entails activities such as lectures at Burlington House on the heraldry of the thirteenth Earl of Oxford. She was introduced by the Queen's Secretary, and trips to a church built by that Earl in Suffolk County, then to another in Sheffield built by the third Earl of Oxford. One could follow the Millers' investigative trail covering fascinating space and time and wonder where that trail would lead. I thought at first that Judge Miller offered a clue when, he remarked: "(someday), we must stop the literary search and call it a halt—even if it is incomplete." I am quite certain my original

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## "Pie a la Mode"

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The 1983 dinner and membership meeting of the *Friends of the LSU Library* was held April 14 at the LSU Faculty Club. Another successful year was toasted with champagne before the dinner, which was presided over by President Charles Prosser. After the blessing, given by Chancellor Emeritus Cecil G. Taylor, President Prosser acknowledged past presidents of the organization, visiting library dignitaries, and others who had made noteworthy contributions. He gave special thanks to Mrs. Doris Smith whose efforts as membership chairman had brought in over \$3,000 in new memberships for 1983.

During a first course of mushroom soup, the awards presentation took place. Mrs. Mary Hauer was given a plaque from the *Friends* organization in appreciation of the exceptional bequest made by her husband, Dr. Nelson A. Hauer. An endowment has been established, the Nelson A. Hauer Memorial Rare Book Fund, with the funds from this bequest.

The director of the LSU Library, George Guidry, Jr., thanked all of the *Friends* for their hard work and support of the library and gave a brief report on the progress of construction. The Middleton Library's additional floors are scheduled to be completed in December 1983 and tentative plans call for the renovation of Hill Memorial Library to begin in the fall of 1983. Mr. Guidry thanked the *Friends* for their part in securing construction funding and invited everyone to come to the library when it is completed.



Dr. and Mrs. Charles Prosser welcome the dinner speaker, Charles "Pie" Dufour.

The main course was followed by a dessert of New Orleans praline ice cream accompanied by "Pie a la Mode." The speaker for the evening was Charles "Pie" Dufour, noted New Orleans newspaper columnist. Besides being known for his newspaper career of over fifty years, Charles Dufour has also made quite a reputation for himself as a historian mainly of New Orleans and the Confederacy. His books include *Gentle Tiger—The Gallant Life of Roberdeau Wheat* (LSU Press, 1957), *The Night the War Was Lost* (Doubleday, 1960), and *Nine Men in Gray* (Doubleday, 1963).



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Howe, Mrs. Nina Pugh, and Mr. Fred Benton enjoy the champagne hour before the dinner.



Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor congratulates Mrs. Mary Hauer on the award given to her by the *Friends*.



His topic for the *Friends'* dinner was a history of the West Florida Rebellion. He delivered a factual account of the events leading up to and during the West Florida Rebellion. His own humorous asides were interspersed throughout the talk. The brief history was at the same time accurate, learned, and lively. The audience, composed of Baton Rouge citizens, enjoyed this refresher course on the history of the Baton Rouge area becoming a part of the United States.

The only business of the evening was the election of officers for the coming year. Dean Emeritus Max Goodrich, chair of the nominating committee, proposed the following slate of officers: Charles Prosser, M.D., president; Mrs. Ann West, vice-president; Anna Perrault, secretary; Caroline Wire, treasurer. The slate was accepted with applause. One more successful year was concluded for the *Friends of the LSU Library* with another one already begun.



Don Stanford, Martin Schroeder, and Henry Snyder form a convivial conversational group before dinner.

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## Endowments

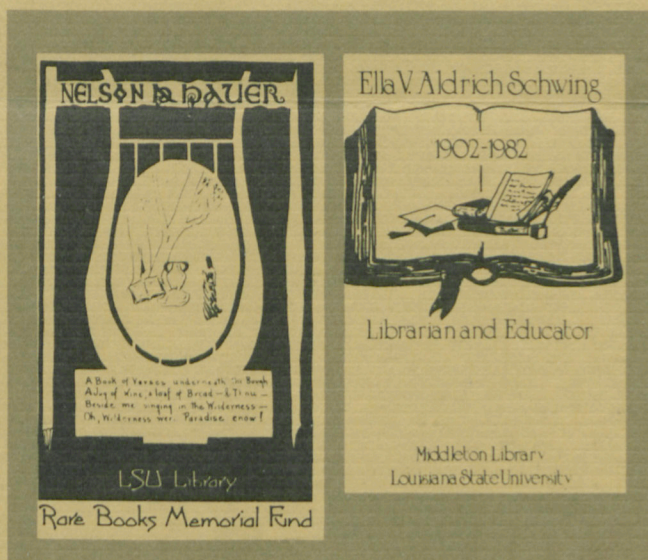
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As the *Friends of the LSU Library* endowment is approaching \$120,000, two separate private endowments have recently been established. The first of these is from the estate of Mrs. Ella V. Aldrich Schwing, a long-time benefactor of the LSU Library. The Schwing endowment will continue to grow because it is the recipient of royalties Mrs. Schwing designated for the library.

The other endowment has been set up from a bequest of Dr. Nelson A. Hauer who was chairman of the Department of Industrial and Technical Education at LSU from 1941 until his retirement in 1973. From 1954 to 1956 Dr. Hauer was chief of a vocational training team in Lebanon. For this service he was awarded the Education Medal of the First Order by the Lebanese Republic. Dr. Hauer was a dedicated library user and was deeply interested in the Middleton Library.

Mrs. Mary Garrett Hauer was given an award at the annual dinner for the Hauer's exceptional generosity to the LSU Library. She was also an LSU faculty member and head of the Books and Libraries Department from 1969 until her retirement in 1980. Besides her library work, Mrs. Hauer also did graduate work in Spanish at the Universities of Texas, Mexico, and Madrid. She received a Ph.D. in Spanish from LSU in 1971.

Dr. Hauer's bequest established the Mr. and Mrs. Nelson A. Hauer Rare Books Fund. The interest from this endowment fund will be used to purchase rare materials. A bookplate patterned from an original sketch found by Mrs. Hauer among Dr. Hauer's papers will be used in books purchased with these funds.



Bookplates acknowledging endowments to the library by Dr. Nelson A. Hauer and Mrs. Ella V. Aldrich Schwing.

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impression that research must be taking its toll was wrong, for when I looked up at their faces, I saw two pairs of the most energetic, intense, and sparkling eyes I have ever encountered in my acquaintance with literary researchers.

Thein Swe  
Assistant Director for Collection  
Development  
Troy H. Middleton Library



The Middleton Library has recently received several collections from private donors. One of these collections was given by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton, former director of the LSU Library School and a former member of the Executive Board of the *Friends of the LSU Library*. Mrs. Morton gave a collection of twentieth-century fiction and history. Notable among these books were first editions of Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, John Steinbeck's *The Wayward Bus* and *Sweet Thursday*, William Saroyan's *The Human Comedy*, and Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa*.

Another collection was given to the library by the descendants of Dr. A. Feltus Barrow of St. Francisville. The donors are Miss Eleanor E. Barrow and Mrs. A. B. Cross, Jr. both of Baton Rouge, Mrs. Robert Walker of Gulfport, Mississippi, and Mrs. J. A. Pullen of Houma, Louisiana. The books are from the Barrow family library built up throughout the late nineteenth

and early twentieth centuries. Dr. A. Feltus Barrow (1868-1928) was the son of John Joor Barrow of Highland Plantation. He was married to Camilla Leake, a member of another of the older families in West Feliciana Parish.

Mrs. J. A. Pullen recalls that several families in St. Francisville pooled their books before the establishment of library services and put them in the town hall for everyone to read. Mrs. Leila Golson acted as the librarian. Later, when this arrangement ended, Mrs. Camilla Barrow lent books from her home. Many of the books in the collection given to the library have bookplates which read "Please return to Camilla L. Barrow." As could be expected of such a private circulating library, there were popular novels ranging from the end of the nineteenth century to the late 1950s.

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## Financial Statement

### January-December 1982

<b>Balance in LSU Foundation Account</b>	
December 31, 1981	\$75,762.81

#### Income:

Memberships, memorials	\$10,550.67
Interest	8,678.00
Book Bazaar	27,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,228.67</b>

#### Expenditures:

January	No expenditures	—0—
February	Authorized book purchases by Middleton Library	\$ 8,000.00
	Mailing permit fee	40.00
	Printing Office fee	15.00
March	No expenditures	—0—
April	Friends Annual Banquet expenses	350.00
May		—0—
June	Transfer to Operating account	1,500.00
	LA Map Restoration	450.00

July		—0—
August		—0—
September	Friends Insurance Premium	333.00
October		—0—
November	Adjustment by Foundation for double credit	28.00
	Bulk rate mailing deposit to US Postmaster	100.00
December	Printing costs for Christmas keepsake	1,043.79
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,860.29</b>

#### Balance in LSU Foundation Account

December 31, 1982	\$110,131.19
Library Endowment Fund—December 31, 1982	\$113,275.00
Ellinor H. Behre Fund—December 31, 1982	\$ 1,604.27
Fred B. Kniffen Fund—December 31, 1982	\$ 2,098.90
H. C. Sanders Fund—December 31, 1982	\$ 2,236.38



## Famous Critic Library Fan

When celebrity movie critic Rex Reed was in town recently to be inducted into the LSU Journalism Hall of Fame, energetic membership chairman Doris Smith inducted Rex into the *Friends of the LSU Library*. Mr. Reed paid visits to the Book Barn and the Middleton Library. During his visit to the library Mr. Reed chatted with staff members and autographed copies of his books in the Louisiana Collection. A few of those titles with which he established his acerbic reputation were *Do You Sleep in the Nude?*, *People are Crazy Here*, and *Valentines and Vitriol*. Having been a long-time user and supporter of libraries, the incisive movie critic was happy to proclaim his interest in the LSU Library and to assist in promoting increased membership for the *Friends*. While Rex may sometimes pan the movies, when it comes to libraries he is always a fan!



*Friends'* membership chairman Doris Smith and Louisiana/Rare Book Rooms staff member Karen McCord look on as Rex Reed autographs copies of his books in the Louisiana Collection. (Photograph by Don Morrison, LSU Library Photoduplications.)

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## Memorials

In memory of:

*Dr. Ellinor H. Behre*

by Chancellor Emeritus and Mrs. C. G. Taylor

*Mrs. Sidney R. Bowden*

by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Bennett, Jr.

*Mrs. Marguerite D. Broussard*

by Miss Sarah Broussard, Mrs. Lourdes L. Deya, Mr. Charles J. Dupont, Mrs. Barbara D. Eppenger, Mrs. Mary Jane Kahao, Mrs. Sara D. Leach, Dr. and Mrs. Alfredo R. Lozada, Mrs. Mary B. Mills, Mrs. Anna H. Perrault, Mrs. Betsy St. Julien, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Walker, Miss Caroline Wire

*Mr. Ben M. Burns, Jr.*

by Chancellor Emeritus and Mrs. C. G. Taylor

*Mrs. Jennie Beth Clark*

by Mrs. Lourdes L. Deya, Mrs. Amelia D. Hatcher, Mrs. Mary Jane Kahao, Mrs. James Lanier, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Luse, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie McKenzie, Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton, Mrs. Helen H. Palmer, Mrs. Anna H. Perrault, Mrs. Mary Barton Reid, Mrs. Betsy St. Julien, Miss Caroline Wire

*Mrs. Stella Generose*

by Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Bennett, Jr.

*Miss Marguerite Hays*

by John Hazard Wildman

*Mr. Henry Lemmon*

by Mr. and Mrs. George J. Guidry, Jr.

*Mr. Tommy Littlepage*

by Mr. and Mrs. John J. Capdevielle

*Miss May E. Olson*

by Mrs. Anna H. Perrault

*Mrs. Marcia W. Perkins*

by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

*Mrs. Gertrude Reynolds*

by Mr. and Mrs. George J. Guidry, Jr.

*Mr. Everett G. Smith*

by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton

*Mr. Robert C. Taylor*

by The Modern Reviewers Book Club

*Mrs. Leta B. Triche*

by Lake Rosemound Buzz'n Bees

*Mrs. Ralph Tuminello, Jr.*

by Mr. and Mrs. John J. Capdevielle



## Officers

Charles Prosser, President  
Mrs. John M. West, III, Vice-president  
Anna Perrault, Secretary  
Caroline Wire, Treasurer

## Classes of Membership

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

**Friends of the LSU Library**  
**LSU Foundation**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803**

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