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# Lumières, Spring 1991

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# LUMIÈRES

## Kelmscott Chaucer Given to LSU Libraries Rare Book Collections

In 1981, the Friends of the LSU Library sponsored an exhibit, "William Morris and the Kelmscott Press: the Bookmaker's Art." In the years following the exhibit, a number of original limited editions produced by the Kelmscott Press have been purchased with Friends funds for the Rare Book Collections. Although a modern facsimile edition of the *magnum opus* of the Kelmscott Press, the *Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, was one of the first purchases made from Friends Book Funds, adding an original printing of the *Chaucer* to the Rare Book Collections at LSU has been a dream which seemed unrealizable given the scarcity and value of the edition. Through the generosity of Mrs. Julie Hamilton that dream has become a reality.

The chance to purchase a copy of the Kelmscott *Chaucer* was brought to the Friends' Purchase Committee in the fall of 1990. Mrs. Julie Hamilton, at that time vice-president of the Friends and chair of the Purchase Committee, chose to donate the *Chaucer* to the LSU Libraries in memory of her parents, Tandy and Tela Hamilton, who in 1964 had given their own collection to the LSU Library.

William Morris, born in 1834, the son of a well-to-do London broker, was one of the most energetic and influential men of his age. Poet, social reformer, designer, and craftsman, he was one of the leading figures in the Arts and Crafts Movement. After attending Exeter College at Oxford, where he met Edward Burne-Jones, he spent a brief stint as an architect, and then came under the influence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, leader of the Pre-Raphaelites. In 1861, Morris joined with Burne-Jones, Rossetti, Philip Webb, Ford Madox Brown, and others to form a company "to undertake any species of decoration, mural or otherwise, from pictures...down to the ...smallest work susceptible of art-beauty." Morris was from the beginning the driving force in the firm and it was reorganized under his sole direction in 1875. The influence of his work as a designer of textiles, wall-paper, and furniture is still strong and even today his designs are still

available and used in interior design. His aesthetic doctrine had a profound effect on the modernists such as Walter Gropius, Frank Lloyd Wright, and in the field of book design, D.B. Updike and Bruce Rogers.

Eventually, Morris' interests as a designer, author, and craftsman came together in his last artistic endeavor --he founded the Kelmscott Press and became a printer. He was involved in all phases of the printing process including the design of type, the selection of handmade papers, experimenting with various inks, and the design of the book itself. The Kelmscott Press produced fifty-three titles, with the *Chaucer* being the supreme achievement of its output.

Chaucer was a favorite author and source of inspiration for Morris and Burne-Jones. Morris first spoke of printing Chaucer's works in 1891, the year he founded the Kelmscott Press. Work began in 1894, and it was officially issued at the end of June 1896, just three months before Morris died.

*The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* is the crowning glory of the Kelmscott Press. The book immediately sold out when it was first offered, long before its completion, and demand was so strong that the number originally planned for printing was raised from 325 copies to 425. With 87 woodcut illustrations by Edward Burne-Jones engraved by W.H. Hooper, it was folio in size with 14 large woodcut borders, woodcut frames and initial words throughout, all designed by William Morris. The copy donated to LSU is on "Perch" watermarked paper especially made for Morris by Joseph Batchelor. Accompanying the LSU copy is a proof sheet printed on vellum. Individual sheets printed on vellum are very uncommon.

The Kelmscott edition of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* is a significant addition to the LSU Libraries Rare Book Collections. This magnificent work is the epitome of what Morris felt a book should be.

Elaine Smyth  
Rare Book Collections



# Annual Banquet, 1991

The Friends of the LSU Library improve with each passing year, which can also be said of the annual banquet and meeting, held this year on April 9, 1991 at the LSU Faculty Club. Mrs. William T. Bennett, with assistance from Mrs. T. O. Perry, made the arrangements for the lovely evening, which began with music by harpist Stephanie Nash-Griffin. During the social hour preceding the dinner the nearly 100 guests had an opportunity to have copies of Emily Toth's books autographed by the author.

T. O. Perry, president, presided over the evening following a bon vivant dinner. The agenda began with greetings from the Library, which were conveyed by Robert S. Martin on behalf of D. W. Schneider, interim director, who was away on business. Dr. Martin informed the membership of the status of the search for the new Dean of Libraries, made mention of important purchases made by the Friends for the Library, and expressed the gratitude of the Library for another remarkable year of unfailing support by the Friends. Dr. Martin also announced that the Friends had been chosen to receive the 1991 John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award, which will be awarded in July during the American Library Association Conference.

Mrs. Kenneth Kahao, chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the awards for the 1990-91 year. The Doris Dennis Smith Award, which honors Book Bazaar workers for their dedicated service and hard work, was presented to Mrs. Adrian E. Johnson, Jr., who has faithfully worked in the Book Barn on a weekly basis for over ten years and has also served as secretary for the Book Bazaar. Mrs. Julie Hamilton was recognized as a life member for her many contributions as a Friends Board member, Book Bazaar chairman, and donor of a Kelmscott Chaucer in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tandy Hamilton. A silver tray was presented to Mrs. Hamilton in appreciation of her many service contributions and generosity.

Three very devoted Board of Directors members were honored with certificates as their terms of service came to an end: Mrs. Eugene H. Owen, who has served very capably and prudently as treasurer for the past seven years; Mrs. John B. Noland, chairman of several committees during her tenure, including the Purchase Committee; and Dr. Trenton L. James, whose leadership as chairman of the Goodrich-Taylor Endowment Committee resulted in the tremendous achievement of almost completing the original \$75,000 goal in a brief five-year period.

The report of the Nominating Committee was made by Mrs. Delroy O. Spann, chairman. She presented the following slate of officers: Mrs. Julie Hamilton, president; Mrs. Charles E. Grenier, vice-president; Mrs. Paul W. Murrill, secretary; Mrs. J. Michael Cutshaw, treasurer. New board members are Mrs. Kenneth E. Carpenter, Mr. Charles H. Coates, Jr., Mr. Eugene R. Groves, Mrs. Cary Long, and Mrs. Thomas B. Pugh. The nominations were accepted by acclamation.

T. O. Perry was heartily thanked for his work as president in 1990-91, and a certificate of appreciation was presented to him.

Emily Toth, Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies at LSU, provided the evening's highlight as the guest speaker. Dr. Toth shared her knowledge of Kate Chopin, which she has gleaned through extensive research, both informing and amusing the audience with her delightful presentation concerning this fascinating Louisiana artist.

Caroline Wire



*Robert S. Martin, Emily Toth*



*Eugene Groves, Zelda Long, Charles Coates, Nina Pugh*



*T.O. Perry, Julie Hamilton, Betty Johnson*



*Cherry Owen,  
Elizabeth Owen*



*James Traynham, Gresdna Doty, Barry Kyle*



## New Acquisitions for the Rare Book Collections

### The Mattioli Blocks Arrive

The long-awaited Mattioli woodblocks have arrived! Thanks to the Friends, two woodblocks originally used to illustrate an important sixteenth-century herbal are now showcase items in the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection.



Mattioli woodblock, leopard's bane (*Doronicum plantagineum*)

The blocks, among 700 created during the 1560s by artists Giorgio Liberale and Wolfgang Meyerpeck, were used in 1565 to illustrate a distinguished Venetian edition of Pietro Andrea Mattioli's best-selling herbal *Commentarii in sex libros Pedacii Dioscoridis de medica materia*. These woodcuts represent the apogee of sixteenth-century botanical illustration. Unusually large and elegant in design, they display astonishing technical virtuosity in their depiction of the smallest details of fruit, flowers, and foliage.

The decision to acquire the Mattioli woodblocks was made in 1989, when 110 of the original 700 woodblocks were offered for sale by a consortium of booksellers. The Friends purchased two blocks in honor of five recipients of the Doris Dennis Smith Book Award. These five recipients -- June Gonce, Eileen Kean, Doris Smith, Marion Spann, and Anne West -- were involved in the selection of the two blocks purchased which depict leopard's bane (*Doronicum plantagineum*) and sweet cicely (*Myrrhis odorata*). The Friends are particularly pleased that Doris Dennis Smith was one of the participants and honorees in this purchase of such appropriate and unusual items for the McIlhenny Collection.

The purchase package includes with each block a copy of a limited edition book, *The Mattioli Woodblocks 1562/65*. Each woodblock is also accompanied by 100 copies from the block carefully printed on richly textured handmade paper. One copy of the book and copies of the prints have been added to the McIlhenny Collection. The other copy of the book and the remaining prints will be used in fund-raising projects by the Friends.

Carved from pearwood, the blocks are quite striking objects in their own right. They were exhibited at the Friends' annual banquet, and have been shown on numerous occasions to scholars and community groups visiting the Rare Book Collections. In April, a Tulane University honors seminar studying natural history illustration made a field trip

to visit the McIlhenny Collection. The students found the Mattioli blocks to be the highlight of their trip, giving new perspective to their view of botanical art.

Clearly, these woodblocks are historic artifacts which will contribute to the research of scholars in many fields and the enjoyment of people in all walks of life. By acquiring the woodblocks for the LSU Libraries, the Friends have provided a valuable added dimension to the rich resources of the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection.

### Johnson and Fielding in 1749

Although contemporaries expected that the young Samuel Johnson would prove "a fine tragedy-writer," the great lexicographer in fact penned only one play, the tragedy *Irene*, which he offered without success to the theatres in Drury Lane in 1737. The play was finally published by Robert Dodsley in 1749. The copy acquired for the Rare Book Collections is bound with five other contemporary plays, three of them first editions and none of them previously owned by LSU.

Although Johnson thought Henry Fielding a "blockhead," he had a high opinion of Fielding's famous novel *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*, which was also first published in 1749. Johnson told Boswell that he "read it through without stopping" and found the heroine "the most pleasing of all romances" (Dictionary of National Biography). There is already a copy of the first edition in the LSU Libraries' collections and a copy of the second edition is being acquired. The Friends have purchased a copy of the important third edition, one of four to be published in 1749. The third edition was the last Fielding himself revised and comprises the text usually printed in modern editions. The combination of editions completed by this acquisition is essential for some types of literary research. By comparing the editions, scholars are able to trace changes made in the text, thus elucidating Fielding's creative process and his reaction to critics and censors.

Building on LSU's strong holdings in eighteenth-century English literature, these works by Johnson and Fielding are particularly welcome acquisitions to the Rare Book Collections.

### Ferdinand Bauer

A major illustrated botanical work has been acquired for the McIlhenny Collection with the assistance of the Friends and an anonymous donor. Ferdinand Bauer's *Illustrationes florae Novae Hollandiae* originally appeared in 1813 to accompany Robert Brown's *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van-Diemen* (1810). The illustrations record plants seen and collected during a circumnavigation of Australia made by the HMS *Investigator* from 1801 to 1803. Fewer than 50 copies of the original edition were issued.

The work has now been reissued in a very small edition of only 35 copies by Alecto Historical Editions in cooperation with the British Museum.

The illustrations in the Alecto edition were reprinted from the original copperplates using the technique known as *a la poupee*, in which the colors are carefully dabbed onto the plate with a rag before each print is pulled. Additional hand-watercoloring was then added to each plate to finish it. This careful handwork yields the accurate results needed to reproduce the exquisite illustrations.

The Bauer acquisition joins other monumental botanical works in the McIlhenny collection produced from the voyages of exploration including the *Banks Florilegium*.

Elaine Smyth  
Head, Rare Book Collections



## Additions to the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection

### The Will of Bernardo Galvez

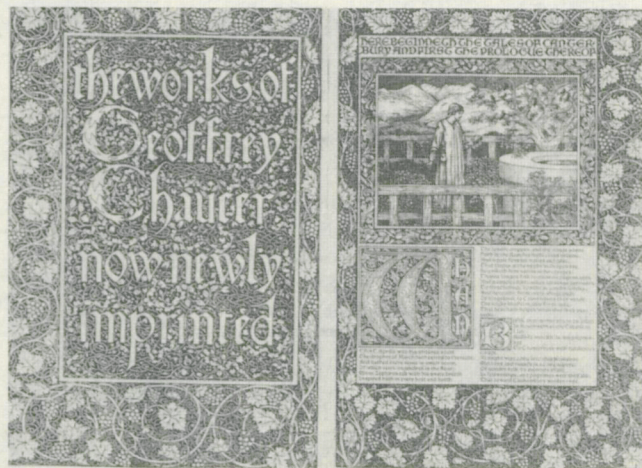
One of the most important figures in New Spain in the latter eighteenth century, Bernardo de Galvez was made governor of Louisiana in 1776 and viceroy of New Spain in 1785. He died in Mexico in November 1786. His wife was from a prominent Louisiana Creole family. Galvez' will was executed three weeks after his death in Mexico. The manuscript purchased for the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections is 25 pages including several parts which deal with Galvez' property in Louisiana. This document is a significant addition to the LSU Libraries holdings on the Spanish period in Louisiana history.

### Joseph Girod and Family Papers

A group of 386 items and five manuscript volumes, most of them written in French, has been acquired to supplement the collection of Girod family papers in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. This group nearly doubles an earlier group of holdings on this very prominent Louisiana French family. Many of the letters and accounts pertain to the estate of Nicholas Girod (d. 1840) who served as the first elected mayor of New Orleans, 1812-1816. Among the items acquired are genealogical notes, correspondence, legal documents, financial records and tax receipts. The bulk of the correspondence before 1870 consists of letters to and from the brothers Francis and Joseph, nephews of Nicholas. The letters from Joseph are written primarily from New Orleans and from his plantation in St. Charles parish, but those from Francis are from Paris. After 1870, most of the papers relate to Marie Dumestre and provide details on her Catholic education and later her teaching career at the L'Union Francaise School in New Orleans. The personal letters provide a wealth of information not only on financial and business affairs, but other historical developments both in Louisiana and France. The Marie Dumestre papers are particularly important for research on education, religion, and French society within the state.

### John M. Overton Papers

The most important part of the Overton papers consists of letters exchanged during Overton's first effort in 1918 to be seated in the United States Senate following Robert Broussard's death. There are numerous letters written to Overton or his campaign manager from politicians all over the state. From these letters insight can be gained into political alliances, organizations, and activities on the grass roots level. Overton's positions on prohibition and women's suffrage are treated in some correspondence. There are six folders of materials dealing with the investigation of corruption in Overton's primary in 1933. There are research notes from historic United States cases on fraud in senatorial elections, and related topics.



*Kelmscott Chaucer: Pages from the Kelmscott Chaucer with Burne-Jones woodcut with Morris frames, initials, and borders.*

### Everett Photograph Collection

This collection consists of seventy-two album pages, nearly all taken by the Baton Rouge photographer Ewing which add to the Ewing collection at LSU. Three major subjects are represented in the new acquisitions: Louisiana roads and bridges in 1925-27; levee repairs and actual 1927 flood photographs, primarily from the Atchafalaya River region; and photographs concentrating on damage from the Flood. The photographs are important both artistically and historically. For comparison with post-Huey Long roads and bridges, they are valuable. Many aspects of the Flood and its damage are documented, as are efforts of strengthening levees, rescue barges, and repair of roads once the Flood had passed.

Stone Miller, LLMUC

## New Dean Appointed for LSU Libraries

The appointment of Jennifer Cargill as the new Dean of the LSU Libraries was announced by Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs Carolyn Hargrave in late spring. A native of Ruston, Louisiana, Ms. Cargill received an M.S. in Library Science from LSU in 1967. Her career has been one of progressively higher management positions in libraries beginning in 1972 when she moved from her first appointment at the University of Houston to Miami University of Ohio as science librarian. While at Miami University she earned a master's in higher education administration and became head of acquisitions. She also began writing for publication and now has seven books and numerous articles to her credit. In 1984 she became associate director of libraries for technical processing at Texas Tech and was given expanded responsibility for both public services and automation in 1986. She became associate university librarian at Rice University's Fondren Library in 1988. Jennifer Cargill was named Outstanding Alumna of the year by the LSU School of Library and Information Science in 1990. She brings a solid record of achievement in both management and publication to the job of Dean of Libraries at LSU.

# LUMIÈRES

Published by the Friends of the LSU Library  
Louisiana State University • Edited by Anna Perrault

Vol. 16 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 exquisite hand-illuminated border from a 15th century French religious manuscript.



## Paper Impressions II

The Spring of 1992 will bring the second gala auction of fine books, art and miscellanea to benefit the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment. The date has been set as Saturday, March 28, 1992. Trent James, Anne West and Kay Harrison will chair the event.

The committee is pleased to announce that Paul Viney, European Director of the auction house of Phillips of London, who presided at the first Paper Impressions will return to serve again as auctioneer. Those attending the first event will remember the often remarked, "The auction went so fast; I wish he had talked longer," a well deserved compliment for his charming and entertaining direction of the evening's event.

With an experienced planning committee and an auctioneer well-known to the Baton Rouge community, it is anticipated that Paper Impressions II will surpass the first auction in elegance and proceeds.

Friends members are invited to support Paper Impressions II through donation of items suitable for auction. We are interested in items unique to a library setting, items pertaining to LSU, fine books, art, maps, manuscripts, Civil War memorabilia and like items. Those with donations or questions may contact Marion Spann at 927-5608, Caroline Wire at 388-2217, or Anne West at 766-5783.

## The Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990: The Year 1991

Just in time for the second Friends' auction, Congress has made an exception to the tax laws on deductions of gifts to non-profit organizations. In response to evidence presented by museums, libraries, and other non-profit institutions that gifts of art and other tangible personal property had declined since the Tax Reform Act of 1986 which limited the deduction to the actual cost to the giver, Congress has passed the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990.

This Act provides that any taxpayer may deduct the full fair market value of a gift to certain not for profit and charitable institutions only for the tax year 1991. In addition, the IRS has ruled that under the Act the taxpayer will be able to deduct in up to five succeeding tax years any carryforwards attributable to gifts made in 1991.

Friends are urged to donate to Paper Impressions II and to the Friends of the LSU Libraries during 1991 any items or books that will be eligible for the fair market value deduction. But hurry, because this exception is only valid for the year 1991!

## Thank YOU, the Friends Membership, for the following financial achievement!

### THEN:

(August 1974 - time of Friends reorganization)

Friends Foundation balance .....\$4,645.30  
Endowment balance .....\$14,971.82

Total of account balances, '74 .....\$19,617.12

### NOW:

(April 31, 1991)

Friends Foundation balance .....\$120,414.27  
Endowment balance .....\$397,479.74  
Funds established since '74  
  Birthday funds to honor  
    retired faculty .....\$ 16,728.01  
  Goodrich-Taylor Endowment .....\$ 70,390.53  
Memorial funds:  
  Mrs. Ellen A. Taylor .....\$ 4,645.71  
  Mrs. Mary M. Connor .....\$ 11,649.80  
  George J. Guidry fund .....\$ 2,099.96

\*Total of accounts balances, '91 .....\$623,408.02

\*Over \$360,000 in library materials have been purchased with monies raised by the Friends since 1974.

A complete financial statement for 1990 is available from the Treasurer upon request.

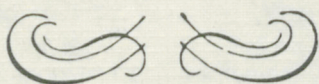
## The Friends Have Won Another One!

### The John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award

The publicity campaign conducted for Paper Impressions, the first book auction held to benefit the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment, has been selected to receive the John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award for 1990. The award, donated by the H.W. Wilson Company, is sponsored by the Public Relations Section of the Library Administration and Management Association of the American Library Association. Kay Harrison was the publicity

chairman for Paper Impressions I. The publicity campaign is presented for the jury to judge in a notebook. Caroline Wire and Elaine Smyth compiled the winning notebook featuring all of the news releases and publicity pertaining to the auction. The award will be presented at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Atlanta on July 1st. Congratulations to the Friends on another American Library Association award!





## Officers

*Julie Hamilton, President*  
*Virginia Grenier, Vice-President*  
*Nancy Murrill, Secretary*  
*Becky Cutshaw, Treasurer*

## Classes of Membership

- ☐ A. Student Member (annually) ....\$ 2.00
- ☐ 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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## Memorials

### In Memory of:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Mr. James H. Boyce</b><br>from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Gill<br>Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson  | <b>Dr. Rudolph Heberle</b><br>from Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Kirby                                 |
| <b>Mr. Frederick D. Broussard</b><br>from Dr. and Mrs. William J. Cooper<br>Mr. And Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Jr.<br>Dr. C. G. Taylor | <b>Mr. A. R. Johnson</b><br>from Mrs. Estelle S. Williams                                       |
| <b>Mr. Gene Callahan</b><br>from Mrs. Estelle S. Williams  | <b>Mr. Carlo Mancuso</b><br>from Mrs. Mary B. Mills   |
| <b>Mrs. Stella Comeaux</b><br>from Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas  | <b>Mr. Alvin C. Moreau</b><br>from Mr. Humphrey T. Olinde, Jr.                                  |
| <b>Dr. Albion C. Cross, Jr.</b><br>from Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Jr.<br>Mrs. Charles McVea<br>Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson      | <b>Dr. Vernon J. Parenton</b><br>from Dr. Cecil G. Taylor                                       |
| <b>Mr. David S. Croxton</b><br>from Technology Transfer and Training<br>Staff, Louisiana Transportation<br>Research Center       | <b>Mr. Sargeant Pitcher</b><br>from Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas                                      |
| <b>Mr. John L. Dardenne</b><br>from Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson  | <b>Dr. Wiley Davis Poole</b><br>from Gisele, Karen, and Gregory<br>Preslar                      |
| <b>Mr. Joseph Dawson</b><br>from the LSU Library Staff Association   | <b>Mr. Wray Edward Robinson</b><br>from Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas                                  |
| <b>Mrs. Janice Templet Gilbert</b><br>from Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas  | <b>Mrs. Rowena Selig</b><br>from Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas   |
| <b>Dr. John Guilbeau</b><br>from Dr. Cecil G. Taylor   | <b>Dr. Courtland Smith, Sr.</b><br>from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Gill<br>Mrs. Estelle S. Williams  |
| <b>Mrs. Elizabeth John Halle</b><br>from Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Jr.  | <b>Mr. Josef Sternberg</b><br>from Dr. and Mrs. William J. Cooper<br>Mrs. Estelle S. Williams   |
| <b>Dr. Margaret Lynn Hartman</b><br>from Mrs. P. Chauvin Wilkinson   | <b>Mr. Charest Thibaut, Jr.</b><br>from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Gill<br>Mrs. Beryle E. Lapenas    |
|  | <b>Mr. Carl K. Wells, Jr.</b><br>from Faculty and Graduate Students,<br>Department of Sociology |