

Spring 4-1-1995

Lumières, Spring 1995

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LUMIÈRES

Libraries Plan Middleton Library Renovation

Faculty, students, and campus administrators often disagree on important topics. However, there is one issue on which all are in accord—Middleton Library is in dire need of renovation. The first section of the building, comprising the basement and the first two floors, was completed in 1958. While it was expanded by two floors in 1985, the original portion of the building remained essentially unchanged. The nature of library services has changed dramatically since the basic configuration of the facility designed almost 40 years ago. Over the years, the Libraries has attempted to adapt portions of the building simply to cope with new information technologies and new patterns of service and organization. These piecemeal efforts have had only limited success, and have been taken about as far as they can go. The building has become increasingly dysfunctional, inhibiting the Libraries staff in carrying out their mission to support the instructional and research programs of the University.

Recognizing that it was time to address this situation, Dean Jennifer Cargill appointed a Task Force on Library Facilities Planning, with a charge to begin making plans for a major renovation of Middleton Library. The Task Force has proceeded with developing a general statement of the scope of the work involved in a major renovation, and laying out the functional relationships of the units and activities housed in the facility. The goal of the Task Force has been to provide a basis for placing the Middleton renovation on the list of priorities for capital expenditures on campus.

Meanwhile, the Libraries has continued to make adjustments to the building in order to make way for innovations in information technology, changes in the library organization, and the evolving pattern of library services. Thus, the Task Force has come to consider and plan for a “rolling renovation” of the facility, as small parts of the building are upgraded and refurbished to house specific library operations. (See article on the Music Resources Center on page 2 as one such example.)

A major change will take place this fall, when the Office of Computing Services takes occupancy of its new building, Frey Hall. Almost 10,000 square feet in the basement of Middleton, occupied by OCS since 1988, will revert to the use of the Libraries. Many staff operations, including Cataloging, Acquisitions and Serials, Collection Development, and Automation and Systems, will be moved to this space. Public service functions now dispersed elsewhere in the building, like current serials display, will be consolidated on the first floor, where they will be more readily accessible to library patrons.

As the Libraries proceeds with its “rolling renovation,” major donors can contribute substantially to the success of the building program. Opportunities to dedicate specific areas in honor of donors will be available. Friends of the LSU Library interested in discussing such opportunities should call Dean Jennifer Cargill, 388-6551, or Jane Henslee, 388-6599.

A Message from the Dean

As we close another academic year, and I think back on my four years at LSU Libraries, I want to acknowledge how fortunate we are to have such a strong, loyal, and active Friends group. Your efforts on behalf of LSU Libraries are appreciated.

A development officer to work on fund raising for the LSU Libraries has just been hired. Jane Henslee began work in mid-April and has been focusing her energies in learning about the organization and policies of the University's development office. You will be seeing her a lot since she will be involved in Friends' activities. If you have ideas for fund raising, please give Jane a call, 388-6599. Jane will be editing *Lumières* also.

As many of you know, Bob Martin, associate dean for Special Collections, has been appointed director and librarian, Texas State Library. This is a marvelous opportunity for this native Texan. Bob has made numerous contributions in his decade at LSU, and he and his counsel will be missed. Faye Phillips, head, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, will serve as interim assistant dean upon Bob's departure. October Ivins will be leaving also and will be doing some teaching at the University of Texas in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science and perhaps working on a doctorate.

An update on funding: the University administration has given the library \$300,000 from the funds escrowed against a possible budget cut. The athletic department has given the library \$100,000. This extra \$400,000 is welcome, though as you are all aware, we need much more.

I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Goodrich-Taylor Assistant Named

The Goodrich-Taylor Endowment Committee has selected Laura Clark Brown to be the recipient of the assistantship. A native of New Orleans, Brown attended the University of Texas at Austin and was graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in history. She has just completed a master's degree in history at the University of New Orleans, having defended her thesis with distinction. She is now enrolled in the master's program in the School of Library and Information Science at LSU. She is interested in a career in archives and manuscripts. She will meet the service requirement of the assistantship by working with the manuscript collections in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. Congratulations, Laura!

New Home for Music Materials

The LSU Libraries is pleased to announce the opening of a new public service area, Music Resource, which is located in the southwest corner of the second floor of Middleton Library. Music Resources represents a centralization in a single area of all of the various printed materials, including scores as well as books and journals on musical topics, related to music. These materials had been widely distributed throughout Middleton Library. Music reference materials were moved from the first floor, music serials came from the second floor, while books on musical topics and scores were brought from the third floor.

Planning for the move into the facility began in the summer 1994, when Lois Kuyper-Rushing was hired as music librarian at LSU. It was officially opened to the public on January 17, 1995, the beginning of the second semester. This move was the first phase of the project to create an integrated collection of music materials. A second phase is planned when the sound recordings and music video recordings currently housed and serviced in the Listening Rooms in the basement of Middleton will be added to Music Resources, and the entire space completely remodeled. The Libraries is looking for a major donor to help underwrite the renovation of this space. The creation of the Music Resources collection itself is but the first part of a total reconfiguration of Middleton Library that will continue for the remainder of the decade. (See article on Middleton renovation on page 1 of this issue.)

Music Resources is currently staffed by a librarian, a library associate, and many students. If you have any questions, or if you would like a tour of the facility, please call Lois Kuyper-Rushing, 388-4674.



Chancellor Cecil G. Taylor and newly-named Goodrich-Taylor assistant, Laura Brown.

Libraries Recruits Development Officer

The LSU Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Jane Henslee as library development officer. Henslee, who has recently served as a fund raising consultant to local not-for-profit organizations, has experience in annual giving, major gift development, board



Jane Henslee

development, governmental relations, and special events. She will be responsible for planning and coordinating fund-raising activities for the LSU Libraries, and will play an active support role with the Friends of the Library in the future.

A native of Shreveport, Henslee moved to Baton Rouge in 1968 and has been employed by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, Volunteers of America, and EDA Consultants. She also served as assistant director of the Mayor's Office of Citizens' Service in Baton Rouge from 1981-1985. Her professional accomplishments include serving as the president and secretary of the local chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives; the cochair of the Citizen's Task Force on Recycling and Litter Control; and as a member of Volunteers of America's National Task Force on Long-range Planning and Marketing. Henslee was also a finalist for the YWCA's Women of Achievement Award in 1989.

Henslee has served on the Boards of Directors for Baton Rouge Green and Keep America Beautiful in Baton Rouge, Inc. and has been actively involved in the Cancer Society of Greater Baton Rouge, Inc., St. James Episcopal Church, and the Junior League of Baton Rouge.

Both Henslee and her husband, a local landscape architect, are graduates of LSU. Their older son, a graduate of University High School and LSU, will attend LSU Law School in the fall. Their younger son lives in Montana.

By Friends of the LSU Librarians

Library Faculty Research Awards Established

From its inception, the Friends of the LSU Library organization has been a solid source of support for the LSU Libraries. During the past ten years, when austere budgets and budgets cuts have been the rule rather than the exception, the Friends have been dispelling the budget gloom with the sunshine of funding for library acquisitions, a new graduate assistantship, cosponsorship of a lecture series, and in other ways, both tangible and intangible, to advance the mission of the LSU Libraries. Now the Friends have established a new program that will directly benefit individual members of the library faculty in the LSU Libraries.

Under the Library Faculty Research Awards program, the Friends will provide awards to members of the library faculty to subsidize travel and other actual expenses incurred in carrying out research projects. Because research and publication are essential for earning tenure, these awards will be particularly valuable to the junior librarians in tenure-track positions. Up to ten awards will be made each year, on a competitive basis, and each award can be for up to \$300, depending on the actual expenses incurred. To be eligible for an award, librarians submit an application detailing their research project and indicating use of the funds. Projects for consideration must be approved by the dean. The Friends of the Library select the award winners from among the approved applications.

The first application deadline for the Library Faculty Research Awards for 1995 fell on April 1, with the second deadline scheduled for October 1. Three librarians were selected to receive the awards for this year: Penny M. Beile, Middleton Reference Services, Mary Jane Ledvina, Government Documents Department, and Sally Power, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections.

Members of the library faculty have expressed their appreciation to the Friends for establishing these awards and for providing this great opportunity for LSU librarians. One librarian expressed her thoughts by saying, "I hope this worthwhile and appreciated program continues." Thank you for making more good things happen for the LSU Libraries and its librarians.

Caroline Wire

Annual Banquet Held



Andrei Codrescu provides an entertaining reading.

The annual spring banquet of the Friends was a gala affair at the Faculty Club, attended by more than 120 Friends and guests. The evening was initiated with a stirring and unusual invocation by Chancellor Emeritus Cecil Taylor. President Virginia Grenier introduced the head table, including Milton A. Womack, chair of the LSU Board of Supervisors, and his wife Margaret, cochair of the membership committee; Provost and Mrs. William L. Jenkins; Dean of Libraries Jennifer Cargill; and Andrei Codrescu, the speaker

for the evening. The participants then tucked into a splendid dinner, enjoying the conversation at each of 15 tables, graced with floral centerpieces featuring "antiquarian" books.

Following dinner, President Grenier introduced Jennifer Cargill, dean of libraries, who gave a brief update on the Libraries (see her message on page 2 in this issue.) Eileen Kean, chair of the awards committee, announced and presented awards and recognition. Helen Hair was presented with the Doris Dennis Smith Award for her many years of service to the Friends, especially through the Book Bazaar. Honorary life memberships were presented to Amy Slowey for her donation of her husband's extensive photograph collection, appraised at \$400,000, and to Andrei Codrescu, for his gift of 2,700 volumes of modern poetry, valued at \$37,500. Libraries staff member Floris St. Amant, head of the circulation services department, was recognized for her continuing service to the Friends in supporting the Book Bazaar. Departing Associate Dean Robert Martin was also recognized for his decade of work with the Friends.

The program concluded with a reading by featured speaker Andrei Codrescu, distinguished author and critic. Codrescu read selections from *Zombification*, a collection of essays from his National Public Radio commentaries.



Sue Loubiere and her honored mentor, Millicent Hennigan, reminisce about the old days in Middleton Library.

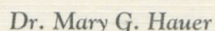


Estelle Williams and Nina Pugh confer.



At left, Dean of Libraries, Jennifer Cargill, and Friends treasurer, Eugene Groves, plot fund raising strategies.

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In accordance with Hauer's wishes, memorial contributions may be made to the LSU Foundation designated for the Nelson A. Hauer Rare Books Memorial Fund. Please send donations to Caroline Wire, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3300.

Processing the Boyd papers properly entails removal of staples, paper clips, and the like, transfer into acid-free archival folders and boxes, and proper storage of photographs and other specialized materials. Some extremely fragile letter books also need to be microfilmed. The preparation of a detailed finding aid or inventory, and creation of proper bibliographic records in the Libraries database, will facilitate access to the collections. The cost of undertaking this work has been estimated at nearly \$47,000, mostly for staff, supplies, and microfilming. This is a small price to pay to ensure the future of such an important part of LSU's history. The Libraries is looking for generous donors to assist in underwriting this project.

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.

❖ Audubon Day A Success ❖

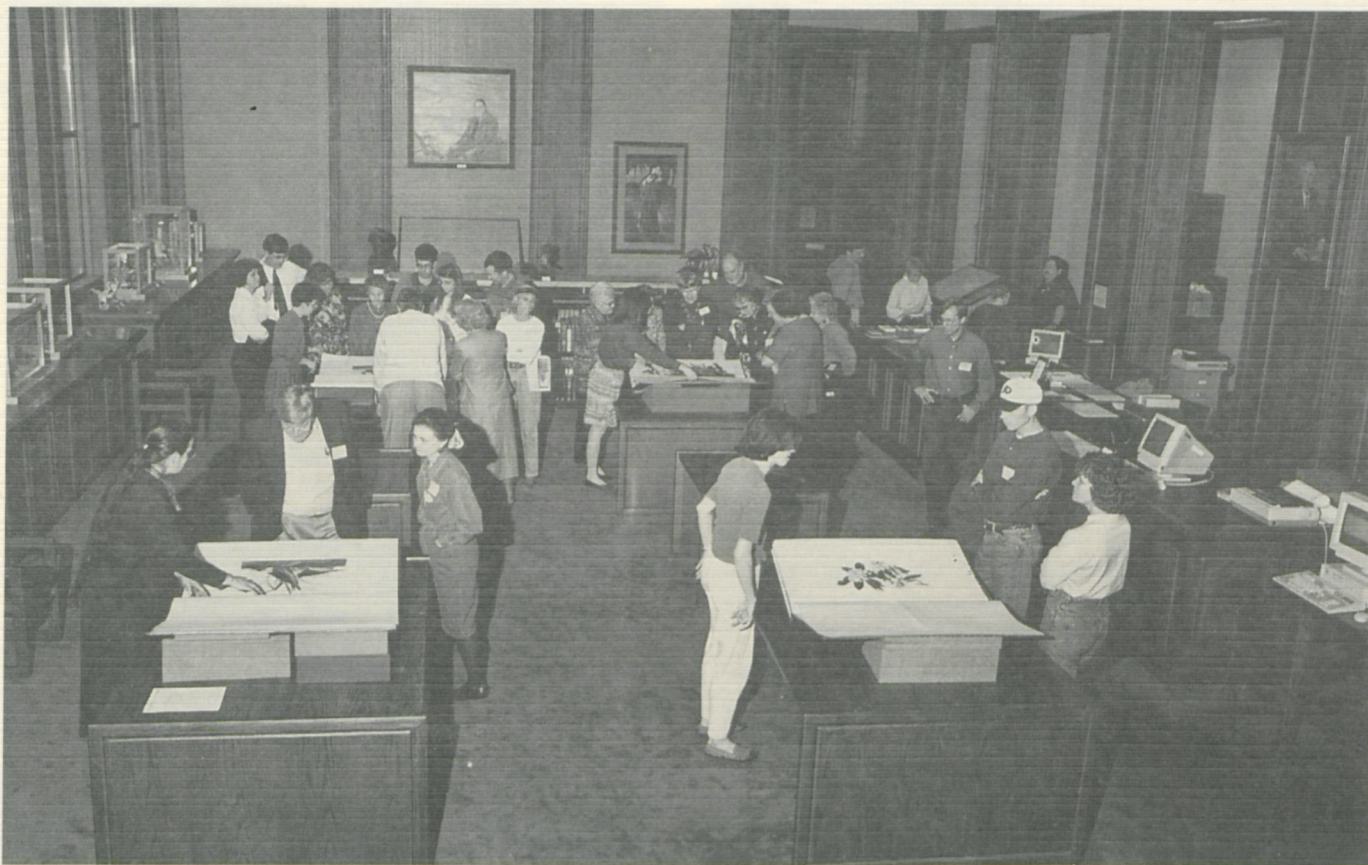
On the afternoon of March 16, the reading room of the Rare Book Collections was filled with bibliophiles and bird lovers who enjoyed a special viewing of the original edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*. All four volumes were displayed, and staff turned pages while visitors admired the 435 plates of the magnificent double-elephant folio that was purchased for LSU with a grant from the Crown Zellerbach Foundation in 1964.

On permanent display for almost 30 years, the *Birds* had "migrated" to safety (with the help of several muscular staff members) when Hurricane Andrew threatened Baton Rouge in 1992. They were removed from their display case in the Rare Book Collections reading room and placed in the safety of Hill Memorial Library's windowless book stacks. Because of the condition of the volumes when they were moved, Elaine Smyth, curator of the McIlhenny Collection, made the difficult decision to house them permanently in the stacks. "We loved having the books on display, but we realized from the stress they were showing that it wasn't good for them," she explained. "Book conservators have learned a lot about the problems of permanently displaying books during the last 30 years, and it's our responsibility to use that knowledge to protect this treasure." Don Morrison, head of the Special

Collections Preservation department, noted that the enclosed case was a problem. "We couldn't control the air quality, temperature, or humidity in the case as effectively as we can in the stacks, nor could we keep it as dark as we can in the stacks. Light is a big factor in the deterioration of books and art."

One print from the double elephant folio is still kept on view in the Rare Book Collections reading room at all times. Thanks to an ongoing project of the Friends of the LSU Library, most of the 120 separate Audubon prints contributed by dozens of generous donors have been given special conservation treatment and can be safely displayed for limited periods of time.

In addition, the special "Audubon days" sponsored by the Libraries make it possible for visitors to enjoy looking at the complete double elephant folio. "I think the 86 people who visited with us on March 16 had a chance to really appreciate what Audubon—and all the other artists and artisans who helped create the double-elephant folio—accomplished," commented Smyth. The next "Audubon day" will be held during fall semester, later this year. The date will be announced in the next issue of *Lumières*.



Audubon Day
The throng in the Rare Book Collections reading room.

Recent Acquisitions

❖ English professor, author, editor, and poet, Andrei Codrescu, has donated to the LSU Libraries his personal collection of modern poetry. Comprising some 2,750 volumes, the collection contains many items of great significance and value, including inscribed presentation copies from notable poets, as well as volumes from small presses and extremely limited editions. The collection, which has an appraised value of \$37,500, is a major resource for the study of the "alternative culture" that grew out of the Beat writers of the 1960s, and will serve as a nucleus for a new collecting emphasis for the Rare Book Collections.

❖ Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Coutee, Baton Rouge, have donated 204 plates from the handsome Abbeville Press double-elephant folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*. These facsimiles were beautifully produced in 1985 by Abbeville Press under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. This gift to the Friends of the LSU Library, which includes seven leather-bound volumes of accompanying text, is valued at \$8,500, and adds to the already outstanding collection of Audubon materials housed in Hill Memorial Library.

❖ Amy Ruth Blanche Slowey has given the photograph collection of her late husband, Robert M. Slowey, to the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. Comprising over 2,000 color slides taken by Slowey during the 1960s, the collection depicts numerous houses, buildings, and scenes along the Mississippi River, many of which no longer exist. Slowey had a "fine artistic eye" for capturing the architectural details of Louisiana and Mississippi buildings that have since been demolished or destroyed by fire or flood. These images will be an invaluable resource for the study of life along the Mississippi River and the architecture of Louisiana and Mississippi.

❖ Katherine Ramsland, biographer of Anne Rice, has given an addition to her collection of Anne Rice materials in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. Ramsland is the author of Anne Rice's authorized biography as well as several other books about the writings of Anne Rice. This addition consists of the page proofs and drafts for her last book, *The Witches' Companion: The Official Guide to Anne Rice's Lives of the Mayfair Witches*. Ramsland and Rice corresponded via FAX, and the collection contains many of the original FAXs sent between them. These "letters" give insight into much of Rice's development of her characters.

Memorials

In memory of:

Mrs. Max Goodrich

from: Dr. Gresdna Doty and Dr. James Traynham
Dr. and Mrs. Trent James
Eilleen Kean
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Murrill
Mr. and Mrs. James Payne
Chapter E of PEO
Dr. and Mrs. Darwin Shrell
Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Dr. Otis Wheeler and Dr. Anne Loveland
Caroline Wire

Mrs. Fred Grace

from: Eilleen Kean
Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Mrs. Carroll Guillory

from: The Baton Rouge Book Club

Mary G. Hauer

from: Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer L. Bird
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Gandy
Mrs. James D. Goodwin
Anne G. Howe
The Philhistoria Club
Mr. and Mrs. Emile B. Porciau
Mrs. Thomas M. Smylie

Agnes LeBlanc

from: Dr. and Mrs. Terence Beven
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Cook
Eilleen M. Kean
Mrs. Marion Spann
Text Book Room Volunteers

John Murray

from: Myrtle S. Bolner
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Murrill

Joyce Olivier

from: The Office of Academic Affairs

A. M. Posner

from: Mrs. Frank W. Middleton, Jr.

Carl Van Volkenburgh

from: Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Special Gifts

Donation in honor of:

Almena Gudas, upon the occasion of her 90th birthday
by Mrs. Nora Grigsby

Officers

James Traynham, President
Trent James, Vice President
Eugene R. Groves, Secretary
Philip K. Jones, Treasurer

◆ Classes of Membership ◆

- ☐ A. Individual (annually) \$10
- ☐ B. Family (annually) \$25
- ☐ C. Sustaining (annually; checkout privileges) \$50
- ☐ D. Patron (annually; individual or corporate) \$100
- ☐ E. Corporate (annually) \$500
- ☐ F. Life \$1,000
- ☐ Check payable to LSU Foundation for Friends of the Library

Name
(Please print)

Address

City/State/Zip

Date

Mail to: Friends of the LSU Library, 295 Middleton Library,
LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Philanthropy—It's Not Only for the Wealthy

Have you considered including the LSU Libraries in your will?

In fact, do you have a will and has it been reviewed in the last year? If you have had significant changes take place in your life, such as a purchase of a different home or other large asset, a marriage, divorce, death of family members, etc., it should be updated.

Do you have life insurance policies that are "paid-up" but are no longer necessary for the purpose for which they were purchased? (i.e., children's education, home mortgages, retirement, etc.) Those policies can be donated to the LSU Libraries through the LSU Foundation and the donor may receive a charitable tax deduction.

The LSU Libraries can make arrangements for confidential charitable estate planning. If you would like further information, please call Jane Henslee, 504/388-6599.

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