Lumières, 1979

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Henry L. Snyder, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at LSU, discussed the history of newsletters, news books, and newspapers from their inception in the 16th century until 1800 when “newspapers as known today had been perfected.” Tuesday evening he was featured speaker at the annual meeting of Friends of the LSU Library at the LSU Faculty Club.

“Early newspapers were not very appealing to look at ... you had to hunt for the features,” Snyder said. He described the quarto format used in early papers in which pages one and two were printed early in the week. Page three was printed last and page four left blank for mailing purposes. Readers, therefore, opened the paper to page three to get the latest news. He pointed out that the early papers had their Jack Andersons, Drew Pearsons, and advice to the lovelorn.

Early newspapers in England would cost four pounds, the equivalent of $200 for a year’s subscription, even though an individual paper would sell for a hapenny (half penny). The result was that coffeehouses and businesses would take a year’s subscription and each paper would be read by as many as 50 people.

In tracing the history of newspapers, Snyder pointed out the effects of censorship and taxation on their development. It was not until well into the 18th century that political news was allowed in London, he said, adding that when first permitted, papers could write about what the House of Commons had enacted, but not the debate. He explained that the House of Lords was off limits — this was known as the privilege of Parliament. It was not until the 19th century that political news was freely reported in England.

For a time, Parliament controlled papers by taxation. A hapenny tax was placed on a hapenny paper, thereby doubling its price.

One of the best sources of news was the Netherlands, where there was no censorship, Snyder observed. Dutch newspapers became an important center for the transmission of news from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

Snyder displayed examples of three news forms from his private collection to illustrate the size and type of early papers.

—Pat Baldridge

as appeared in State Times April 4, 1979
Profile of a Bibliophilic Photographer

Cecil Beaton and Gail Buckland, in their book The Magic Image, termed his work "romantic-mystical" and grouped him with the photographic geniuses of the last 140 years. Newsweek magazine has called him "legendary," friends and acquaintances know him to be a philosopher, and he has described himself as an extreme romantic.

Clarence John Laughlin of New Orleans—73 years old, articulate, urbane, and exuding enthusiasm—has an eminent reputation as a photographer of stunning innovation. But he is firm in stressing that he was a writer and book collector first.

Born in Lake Charles, Mr. Laughlin spent his very early years on a plantation near New Iberia before moving to New Orleans in 1910. His formal education stopped after his first year in high school, but his actual education has never stopped.

In the 1920s, the young Clarence John Laughlin began collecting books, and his library grew to over 20,000 items, with emphasis on the arts including many rare works on surrealism, dadaism, art nouveau, and art deco; science fiction and phantasy in all its manifestations; and other volumes that interested him. He also amassed a very large collection of magazines, running the gamut from thousands of the "pulp" publications to those devoted to specialized interests such as camera work, minotaure, and cahiers d'art.

About 1925, Mr. Laughlin became interested in the French symbolists and began writing prose poems and macabre fiction. It was a decade later that he embarked on a career in photography, self-taught through trial and error, with a style that became uniquely his own. In his long search to discover as much as possible of the whole range of the camera's potentials, Mr. Laughlin began to perceive that it was possible to keep the good aspects of traditional "purism," while adding another, even more penetrating, element to make the object not merely a thing-in-itself, but a thing—beyond itself—to relate the object to things within a single individual.

From 1936 to 1941, Mr. Laughlin was a photographer with the U.S. Engineers' Office in New Orleans, where he made over 4,000 negatives of outstanding ironwork designs, statues, and old buildings. After serving during World War II as a "cloak and camera man" with the Office of Strategic Services—where he photographed secret documents and specialized in color photography—Mr. Laughlin went to work as an architectural photographer. His haunting expertise in this area materialized in 1948 into his well-known and well-read book of 100 extraordinary photographs of old Louisiana homes, Ghosts Along the Mississippi—with poetically informative text by Mr. Laughlin. Now in its sixteenth reprinting, Ghosts provides some excellent examples of the effectiveness of superimposition of images. (An earlier Laughlin book New Orleans and Its Living Past, was published in 1941 and is now a collector's item.)

Mr. Laughlin's photographs have appeared in many periodicals, including Life, Look, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Town & Country, Art News, American Heritage, and The Architectural Review. Photographic annuals such as U.S. Camera, the British Modern Photography, and the French Photographie have featured his work, which is also the subject of a book titled The Personal Eye by Michael Hoffman. Laughlin exhibits have appeared in museums and galleries across this country and in Europe, and he has had several hundred one-man shows. In his personal collection are over 3,000 11"x14" master prints and more than 10,000 8"x10" prints, including important material on the architecture of the South; Victorian architecture in the Mississippi Valley and the Far West; the history of sculpture; the people of the South; and many other subjects.

Comments Mr. Laughlin: "One of my basic feelings is that the mind, and the heart alike, of the photographer must be dedicated to the glory, the magic, and the mystery of light. The mystery of time, the magic of light, the enigma of reality—and their interrelationships—are my constant themes and preoccupations. Because of these metaphysical and poetic preoccupations, I frequently attempt to show in my work, in various ways, the unreality of the 'real,' and the reality of the 'unreal.' This may result, at times, in some disturbing effects. But art should be disturbing; it should make us both think and feel; it should infect the subconscious as well as the conscious mind; it should never allow complacency nor condone the status quo."

Mr. Laughlin's work fits his philosophy.

Loyce J. McIlhenny
LSU Office of Publications

Book Bazaar News

October 11, 12, and 13 has been set aside for the fourth annual Book Bazaar — to be held at Bon Marche Mall. A goal of 40,000 books, hardback and paperback, has been set for sale.

Fiction, nonfiction, history, art, and books on all subjects are being accepted. Records, sheet music, and magazines in good condition are also being collected.

Donors are reminded that book deposits may be made without tax receipts at the Book Barn in the basement of the Hill Memorial Building — east of the Indian Mounds, across West Campus Drive. The drop box, located just inside the double-door entrance, is open all day. Drop boxes are also located at Kean's and AAA dry-cleaning stores.

Gifts of books to the Friends are tax deductible and receipts will be provided for tax purposes, if requested. Volunteers are working at the Book Barn Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 343-6586 for pickup information.

Last year's Book Bazaar earned over $12,000 for the Friends, which will enable the LSU Library to acquire valuable books and materials not provided for in its basic budget.
The annual Friends' banquet meeting was held at the Faculty Club on April 3, 1979. Dr. Edward M. Boagni, III, President, welcomed the members and guests and presented Dr. John Wildman, Chairman of the Awards Committee. Calvin E. Hardin received the Friends of the LSU Library Award for his donation of cookbooks collected by his wife, the late Bulah Hardin, valued at $15,000. Another award recipient was Powell Casey, generous donor, whose contributions are matched in triplicate by Exxon Corporation.

An addendum to the by-laws was presented by Mary Jane Kahao in the absence of Kate Wallach, Chairman of the Charter and By-Laws Committee. Ms. Kahao moved that the following be added to Article VII to clarify the Friends of the LSU Library tax-exempt status with regard to postage regulations:

“In case of dissolution of the organization, funds remaining in the LSU Foundation Friends of the Library accounts shall be distributed according to the direction of the Director of the LSU Library.”

Motion carried.

Mrs. R. Gordon Kean, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. Dr. Boagni and the present officers were reelected by acclamation.

Dr. Henry Snyder, Dean of Arts and Sciences, was introduced by the President and he spoke on “Newsletters to Newspapers: The Beginnings of English Journalism to 1800.”

Dr. Boagni thanked Mary Anna Stanford, Edith Kirkpatrick, and Josie Kirby for the banquet arrangements and spoke briefly on the need for an electronic security system for the Library.

The Friends were reminded of the October Book Bazaar and that the Committee is already collecting books for the sale.

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**Gifts**

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

For the purchase of library books in memory of:

- **Mr. Hopkins P. Breazeale, Jr.** by Mr. H. Parrott Bacot; Dr. and Mrs. Milton Harris; Mr. and Mrs. H. Leslie McKenzie; Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
- **Mrs. Lulie England** by Mr. and Mrs. John S. White, Jr.; Mrs. Edith W. White
- **Mr. Matthew Evanstock** by Ms. Marie Champagne; Ms. Evelyn Jeansonne; Ms. Emily LeBlanc; Ms. Judy Whisman
- **Mrs. Louis Ferraro** by Ms. Florien McKnight; Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton
- **Mrs. Annie Boyd Grayson** by Dr. and Mrs. Milton Harris; Mrs. Lillian K. Stokes; Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
- **Mr. Vincent Guaccero** by Dr. and Mrs. William A. Johnson
- **Miss Mary Agnes Hebert** by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton
- **Miss Mary Alice Hebert** by Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton
- **Mrs. Ann Bell Sheffer Hodge** by Mrs. Linda Noe Laine
- **Mrs. Bertha E. Caulkins Hodge** by Mrs. Linda Noe Laine
- **Mr. Charles Edward Hodge** by Mrs. Linda Noe Laine
- **Dr. Richard C. Keen** by Ms. Florien McKnight
- **Dr. W. D. Kimbrough** by Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Bennett; Dr. and Mrs. William A. Johnson; Ms. Florien McKnight
- **Mr. Walter J. LeBlanc** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello
- **Mrs. Stella LaCoste** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello
- **Mr. Sam McMorney** by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Millican
- **Mrs. Christine Nettles** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tuminello
- **Dr. N. Philip Norman** by Mr. M. Stone Miller
- **Mr. Arthur Palmer** by Mrs. Marguerite D. Broussard; Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton
- **Mr. Victor A. Sachse** by Chancellor and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

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**Lumières**

Published by the Friends of the LSU Library
131 Pleasant Hall, Louisiana State University, Mary Jane Kahao, editor

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 news of the organization and with needs of the LSU Library. The cover design is based on an exquisite hand-illuminated border from a 15th century French religious manuscript.
### Financial Statement
**January 1978 – December 1978**

**Balance in LSU Foundation Account**
December 31, 1977  $35,226.46

**Income:**
- Memberships, Memorials, Gifts in Honor of Individuals: 14,745.25
- Book Bazaar: 12,000.00
- Interest: 2,174.00

**Total Income:** $28,919.25

**Expenditures:**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 78</td>
<td>Establishment of the Behre Foundation Account</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized map purchases</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
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<td>Reimbursement for fees paid</td>
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<td>Mar.</td>
<td>Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized book purchases</td>
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<td>Transfer to operating account</td>
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<td>Annual banquet expenses</td>
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<td>Transfer to Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Transfer to operating account</td>
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<td>Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized archival purchases</td>
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<td>Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized book purchases</td>
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<td>Transfer to 175-30-6305 for authorized La. Room purchases</td>
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**Balance in LSU Foundation Account**
December 31, 1978  $23,847.07

**Library Endowment Fund**
December 31, 1978  $30,750.82

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### Friends of the Library

**Officers**
- Dr. Edward M. Boagni, III, President
- Mrs. Charles H. Morton, Vice-President
- Caroline Wire, Treasurer
- Mary Jane Kahao, Secretary

**Classes of Membership**

- **A. Student Member (annually)** $2.00
- **B. Regular Member (annually)** $10.00
- **C. Contributing Member (annually)** $25.00
- **D. Sustaining Member (annually)** $50.00
- **E. Patron Member (annually)** $100.00
- **F. Life Member** $1000.00 or more
- **G. Institutional or Corporate Member (annually)** $500.00
- **H. Honorary Life Member**
- **I. Check payable to LSU Foundation for Friends of the Library**

**I prefer to pay as follows:**

Member's signature

**Address**

City and State

Date