Lumières, Spring 1994

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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The annual banquet of the Friends of the LSU Library on April 28 was marked by good cheer, good tidings, good food, and a superb reading by LSU Professor James Gordon Bennett.

During the cocktail hour preceding dinner, Friends had the opportunity to visit with one another, to catch up with old acquaintances, and to make some new ones. The dinner met the rising expectations that all involved with the University have come to have for the Faculty Club. But it was after dinner that the heart of the program offered generous rewards to the larger than normal crowd.

A number of deserving Friends were honored with awards for their contributions to the Friends and to the Libraries. Mrs. Fabian Gudas was recognized for her husband’s bequest of his important collection of language and literature to the Libraries. Marie Fruehan and Eileen Kean were both honored with a life membership for their donations of materials to the Libraries. Special recognition was made of Tandy Hamilton (father of Friends Past-President Julia Hamilton) and the Piccadilly Corporation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding and the 30th anniversary of the donation of the Piccadilly Library to LSU. Liz Beven and Kathleen Roberts were presented with the Doris Dennis Smith Award for their many years of service and hard work. The highest recognition for distinguished service to the Friends of the Library, the Rosalind Beene McKenzie Award, was shared by Cecil (Pete) Taylor and Max Goodrich for their lifelong devotion and leadership. Chancellor Taylor’s remarks in accepting the award were a clear indication of his eloquence, humanity, and erudition.

Following the awards, a brief business meeting provided for the election of new officers and board members. Virginia Grenier and Jim Traynham were reelected president and vice-president, respectively. Eugene R. Groves was elected secretary, and Philip Jones, treasurer. New members of the executive board are Leslie McKenzie, Trent James, Beverly Coates, and Margaret Womack.

The featured speaker for the evening was James Gordon Bennett, professor of English and creative writing, and author of two highly acclaimed novels. He offered a delightful and challenging talk, featuring read-

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ings from his novels and short stories. He highlighted the difference between autobiography and the imaginative use of a writer's own experiences in fiction: just because a scene or dialog may be drawn from actual events in the life of an author does not mean that the work is in any sense autobiographical.

Scenes from the Annual Banquet...
President’s Report

(Editor’s Note: At the annual banquet, President Virginia Grenier gave a brief report on the activities of the past year. Her remarks convey a sense of contributions of the Friends of the Library, individually and collectively, for the past year, and merit reporting in full.)

I want to take a couple of minutes before we adjourn this evening to mention some significant happenings for this organization since our last annual meeting. Since happenings are affected by people, I want to thank them now...

The Friends received the Baker and Taylor Award of $1,000 for the two auctions, Paper Impressions I and II, that were organized to benefit the Goodrich-Taylor Endowment. Bob Martin made the nomination (an impressive job of writing it up); the award was presented last summer at the American Library Association meeting in New Orleans. And, the Friends had a booth at that meeting, from which a significant number of Margaret Stones notecards were sold to enhance the endowment.

Speaking of the endowment, it now stands at $128,700. Because endowments no longer generate as much income as they used to, we still need about $15,000 to complete the project. Anne West and Mary Alice Carpenter are working to generate some additional funds from the sale of note cards. If anyone is interested in working on the completion of this important project, I am sure that Trent James, who is the cochair of the committee and is here tonight, would be happy to talk to you.

Zelda Long, Jayme Spencer, Stanley Wilder, and his staff have been working hard to streamline the procedures for our membership record keeping. Marie Fruehan got an Exxon Volunteer Involvement grant for us which helped in this effort.

Otis Wheeler and his committee have successfully completed our new brochure which you should have received with your membership renewal information.

Bob Martin has continued the quality of our newsletter, Lumière by serving as the editor this year and we thank him. We also need to thank Bob for his successful History of Books class he offered this spring.

The efforts of Gwen Cook and her Book Bazaar committee, along with Eileen, Cherry, Liz, and all of the Book Barn volunteers have resulted in a record-setting $62,000-plus earned this year from the bazaar and year-round text sales.

Thanks to former president Marion Spann and her committee for updating the Bylaws of the organization.

Eileen Kean and Vida Broussard are responsible for all of the arrangements this evening for this lovely banquet and ... what can I say about Caroline Wire. She is a virtual repository of Friends history and what is correct for us to do.

The Warren L. Jones Lincoln Collection was officially dedicated in 1970 with the opening of a Lincoln Room in the basement of Middleton Library. This collection of books, pamphlets, and writings on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War was regarded at the time to be one of the most outstanding privately owned collections of Lincolniana. Dr. T. Harry Williams was quoted as saying that this collection was "one of the best things that has ever happened to the LSU Library... The presence of this collection at LSU will enrich our program of graduate study and will add to the scholarly reputation of the University." Dr. William's stature as a Civil War scholar and his friendship with Judge Jones were prominent factors in Judge Jones' decision to donate his collection to LSU.

Judge Jones was born in Nebraska in 1895. He had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and Federal Judge. He received his appointment as U.S. Judge for the 5th Circuit in 1955 from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and although he retired in 1966, Judge Jones continued to serve as one of the senior judges of the 11th Circuit (following the division of the 5th Circuit) until his death. LSU honored Judge Jones by conferring an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree upon him in December 1977.

The Warren L. Jones Lincoln Collection, now housed with the Special Collections in Hill Memorial Library, is a lasting tribute to Judge Jones, and can only grow in significance and beneficence to scholars in the years to come.

Caroline Wire

More Donors Use Life-Income Plans

Although making a will is the most basic step in estate planning, there are other tools for giving that can offer important benefits to you during your life time. Among them are life-income plans. In 1992 and 1993, friends of LSU established life-income plans involving over $2.7 million in assets.

A life-income plan is simply a mechanism through which an individual invests a lump sum for the ultimate benefit of LSU, but the annual earnings from the investment are paid to the individual. Because the assets are committed ultimately to LSU (usually after the death of the donor and spouse), the donors receive immediate charitable deductions on their income tax returns. In some cases, donors may also begin receiving higher earnings from the assets they invested.

The simplest type of life-income plan that involves a gift to a charitable purpose is LSU's Pooled Income Fund, which is managed by Premier Bank. The minimum investment is $5,000; no fees are charged to set up the account. In the past three years, the fund has been paying from 5.0% to 9.7% to the donors, depending on market conditions.

If the available assets amount to $100,000 or more, the donor should consider a different vehicle for life-income investments, a charitable remainder trust (CRT). This type of trust is more flexible than the Pooled Income Fund with respect to investments, terms of payments, and other factors. CRTs require legal services to create and to tailor them to the donor's specific situation.

If a person uses appreciated assets to fund a life-income plan, the potential capital gains tax can be fully avoided. Appreciated assets can include stocks, real estate, or other property. U. S. tax law favors such transactions by eliminating capital gains taxes on assets irrevocably pledged to a qualified charity (such as the LSU Foundation). This saving, plus the charitable tax deduction, can add up to sizeable tax benefits for the donors.

For more information on life-income plans, contact the LSU Foundation, 3838 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, or call (504) 388-3811.
**Officers**
Virginia Grenier, President
James Traynham, 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

◆ Memorials ◆

In memory of:
Mrs. Charles E. Beadles from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Mrs. Mary Charlotte Collette from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Dr. James S. Cookston from Dr. and Mrs. Charles Prosser
Mr. Glenn S. Darsey from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Dr. John L. Garrett, Jr. from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Mr. James M. Gill from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor
Dr. Fabian Gudas from Ms. Augusta G. Bloom
Mrs. H.P. Breazeale, Jr. The Garden Growers Study Group

Dr. Gresdna Doty and Dr. James Traynham
Dr. J. Gerald Kennedy
Dr. Joseph G. Kronick
The Naumann and Williams Families
Dr. Panthea Reid and Dr. John I. Fischer
Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Mrs. Rosalind B. McKenzie from Mrs. Mary Frey Eaton
Mrs. Helen Nardin from Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Vanderlip
Ms. Monica Tetley from Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Harrison
Mrs. Edith White from Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Millican
Mr. James L. Winfree from Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor

Lumières Editor, Robert S. Martin
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.
19th Annual Book Bazaar
October 6-8, 1994

Thursday, October 6—9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, October 7—9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, October 8—9 a.m.-5 p.m.

LSU 4-H Mini Farm Building
(brown building next to Parker Coliseum)