Spring 4-1-1999

Lumières, Spring 1999

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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A WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY EVENING

The Friends’ annual banquet was held Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at the Baton Rouge Country Club. Guests were greeted by Eugene Groves, president of the Friends of the LSU Libraries and by Jennifer Cargill, dean of libraries.

Honored guest and speaker was C. C. Lockwood, noted photographer and author of numerous books, who gave a slide presentation of his latest book *Around the Bend: A Mississippi River Adventure*. His wife Sue attended with him.

LSU dignitaries attending included President William L. Jenkins and his wife, Peggy; former Chancellor William E. Davis and his wife, Polly; and former Chancellor Paul Murrill and his wife, Nancy.

Former Chancellor Murrill came back from out of town to pay tribute to former LSU Chancellor Cecil Taylor who died early in April. Taylor revitalized the Friends organization and conceived the idea of the annual Book Bazaar.

Banquet Chair Eileen Kean used the Mississippi River as the theme for decorations. Assisting her were Ruth M. Wilkinson, Vida Broussard, Anne West, Mary Jane Mayfield and Lucy Mayfield. Paintings of the Mississippi by famous artists were displayed on easels. Centerpieces included tall vases filled with plant materials found on the river banks—cattails, fungi, rush weeds, and wild flowers. Each table featured an article typical of the river such as a flat boat, steamboat, sailing ship, pirogue, squatter’s shanty, pelican, and egret.

At the banquet awards were presented for gifts and services to the libraries. Those honored were Coach Gerry DiNardo and his wife Terri, Eulah Bates, Vida Broussard, Lettie Counce, Carrie Nell Hooper, Charles and Lois Petrilak, Joyce Prosser, and Cain Whitehead.
FROM PRESIDENT GENE GROVES: OUR HISTORY/OUR FUTURE

It is a privilege to serve as your president for a second term. Like many of you, I have a connection with LSU that spans generations. My dad graduated from LSU, Jan and I are LSU graduates, and I received my law degree from LSU. Our daughter, Amy, graduated from LSU and got her law degree here. Now she is practicing law at my firm, Taylor, Porter, Brooks and Phillips, which I am proud to say has represented LSU for 60 years. Jan, having raised three wonderful children and 30 years after she graduated from LSU, has gone back to LSU graduate school and expects to get her master's degree in public administration in December. Our family bleeds purple and gold.

I confess that when I was an undergraduate, the most significant thing to me about the library was that it was the place I would meet Jan every day to go to lunch. I understand now the importance of the LSU Libraries as the heart of the University community. The Friends have contributed more than $1,000,000 to the LSU Libraries for Special Collections. In addition, our goal is to increase our Endowment to $1,000,000 by the end of the century. With Friends like you, I am confident we will reach that goal.

(Left to right) President Eugene Groves, Phyllis Ann Thompson, Dean Jennifer Cargill, and Anne West at the Friends' annual banquet. Photo by George Ann Brown.

MARGARET STONES DONATES DRAWINGS; PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE SOUGHT

Some special blossoms joined the gorgeous efflorescence that Baton Rouge enjoyed this spring. On March 18, Margaret Stones donated three beautiful drawings of Louisiana native flowers. These drawings, unlike others in the "Native Flora of Louisiana" collection are on vellum, a material perhaps best known for its use in medieval illuminated books of hours. The drawings include the trillium, flowering crabapple, and sunbonnet.

"It is wonderful to have these drawings on vellum to compare with the same flowers drawn on paper," said curator Elaine Smyth. "I am so grateful to Margaret for doing them for the collection. Vellum is a difficult and expensive medium to work in, but its special qualities have attracted all the great painters through the centuries."

Smyth also notes that the LSU Libraries, in order to broaden the documentation of the "Native Flora of Louisiana" project, are looking for people who corresponded with Miss Stones about the project. If you have letters that you would like to donate or allow to be copied by the Libraries, please contact Smyth at 225/388-6547 or by e-mail, esmyth@lsu.edu.

Margaret Stones' beautiful works are periodically exhibited in Baton Rouge and elsewhere, but they may also be viewed by appointment.

"Many people like to bring out-of-town visitors to see the drawings," said Smyth. "We are happy to show them and spread the word about this unique Louisiana treasure."

To make an appointment, please contact Smyth or Fran Huber, 225/388-6558, if possible at least a week in advance.
NEW ACQUISITIONS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections (LLMVC), under the interim curatorship of Charles F. Thomas, added many collections of note this year. Holdings concerning the Long family grew, with the addition of a rich collection of personal correspondence, photographs, and a scrapbook relating to the career of Mary Walle, who served as a personal assistant to Huey P. Long, Earl Long, and Richard Leche. LLMVC also acquired the papers of Charles J. Rivet, a friend of Huey Long and former director of Charity Hospital. Documentation of another important family’s contributions to Louisiana was added with political and personal correspondence of former Louisiana Governor Murphy J. Foster (1849-1921) and his family. Holdings relating to cultural life were enriched with the scrapbooks and memorabilia of opera star Frances Greer and the full files of the Louisiana Folklife Program, including papers, correspondence, sound recordings, and other records related to the documentation of folkways throughout the state. LLMVC’s superb photographic collections grew with new works by renowned local photographers C. C. Lockwood and A. J. Meek. Other additions included the scrapbooks, military medals, and other papers of former LSU student William W. Dixon, Jr., and a collection of vintage postcards, memorabilia, and teaching materials from the Aucoin and Grant families.

In a departure from its normal historical focus, the Rare Book Collection’s new acquisitions have been primarily in the area of fine printing and book arts, as curator Elaine Smyth prepares for the first Baton Rouge area festival of the book. A collection of the work of Harry Duncan forms the largest group, comprising more than a hundred titles, including many works by leading American poets of this century. Before his retirement in the 1980s, he was also one of the leading teachers of printing, establishing programs (still in existence) at the University of Iowa and the University of Nebraska. Other additions include The Exquisite Horse, a whimsical collaborative portfolio in which different printers each produced a front half and back half of a horse; Crazy Quilt by American artist Maureen Cummins; The Terrific Days of Summer by Ken Bolton, printed by the Australian Wayzgoose Press; and Lym Awel, selected verses from seventeenth- to thirteenth-century Welsh poetry, translated, illustrated, and printed by Shirley Jones at her Red Hen Press. Major new books were also added from Claire Van Vliet’s Janus Press, Andrew Hoyem’s Arion Press, and Ron King’s Circle Press.

All acquisitions for Special Collections are made possible by endowment funds or by direct donations in kind of books and manuscripts. If you are interested in making a donation to Special Collections, please contact Elaine Smyth (225/388-6547; esmyth@lsu.edu) or Fay Phillips (225/388-6551).

THE BIBLE AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

The publication of two magnificent new editions of the Holy Bible offers an opportunity for individuals or families to make a distinguished memorial gift to the LSU Libraries honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion.

As 1999 draws to a close, two major new editions of the Holy Bible are about to be published. A lectern Bible will be printed and published by the Arion Press, one of the best known American presses to issue limited, finely printed editions in this century. The grandeur of the large-format lectern Bible will be enhanced by illuminated initials in brilliant colors and gold leaf, designed by renowned calligrapher Thomas Ingmire. The edition is limited to 400 copies.

The second Bible is illustrated by Barry Moser. Moser’s illustrations of works ranging from Moby Dick to Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland have established his reputation as one of the foremost American wood engravers. Nicholas Basbanes calls him “the most important illustrator working in America today.”

Recognizing that to illustrate the Bible is to interpret it, Moser formed an Advisory Board of highly respected biblical, poetic, theological, and linguistic scholars to whom he could turn for counsel. His illustrations are sometimes realistic and sometimes metaphoric or symbolic. They are the product of his self-affirmed “struggle to engage not only a sacred text but the greatest monument of our language; to grapple with typography and images befitting such sanctity and monumentality; and to wrestle with the devils and angels that reside therein.” Printed by master pressman Bradley Hutchinson in Austin, Texas, on Zerkall Bible paper specially made for this project, the edition will also be limited to 400 copies.

The LSU Libraries’ Rare Book Collection already includes some of the most famous editions of the Bible in existence. The earliest is the Douai Bible, printed at Rheims and Douai (1582 and 1609-10), which was the first important Catholic Bible translated into English. Others include the Lectern Bible, produced by influential American designer Bruce Rogers, and the glorious Doves Bible, bound in vellum and featuring initial letters by calligrapher Edward Johnston. In addition to the more famous exemplars, the collection includes Bibles in a wide variety of languages, ranging from Indonesian to Ojibwa. These two new editions will strengthen the Libraries’ collection.

Producing finely printed editions of the Bible is an expensive and time-consuming enterprise involving the dedicated work of numerous craftsmen and women. Each of these editions has been in production for almost two years, and each will be sold for between $10,000 and $12,000.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Bibles and the opportunity for giving that they present, please contact Elaine Smyth, Curator of Rare Books, in care of the LSU Libraries, 225/388-6547 or by e-mail, esmyth@lsu.edu.
The Friends of the LSU Libraries is the vibrant, effective organization it is today because of Cecil G. Taylor.

Although founded in 1962, the Friends organization ceased to function in the late 1960s and was completely dormant in 1974, when then Chancellor Taylor was ready to retire from his long and distinguished career as faculty member, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and chief administrator of LSU. He enlisted the assistance of Max Goodrich, Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School, in his mission of revitalizing the Friends organization to help the LSU Libraries. The rest is history. The Friends organization took wings under their leadership, and its list of achievements are well known to its membership and beyond.

Cecil “Pete” Taylor’s leadership in the Friends was the catalyst for success. He recruited the most competent, talented, and highly respected people to work with him and Goodrich as they shaped the Friends into a dynamic and growing organization. An example of this was his choice of Rosalind McKenzie to head the first Book Bazaar. A newsletter to communicate with the membership was his idea, and he gave approval to Mary Jane Kahao’s suggestion for the title and design of Lumières, which is still used currently. Each and every success enjoyed by the Friends can be traced in some way to Cecil Taylor. Things happened because of his vision and his skills in organizing and inspiring achievement. If something were not directly his doing, the love and respect others had for him brought the new Friends activity, event, or accomplishment to fruition.

In 1986, the Friends honored Cecil Taylor and Max Goodrich for their contributions to the Friends organization by establishing the Goodrich Taylor Graduate Assistantship Endowment. This fund, which has well exceeded the original endowment goal, enables the Libraries to employ a Graduate Assistant to work in Special Collections. This will be an ongoing tribute to the two men who “served as advisers, campaigners, and stalwart supporters of every Friends project.”

The highest honor the Friends bestow, the Rosalind B. McKenzie Award for life-time service, was presented to Taylor and Goodrich in 1994. The 1996 Book Bazaar and Fall 1996 issues of Lumières were dedicated to “The Goodrich-Taylor Team.” In 1997, the Friends purchased Les Lieux de Mémoire, a four-volume work described as an essential tool for work in French cultural history, to commemorate the awarding of an honorary doctorate from LSU to Cecil Taylor. In all the ways the Friends chose to honor and to express appreciation for Chancellor Taylor’s vital role in the success of the organization, efforts paled in comparison to his contributions to the Friends.

In a more personal vein, Chancellor Taylor always had a kind greeting for everyone when he came into the Libraries on a mission for the Friends. From the student employee to the Dean of Libraries, his greeting was genuine and cheerful. His knack for knowing just the right words to say and his warm, friendly personality, which glistened like the twinkle in his eye, meant his arrival was always welcome. If someone liked something or had a collection of this or that, Taylor would remember. More than once, he brought back a souvenir paperweight to add to someone’s paperweight collection. His joie de vivre and gentlemanly kindness brightened our days.

As much as we owe Taylor for his work to strengthen LSU and its libraries, his contribution to the education of countless students, and his incomparable role in the Friends of the LSU Libraries, it is the richness he gave to each of us through his friendship that we cannot forget. His excellence of character, his wisdom, his keen assessment of circumstances and people, his wit, and his love of life—for these and more, we are grateful to Cecil “Pete” Taylor, our forever friend.
REMEMBERING CHANCELLOR TAYLOR
by Virginia Hopper

As a professor, dean, and chancellor of LSU, Cecil "Pete" Taylor was always available to counsel students and offer his wise advice. He had a warm smile and words of encouragement for all.

He loved adventure and he and Emily Lou traveled extensively—to France, to Guatemala for a pre-Columbian dig, to the Carolinas on an extended driving trip visiting family, and to the Holy Land, among other destinations. We were members of the same tour group on the Holy Land trip and remember his insightful questions and his lively interest in each site we visited.

Among his many interests was marble collecting. When asked about his collection, his eyes would light up, and he would talk as enthusiastically about his marbles as would a 10-year-old boy discussing his baseball card collections.

We will miss this warm kind and gentle man.

TAYLOR STORIES SOUGHT

Jesse Walker is planning a book with reminiscences of Chancellor Taylor similar to the one he did when Fred Kniffen died and will be contacting people in the near future for their favorite "Pete tales." We hope everyone will be thinking of stories to share and please go ahead and write these up and send them to Friends at the Middleton address marked Attention: Anne West. We want to honor Pete for himself and for what he did for this organization, so please take a few minutes of your time to do this—Pete gave years to us.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS THROUGH APRIL 21, 1999

In Memory of J. Kenneth Matens
   Junior Book Guild

In Memory of Nina Reeves
   Dr. and Mrs. Terry Beven
   Julia R. Hamilton
   Book Barn Workers

In Memory of Walter Mallory
   Ruth Wilkinson

In Memory of Mrs. George Deer
   Thirty-Niners Book Club
   Paul and Nancy Murrill

In Honor of Miss Karima Raharjo, born December 16, 1998
   and Master Mohith Manohara, born March 28, 1999
   The Text Book Workers

In Memory of Chancellor Cecil G. Taylor
   Dr. and Mrs. Charles Black
   Brenda Borron
   Mrs. T. B. Brandon, Jr.
   Vida Broussard
   Jennifer Cargill
   Vivian Cazayoux
   Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Clark
   Mr. and Mrs. Louis Curet
   Col. and Mrs. Joe Dale
   Mrs. James D. Goodwin
   Nora Grigsby
   Mrs. Robert Guidry
   Mr. and Mrs. William Haag
   Julia R. Hamilton
   Evelyn M. Heck
   Florence T. Norwood
   Mr. and Mrs. J. Huntington Odom
   Mr. and Mrs. James P. Payne
   Mrs. Elise Rosenthal
   Mrs. Ruth Wilkinson
   Caroline Wire
LIVE OAK ENDOWMENT

The Board of the Friends of the LSU Libraries, on behalf of the membership, is pleased to announce the endowment of a live oak on the LSU campus. This endowment has been made to honor the retirement last year of Caroline Wire of the LSU Libraries staff. As all the Friends know, there is no one of more importance to the organization or more loved by our entire membership. She is the one person that all know and have dealt with whenever anything concerning the Friends has arisen.

As all our officers and committees have stated "I couldn't do my job without the help and support of Caroline!" While she officially has retired, Caroline is still working at the library part-time. Many of her duties have been placed in other able hands and Friends business will continue as usual.

The live oak chosen to honor Miss Wire is Live Oak #8, which is located immediately to the left of Hill Memorial Library (if you're standing in the drive facing the back of Hill, with the Indian Mounds to your left rear). A plaque will be installed at the oak's foot in late May or early June to read as follows:

Live Oak Endowment
In Honor of Caroline Wire
by Friends of the LSU Libraries
1998

This endowment is the Friends way of saying thank you to Caroline, with our love and gratitude.

STOCK UP FOR GOOD READING
SEPTEMBER 23-25, 1999

Work on the 24th annual Book Bazaar is well underway. Packed boxes of books are rising toward the ceiling in the Book Barn in the Middleton Library basement, and co-chairs Betty Johnson, Marion Spann, and Anne West would be grateful for any and all help.

The Bazaar will be in the 4-H mini-barn located on Parker Avenue from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 23 and Friday, September 24, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 25. Between now and then, volunteers will pick up books from the bins at different Kean’s locations and from the loading dock at Middleton, sort them, price them, and pack them in boxes. In September these books will be moved to the mini-barn and sold in the Bazaar. Such a big undertaking needs many people in many capacities. So call Betty Johnson (225/753-0687), Marion Spann (225/927-5608), or Anne West (225/766-5783) to volunteer your time.

"So far we have the best collection of paperbacks and fictions in the best condition by recent authors. It’s really time to stock up for good reading,” noted one volunteer as she packed boxes. Volunteering will help both the LSU Libraries and your own library.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the results of the election held at the annual banquet of the following officers and board members for the 1999-2000 term. Board members will serve a three-year term beginning in the fall. The following were elected.

President: Eugene Groves
Vice President: Richard Kilbourne
Secretary: Frank Coates
Treasurer: Debra White Lockwood

Board Members
Kathleen R. Ory (second term)
Elizabeth Beven (first term)
Laura Clark (first term)
Virginia Grenier (first term)
Julie Hamilton (first term)

The outgoing board members are thanked for their gracious service and devotion to this organization. They are:

George Ann Brown
George Hill
Eilleen Kean

LSU has a good library system.
Help make it great.
Increase your level of membership in the Friends!
TURNING THE PAGE WINS ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

Book lovers, mark your calendars! Next August and September, Baton Rouge will enjoy its first ever festival of the book. A blizzard of book-related exhibitions and events will bring a cool ending to the long, hot summer. Turning the Page: A Celebration of the Books as Art has been spearheaded by Leslie Koptchco, LSU School of Art, and Elaine Smyth, LSU Libraries. The festival will include five exhibitions on the LSU campus, a juried show of original work by Baton Rouge residents at the Baton Rouge Gallery, an exhibition of books from the McIlhenny Collection at LASC, and original artwork from Gumbo Ya-Ya at the newly renovated State Library. Local experts and visiting artists from around the country will be supported in part by a generous grant from the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Mailings will be sent and a calendar of all events will be available in late July. To request a copy, please write Special Collections, Attention: Turning the Page, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3300, or call 225/388-6551.

MCILHENNY ESTATE SALE TO BENEFIT COLLECTION

On April 6, 1997, John Stauffer McIlhenny passed away, leaving behind a legacy of philanthropy that earned him an honorary doctorate from LSU in 1992. He willed his personal library, comprising some 7,000 volumes, to the LSU Libraries. Mr. McIlhenny's will also specified that the LSU Foundation sell the bulk of his personal and household goods and use the proceeds for the benefit of the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection, which he donated to LSU in 1971. Those who attended the four-day sale, conducted last October by the Clearing House, described it as a once-in-a-decade event with "the finest of everything." The resulting endowment will provide approximately $12,000 per year for support of the McIlhenny Collection.

TRICENTENNIAL EXHIBITIONS OFFERED IN HILL

The LSU Libraries is proud to present two exhibitions celebrating three hundred years of Baton Rouge history. The exhibitions, supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, are on display in Hill Memorial Library through July 2, 1999. A free poster, featuring a nineteenth-century view of Baton Rouge from the west bank by Adrien Persac contrasted with the same view photographed by Fonville Winans, is being offered to visitors.

On the first floor, H. Parrott Bacot, Director of the LSU Museum of Art, has curated "Nineteenth-Century Baton Rouge Through Paintings, Prints, and Drawings." From W. T. Kummer's "The Best Part of Baton Rouge," dating from 1821, to Jim Blanchard's lovely renderings of the Old State Capitol and Magnolia Mound, the exhibition displays fascinating images of Baton Rouge buildings and landscapes as they appeared more than one hundred years ago. This is also an opportunity to see three of the Museum's famous paintings by Adrien Persac.

A second exhibition, "From Red Stick to River Capital: Three Centuries of Baton Rouge History," was curated by Faye Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries for Special Collections. Manuscripts, photographs, maps, LSU memorabilia, and artifacts from Special Collections depict life, culture, business, education, politics, economics, and conflicts of the various peoples who have lived in Baton Rouge since 1699. This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Mark T. Carleton and M. Stone Miller, Jr., whose River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge remains a standard work on local history. Both were faculty members at LSU.

On March 28, 1999, an opening reception for the exhibitions was held in Hill Memorial Library. The keynote speaker was Dr. Light Cummins, Guy M. Bryan Professor of History at Austin College, who presented a lively lecture entitled "So Old Yet So New: Baton Rouge and Three Hundred Years of Continuing Rebirth." The exhibitions are free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Classes of Membership

☐ A. Individual and Family ................................................................. $25
☐ B. Sustaining (annually; checkout privileges) ........................................... $50
☐ C. Patron (annually; individual or corporate) ........................................... $100
☐ D. Corporate (annually) ........................................................................ $500
☐ E. Life .................................................................................................. $1,000

☐ Check payable to LSU Foundation for Friends of the Libraries
Memberships of $50 or more entitle one member of the family to library check-out privileges.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Date

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