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Lumières, Fall 1990

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LUMIÈRES

The First Louisiana State Lottery: 1868-1893

Voter approval of a lottery for Louisiana in the October 1990 election stirs up memories of the first Louisiana State Lottery. Incorporated by Act No. 25 of the 1868 state assembly, the Louisiana State Lottery Company was granted a monopoly for 25 years and virtually dominated Louisiana politics and economics during that time.

Under the leadership of Charles T. Howard, its president until 1876, the Louisiana State Lottery Company expanded into a nationwide business. As a matter of fact, students of the Lottery have estimated that some 93 percent of revenues were generated from ticket sales out of state. In 1889, when profits reached their peak, dividends of 170 percent were paid; one writer in that year estimated that proceeds from the Lottery ranged between \$30 and \$60 million dollars.

Tickets could be purchased from \$1 to \$40, depending on the type of drawing. In order to place tickets within the reach of all persons, fractional parts of a whole ticket were also sold; these included tickets for one-half, one-fifth, one-tenth, and one-sixteenth of the prize value. While daily drawings offered smaller cash prizes within the city of New Orleans, tickets for monthly and semi-annual drawings were sold nationwide. The latter paid capital prizes as high as \$600,000 in 1890.

The lottery became a divisive issue within the state soon after its inauguration. Denunciations came from journalists, jurists, clergymen, and other groups in Louisiana; books, speeches, and treatises were published expounding on the evils of the Louisiana State Lottery Company. In addition, two different newspapers were established in New Orleans to serve as forums for opposition to the lottery.

In February 1890, the opposition crystallized when the Anti-Lottery League was formed in New Orleans to oppose plans by the Company to apply to the Louisiana Legislature for a renewal of its charter. A grass roots organization was developed in most parishes and wards, and "thousands" were enrolled as

members. In the summer of 1891 an affiliate, the Women's Anti-Lottery League, was created. Legislators, other office holders, lawyers, judges, and ministers joined forces to engage in public speaking at rallies and in publishing anti-lottery arguments. Combined with this state crusade was a national movement led by journalists and editors, authors, and politicians, all attacking the "Lottery Monster." Eventually, many of these leaders saw their respective states outlaw lotteries within their borders.

Against mounting opposition, the Louisiana State Lottery and its proponents launched a propaganda campaign extolling the virtues of its operation. In July of 1890, the Progressive League of Louisiana was organized to combat the Anti-Lottery League movement. While there were units formed in every parish, only in the Crescent City was the Progressive League stronger than the opposition.

Louisiana State Lottery Company officials attempted to gain favor by making large contributions to public institutions and charity. Among their legacies in New Orleans were the development of the Metairie Cemetery at a cost of approximately \$350,000; the construction of the Howard Memorial Library at \$155,000; and the erection of the Memorial Hall at \$40,000.

The final battle over the lottery came during the state election of 1892. The gubernatorial race focused on the pro-and anti-lottery positions of the two major candidates, Samuel D. McEnery, labelled "McLottery," and Murphy J. Foster, representing the anti-lottery forces. Amendment No. 3, providing for the rechartering of the lottery, was also on the ballot.

Despite the defeat of the Lottery Amendment at the polls, the inauguration of the anti-lottery Foster, and an opposing legislature, the Louisiana State Lottery Company continued to operate in Louisiana through 1893. However, with the enforcement of revised United States statutes prohibiting lotteries from using the mail, the company finally closed its doors in Louisiana and relocated to Honduras.

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In late 1989, the LSU Libraries Special Collections' staff learned of two volumes of the Louisiana State Lottery Company records in existence in private hands. Prior to then none of the company's own records had been available in any repository, and it had been assumed that all records had been destroyed or otherwise lost. Through the generosity of the Friends of the LSU Library, funds were obtained to purchase these important manuscript items. The Louisiana State Lottery Company Record Books date from 1868 to 1885. They include the first minutes book (1868-1871) which describes the organizational proceedings on August 20, 1868, the by-laws which were passed (with signatures of each officer), and the minutes of meetings through January 1871. The dividend book contains entries for the first 34 dividends

paid, 1869-1885. Information furnished for each dividend consists of the stockholder's name, the number of shares owned, the value of shares, the date and amount paid per dividend, and the signature of each stockholder or his agent acknowledging receipt of the money. Besides company officials, other stockholders are listed, including Louisiana governor Michael Hahn, black lieutenant governor and later, acting governor P. B. S. Pinchback, and lieutenant governor C. C. Antoine.

The Louisiana State Lottery Company Records represent a major addition to the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections' holdings on this controversial topic. Now open to research, they await examination by historians and other scholars.

M. Stone Miller, Jr.
LLMVC

80th birthday celebrated:

Friends Honor William Haag



The 80th birthday organizer, Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor and the honoree, William Haag.

The friends of the LSU Library and the Office of Academic Affairs co-hosted a celebration on the occasion of Dr. William Haag's 80th birthday. Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor, with special assistance from Mrs. Nancy Murrill and Mrs. Anne West, Dr. Carolyn Hargrave and her staff were inductors for the August 15 party in the Hill Memorial Library, which was attended by family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Haag.

T. O. Perry, president, welcomed the guests. Chancellor Taylor read a citation from the Friends, and Dr. Irwin Berg lead the singing of "Happy Birthday." Dr. Haag's response was a delightful repartee of reminiscences and humorous references to his career and enjoyment of life.

The happy occasion honored one LSU's first Alumni Professors, an honor bestowed for outstanding teaching and research at LSU. Dr. Haag, Louisiana's first state archaeologist, had a distinguished academic career at LSU, which spanned the years 1952-1978, the year of his retirement. He remains active in civic and community activities and other intellectual pursuits.

An on-going remembrance of this occasion will be the William Haag birthday fund, a fund established through donations by friends, which will be used to purchase books for the LSU Libraries in Dr. Haag's honor and in his subject specialization.

Farewell to Sharon Hogan

The LSU Library Staff Association and the Friends of the LSU Library jointly held a farewell reception for LSU Libraries Director Sharon Hogan in Hill Memorial Library on August 9, 1990. Member of the university community, the Friends of the LSU Library and the library staff came to say good bye and wish Sharon well in her new position. D.W. Schneider gave the farewell on behalf of the library staff. T.O. Perry presented Ms. Hogan with a gift of a set of Margaret Stones prints from the Friends and the library staff. There was also a photograph album featuring library staff members and events during Ms. Hogan's tenure as library director.

Ms. Hogan thanked the Friends for their support during her term as library director. She said she would especially miss the library staff and that her six years as director had been not only been successful in terms of accomplishments but that it had also been fun working with everyone. Ms. Hogan has taken a new position as Director of the libraries at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle.



D.W. Schneider, Caroline Wire and Ted Martineau help Sharon Hogan with the farewell gifts.

Come Rain or Come Shine:

The 15th Annual Book Bazaar

For the first time in the history of the annual LSU Friends of the Library Book Bazaar, it rained on opening day. But nothing can dampen book bazaar enthusiasm, and surely not a little rain. Doors were opened early to accommodate wet shoppers, but the sale did not begin until Chancellor Bud Davis, Chancellor Rouse Caffey, and Mike the Tiger arrived in an Eldorado convertible. After the official ribbon cutting by Chancellor Davis and LSU Agricultural Center Chancellor H. Rouse Caffey, the book buyers were let loose to begin their bargain hunt. Sure enough, once the sale was in full swing, the sky cleared and the rain stopped. Only memories of the rain, happy shoppers and a little mud remained.

There were no further mishaps and the two hundred plus volunteers were tucked out at the end of the three day sale. Chancellor Davis was seen purchasing Tony Hillerman's most recent thriller, but no information was available on Mike the Tiger's purchases. Other popular items were books about the South, new books donated by publishers and children's books.

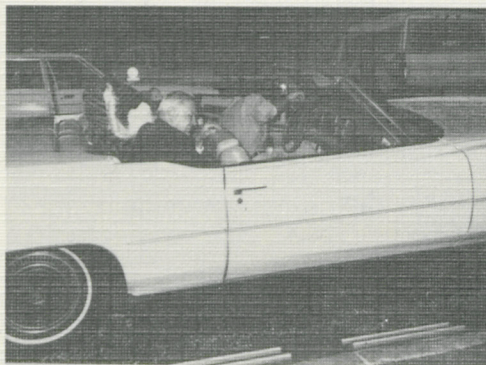
Although it rained on opening day, Mother Nature turned the spotlight of the sun onto Elaine Ellis, this year's chairman and her collective crew of workers. The 15th book bazaar was the biggest fund-raiser of any book bazaar ever. The Friends will donate \$50,000 to Middleton Library from the proceeds of the sale!

The cooperative nature of the entire venture was emphasized by the 1990 chairman, Elaine Ellis. Assisting her directly were treasurer Mrs. Dodie Edmonds and her assistant Mrs. Pat Millican and secretary Mrs. Anne West. The book sale chair was Mrs. Jo O'Connell. General publicity chairman was Mrs. Virginia Grenier, and Mrs. Kay Harrison handled campus publicity. Mrs. Tricia McDowell was hospitality chairman and was assisted by co-chairman Mrs. Kay James. Mrs. Zelda Long headed the transportation committee and was assisted by Mrs. Marion Spann.

Volunteers (including members of several Kiwanis Clubs) were organized by Mrs. Mary Alice Carpenter and her co-chairman Mrs. Lee Hermes. Mrs. Lynda Perry and Mrs. June Gonce were in charge of arrangements and stocking. The permanent book barn chairman is Mrs. Cherry Owen and co-chair Mrs. Eileen Kean. The scrapbook chairman is Mrs. Marie Fruehan. Taking in the loot were the cash chairmen: Mrs. Sue Edrington (Thursday), Mrs. Lynda Waguespack (Friday), and Mrs. Marie Fruehan (Saturday).

Come rain or come shine, the volunteer efforts of the Friends of the LSU Library once again produced another record setting book bazaar.

M.K. Politz



Chancellor Bud Davis, Chancellor Rouse Caffey, and Mike the Tiger arrive in an Eldorado convertible courtesy of Caye, Nancy, and Gabee Ribas.



Mike the Tiger and Jo O'Connell step back after the ribbon cutting as Chancellor Bud Davis is the first person to enter the sale followed by Chancellor Caffey and Book Bazaar Chairman Elaine Ellis.



Book Bazaar volunteers work to keep the tables stocked and orderly as buyers swarm around.

Classes of Membership

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☐ B. Regular Member (annually) \$10.00
☐ C. Contributing Member (annually) \$25.00
☐ D. Sustaining Member
(checkout privileges) \$50.00
☐ E. Individual or Corporate Patron
Member (annually) \$100.00
☐ F. Patron Member (annually) \$500.00
☐ G. Life Member \$1,000.00
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☐ I prefer to pay as follows: _____

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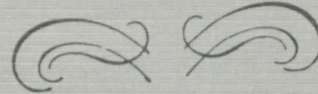
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Literally "lights" in French, lumières is frequently used to denote enlightenment or knowledge. As such, it illustrates the purpose of the newsletter: to enlighten members of the Friends of the LSU Library with the news of the organization and with the needs of the LSU Library. The cover design is based on an exquisite hand-illuminated border from a 15th century French religious manuscript.

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