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The Library Associates [v. 13, no. 1/2]

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The Library Associates

Annual Meeting and Prichard Lecture

On 11 April 1995 another capacity crowd gathered at the U.K. Art Museum and the Singletary Center for the Arts for the Library Associates Annual Meeting and Prichard Lecture. Lexington native James Sherwood, founder and owner of Sea Containers, Ltd., and the well-known Orient Express rail line, was the 14th annual Prichard lecturer. He drew many old friends and interested Associates to the event.

The evening began with a reception at the U.K. Art Museum and was followed by dinner on the Concert Hall Stage. In the Center’s Recital Hall Library Associates President Dixon Barr convened the program and conducted an election for new officers and members to the Executive Committee. Dr. Carolyn Curry was elected president for the coming year, and Mr. Boynton Merrill, Jr., was elected vice-president. The following were elected to serve a two-year term on the committee: Scott Breckinridge, William Freehling, John Gaines, Wade Hall, Bob Houlihan, John Irvin, Frances Keightley, Jim Kenan, Jim Klotter, Frances Lamason, Boynton Merrill, Mary Genevieve Murphy, Angela Rice, Audrey Rooney, Lynwood Schrader, Jim Stuckert, Woodford Van Meter, Judy Wethington, and Adalin Wichman.

Following the elections, U. K. President Charles T. Wethington, Jr. provided an update on the W. T. Young Library project. Library Director Paul A. Willis then announced the name of the recipient of the 1995 Libraries’ Medallion for Intellectual Excellence: Mr. Thomas D. Parrish of Berea, Kentucky. Mr. Parrish was recognized for his extensive contributions to the written history of the United States, particularly in the area of World War II history.

H. Foster Pettit, former Lexington Mayor and childhood friend to the 1995 Prichard Lecturer, introduced Mr. James Sherwood. Mr. Sherwood’s remarks focused on the development of the Orient Express rail line, and his presentation included video of the train and its newest extension into Burma.
Newly elected president Carolyn Curry closed the program with thanks to Mr. Sherwood for a highly entertaining presentation.

**Marvin Breckinridge Patterson Exhibit**

The U. K. Libraries' Division of Special Collections and University Archives opened on 1 September 1995 a very special exhibit, "A Tribute to Marvin Breckinridge." This exhibit is a photo-chronology of Mrs. Patterson's work, including many of her own prize-winning photographs. It was prepared by the Society of Women's Geographers, headquartered in Washington, D.C. The exhibit closed on 31 October 1995.

Mrs. Patterson, a Library Associate and Library benefactor, is a member of the noted Breckinridge family of Kentucky. She was an early filmmaker, radio broadcaster and photographer, but she may be best known to Kentuckians for her many decades of service to the Frontier Nursing Service, which her cousin Mary Breckinridge founded early in this century near Hyden, Kentucky.

On 24 September, Mrs. Patterson traveled from her Washington, D.C., home to visit her exhibit at the U.K. Libraries, as well as tour the new permanent exhibit honoring the Breckinridge family that is mounted in the King Library-South building. The Library is always pleased to have a visit from Mrs. Patterson, and on this occasion they were able to provide a surprise birthday celebration, for on October 2, Mrs. Patterson celebrated her 90th birthday. She greeted many family members, friends and Library Associates during the afternoon festivities.

**Activities of the King Library Press**

The King Library Press has continued to sponsor programs featuring figures from the world of fine printing and the book arts. These activities have offered lectures, exhibitions, workshops, and discussions aimed at sharing the knowledge of finely made books among printers, illustrators, designers, calligraphers, papermakers, bookbinders, collectors, and librarians in the Commonwealth.

On Wednesday evening, 2 March 1994, the King Library Press sponsored a lecture entitled "Collecting the Rare and the Unique" by Dr. Larry E. Sullivan, Chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress. Dr. Sullivan outlined the major kinds of holdings in the rare book area of the nation's library, showing slides and interpreting the extraordinary
Dr. Sidney E. Berger, Head of the Department of Special Collections at the University of California, Riverside, visited the University Libraries on Thursday, 22 September 1994 to speak on “Kim Merker: The Stone Wall Press, The Windhover Press.” Dr. Berger was the curator of a special loan exhibition installed in the Peal Gallery that displayed the magnificent book making of the head of the Center for the Book at the University of Iowa. The exhibition and lecture marked Merker’s thirty-five years of work at the hand press. A member of the University of Iowa’s English Department, Merker was a student of the well-known printing artist and poet Harry Duncan. At Iowa he has published first editions from manuscripts by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Alan Tate, Ezra Pound, Samuel Beckett, and many others. A handsome poster and a checklist of the show was available to collectors.

The Chief Conservator of the Harvard University Libraries, Dr. Nicholas Pickwoad, spoke in the Gallery on Friday, 18 November 1994. The subject of his talk was “Onward and Downward: How Bookbinders Coped with the Printing Press Before 1800,” a discussion of the practice of an ancient craft up to the development of the technology of mass production. Prior to this evening presentation, Dr. Pickwoad spoke to the Lexington Harvard Club and friends of the King Library Press at a special luncheon. Here he gave a slide-lecture on “The Library at Kingston Lacey in Dorset: A National Trust Property.” This talk drew on Dr. Pickwoad’s work as Adviser on Book Conservation to the British National Trust. On Saturday, 19 November, Dr. Pickwoad conducted a seminar entitled “Description of Historic Bookbinding Structures: How to Analyze, Record, and Interpret.” This activity was followed in the afternoon by a session on “Making Slipcases for Books,” presented by the Cincinnati Conservator Gabrielle Fox, and the printing of a keepsake at the King Library Press with Dr. Paul Holbrook.

“Life at the Arcadian Press” was the theme of a lecture by Ms. Caren Heft, printer, designer, papermaker, bookbinder, and Associate Curator of the Racine Museum of Art, who spoke at the University Libraries on Friday, 28 April 1995. Ms. Heft described how she had created a variety of unusual books through the careful selection of texts, the thoughtful development of the physical qualities of her publications, and, especially, her keen
interest in making papers of unique color and texture for her own printing. On the Saturday and Sunday following, Ms. Heft led a group of devoted printers in designing and producing an alphabet book using a remarkable array of decorative nineteenth-century wooden types that had been recently given to the King Library Press by the Harrodsburg Herald. Happily joining this seminar in graphic design was the annual spring meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Guild of BookWorkers.

— Paula Leach Pope
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