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Activities of the Library Associates [v. 9, no. 2]

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Activities of the Library Associates

Exhibition of Photographs by Pictureman Mullins
Photographs by William Richardson “Pictureman” Mullins were exhibited in the Peal Gallery, King Library—North, from 9 April to 19 May 1989. Mullins traveled throughout Wise and Dickenson Counties in Virginia and Letcher and Pike Counties in Kentucky making snapshots and portraits with a roll-film box camera in the 1920s and 1930s. After World War II, he set up studios in East Jenkins and Payne Gap which he maintained until his death in 1969 at the age of eighty-two. The exhibition presented work from four decades.

The poet Bob Henry Baber, who was instrumental in creating the exhibition, provided an introduction to Mullins’s work in a program opening the show on Sunday afternoon, 9 April. Other photographs were shown concurrently at the Appalachian Center Gallery at 641 N. Limestone Street. The exhibitions were co-sponsored by the University Libraries, the Appalachian Center, and the Kentucky Humanities Council. The photographs were lent by Angel Rucker of Jenkins, Kentucky, who is the granddaughter of the photographer.

The 1989 Library Associates Book Sale
The Library Associates’ annual book sale was held at Buell Armory on 27 and 28 April, and it was the most successful sale in recent years. The profits from the sale were added to other funds to purchase a badly needed new van for the library.

The libraries are grateful to the Associates for their gifts of materials and for the many volunteers who worked at the sale to make it so successful. Work has already begun on assembling materials for next year’s book sale. If you have books, journals, magazines, maps, or phonodiscs that you would like to contribute to the book sale, please contact Mrs. Trudy Day in the Gifts & Exchange Office, 204 King Library—South, (606) 257-5895.

Breckinridge-Kentuckiana Room Renovations Underway
Renovations to convert Room 216 in King Library—South into a
reading/research/museum room that will feature the Breckinridge Family Collection and other Kentucky memorabilia will be completed by early fall. The renovations include new lighting, carpeting, and window treatments, along with new exhibit cases and furniture that were made possible by generous gifts from Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, Mrs. John B. Breckinridge, the Breckinridge Family Committee, and a number of Breckinridge family members.

These renovations and the establishment of the Breckinridge-Kentuckiana Room are a part of the libraries’ long-term plans to convert the original portion of King Library—South to house the Department of Special Collections and University Archives. That building’s design will provide a number of special exhibit areas similar to that for the Breckinridge-Kentuckiana collections. These exhibit areas will play an important educational role for students and patrons and will encourage the gift of other research materials.

The libraries are grateful to the Breckinridge family for their continued interest in and support of this project, and we look forward to making the exhibition area open upon its completion.

**Lexington Children's Theatre Archives**

The University Libraries formally accepted the archives of the Lexington’s Children’s Theatre during a program held in the Peal Gallery on Sunday, 28 May. Director of Libraries Paul Willis welcomed friends of the libraries and the Children’s Theatre. Keith Johnston, President of LCT, spoke briefly about the history of the Children’s Theatre, and Mrs. W. Paul Little, both a past president of the organization and a director of many productions, presented the archives to Mr. Willis. Scenes from “A Kentucky Scrapbook” were then enacted by a cast of LCT members. Guests then enjoyed a reception and viewed an exhibition of LCT materials in the Department of Special Collections.

Archives of the Lexington Children’s Theatre include records of that organization’s operation, minutes from board meetings, hundreds of photographs, programs, handbills, and a library of scripts and theatre production texts spanning fifty years. The gift of these materials not only enhances the libraries’ theatre holdings but adds, as well, to our many significant collections of local history.

—Paula Leach Pope
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