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Lumières, Spring 2000

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LUMIÈRES

ANGELS IN APRIL AND ALL OTHER MONTHS, TOO

The Friends of the LSU Libraries' annual banquet was held Wednesday, April 5, at the Baton Rouge Country Club.

The theme of the decorations was "the Friends are angels of the Libraries." Each table was centered with books to be sold at the Book Bazaar, a container of pansies, and a white ceramic angel made by Preston Kors, "Ye Olde Potter." Vases of native iris with angels beside them were on the registration table and the speakers' podium.

Banquet chair was Eileen Kean, her cochair was Vida Broussard, and they were assisted by Laura Clark, Mary Jane Mayfield, and Ruth Wilkinson.

Outgoing President Eugene Groves welcomed everyone, and Dean of Libraries Jennifer Cargill thanked the Friends for their support. She later introduced the guest speaker of the evening, LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert.

Anne West presented the Goodrich Taylor Graduate Assistant Award to Judi Kemerait, a Ph.D. student from the English Department.

Recipients of the Doris Dennis Smith Award for work toward the success of the Book Bazaar were George Ann Brown, Polly Davis, Sue Edrington, and Phyllis McKay.



Incoming President Richard Kilbourne, outgoing President Eugene Groves, Dean of Libraries Jennifer Cargill, and Special Collections donor Michael D. Robinson at the Friends of the Libraries' annual banquet in April

Unable to be present but honored for their work in collections were Janet and Louis Plauché.

Michael D. Robinson was awarded a lifetime membership to the Friends in appreciation for donating to Hill Memorial Library nine books inscribed by Eudora Welty and an indenture from 1738.

Eugene Groves introduced incoming president Richard Kilbourne and closed the meeting thanking everyone who was a Friend or "angel" of the Libraries.

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me president for the coming year, the first year of the new millennium.

The efforts of our volunteers in making the annual Book Bazaar possible, while no doubt a labor of love, results in a debt of gratitude that is impossible to repay. Since the inception of the Friends organization 25 years ago, well more than \$1 million in funds and resources have been directed to the Middleton Library.

Every new administration begins with an admonition about the difficulties ahead. In this instance I think some circumspection is in order. The Friends' Board of Directors is looking for a new location for the books' processing center, now located in the basement of the library. We all know how precious space is on the campus. Still we hope that a suitable site can be found near the library. Dean Cargill has been most generous, giving us two years to relocate operations. The library, however, needs the space as soon as possible. Suggestions from the members would be appreciated.

Again, I thank you for the honor that you have bestowed on me. I would be pleased to hear from any member. I welcome your suggestions.

With best wishes, I am sincerely yours,

—Richard H. Kilbourne, Jr.



Pictured are the new officers of the Friends of the Library board: Vice President Virginia Grenier, Secretary Gwen Cook, new member Millicent Kopfinger, President Richard Kilbourne, and Treasurer Jo O'Connell.

New President and Board Elected

As chair of the nominating committee, Trent James gave the following report at the annual banquet.

The new officers of the board of the Friends of the LSU Libraries are Richard Kilbourne, president; Virginia Grenier, vice president; Gwen Cook, secretary; and Jo O'Connell, treasurer. New members elected to the board are Linda Bowser and Millicent Kopfinger.

Reelected to the board were members Gail Acree, Frank Coates, Sarah Sue Goldsmith, and Miles Richardson. Betty Johnson and Phyllis McKay were appointed by the president to fill unexpired terms.

FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

If you missed our annual banquet at the Baton Rouge Country Club, you really missed a special event. Eileen Kean, Vida Broussard, Laura Clark, Ruth Wilkinson, and Mary Jane Mayfield outdid themselves with the arrangement and decorations. Thank you, ladies.

We welcomed our new and returning board members and elected and installed our new officers: Richard Kilbourne, president; Virginia Grenier, vice president; Gwen Cook, secretary; and Jo O'Connell, treasurer. We also honored our latest recipients of the Doris Dennis Smith Award: George Ann Brown, Polly Davis, Sue Edrington, and Phyllis McKay. Thank you, all.

Chancellor Mark Emmert once again demonstrated his commitment to the LSU Libraries and the Friends as our main speaker. His schedule was so busy that day (the legislature was in special session) he wasn't able to join us until 7:30 p.m.



Chancellor Mark Emmert and Eugene Groves at the annual banquet

and didn't even get to eat dinner (we did save him some chocolate dessert). Dr. Emmert talked about the importance of the University to our state, the importance of the Libraries to the University, and the importance of the Friends to the Libraries. I know he will do all he can to get the funding necessary to move our Libraries back to a position of preeminence. I am confident he will help us in our efforts to find space on campus for our year-round Book Barn activities. Thank you, Chancellor. I owe you dinner when you're not so busy.

No one deserves thanks more than our "Book Barn angels." These ladies (and a few men) have begged and borrowed (but never "stolen") hundreds of thousands of books, boxed them, hauled them, sorted them, priced them, displayed them, and then sold them. Through dedication and hard work, they have managed to make more than \$1 million in book sales over the years.

With their proceeds and money from our membership and other donations, we have managed to provide substantial funds to the Libraries for countless purchases for Special Collections and still create an endowment for the Libraries with a present value of well over \$1 million. These endowed funds will continue to pay dividends to be used by the Libraries for its future needs.

While many of our "angels" have been honored over the years in different ways, there are so many others who have never wanted any credit for their efforts. To all of you: Thank you, angels! Our Libraries are blessed to have Friends like you.

If you are reading this message and want to help the LSU Libraries reclaim its position of preeminence, please join us by renewing your membership (perhaps at an increased level), making a donation in honor of a professor or loved one, donating those old books you don't need, and participating in this year's Bazaar. In time like these, LSU needs all the Friends it can get!

Finally, thank you, all, for the privilege of serving as your president of the Friends for the past two years.

—Eugene Groves

WE WON!

The Friends of the LSU Libraries was just named the Outstanding Academic Library Friends Group by the Friends of Libraries USA.

The award will be presented at a luncheon at the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago on July 8.

The award honors us for reaching our twin goals of raising more than \$1 million from our annual Book Bazaar sales and contributing more than \$1 million to the LSU Libraries' endowment funds.

Congratulations, Friends! What a great way to end my term as your president! **Thank you, all.**

—Eugene Groves

Upcoming Exhibitions in Hill

Two Louisiana photographers will be spotlighted in exhibitions featured in Hill Memorial Library this summer.

Contemporary Louisiana festivals are the focus of work by Ann Gernon, a May recipient of the Manship School's master's degree in mass communication. Gernon's photographs will be on display in the first floor gallery of Hill June 5–August 25.

Historic photographs will form the basis for *An Eye of Silver: The Life and Times of Andrew D. Lytle, Baton Rouge Photographer, 1858–1917*, an exhibition curated by Mark E. Martin, Special Collection's new assistant curator for image resources. Lytle recorded images of Baton Rouge for 50 years, documenting the Union capture and occupation of the city, the construction of river levees, important social events, and the occasional disaster. The Lytle exhibition will open June 12 and run through September 1 in the second floor gallery.

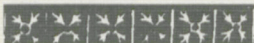
The Hill Memorial Library galleries are open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Call 388-6544 for additional information.



Mary Lytle, Andrew D. Lytle, and their son, A. D. Lytle, Jr., circa 1858

The Special Collections at Hill also has a number of electronic exhibitions available on the Internet, including a new exhibit titled *From Red Stick to River Capital: Three Centuries of Baton Rouge History*. To access these online exhibits, visit the Special Collections website at www.lib.lsu.edu/special/

WELTY ITEMS DONATED TO HILL



Late last fall, an extraordinary gift from Michael D. Robinson added to the LSU Libraries' Special Collections a wonderful group of nine books autographed by Eudora Welty. The books, which include some first editions, are inscribed by Welty to John Robinson and members of his family.

John Robinson, Michael Robinson's uncle, was a close friend of Eudora Welty throughout most of his life. An aspiring writer, he often turned to her for editorial help and advice. Welty dedicated *Delta Wedding* to him, and her affection is clear in the many warm inscriptions found in these books.

Welty is a distinguished Mississippi writer whose writings have won her a Guggenheim, three O. Henry awards, a National Book Award, a Pulitzer, a National Medal of Arts, and most recently, the French Legion of Honor (the highest civilian award made by the French government). Some of her most popular works include *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty* and *The Optimist's Daughter*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize.

Welty is tied to Louisiana through her contributions to *The Southern Review*, begun by Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren in 1935 and revived by Lewis Simpson and Donald Stanford in 1965 with the support of two well-known friends of the Libraries, Max Goodrich and Pete Taylor.

Welty is one of the most popular American writers among LSU faculty members. According to Bill Thompson, collection development coordinator for the humanities at Middleton Library, six out of the top 10 most checked out books in American literature by LSU faculty are books by or about Welty.

Michael Robinson's donation adds yet another tie between the distinguished nonagenarian author and the LSU Libraries.

LUMIÈRES • EDITOR, LIZ BEVEN

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 LIBRARIES WITH THE NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND WITH THE NEEDS OF THE LSU LIBRARIES. THE COVER DESIGN IS BASED ON AN EXQUISITE HAND-ILLUMINATED BORDER FROM A 15TH CENTURY FRENCH RELIGIOUS MANUSCRIPT.

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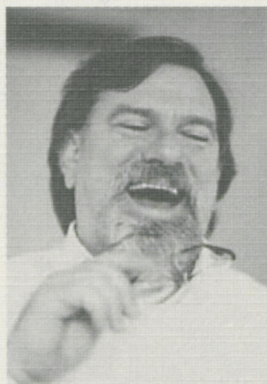
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WELCOMES NEW CURATORS

Two new curators joined the staff of Special Collections this spring.

On February 1, Mark E. Martin began work as assistant curator of Special Collections for image resources. Mark received his B.A. in history from Western Carolina University and his master of library and information science, with a concentration in archival enterprise, from the University of Texas at Austin.

His personal enthusiasm for historic photographs is coupled with a flare for managing computerized databases that will come in handy in working with Special Collections' vast holdings (250,000-plus images) of photographic materials. Colleagues report that he has a great sense of humor to go along with his intense professional drive. Mark can be reached at mmarti3@lsu.edu or 388-6501.

On April 18, Tara Zachary joined the Libraries' faculty as assistant curator of Special Collections for manuscripts. Tara comes to LSU from Delta State University (DSU) in Cleveland, Mississippi, where she organized and headed the archives department of the DSU Library. The focus of her work will be to build, preserve, and provide additional access to the massive manuscript holdings of the Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collections.



Mark Martin



Tara Zachary

Tara is no stranger to Special Collections at LSU, having worked there in several different departments while she was a student at LSU, and those who worked with her are delighted to have her return. Tara can be reached at tzachar@lsu.edu or 388-6546.

Mark and Tara join Elaine Smyth, curator of Special Collections, whose responsibilities include acquiring books and other published materials for the Rare Book, McIlhenny, and Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collections and leading the new curatorial team.

"I am delighted to have Mark and Tara join us in Special Collections," said Smyth. "It is really a compliment to our collections that we have been able to recruit such outstanding new faculty members to fill these vacancies. Their expertise and energy will be a big plus to the Libraries in years to come. Working with them will be a big boost for me personally, as well!"

The curators are always pleased to speak to community groups about Special Collections' holdings and on topics relating to their professional expertise. Contact Elaine Smyth (esmyth@lsu.edu or 388-6547) for more information.

DOCUMENT RETURNS HOME THANKS TO ALUMNI

A unique Baton Rouge document found its way back home last year, thanks to LSU alumni Steve and Ann Collins. Both had worked in Special Collections while at LSU and were familiar with our holdings and researchers' use of them.

Now in St. Louis, where Steve teaches and Ann is pursuing a doctorate in international studies, they were introduced to Ian and Joanne Cruickshank, who told them about an interesting historical document that had come to Joanne from her uncle, Clarence Bohm.

It was a ledger that had been used by his grandfather, Frederick Bohm, a German emigre who had landed at the port of New Orleans in 1838, moved to St. Louis, and served there in the U.S. Army from 1841 to 1851. Only the last 23 pages were filled by Bohm. The first 100 pages were filled with the official records of the United States Arsenal at Baton Rouge.

Recognizing the special historical importance of the ledger, the Collins' put the Cruickshanks in touch with Faye Phillips, associate dean of libraries for Special Collections. She confirmed for the Cruickshanks that the ledger would find a good home at LSU.

Thanks to the Cruickshanks' generosity, the ledger was soon on its way to Baton Rouge. Its arrival provoked great excitement. After examining it at length, historian Charles Elliott called it "a key historical document . . . deeply valuable to scholars," noting that it documents the rivalry of free white and black slave labor, as well as military aid given by the U.S. to Choctaws, Shawnees,

Delawares, Kickapoos, Sacs, and Foxes.

It also contains hitherto unknown information about construction materials, procedures, and practices pertaining to the Pentagon Barracks, making it a true "treasure trove of historical documentation." The Pentagon Barracks, originally used by U.S. Army troops, also housed LSU cadets from 1886 to 1926, before the University moved to its present location.

Thanks to generous donors and supportive alumni, the ledger is now back in Baton Rouge where it will be preserved and made available for scholars in generations to come.



LSU cadets in front of the Pentagon Barracks circa 1900

THE "ANGELS" AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET



*Book Bazaar Chair Jo Ann Bowers,
Laura Clark*



*Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collections Curator Elaine Smyth,
Goodrich Taylor Award winner Judi Kemerait, and
Associate Dean for Special Collections Faye Phillips*



*Doris Dennis Smith Award recipients Polly Davis,
Phyllis McKay, George Ann Brown, and Sue Edrington*



*Vida Broussard, Preston Kors, Mary Jane Mayfield,
Ruth Wilkinson, and Eilleen Kean*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In Memory of Dr. Max Goodrich

*Gresdna Doty and Jim Traynham
Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Hawkins
Anne Loveland and Otis Wheeler
J. D. and Patsy Lyle
James Payne
Margaret Pereboom
Horace Redman
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Simpson
Caroline Wire*

In Memory of Mrs. Starr Long

Dr. and Mrs. Terence Beven

In Memory of H. Leslie McKenzie

*Vida Broussard
Caroline Wire*

In Memory of Chancellor Cecil G. Taylor

*Mary Cleveland
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Simpson
Rita and Harley Walker*

Officers

Richard Kilbourne, *President*
Virginia Grenier, *Vice President*
Gwen Cook, *Secretary*
Jo O'Connell, *Treasurer*

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.

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