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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 7, no. 3]

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Kentuckiana
The Richard C. Morgan Family Papers are a recent gift of Mrs. Alfred C. Lacazette, of Versailles. Col. Richard Morgan was a brother of Gen. John Hunt Morgan and, prior to the Civil War, his business partner. "Col. Dick" Morgan fought in the Battle of Shiloh, participated in John Hunt Morgan's raid through Indiana and Ohio, and was twice captured during the war. The collection consists of family correspondence, legal and financial documents, photographs, and memorabilia. This gift represents a very valuable addition to the library's extensive Hunt-Morgan Papers collection.

Mr. Harry B. Miller, of Lexington, has contributed the library as well as a collection of photographs once belonging to Thomas Henry Hines. Originally one of Morgan's Men, Hines escaped with Morgan and other officers from the Ohio Penitentiary; subsequently, Hines became a covert operative in the northeast, robbing banks in Vermont and attempting to disrupt the 1864 elections. For a period following the war he lived in Toronto; later he became Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Photographs in the collection include, among others, images of John C. Breckinridge, John Hunt Morgan, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Humphrey Marshall, John S. Mosby, and Col. Richard C. Morgan.

Letters to an American Bibliophile
Dr. Barbara S. McCrimmon of Tallahassee, Florida has made a gift of two very interesting letters from an English bookseller to a major American collector, William Bixby (1857-1931). Readers of 84 Charing Cross Road would find equally engaging these two communications from B. F. Stevens & Brown to Bixby reporting the prior sale of a collection of Robert Burns materials to Lord Rosebery but forwarding information on a copy of the Kilmarnock edition of Robert Burns (1786) and a Burns letter. Also mentioned in these letters of 1 March and 9 March 1901 are drawings by the novelist W. M. Thackeray, extra-illustrated books, and books in fine bindings. Bixby retired at forty-eight as president of a railroad
car company to devote himself full-time to collecting books and art. He acquired Shelley’s notebooks, Charles Dickens’s correspondence with Maria Beadness, Hawthorne’s letters to his fiancée, and a large group of Thomas Jefferson papers. A significant part of Bixby’s literary collections were acquired by Henry E. Huntington and are now in the Huntington Library at San Marino, California. These letters offer valuable insight into the activities of an important American bibliophile.

Scenes From a Gene Markey Film
In 1938 Twentieth Century Fox released Kentucky, a movie produced by Daryl Zanuck and Gene Markey. Starring Loretta Young as Sally Goodwin and Richard Greene as Jack Dillon, the movie revolves around thoroughbred horses, the Kentucky Derby, and a Goodwin-Dillon family feud dating from 1861. Walter Brennan, as Peter Goodwin, a patriarchal feudist, won his second Oscar for his performance in Kentucky. The libraries’ Photographic Archives have recently obtained fifty black and white still frame photographs from this critically acclaimed Technicolor film. Other recent photographic acquisitions include three carte de visite portraits of Mary Todd Lincoln and a view of “Steel City,” an Ohio River steamboat.

The Kremer Photographic Collection
Mrs. Evelina Settle of Wilmore has made a gift of over a hundred glass plate negatives to the University of Kentucky Photographic Archives. The plates were prepared by her grandfather, Dr. J. W. Kremer, a Louisville physician and photographic hobbyist. The images show architectural views, interiors, transportation, and group and individual portraits. The Kremer Collection represents an important resource for studying the life of a turn-of-the-century American city.

A Tablature for Segovia
A musical manuscript written and bound by Victor Hammer is one of the libraries’ significant recent acquisitions. The work’s title, lettered in gilt on the cover, is La Gratia di Amore di Cesure Negri detto il Trombone, and the composition is dated 1604. The manuscript consists of a musical tablature, with fingerings for guitar. The work was formerly in the library of Andres Segovia. A separate sheet is enclosed with a tablature printed from the
numerals of Hammer’s American Uncial type; at the bottom is a note in Hammer’s hand, “This is the sheet from which you played in Paris.” Also enclosed is the mailing wrapper from Lexington to Segovia’s address in New York, dated 20 March 1959.

Modern Fine Printing
For centuries special copies of printed works were distinguished by the use of blue paper or, in the most luxurious instances, vellum, the carefully prepared calf or goat skin used earlier for illuminated manuscripts. The now disused practice of printing on vellum is the subject of a recent addition to the book arts collection, The Mystique of Vellum. The book is printed by Richard Bigus, well-known for his Labyrinth Editions productions of Pablo Neruda’s Ode to Typography (1977) and William Everson’s Eastward the Armies (1980). The work contains an introduction by Decherd Turner of the University of Texas, an historical essay by the English bookseller Colin Franklin, and a discussion of the technique of printing on vellum by Bigus himself.

—Claire McCann and James D. Birchfield

The Kentucky Newspaper Project Renewed
The University of Kentucky Libraries have been awarded a grant of $273,920 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund the Kentucky Newspaper Project from 1 September 1987 to 31 August 1989. The new grant will continue the bibliographic control phase of the project which began under an earlier NEH grant awarded to the university in September of 1984. It has expanded the project to include funds for the preservation microfilming of unfilmed newspapers held in Kentucky repositories.

During the first phase of the grant 2,200 newspaper titles were catalogued and over 4,600 local holdings records were entered into the OCLC national online data base. The project’s staff is traveling to the remainder of the state’s approximately 300 newspaper repositories to continue their cataloguing and inventorying efforts. At the same time they will evaluate the newspapers for filming. Project Director Judy Sackett has estimated that over 700 years of unfilmed newspapers exist in the state which require preservation microfilming.
Staff members will deliver unfilmed collections to the Microfilm Center at the University of Kentucky, M. I. King Library. A unit of the Periodicals/Newspapers/Microtexts Department, the Center has collected and microfilmed Kentucky newspapers since 1954. During the grant, steps will be taken to guarantee that national standards for production, testing, and storage of film are met in order to ensure that the information retained in these films will be available to future generations of researchers.

In the last six months of the grant period arrangements will be made for the production of an off-line, computer output microfiche union list of Kentucky newspapers. This format is relatively inexpensive and easy to update and distribute. The union list will be a valuable research tool which, for the first time, will provide researchers access to complete and current title and holdings information for newspapers kept in the state on a permanent basis.

—Jeanne Trimble