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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 1, no. 2]

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Selected Acquisitions

Audubon's The Birds of America

Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Bose of Decatur, Georgia, have given the libraries a facsimile reproduction of selections from the London edition of John J. Audubon's *The Birds of America*, 1827-1838. The combined efforts of the Ariel Press, London, The Voyageur Press, Minnesota, and the Edition Leipzig have resulted in this impressive work, published in 1972-1973 and based on plates chosen from the original set in the Meiningen State Museum.

Blending accurate ornithological illustration and fine drawing, Audubon combined the best of two spheres: the scientific and the artistic, a masterful achievement for his day. As Elvis J. Stahr, President of the National Audubon Society, noted in the foreword to this edition: "His text still stands as the most complete single American ornithology, and *The Birds of America* continues to ride high and clear, the supreme work in ornithology anywhere."

Jansen Folklore Collection

The William Hugh Jansen Folklore Collection and Archive was established this spring by colleagues of the late Dr. Jansen in cooperation with the library to honor the man who was the University of Kentucky's folklorist for twenty-five years. The Jansen Folklore Collection contains invaluable resource tools which will enable researchers to document Kentucky's folk heritage. The collection will grow as additional books, manuscripts, tapes and sound recordings are acquired to supplement the material already in the archive.

The Brescia Dante

The libraries have acquired *The Brescia Dante* (Brigham Young University, 1975), a book about the famous illustrated edition of

the *Divina Commedia* published in 1487. It includes reproductions from the original illustrations, and two essays: "Dante Alighieri, Universal Poet," by Philip J. Spartano, and "Boninus de Boninus in the History of Printing," by Chad J. Flake. The volume is one of an edition of two hundred and fifty copies, only fifty of which include a leaf from the Brescia edition itself. Placed in our copy is a woodcut depicting the Inferno.

Lafferty Family Papers

Our already sizeable collection of papers from the Lafferty/Lair/Ward family has recently been augmented by a gift from Dr. Louise Nisbet Roberts of New Orleans, Louisiana, of documents including correspondence, genealogical material, scrapbooks, diaries, and photographs. Judge William T. Lafferty organized the University of Kentucky Law School, and served as its dean beginning in 1908. His wife, Maude Ward Lafferty, was a daughter of a U.S. congressman, Judge Andrew Harrison Ward of Cynthiana. Mrs. Lafferty herself acted as president of the Central Kentucky Women's Club, and as secretary of club service for the University Extension from 1924-1940. She authored numerous articles about the state, and one book, *The Lure of Kentucky*.