

Fall 10-1-1989

Lumières, Fall 1989

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, "Lumières, Fall 1989" (1989). *Friends of the LSU Libraries*. 29.
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LUMIÈRES

Gala Fundraiser to Benefit Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship Endowment

The first Friends fund-raising event to benefit the Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship Endowment will be held on Saturday, March 24, 1990. This endowment was established in 1986 with a goal of \$75,000 to support the salary of a graduate assistant for Special Collections in Hill Memorial Library. To date, nearly \$30,000 has been generated for the fund.

The gala evening will offer music, champagne and other elegant refreshments, but the featured event is an unusual, if not downright unique, entertainment in Baton Rouge—a **BOOK AUCTION!** The fun will begin with a preview of auction items. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a Silent Auction to compete for a wide variety of exciting offerings, ranging from books and prints, to dinner certificates from some of our fine area restaurants. A special feature of the evening no one will want to miss will be Door Prize Awards—you must be present to win!

Bidding will begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp on items which have been listed and described in an auction catalogue to be distributed to ticket holders. The auction committee, chaired by Trent L. James and Anne West, has already collected many and diverse volumes and expects to have at least fifty lots ready for the block at auction time. Several of the undeniably tempting items to be sold include: a signed, limited first edition of William Faulkner's *The Mansion*, c. 1959; a 1533 edition of Euclid; a scarce and valuable set of twelve prints of Margaret Stones' *Flora of Louisiana*; a signed copy of the recently deceased Robert Penn Warren's *A Place to Come To*; and, for the cartoon buff, both a signed copy of Jim Davis's *Garfield at Large* and a signed, framed *Garfield* poster!

An auction catalogue will be available early in the new year. Included in the catalogue will be bid forms

for those potential buyers who are unable to attend the auction. Letterpress printing of the catalogue will be done by a special and very generous Friend of the Library, W. Thomas Taylor of Austin, Texas.


The auction committee still seeks donations of auctionable items, such as a floor globe, library steps, fine books, prints, paintings, maps, Civil War papers and books, and other related materials. For information on how you can contribute, please contact Trent James, Anne West, or Bob Martin.

The Friends of the Library book auction will provide the local equivalent of bidding at glamorous international auction houses. To put the finishing touch on the ambience of the auction, a British auctioneer is being flown in just for this occasion courtesy of American Airlines. Wielding the gavel will be Paul Viney, Director of the European Division of the auction house of Phillips of London. This will be an evening not to be missed!

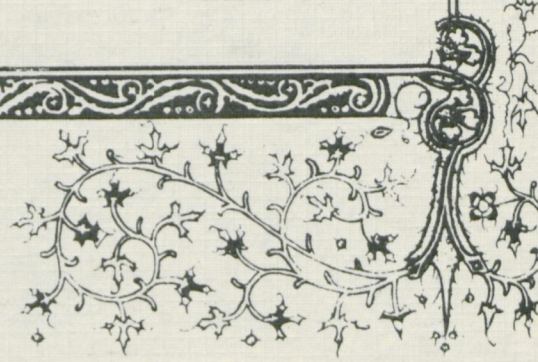
But more importantly, it will bring closer the \$75,000 goal established for the Goodrich-Taylor endowment. This fund, in turn, will not only provide the Library with much needed staff, but will also give students financial assistance and valuable experience in special collections librarianship.

For \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, you can be a part of this festive worthwhile occasion. So put on your fancy clothes, bring your checkbook and, with nostalgic memories of Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway in "The Thomas Crown Affair," join the fun at the Friends Book Auction!

Anne West
Auction Committee



Friends of the Library
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge



Remembering a Friend

Until later — I love you!
Doris

The Doris Dennis Smith Book Award was established by the Board of the Friends of the LSU Library in 1985. The award is presented to persons who epitomize the devotion of Doris Smith to the Book Barn/Bazaar effort. This brief article is written to remember the wonderful person for whom this special award was named.

Doris Smith was a friend without compare. She saw the best in everyone and always managed to bring out the best in each of us. She loved everyone; she gave something to each of us which made us better. All who knew her have a favorite memory of something she did or said. Billie Keenon remembers that as Doris was waiting for her final surgery, she was comforting someone else who was probably considerably less ill than she. The nurses were amazed, but this did not surprise those who knew Doris. Her concern was always for someone else.

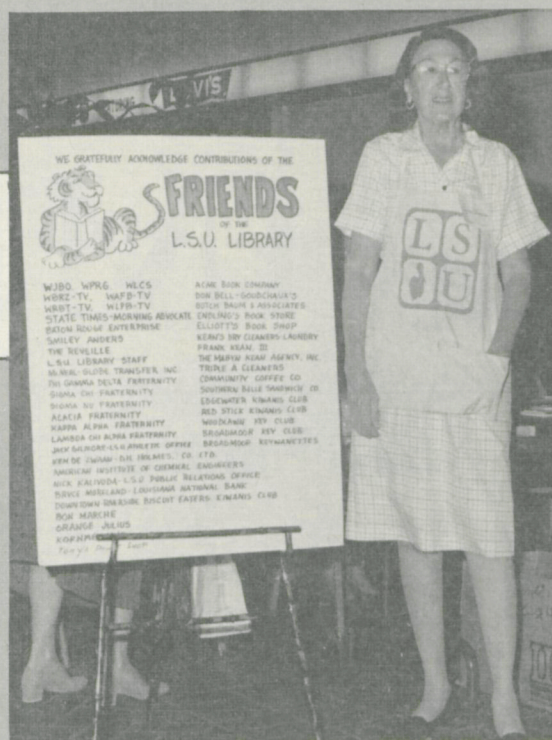
Doris Smith had a wonderful sense of humor, so apropos and so humbling to anyone taking the moment too seriously. Her knack for saying something funny at just the right time, with a hint of a smile on her face, caused every Friends board meeting she attended to be interrupted with laughter at least once.

Doris had a way about her which made it impossible to tell her no. That is probably why Doris Smith was able to organize the impossible. She was not afraid to talk to anyone or tackle anything when it came to getting something accomplished for a cause she believed in, and there were many causes, the Friends of the LSU Library prominent among them.

At the time of the renovation of the old Hill Building, the contractors were ready to claim the marble from the stack area. Doris, along with her husband, went on the offensive and rescued the marble. She hoped that the marble would be used to make a patio for students to enjoy in the little quad between Hill and Middleton. The Friends board is planning to follow through with this idea and have the patio area constructed in front of Hill Memorial Library using the original marble from Hill. A small plaque will state that the patio is dedicated to the memory of Doris Dennis Smith.

In February of this year, her health failing, Doris Smith wrote to thank the Friends for flowers sent to her. We can cherish the words of her closure, "Until later—I love you! Doris."

Caroline Wire



The Doris Dennis Smith Book Award

A number of dedicated workers have received the Doris Dennis Smith Book Award since it was established in 1985. The first year the award was given it honored the founders of the Book Bazaar—Mrs. Rosalind McKenzie, Mrs. Eileen Kean, Mrs. Cherry Owen, Mrs. June Gonce, and Mrs. Linda Perry. In 1987, Mrs. Marion Spann and Mrs. Billie Keenon, both past chairs of the Book Bazaar, received the award. Mrs. Anne West, former Friends president and past chair of the Book Bazaar, was a recipient in 1988. Mrs. Zelda Long also received the award in 1988 for her work with the year-round textbook sales in the Book Barn.

In 1989, two women who had worked with the Book Barn for many years, Mrs. Jean Collier, and Mrs. Agnes LeBlanc, were honored for their faithful service. Also receiving the award in 1989 were Mr. Delroy Spann, Mr. John West, and Mr. Charles Smith, three men who all have been instrumental in the success of the Book Bazaar by helping with the collection and transportation of books, securing donations and volunteers, and performing miscellaneous chores and odd jobs.

Award purchases have been made in the name of several of the recipients of the Doris Dennis Smith Book Award. A group of titles in the geology of China and remote sensing data on China are being purchased for the book award for Mrs. Cherry Owen. The book award for Mrs. Zelda Long is designated for the School of Library and Information Science collection. In 1988, a folio of eleven leaves containing 1,295 original samples of pastel crayons published in Paris in the early 1900's was purchased in the name of Mrs. Billie Keenon and Mrs. Rosalind McKenzie. An edition of an anthology of *Essays* by a small special press in Dallas has been ordered as the gift to the LSU Library for Mrs. Linda Perry's book award. Five of the recipients have agreed to pool their award funds for a very special purchase for the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection. This purchase is described in more detail in this issue of *Lumières* along with other materials recently purchased by the Friends.

Purchases

Banks' Florilegium

The art of the natural world and the history of science and exploration are embodied in Alecko Historical Editions' magnificent *Banks' Florilegium*, now complete after nine years in publication. Purchased for the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection, the *Florilegium* provides a regional resource for researchers in the fields of botany, art, and history. The arrival at LSU this summer of Parts 33 and 34—the final segments of this massive undertaking—concluded the subscription which was funded in three equal parts by the Friends, the Library, and an anonymous donor.

This first complete publication recording the botanical collections made during Captain James Cook's 1768-1771 voyage to the Pacific is already considered one of the finest and most important works of botanical illustration produced during this century. Since the project began in 1980, a flood of new research and the celebration of the Australian bicentennial have occasioned the publication of numerous related works, many of which have been added to the McIlhenny Collection's holdings in support of the *Florilegium's* research potential.

The making of the *Florilegium* and the story of Cook's voyage have been documented for television and through an exhibition entitled "A Flowering of Science: Plants from Captain Cook's First Voyage," organized by the British Museum (Natural History) and travelled internationally. Upon completion of its tour, the exhibition was given to the LSU Libraries by Alecko Historical Editions, further enhancing its ability to interpret the *Florilegium* to the public.

Banks' Florilegium is truly one of the treasures of the McIlhenny Collection, the Libraries, and the University. The Friends have played a major role in enriching the community through its long-term support of this purchase.



Plate from *Banks' Florilegium*

Mattioli

A spring 1990 arrival is anticipated for a recent and rather unusual acquisition purchased by the Friends for the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection.

One hundred ten sixteenth century woodblocks, cut on pearwood by Georgio Liberale and Wolfgang Meyerpeck, and used in the 1565 Venetian edition of Pietro Andrea Mattioli's important herbal, *Commentarii in sex libros Pedacii Dioscoridis Anazarbei de medica materia*. . . , have been rediscovered and are being sold through Alecko Historical Editions. The Friends have selected two of the woodblocks for acquisition, illustrating the plants *Aconitum* and *Myrrhis*.

According to George Sarton, a noted historian of science, "Every botanist of the sixteenth century was in a sense either a translator of, or commentator on Dioscorides—or both." Dioscorides, a Greek physician of the first century A.D., was the author of the great herbal, *De materia medica*, and indeed Mattioli's work of 1565 is a commentary on this work. This commentary is widely considered to be the most important of the sixteenth century herbals, having been printed in over sixty editions and in many languages. More than 900 woodcuts were produced for the various editions of this work, only 110 of which are now believed extant.

For each woodblock purchased, the Friends will also receive a hundred prints pulled from the blocks by Alecko's skilled printers. These prints will be offered for sale by the Friends to offset the cost of the blocks. Included in the purchase price of each block is a limited edition book which contains a suite of nine varied plates.

Five recipients of the Doris Dennis Smith Award pooled their award money to assist in acquiring the blocks and accompanying materials. These generous award winners are: June Gonce, Eileen Kean, Doris Smith, Marion Spann, and Anne West.

The Mattioli woodblocks are valuable historic artifacts which represent a small surviving body of sixteenth century printing surfaces. They document the art of the botanical woodcut at both its technical and artistic peak, and as such are a welcome and appropriate addition to the McIlhenny Collection.

Catesby Restoration

Along with Audubon's *Birds of America* and *Banks' Florilegium*, another work clearly stands as one of the most celebrated titles in the McIlhenny Collection. This, the third edition (1771) of Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas*. . . , is the life work of the man who is now recognized as the founder of American ornithology, and the two beautifully illustrated volumes he produced hold an important place in the art and literature of natural history.

Unfortunately, the McIlhenny Collection's copy of this work was in very poor condition with a dry, crumbling leather binding and badly discolored and embrittled pages. It has long been a wish of McIlhenny Collection staff to have this fine work restored in order to guarantee its preservation for future generations. In August, 1988, the two fragile volumes were delivered by hand to one of the country's leading paper conservators and binders, Don Etherington, in Greensboro, North Carolina, so that restoration could begin.

Just over a year later, after much painstaking and meticulous effort, the books were completed and have been returned looking very nearly as beautiful as they must have appeared upon publication in 1771.

Continued on page 4



"The Large Lark," from Catesby's Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands . . .

Restoration began with the disbinding of the volumes. Afterwards, the plates and leaves were either washed or dry cleaned to remove foxing and stains; next, the pages were deacidified to neutralize the acid materials that caused the paper to become brittle. Since flexibility cannot be restored to paper that has already become brittle, strong, fibrous, translucent sheets of Japanese paper were "laminated" to each plate after all tears and missing page corners had been repaired, thus restoring a measure of flexibility and strength to the pages. Finally, the volumes were rebound in a style appropriate to the period of the book's publication using dark green goatskin. Blind tooling at board edges and a dark red spine label with gilt lettering comprise the only decorative elements.

The completed work is stunning and elegant and is a tribute to the skill, craftsmanship, and taste of Mr. Etherington. The cost of restoration of the *Natural History of Carolina . . .* (\$7,500) was funded by a member of the Friends who wishes to remain anonymous, but to whom the Libraries express sincere thanks.

These two volumes, while not new acquisitions, are "renewed" and as such are well worth examining. Rare Book Collections staff will be pleased to assist patrons wishing to see these or any other materials housed in the Collections during hours of operation, 9:00-5:00 Monday through Friday.

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Mr. Lloyd W. Graving
from Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson

Mrs. Ruby D. Landess
from Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson

Mrs. Marie Campbell Legendre
from Mr. and Mrs. John Kaiser

Ms. Mary Rountree
from Dr. John H. Wildman

Mrs. Doris Dennis Smith
from Dr. and Mrs. Terence Beven, Mrs. Adele L. Heuvel, Mrs. Robert B. Holtman, Mrs. Frank Kean, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kean, III, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Mrs. John Keenon, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Noland, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Owen, Mrs. Anna H. Perault, Mrs. Frances V. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Delroy O. Spann, The Staff of the LSU Libraries, Mr. David West, Mr. and Mrs. John M. West, III, Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson

Mrs. Doris Alexander Wheeler
from Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Heck

Doris Dennis Smith Memorial

At the September meeting of the Friends board a plan was presented by Dr. Neil Odenwald to construct a patio utilizing the marble salvaged when the Hill Memorial Library was renovated. The board accepted the plan and authorized Dr. Odenwald to work with the campus landscape architect on this project. The memorial to Doris Dennis Smith is funded by contributions to the Friends for this purpose. Donations are welcome from anyone wishing to contribute to the memorial terrace.

Donations to the Doris Dennis Smith Memorial
Checks may be made payable to the LSU Foundation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail to Friends of the LSU Library
LSU Library
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

14th Annual Book Bazaar

The annual Friends of the LSU Library Book Bazaar has become a well-established tradition in the LSU and Baton Rouge communities. Each year a long line of loyal customers forms at the 4-H Mini Farm Barn in the hour before the opening. The first morning is always an exciting time when just after the ribbon cutting the eager beavers rush to get to their favorite category and scoop up the best books. The first day of the sale this year brought in over \$24,000. The combined proceeds of the three-day Book Bazaar and the year round textbook sales resulted in a total of \$42,000 raised for the LSU Library.

As always, there are many people involved in the success of the Book Bazaar. In addition to numerous people who work shifts during the three-day sale, the organizational effort is the responsibility of a core of volunteers most of whom work year round. The chairman for the 1989 book bazaar was Mrs. Mary Alice Carpenter. Mrs. Anne West served as secretary. Heading a staff of treasurers was Mrs. Dodie Edmonds, assisted by Mrs. Pat Millican. Thursday cashier chairman was Mrs. Sue Edrington, Mrs. Rosemary Campbell was Friday cashier chairman, and Mrs. Marie Fruehan served as the Saturday cashier chairman.

In charge of securing the volunteers to staff the three-day bazaar was Mrs. Elaine Ellis with Mrs. Jo O'Connell as co-chair. The 1989 sales chairman was Mrs. Marion Selbin. Arrangements and stock were handled by Mrs. Lynda Perry with Mrs. June Gonce serving as co-chair. Publicity chairman was Mrs. Kitty Hessburg with Mrs. Kay Harrison in charge of LSU campus publicity. Chairman of hospitality for the volunteers was Mrs. Tricia McDowell assisted by co-chair Mrs. Kay James. In charge of the information table was Mrs. Ruth Wilkinson.

The year-round job of Book Barn Chairman was performed by Mrs. Eileen Kean with Mrs. Cherry Owen as co-chair. Also year-round is the collection of donated books from individuals and Kean's drop boxes. Mrs. Suzie Senyard served as Book Collections Chairman; co-chairs were Mrs. Lynda Waguespack and Mrs. Sara Barrow. Transportation chairman for the book bazaar was Mrs. Zelda Long.

The amount of organizational effort involved in staging the annual book bazaar is attested to by the fact that the sale is barely over before the chairman for the next year is selected. The 1990 Book Bazaar Chairman is Mrs. Elaine Ellis who has already begun planning for next September.

The Friends express their appreciation and gratitude to all the volunteers and book buyers. Thanks go to Chancellor Rouse Caffey and the LSU Center of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development for the use of the 4-H Mini Farm Barn. The local news media and the *Daily Reveille* deserve credit for publicizing the sale.

Anyone wishing to donate books to the 1990 sale may bring them to the drop-off bin located by Foster Hall or call the LSU Library at 388-2217 for information on the locations of other drop-off points.



On opening day, the 1989 Book Bazaar Chairman, Mrs. Mary Alice Carpenter (right) welcomes to the sale LSU Chancellor William Davis and Mrs. Davis who served as a volunteer.



A "bazaar" atmosphere prevails the first morning with some customers balancing goods on their heads and others elbowing to get to the tables.



The camera catches Mrs. Cherry Owen and Chancellor Rouse Caffey reflecting the upbeat mood which is evident before the sale opens.

LUMIÈRES Published by the Friends of the LSU Library
Anna Perrault, editor; Kathy Morgan, co-editor

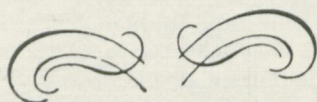
Vol. 14 No. 2

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 the news of the organization and with the needs of the LSU Library. The cover design is based on an exquisite hand-illuminated border from a 15th century French religious manuscript.



Officers

Mrs. Delroy O. Spann, President
Leslie McKenzie, Vice President
Mrs. Paul Murrill, Secretary
Mrs. Eugene Owen, Treasurer



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☐ I prefer to pay as follows: _____

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The Taxman Cometh

Please keep the Friends of the LSU Library in mind for year-end tax deductible donations. Gifts can be designated for a special fund or made as contributions to the Friends general endowment. Special funds are memorial funds and the Goodrich-Taylor Award Fund. There are also several funds named in honor of persons for celebratory occasions such as retirement or birthdays. A list of special funds can be obtained from Caroline Wire in the LSU Library office, 388-2217.

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