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Library Notes: Recent Acquisitions [v. 10, no. 3]

James D. Birchfield

University of Kentucky, j.birchfield@uky.edu

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Recent Acquisitions

A Lady's Scrapbook from the Nineteenth Century
Mr. Russell DesCognets, Jr., of Lexington, has made a gift to the University Libraries of the scrapbook of Sarah Lewis Garrard (1810-1881), the daughter of Gov. James Garrard. The scrapbook, in its original polished calf and marbled boards, bears the gilt-lettered label of "Sarah L. Garrard" on the front and contains 138 wood and copperplate engravings, lithographs, and one aquatint, as well as several watercolors (perhaps by Miss Garrard). The printed images consist of landscape views, sporting scenes, shipwrecks, American and European architectural renderings, and a series of patriotic portraits. The illustrations derive from, among other sources, the popular early nineteenth-century literary "annuals" or "gift books," including The Casket and The Album. Those works in the scrapbook bearing dates extend from as early as 1813; an obituary for Caroline Harrison Bradford bears the latest date, 1837. The scrapbook appears, then, to have been used for a period of about twenty-five years. The Sarah Garrard scrapbook is a valuable cultural artifact showing one of the diversions of young women of the nineteenth century and now forms, too, a valuable pictorial resource for architecture, portraiture, and other subjects.

Warfield Gratz and the Dinsmoore Steele House
Mr. and Mrs. John Frank of Lexington recently donated to the Hunter M. Adams Architecture Library a group of documents relating to the prominent Lexington architect N. Warfield Gratz. The gift includes correspondence, drawings, and specifications for the house of Mrs. Dinsmoore Steele, which still stands on the Old Frankfort Pike. Mr. and Mrs. Frank, who are active locally in historic preservation efforts, lived until recently in the Steele house.

There are eight sheets of drawings in blueprint showing such features as floor plans, roof plan, elevations, cornice details, and library bookcase particulars. There are also statements from contractors for the cost of labor and materials. One such statement, from Combs Lumber Company and dated 13 February...
1937, begins, "Building Residence, per contract, $15,465."

At the time this project was in progress, Warfield Gratz's practice was based at 148 Barr Street; his residence was on West Second Street. Mrs. Steele lived at 9 Mentelle Park during the building of her new house.

This valuable gift represents an important resource for examining the relationships of an architectural commission, the design work of an important Kentucky architect, and the financial aspects of construction during a period of national economic depression. The Franks' gift is a welcome addition to the libraries' growing collection of materials relating to local architecture.

The Galt House Gourmet: Mr. Keller's Menus

A recent addition to the libraries, and one with a special attraction for the gourmet, is a bound volume containing dinner menus from Louisville's Galt House hotel for 1887. The menus were preserved by the Galt House chef, J. H. Keller, and the volume bears his signature on the flyleaf. Each menu contains a detailed wine list of over sixty beverages and the day's culinary offerings. Diners of 1887 could choose from among such dishes as ox tail soup à l'Anglaise, sliced cucumbers, baked red snapper with oyster sauce, boiled leg of mutton with caper sauce, stewed wild pigeon, orange sherbet, cold tongue, boiled hominy, gooseberry pie, wine jelly, crackers and cheese, fruit, and coffee or buttermilk. The menu for 22 September boasts an advertising header, "Nat. C. Goodwin, in 'Turned Up,' at Macauley's Theatre this Evening," and at the bottom notes, "Dinner from 12:00 to 3 P.M. During Races." Mr. Keller's collected menus remain a valuable resource today and preserve an appealing record of a famed hotel's bill of fare for over a century ago.

Early Stagecoach Ledger

An important commercial document recently added to the libraries' collections is the passenger book of the Hall & Trotter stagecoach line for 16 July 1832 to 13 May 1835. In April of 1834 the business was transferred to William Montgomery. The line's destinations included Mt. Sterling, Owingsville, and Winchester. The passenger record includes such entries as John Wesley Hunt, Mr. Erwin, Mr. DeSha, Robert Wickliffe, Hiram Shaw, James O. Harrison, and "2 trunks, 1 basket & 1 bank box." Also written in are recipes for coconut pudding and gumbo soup.
Steamboat Ledger Turns Scrapbook

The 1848 crew register of the river steamer "Greenwood" has recently come to the libraries. The labor history preserved by the ledger was long ago concealed, however, by a collector of printed ephemera. The ledger has become a valuable scrapbook containing recital programs, theatre programs, ticket stubs, commencement programs, and newspaper articles from the 1870s. Although some of the items are from the northeast, there are a great number of Kentucky items. There is an elaborate program for a "Parlor Concert" at the home of Mr. James M. Todd in Frankfort, another for a Lexington Opera House performance by the Mendelssohn Quartette Club of Boston, and also one for a classical organ recital in Louisville. The Kentucky notices are chiefly, but not exclusively, for events in Frankfort. All throw a valuable light on professional and amateur entertainment in Central Kentucky in the nineteenth century.

The Agrarians

Although the Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Kentucky Libraries is well-known as one of the leading repositories for the books and papers of Kentucky author Robert Penn Warren, it has only recently acquired the first appearance of one of the Todd Countian's key early publications. Warren was the contributor of an essay (entitled "The Briar Patch") to a landmark collection called *I'll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition. By Twelve Southerners*. The book appeared in 1930, and Warren's first book, *John Brown: The Making of a Martyr*, had been published only in the previous year. It was in 1930 that Warren received his B.Litt. as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

There were twelve contributors to *I'll Take My Stand*. They were, in addition to Warren, Donald Davidson, John Gould Fletcher, Henry Blue Kline, Lyle Lanier, Andrew Lytle, Herman Clarence Nixon, Frank Lawrence Owsley, John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate (of Clark County, Kentucky), John Donald Wade, and Stark Young. Six of these contributors have signed the volume at the University of Kentucky. Among those who did not sign is Warren, who also later changed his views on the subject of his contribution.
A Work by Charles Dickens and Thomas J. Wise

The Victorian publications now termed “gift books” or “annuals” were popular collections of verse, prose, and engravings that often included the first appearance of short works by prominent English or American authors. It was in one of these, The Keepsake for 1852, that Charles Dickens’s story “To Be Read at Dusk” was first published. It was not printed separately until circa 1890. This printing, however, bore the date of 1852, and was sought out by Dickens collectors as a little-known and difficult-to-find publication. Recognized as a Dickens rarity, it commanded a premium in the market. The “1852” separate printing, however, was only first mentioned in The Athenaeum of 16 May 1891; in 1932 it was revealed to be the work of the famous forger Thomas James Wise, the distinguished collector of the Ashley Library, compiler of scholarly bibliographies, president of the Bibliographical Society, and recipient of an honorary degree from Oxford University. Wise, it was learned, had produced, with the assistance of a few well-placed friends, over four-hundred ingenious piracies and forgeries that, ironically, are now sought as important literary publications. There were forgeries of his forgeries, and authors occasionally signed them. A copy of Wise’s forgery of Dickens’s story has recently been added to the extensive collection of Romantic and Victorian literature in the W. Hugh Peal Collection.

—James D. Birchfield