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30 Years of Friendship

“The Library is the heart and core of the University.” On April 7, 1962, Dr. N.M. Caffee called the first meeting of the Friends of the LSU Library to order with these affirming words. For 30 years, the Friends of the LSU Library have strengthened that heart in numerous ways—through publications, auctions, workshops, moral support, and through the extraordinary efforts of volunteers in the “Book Barn,” whose diligent and unflagging efforts have produced a remarkable endowment of a half a million dollars for the library.

With funds generated by that endowment, more than 100 noteworthy resources for scholars—books, manuscripts, star charts, microfilm collections, recordings—have been added to the Libraries’ collections. Virtually none of these could have been acquired without the endowment funding created by the Friends.

One of the most prestigious acquisitions was the Audubon Double Elephant folio Birds of America which was the result of an ambitious fund-raising drive by the newly formed Friends group. Since 1987, the conservation and preservation of single framed elephant folio prints owned by the LSU Libraries has been supported by the Friends.

In a special project to honor two sustaining members of the Friends, a fund drive over and above the usual fund-raising activities was undertaken in 1987. Two highly successful book auctions were held, in 1990 and 1992. The Goodrich-Taylor Graduate Assistantship fund was established through these fund-raising efforts. The first assistantship in special collections was awarded in 1992.

This special issue of Lumieres is devoted to thanking the Friends for their steadfast support. Pictured within are just a few of the many members of the University community who are grateful for the important resources the Friends have provided for so many years. To these scholars, and many others like them, your generosity and hard work have made a difference. They join the staff of the LSU Libraries in saying a heartfelt “Thank You!” for 30 years of friendship.


Photographs by Don Morrison


A MICHELLE MASSÉ, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, PERUSES A NOVEL BY LOUISIANA WRITER ANNE RICE. THE BOOK IS PART OF A COLLECTION OF 36 FIRST EDITIONS, SOME AUTOGRAPHED BY THE AUTHOR. RICE'S FICTION IS OF INTEREST TO DR. MASSÉ, WHO OFFERS A COURSE IN HORROR FICTION. PURCHASE COMMITTEE ACQUISITION, 1991.
Manuscript facsimiles are a valuable resource for scholars in many disciplines. Jesse Gellrich, associate professor in the Department of English, studies a facsimile of the Luttrell Psalter, one of three manuscript facsimiles acquired for the rare book collections this year. They are being used by faculty and students of the History, English, and Art History departments. Purchase Committee acquisition, 1992.

Richard Condrey, associate professor with the Coastal Fisheries Institute, studies Herman Moll’s map of the West Indies or the islands of America, which includes a depiction of the mouth of the Mississippi dating from the early 18th century. Dr. Condrey uses maps and other materials in special collections to research the ecological history of the state. Purchase Committee acquisition, 1991.

Professor Arlo Landolt, Physics Department, displays one sheet of the many thousands that make up the new Palomar Observatory Sky Atlas. An invaluable tool for astronomers and physicists, the atlas is in constant use. Purchase Committee acquisition, 1988-1989.

Elaine Smyth, editor
Head, Rare Book Collections
A. Tom Carleton, Associate Professor of History, looks through the Emmett Everett Photograph Collection. Included are 214 images of Louisiana dating from 1925 to 1928. Purchase Committee Acquisition, 1991.

A. Professor Lewis Simpson reads the transcript of an interview of Walker Percy, with Percy's manuscript emendations. The interview, by Ashley Brown, includes enlightening information about Percy's works. It was eventually published in Shenandoah. Purchase Committee Acquisition, 1980.

Botany graduate students Alan Lievens (now a research associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden) and Honora Buras consult prints from one volume of the massive Bank's Florilegium, which makes available for the first time 738 engravings of plants collected during Captain James Cook's first voyage around the world, 1768-1771. The work is a rich source of material for botanists and a beautiful collection of botanical art. Purchase Committee Acquisition, 1983.

English graduate students in a bibliography seminar gather to hear Professor John Irwin Fischer's commentary on an 18th century manuscript volume of poems that includes works by Jonathan Swift. Some text variants in the volume may prove important to Swift scholars. Professor Fischer is preeminent in the field. Purchase Committee Acquisition, '992.
LSU MEMORABILIA FROM THE JOHN H. OVERTON PAPERS IS DISPLAYED BY Merna Ford, who works with political manuscripts in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. The OVERTON PAPERS, which add to the Library's rich collection of political manuscripts, include some 5,000 items dating from the period 1920 to 1934. PURCHASE COMMITTEE ACQUISITION, 1991.

Charles East, former director of the LSU Press and noted author, studies an album of Civil War era photographs that includes 200 views of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and various locations in Louisiana. PURCHASE COMMITTEE ACQUISITION, 1977.
