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LUMIÈRES

The Klaus Berger Art History Collection



With generous assistance from the Friends of the Library, Middleton Library has recently acquired a significant collection of books on modern art and architecture. This collection was previously the professional library of Professor Klaus Berger, formerly of the University of Kansas, now living in retirement in Paris. Like that of many other German intellectuals, Professor Berger's early career mirrors the political vicissitudes of Europe before and during World War II.

Educated in Heidelberg, Berlin, and Goettingen, Berger assumed his first academic position as a lecturer on art in the Berlin Municipal Libraries in 1927 and became head librarian there in 1929. As he described it to me in Paris two years ago, he was abruptly informed of his dismissal by the Nazi government in 1933, and fearing further harassment, he went into exile in France, where he was a lecturer on art at the Free German University in Paris between 1933 and 1939. With the Nazi invasion of France, Berger was forced to flee once again, this time to the United States, where he was on the faculty of Northwestern University from 1943 to 1945.

After the war, Berger returned to his native Germany, where he served as an officer in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section of the U. S. Military Government of Bavaria. In this position, he was given the responsibility of trying to relocate and return to their proper owners some of the enormous quantity of art works confiscated by Nazi officials throughout Europe during the war. In 1947, he returned to the United States to take a position as professor of art history at the University of Kansas City, and in 1950 he went on to the University of Kansas

at Lawrence, where he remained until his retirement. Professor Berger has been living in Paris for many years, but continues to travel widely in Europe and the United States.

Professor Berger's primary specialty has been in the field of French nineteenth-century painting, especially in the study of the Romantic painter Théodore Gericault. His *Gericault: Drawings and Watercolors* appeared in 1946, followed by the *French Master Drawings of the Nineteenth Century*, published in 1950. Of particular importance was his *Gericault und Sein Werk*, published in Germany in 1952. This seminal study was almost immediately translated into both French and English editions. In the 1960s, Berger produced a work on the French symbolist artist Odilon Redon which was published in German and English editions. He has contributed almost sixty articles to English, French, German and Italian language art periodicals, including the *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* and *Art News*. This record alone would be sufficient for a substantial reputation in art historical scholarship, but even more remarkably, during his retirement Berger has written yet another significant volume, the *Japonismus in der Westlichen Malerei*, published in Germany in 1980. Berger's study of the influence of Japanese art on western artists was the subject of a public lecture he gave at LSU in 1981. It was at this time that two of Berger's former colleagues at Kansas, Dean Henry Snyder and Professor John Erickson, chairman of Department of French and Italian first began to discuss with him the possibility of acquiring his rich art history library.

From the first, Professor Berger made it clear that his paramount desire was for his library to remain intact and accessible to students and scholars. In my

own discussions with him in Paris, I learned that various book dealers, particularly in Germany, would have been happy to pay as much or more than LSU could offer simply for the rarer items in the collection. In the end, Professor Berger's generous concern for the preservation of the library as a research tool was a very fortunate stroke for the Middleton Library.

The collection itself represents not only Professor Berger's wide-ranging interests in art history, but also his life-long passion for rummaging through the book stalls of Paris and other European cities. There are several highly important first edition titles by leading nineteenth century art critics, and the collection is naturally rich in material on Romantic art in Europe. There are a number of scholarly monographs on lesser-known artists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as a wide assortment of hard to find exhibition catalogues. However, like Berger's own interests, the strengths of the collection go well beyond the standard

subjects of modern European art. There are volumes on art nouveau and other decorative arts movements, some rare European publications on the history of photography, and, as a result of the research that went into his last book, several works on the art of Japan and the far east. One item of considerable interest and beauty is a rare French periodical of the later nineteenth century, *Le Japon Artistique*, which reproduces much of the Japanese art that first had an influence in the west. Of particular significance and rarity is a run of the original *Bauhaus* magazine from the 1920s.

The Klaus Berger library represents the fruits of a unique and highly diversified career in art history and book collecting, and the Friends of the Library can take pride in its part in the acquisition of this valuable scholarly resource for Middleton Library.

Robert Jay
Art History



From *Le Japon Artistique*

Mini is Maxi

After eight years of holding the annual book bazaar at a local shopping mall and working out of the basement of the old Hill building, the book barn/bazaar operations underwent many changes in 1983-84. Immediately after the 1983 book bazaar, the book barn had to be moved out of Hill Memorial to vacate the building for renovation. Quarters were provided by the LSU University administration in the old Panhellenic Building. After enduring several months of insufficient space, the book barn was moved to the opposite side of the Panhellenic Building. Just as things were functioning smoothly, the Panhellenic Building was condemned! Rescue came this time from the administration of the LSU Agricultural Center. The Friends were given use of the LSU Educational 4-H Mini Farm Barn for two months prior to the book bazaar. The bazaar was held October 5 and 6 in the Mini Farm Barn on the LSU campus.

The 1984 book bazaar proved what a loyal following the bazaar has developed. The 1984 sale was moved in location and reduced from three days to two. All apprehensions as to the success of the 1984 sale evaporated with the morning haze as workers saw the line of eager book bargain hunters grow in length before the opening of the sale on Friday morning. Not only were all the familiar customers present, but many new faces were there as well. The location was very convenient for LSU faculty and students to drop by between classes. If there was a drawback at all, it was that there were so many buyers, it was difficult to get to the sale tables. There was much offensive and defensive use of elbows in the competition for the best buys.

As it floated above the crowd, a bright yellow balloon tied to the 1984 sales chairman, Mrs. John Keenon, sym-

bolized the buoyant mood of the sale on the first day. Through the maximum effort of book barn volunteers who triumphed over adversity, the 1984 sale realized more than \$27,000 profit. The mini farm produced maxi results.

One thing which did not change for the 1984 book bazaar was the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, which made the sale possible. The officers for the 1984 bazaar were Mrs. John Keenon, chairman; Mrs. Adrian E. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Raymie Edmonds, treasurer; and Mrs. W. D. Millican, assistant treasurer. The cashier chairman for Friday was Mrs. Thomas Lane and Saturday, Mrs. Willard Fruehan. The two staffing teams were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scheffy and Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Degges. Sales chairman was Mrs. Douglas Harrison with Mrs. Delroy Spann as co-chairman.

Arrangements were handled by Mrs. James F. McDowell with co-chairman Mrs. Trent James and assistant Mrs. John M. West III. Mrs. Charles Bryant Smith served as liaison. The book barn chairman was Mrs. Eugene Owen with Mrs. R. Gordon Kean as co-chairman. Book collection co-chairs were Mrs. John M. West, III and Mrs. John B. Noland. Mrs. Joseph S. Simmons served as publicity chairman with Mrs. Cary Long handling campus publicity. Stock room chairmen were Mrs. John Gonce and Mrs. T. O. Perry. Mrs. Chauvin Wilkinson was information chairman, assisted by Mrs. John C. Fisher. The hospitality chairman was Mrs. Norman David, with co-chairman Mrs. Michael Hoseman. 1984 scrapbook chairman is Mrs. Don Bell.

Thanks to these chairmen and all of the other volunteers who produced the "maxi" results of the 1984 book bazaar.

New Library Director

When George Guidry, Jr., announced plans to retire as library director in the summer of 1983, the University administration began a nationwide search for a new library director. This search culminated in the hiring of Sharon Ann Hogan, acting director of the Temple University Libraries.

Ms. Hogan began her library career at the University of Michigan after receiving a master's in library science from Michigan in 1968. In a twelve-year career at the University of Michigan she became a nationally known expert in the field of bibliographic instruction and rose to a top position as assistant to the director. She became deputy director of Temple University Libraries in 1982 and acting director in 1983. Ms. Hogan has been very active professionally in the American Library Association and is currently vice-chair, chair-elect of the ALA Association of College and Research Libraries.

The LSU libraries staff, faculty, and friends welcomed Ms. Hogan with a reception in the staff lounge on September 11, 1984. An exciting future is anticipated for the LSU libraries under Ms. Hogan's leadership.



Photograph by Don Morrison

A Message from the Director

I accepted the position of director of libraries at LSU because it promised to be a particularly exciting and rewarding challenge over the next decade. The University administration has declared its intention to concentrate resources in areas delineated by a Quality Thrust program and has recognized that the library must be upgraded and expanded as a part of that effort.

Changes are imminent; the library is currently moving into the two new floors of Middleton and is planning the move to a newly renovated Hill Memorial; we are progressing toward library-wide automation; we are studying the application of new technology to the storage, access, and delivery of information; and we are concentrating on building collections in those areas designated as Quality Thrust programs.

The most immediate task is the physical move into new library space and the accompanying expansion of library services and programs. While the shifting of books to the two new floors of Middleton will finally address a decade and a half of overcrowding, it is the occupation of Hill which will provide the most dramatic stage for new services and programs. First, it draws together in one location the unique items that comprise our Special Collections. With this new space, we will be able to adequately house additional works by and about Louisiana writers, artists, pho-

tographers, and politicians; books, archives, and manuscripts illustrating the history of the lower Mississippi Valley; Lincolniana; natural history; and all of the other special areas that will be concentrated in this building. It is a research facility in which students and scholars can examine a single topic by looking through such varied sources as manuscripts, photographs, documents, posters, art works, architectural drawings, maps, and artifacts, as well as books and journals. Second, Hill will provide a setting in which researchers can not only sit quietly and use these special materials, but also can gather for discussion. There are rooms for lectures and seminars and we would hope to promote symposia and conferences which would highlight the research collection and which would, in turn, be enriched by the wealth of resources surrounding them.

Over the past decade the Friends have provided funding which enabled the library to purchase many of these valuable resources; we now have a building to properly house Special Collections. It will be our challenge to develop programs which capitalize on and utilize these resources as well as to continue the support of the collection development process.

Sharon Ann Hogan
Director, LSU Libraries

Cuban Papers Project

The territory which is the present state of Louisiana was under Spanish rule from 1763-1803. In the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain, there are two vast collections of original documents dating from this period of Spanish rule. One of these collections is the Santo Domingo Papers, documents generated and received by the Spanish government in Spain. The other collection, called the Cuban Papers, consists of documents from the Spanish commandants which were returned to Spain via Cuba after the Spanish pulled out of the Mississippi River Valley. These two archival collections are rich resources for research in the Spanish colonial period in Louisiana.

A filming project was begun for the Santo Domingo papers in the 1960s and the Cuban Papers in the 1970s. Originally the Cuban Papers microfilm project was a cooperative venture between LSU and Loyola University in New Orleans. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported the project in the late 1970s. Loyola withdrew from the project, but further support was provided by the Historic New Orleans Collection. Professor Paul Hoffman of LSU's Department of History has been the agent for the Cuban Papers Project for the University. The Friends of the LSU Library Executive Board agreed in the spring of 1984 to provide the supplementary funding needed, thus insuring the completion of the Cuban Papers Microfilming Project. This complete archive in microfilm will greatly enhance the LSU library as a major resource library for research on the Louisiana territory and the Caribbean area.

Odd Volumes

The "Mary Ann Miller Conner Memorial Fund" has been established by Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Conner in memory of Dr. Conner's mother. This endowment will be administered through the LSU Foundation with the interest dedicated for purchases for the LSU Library's Rare Book Collection.

Dr. Conner has been Nicholson Professor of Mathematics at LSU since 1971. He and Mrs. Conner are life members of the Friends of the LSU Library.

Neil Odenwald, director of the School of Landscape Ar-

chitecture, has accepted a three-year appointment to the Friends of the LSU Library Board of Directors. An LSU faculty member since 1972, Odenwald is well known throughout Louisiana and the south through lectures and consulting work.

An apology is extended to Kathy Morgan of the E. A. McIlhenny Collection who wrote the article on the *Banks' Floreligium* which appeared in the Spring 1984 issue of *Lumières*. Somehow Kathy's name got left off of the article which she deserves credit for having written.

The Friends annual dinner will be March 14, 1985, at the LSU Faculty Club. Noted author Richard Peck will be the guest speaker.

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Miss Edith Abbott

by Mr. and Mrs. A. Leon Hebert

Mrs. Ida Belanger

by Dr. Laura F. Lemoine

Dr. Béla Halpert

by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Kirby

Mr. Mack H. Hornbeak

by Mr. T. P. Singletary

Mr. William L. McDermott, Sr.

by Mr. and Mrs. John J. Capdevielle

Mrs. Alma Austin Ortego

by Dr. Laura F. Lemoine

Mrs. Paul K. Rees

by Dr. and Mrs. Paul W. Murrill, The 39'ers Book Club

Mrs. Anna Jane Warriner

by Dr. and Mrs. Max Goodrich, Caroline Wire

Friends of the LSU Library
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