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# Lumières, Spring 1993

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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# LUMIÈRES

## Congratulations!

### LSU Friends Receive National Recognition

The Friends of the LSU Library organization has been chosen as the winner of the national Friends of Libraries USA competition for the second time. In 1988, the LSU Friends received the FOLUSA award when the American Library Association annual conference was held in New Orleans. The conference is in New Orleans again this year and the LSU Friends will be recognized at a luncheon on Saturday June 26, 1993.

The basis of the 1993 award is the fund-raising campaign for the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment. The Friends of the LSU Library successfully reached the goal of creating a \$100,000 endowment to fund the assistantship in 1992. Two gala auctions in 1990 and 1992, Paper Impressions and Paper Impressions II, were not only successful in raising money but they also heightened community awareness and corporate involvement in the Friends of the LSU Library. The auctions raised the majority of the endowment which now totals approximately \$120,000. The Friends plan to continue to add to the Goodrich-Taylor Fund through the sale of notecards which depict drawings from the Flora of Louisiana project by internationally acclaimed British botanical artist Margaret Stones.

The graduate assistantship is named to honor two individuals who have been very prominent in the success of the Friends organization: Cecil G. Taylor, Chancellor Emeritus of Louisiana State University and Max Goodrich, Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School.

Following their retirement from LSU both men made assisting with the revitalization of the Friends of the LSU Library organization a priority. Co-chairs of the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment committee are two former presidents of the LSU Friends organization, Anne West and Trent James. Also serving as auction co-chair in 1992 was Kay Harrison.

The assistantship, first given in the 1992/93 academic year, is open to any LSU graduate student and consists of twenty hours per week of assigned duties in the Hill Memorial Library which houses the special collections of the LSU Libraries.

The Friends of the LSU Library are very deserving of the FOLUSA award, having long been recognized nationally as one of the premier library friends groups in the United States. Since 1974, the Friends have raised well over one million dollars to benefit the LSU Libraries. The Friends general endowment account is now over half a million dollars. The annual book bazaar alone has funded over \$500,000 in special library material purchases for the libraries. Many years of hard work from numerous loyal and dedicated volunteers have contributed to the success of the Friends of the LSU Library. A special thank you goes to all who have been involved in the many activities over the years. The recognition by the Friends of Libraries USA is your award.

# Awards Presented at Annual Dinner

For the Friends of the LSU Library annual dinner on April 29, 1993, the Faculty Club dining room was decorated in a woodland theme featuring various species of birds in keeping with the lecture "Pictures and Passages" which was sponsored by the Friends in the afternoon prior to the dinner. David Lank, chairman of the board of the Musee McCord D'Historie Canadienne, gave the presentation in the afternoon and was also the speaker for the dinner.

The evening was presided over by Julie Hamilton, president of the Friends of the LSU Library. Nominations for new officers and board members for 1993/94 were announced by Mary Bennett, chair of the nominating committee. Elected by acclamation were Virginia Grenier, president; James Traynham, vice president; Mary Alice Carpenter continues as secretary, and Becky Cutshaw continues as treasurer. New board members are Eilleen Kean, Otis Wheeler, Don Freshwater, and George Hill. Recognized for service were outgoing board members Mary Bennett, Leslie McKenzie, and Neil Odenwald.

The annual awards were presented by the president. Nora Grigsby was the recipient of the Doris Dennis Smith Book Award for her long years of service in the book barn. In the first years of working in the book barn, Nora became interested in the rare and unusual among the donated books and became known as the person expert in "Collectibles." A Lifetime Membership was bestowed upon Mrs. Rhea Rosenberg for her gift of a collection containing Louisiana materials, one item being a set of the Audubon *Quadrupeds* which the LSU Libraries did not own.

In addition to the established awards, a special awards presentation was made. A new lifetime service award has been established by the board and named in honor of Rosalind McKenzie who was vice president of the Friends when the organization was reactivated in 1974. Mrs. McKenzie is the first recipient of the award named in her honor. She was instrumental in organizing the first book bazaar and served as the first chair. Total proceeds from the book bazaar since the first sale in 1976 have amounted to \$500,000. Eilleen Kean and Cherry Owen were also given the newly established Rosalind McKenzie award for their role in the book bazaar and as co-chairs of the book barn since its inception.

The Dean of Libraries, Jennifer Cargill, in her annual remarks to the Friends said she would not dwell on the bad economic situation because everyone was aware of the plight of

higher education in the state. Monies raised by the Friends organization have supported the special collections of the LSU Libraries which receive no state funding. Dean Cargill expressed her appreciation and that of the staff of the libraries for the continuing support of the Friends.

The first recipient of the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Award, Sigrid King, reported on her year as an assistant in Special Collections. She thanked the Friends for the opportunity she had been given to work with a number of projects in the Rare Book collections. Her remarks were enthusiastically received by those present and have been printed separately in this issue of the newsletter.

The after dinner address was given by David Lank from his perspective as chairman of the Friends of the Concordia Library. He titled his remarks, "Et Amicorum," about friends and friendships from the book plate of John Grolier. Lank began with the theme of Canada and Louisiana and the historical ties between the two areas. Under the new North American free trade agreement "Canada will be sending you ginger ale, bad weather, and speakers for meetings such as this," he said. His talk included an account of the founding of the Friends of the Concordia Library for which the LSU Friends organization was a model. Lank sees the role of a friends organization as supporting "the growth, caring, and accessibility of the university library." He also sees the role of individuals as bibliophiles, amassing collections which can be given to a library at some time in the future. His remarks, complete with anecdotes, were warmly received by the Friends.

Chair of the dinner committee was Eilleen Kean with assistance from Vida Broussard who kindly donated everything blooming in her garden to decorate for the event.



*Eilleen Kean, recipient of the first Rosalind McKenzie Distinguished Service Award, with Leslie McKenzie.*



*Rhea Rosenberg is honored with a lifetime membership and congratulated by incoming Friends president, Virginia Grenier, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jones.*



New Friends board members Don Freshwater and Otis Wheeler with Friends president Julie Hamilton (left) and Nora Grigsby, recipient of the Doris Dennis Smith Book Award.



Gwen Cook, 1993 Book Bazaar chair, with husband John Cook and Kay Harrison.

## Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Fundraising to Continue

### *New Margaret Stones notecards available*

Through hard work and generous donations, the Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship Endowment now stands at approximately \$120,000. Proceeds from two gala auctions and other activities generated the funding for the original goal of \$100,000. Present investment returns will not be sufficient to generate the necessary income to offer the assistantship every year and keep the stipend competitive. Fundraising is still continuing with the sale of Margaret Stones notecards. Two new cards, the Oak-leaved Hydrangea and the popular Annual Sunflower, have been added to the original four notecards. The large notecards are \$2 each or \$12 for a package of six. Four new cards have also been produced in a smaller format and are sold only in packets of eight for \$6. The smaller cards feature the Flowering Dogwood, the Scarlet Rose-mallow, the Bird's-foot Violet, and the Pink Evening Primrose.

The packets of notecards make attractive small gifts. All notecards may be purchased directly from the Friends by calling Anne West (766-5783).

A Christmas card featuring a Margaret Stones holly drawing is also being readied for sale in the fall. The Friends will have a booth at the American Library Association conference in New Orleans at the end of June. Notecards, *Nature Classics*,

and copies of Christmas keepsakes from previous years will be sold in the booth. Proceeds from the sales of the notecards benefit the Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment.

### *Thanks from the first Goodrich-Taylor graduate assistant*

At the annual dinner in April, Sigrid King, recipient of the first Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship, thanked the Friends for the opportunity which had been afforded her. Her remarks were warmly received by those present and have been printed below:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you for a few minutes about the Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship. Your generosity and foresight have created in this assistantship something which will be a valuable asset to the LSU Libraries and to graduate students for many years to come.

This year, I have enjoyed working on a wide variety of projects designed to enhance the Rare Book Collection's services to the public and the LSU community. Some of these projects are long-term. For instance, there is an on-going collection development project that is designed to help us

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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.

## —Goodrich-Taylor—



*Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship recipient, Sigrid King (center) with David Smyth, dinner speaker David Lank, Michael Dennison, and co-chair of the assistantship committee, Anne West.*

analyze what is already in the collection so we can make decisions about which new acquisitions would most complement our holdings. While working on this project over the past seven months, I have compiled information on 150 of the important 17th and 18th-century writers in our collection. The data is designed to help us evaluate the needs of the library in terms of its developmental goals and to help us provide better assistance to scholars who use the collection. For example, we can now quickly tell someone interested in Jonathan Swift how many lifetime editions of Swift's work we have; how many rare 18th-century editions of *Gulliver's Travels* we have; which works critics consider Swift's most important works; how much recent editions of his works are being used by scholars and students at LSU; and what prices were paid for editions of *Gulliver's Travels* at recent auctions. I will continue working on this project throughout next year, and hope that because of this, both the Swift scholar and the freshman student who wants to see an original edition of *Gulliver's Travels* will be better served.

The Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship has also provided opportunities to work on less extensive projects, such as organizing and creating a database for an 800-piece collection of rare sheet music. The goal of this project is to make an index of the sheet music available to users so that they can find what they need through a computer search by composer, title, date, publisher, or even part of the title. When this project is finished, a user who wants to surprise her parents at their Golden Anniversary celebration by playing the Cole Porter song they danced to the night they met, can find the music, even if she only knows that it came out in the 1930s, or that the title has something to do with the colors red and blue.

In addition to these special projects, I am fortunate to work every day on activities which are interesting and challenging. Just last week, we received a book donation which appeared to be autographed by the Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen. Through some library detective work, we were able to

authenticate the signature as one from the very last years of his life. I also enjoy doing research and helping prepare some of the many exhibits which Hill Memorial displays throughout the year. We have exhibited everything from famous works of art to antique dolls, 15th-century illuminated manuscripts, British political tracts, early photographic portraits of African-Americans, and beautiful hand-made books by contemporary book arts presses. These exhibits encourage visits by curious members of the community and students who otherwise might feel tentative about venturing into the special collections library. Meeting users and helping them use the collection is one of the most enjoyable aspects of working at the front desk in the Rare Book Collections reading room.

This assistantship was designed to be mutually beneficial for the LSU Libraries and the Goodrich-Taylor recipient. Through working on these projects, I have benefited more than I can possibly describe to you in a few minutes. The Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship has provided me with new skills, new knowledge, and new opportunities to work with scholars and people from this community and around the nation who share the love of books. I will always be grateful to the Friends of the Library for the hard work, long hours, and years of planning that went into creating the Goodrich-Taylor Assistantship. It is without a doubt one of the premier assistantships on campus, a unique and enriching experience which reflects the Friends' concern for quality higher education experiences. Thank you for your support this past year and for your continuing support in the coming year.

*Sigrid King*

*Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistant*

## A Tribute to Rosalind Beene McKenzie



The Friends of the LSU Library owe a great debt of gratitude to Rosalind McKenzie for her many years of guidance, service, leadership, advice, and loving friendship. She was a member of the original Friends group from its inception in the early 1960s. When the group was reactivated in 1973 by Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor and former Dean of the Graduate School, Max Goodrich, Rosalind was part of the task force which breathed new life into the organization.

More specifically, she has been the heart and soul of the Book Bazaar! As its first chairman, her organizational genius laid a solid foundation which assured its success and upon which her successors could build. Her persuasive ability enlisted effective volunteers of varying talents to meet the demands of an immense project. Her genteel manner established a precedence of dignity, respect for others, and loving consideration which permeates our group to this day. She exerted a strong influence on those who were fortunate enough to know her and work with her. We will now follow her guidance even more as we recall her distinctive qualities.

*Eilleen Kean and Book Barn workers*

## ▼ MEMORIALS ▼

### *In Memory of:*

**Mrs. Dana Braden**

*from The Thirty-Niner's Book Club*

**Dean Arden O. French**

*from Mr. Quinn M. Coco  
Dr. Cecil G. Taylor*

**Mrs. Florie Girlinghouse**

*from The Thirty-Niner's Book Club*

**Mr. Ernest A. Gueymard**

*from Judge and Mrs. Minos D. Miller and Family*

**Mr. R. Gordon Kean, Jr.**

*from Judge and Mrs. Minos D. Miller, Jr.*

**Dr. Thomas A. Kirby**

*from Mrs. Lila Ott Adams  
Dr. and Mrs. Irwin A. Berg  
Mrs. Earl L. Bradsher  
Mr. Quinn M. Coco  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Dawson  
Mrs. Nora E. Grigsby  
Dr. and Mrs. Fabian Gudas  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Lindley  
Dr. and Mrs. Joe Morgan  
Mrs. Faye Ott Rifkind  
Dr. Cecil G. Taylor*

**Mrs. Jeanie Lavergne**

*from Dr. and Mrs. Paul Murrill*

**Mrs. Rosalind B. McKenzie**

*from Mr. H. Parrott Bacot  
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Mrs. Delroy O. Spann  
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Yost*

**Mrs. Genevieve Kleinpeter Persac**

*from Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Farris*

**Mr. Donald Simmons**

*from Mr. Quinn M. Coco  
Dr. Cecil G. Taylor*

**Mr. Charest D. Thibaut, Jr.**

*from Mrs. Robert E. Bowlus*

## "Pictures and Passages: In Praise of Wilderness by Authors and Artists Across the Centuries"

The Friends of the LSU Library and the Friends of the LSU Museum of Art jointly sponsored a Louisiana Heritage lecture by David Lank on the afternoon of April 29 in Hill Memorial Library. Lank, who is chairman of the board of the Musée McCord D'Histoire Canadienne in Montreal and an internationally acclaimed expert on wildlife art, enthralled an audience of art students, friends, and members of the LSU faculty and staff with his presentation. Lank has assembled a slide collection of art works and passages of writings which are read to accompany the slides.



*David Lank, Louisiana Heritage series guest lecturer with Jennifer Cargill, Dean of LSU Libraries.*

The presentation reflects Lank's personal philosophy about the wilderness regions of the world "which are disappearing at a rate that is too horrific to contemplate." The philosophical basis of the presentation is a definition of wilderness by William Beebe, the author, naturalist, and explorer who once headed the New York Zoological Society. In his *Jungle Peace* (1918), Beebe described wilderness as "this age-old fraternity of nature, into whose sanctuary man's entrance is unnoticed, his absence unregretted." The presentation was enlivened by Lank's readings, some in dialect, of passages from an Indian cradle song and the works of 17th- to 20th-century authors. The art works range from neolithic cave drawings to that of contemporary artists. The pictures/passages teaming gives a unique perspective to both elements in the presentation and Lank's knowledge of the field of natural history artworks is evident throughout.

## Officers

Virginia Grenier, President  
James Traynham, Vice President  
Mary Alice Carpenter, Secretary  
Becky Cutshaw, Treasurer

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