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Activities of the Library Associates [v. 10, no. 1]

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Activities of the Library Associates

Annual Meeting
The Annual Dinner Meeting of the University of Kentucky Library Associates will be held Monday, 19 March, at the Singletary Center for the Arts. A reception will be held in the University of Kentucky Art Museum at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner on the Concert Hall stage at 7:00 p.m. The business meeting and program will take place in the Recital Hall at 8:00 p.m. President Woodford Van Meter will convene the meeting, which will include the election of officers for 1990 and the presentation of the first Annual Library Medallion for Intellectual Excellence to Dr. Thomas D. Clark. Kentucky writer and University of Kentucky alumna Bobbie Ann Mason will be the ninth Edward F. Prichard, Jr., Lecturer. She will give a reading from her works.

This year's meeting will be a fund-raising event to benefit the libraries' National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant and the Humanities Book Fund Endowment. Ticket prices are forty dollars for the reception, dinner, and program; ten dollars for the program only; and five dollars for a student ticket for the program only. Library Associates and their guests are encouraged to attend. The deadline for making reservations is Monday, 12 March. Reservations and additional information about this special evening are available by contacting the Executive Secretary at (606) 257-9401.

Annual Book Sale
The Library Associates Executive Committee, based on the recommendation of library staff, has chosen not to hold the annual Book Sale this spring. The decision was made for two reasons. First, the spring calendar at the University of Kentucky has grown increasingly crowded, and several conflicting events have drawn needed library staff away from the Book Sale, making it quite difficult to s' the sale. Secondly, one of the principal reasons for having the sale is to afford students the opportunity to build their personal libraries with donated and discarded library books. However, the Book Sale has traditionally occurred at the end of
the semester, when students are packing and moving away from the campus, and many are not interested in acquiring books at that time. The Executive Committee will soon determine a new time to hold the Book Sale (most likely in the fall). In the meantime, Associates are encouraged to continue contributing materials for the event. Books, journals, magazines, tapes, or phonodiscs may be delivered to the Director's Office, King Library—North, or you may contact Mrs. Karen T. Ellenberg, Gifts and Exchange Department, at (606) 257-5895 to have materials picked up from your home or office.

_Breckinridge-Kentuckiana Room_

Room 216 in King Library—South has a new look and a new name. Thanks to the generosity of the Breckinridge family of Kentucky, the room has been redecorated and restored to resemble the elegant beauty it held when the building was opened in 1931.

New carpeting and chandelier lighting are two major features in the room, along with draperies and special shades on the windows that filter out ultraviolet rays and protect library holdings in the room. Brass tabletop lighting has been added to the newly refinished tables in the room to provide patrons with suitable working light.

Another major addition to the room is a ten-foot high glass wall separating the north alcove from the remainder of the room. The bookcases in the alcove were refinished and locking doors added for the display of memorabilia of the Breckinridge family as well as rare Kentuckiana.

Associates Mrs. Jefferson Patterson and Mrs. John B. Breckinridge are primarily responsible for providing the impetus and funding for this renovation project. Because of their efforts, the University of Kentucky Libraries have a beautiful room in which library patrons can both work and enjoy the historic materials exhibited here.

_The Typocrafters_

The Typocrafters, a national organization of fine printers, typographers, graphic designers, and papermakers, held its 1989 national meeting in Kentucky, with sessions both in Louisville and in Lexington.

The organization's Lexington visit on Saturday, 7 October, was highlighted by a visit to the King Library Press in the Department
of Special Collections. Here over sixty members saw the great wooden handpress built in Florence in the 1920s for artist and printer Victor Hammer; the iron handpress of Joseph C. Graves’s Gravesend Press; relief blocks engraved on wood by Fritz Kredel and John De Pol for Joseph Graves; and other printing equipment used by staff and students at the King Library Press, a teaching press founded in 1956.

A formal program, moderated by Dr. James D. Birchfield, took place in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery on Saturday morning. Speakers included, first, Mr. Burton Milward, Lexington historian and collector, who addressed the Typocrafters on “The Tradition of the Private Press in Lexington.” Dr. Carolyn Reading Hammer spoke next on one of Lexington’s major presses, the Anvil Press, recalling the circle who sponsored its activities and the books that it produced. The King Library Press and its publications were described by one of its former directors, Mr. W. Gay Reading, typographer and printer at the Reading Lion Press and the Windell Press in Lexington.

Following the program the Typocrafters viewed an exhibition of private press books from the holdings of local printers as well as from the libraries’ collections. Featured were books by the area’s presses, including the Bur Press, Stamperia del Santuccio, Anvil Press, Gravesend Press, King Library Press, Whippoorwill Press, Polyglot Press, Buttonwood Press, Larkspur Press, Windell Press, and Reading Lion Press. In the exhibition, as in the discussions of the private press tradition in Lexington, the Typocrafters were provided a sense of the excitement and quality of fine bookmaking in Kentucky and of the influence of Victor Hammer, the designer of American Uncial types and the friend of Fritz Kredel, Rudolf Koch, and other European artists and designers.

—Paula Leach Pope
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