The Library Associates [v. 6, no. 1]

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Frontier Nursing Service Collection Dedication

On Thursday, 7 November 1982, the Frontier Nursing Service Collection was formally dedicated in the University of Kentucky Libraries in an afternoon ceremony held in Memorial Hall. The College of Nursing and the libraries jointly sponsored the program, which additionally commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the FNS. Chancellor Art Gallaher, Jr. accepted the extensive research collection on behalf of the university. Other program participants included Mrs. Jefferson Patterson of Washington, D. C., Honorary Chairman of the Frontier Nursing Service, who highlighted the history of the FNS and its founder, Mary Breckinridge. Ms. Kitty Ernst, Director of the National Association of Child Bearing Centers, spoke to the assemblage at Memorial Hall, as did Ms. Jo Eleanor Elliott, Director of the Division of Nursing for the U. S. Public Health Service, on the topics of midwifery and family nursing. A multi-media presentation on the FNS was included.

After the ceremony, a reception was held in the Department of Special Collections, where an exhibition of materials from the FNS collection was mounted. Also on display was an exhibit entitled "Appalachian Photographs" by Mrs. Jefferson Patterson.

The Frontier Nursing Service Collection is a significant and valuable historical archive. The collection includes a wealth of materials which document the organization’s background and its development over the last sixty years. The records transferred to the library have been organized and catalogued under the direction of Anne G. Campbell, Curator of the Appalachian Collection.

The work of the Frontier Nursing Service was begun by Mrs. Mary Breckingridge at Wendover, Leslie County, Kentucky, in 1925. Mrs. Breckinridge was dedicated to providing health care for this isolated mountain region. She introduced the use of professionally trained midwives into the United States, established district nursing centers to provide health care to families, and made the teaching of good health practices as much a part of the program as providing medical care. Organized as the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies, Mrs. Breckinridge’s project
soon became a model for delivering health care on both national and international levels. In 1928 its name was changed to the Frontier Nursing Service.

Ms. Campbell and Terry Birdwhistell, Director of UK’s Oral History Program, served as consultants to the FNS’s Oral History Project several years ago. Their visits to Wendover, near Hyden, acquainted them with the large quantity of historical materials generated by the FNS. Recognizing the need to preserve these important records, arrangements were made to establish the Frontier Nursing Service Collection at the UK Library. During recent years, the Wendover staff has worked with the library to locate items which are included in the collection. File cabinets, closets, desk drawers, old trunks, and various other sources revealed many dusty papers and old files.

The FNS’s organizational history is documented in its articles of incorporation and in the original and amended by-laws. Minutes of meetings provide information on the administration of the organization. Detailed statistical reports and the well-known Metropolitan Life Insurance Company’s *Tabulations of FNS Midwifery Records* are evidence of the FNS’s early success in carrying out its mission.

Extensive office files document the day-to-day activities at the Wendover offices from 1925 to 1973. Files under such headings as “Chickens and Gardens,” “Federal Crop Loans,” “Horses,” and “Uniforms” are found in the earliest set of records. Ledger books offer a detailed record of the accounting system set up by Mrs. Breckinridge and a Lexington accountant in 1929. The Wendover staff accurately kept records of expenditures and income for a variety of accounts.

The initial organization of committees in both Kentucky and beyond the mountains is recorded in the City and District Committee files. Minutes of meetings, invitations, mementos from committee events, and material relating to the *Brittanic* and *Belgenland* cruises in the early 1930s are found in these files. Mrs. Breckinridge’s efforts to establish and maintain support for the FNS may also be seen in appeals such as “Waiting” and “Will You Fill Her Saddlebag?” The collection includes further examples of cards, brochures, and fliers that solicited patrons for the FNS.

Another significant aspect of the collection is Mary Breckinridge’s personal materials. Items including pages from her girlhood journals, correspondence with her mother while in France
after World War I, and notebooks documenting her travel in England and Scotland relate to Mrs. Breckinridge’s experiences before she settled in the Kentucky mountains. She published several books and pamphlets, as well as a considerable number of articles on the FNS and related topics. Research materials, correspondence, and manuscripts for several of these articles are available in the collection.

Photographs and films add a visual dimension to these printed records. Several hundred photographs and copies of all the FNS films are included. Copies of the interviews from the FNS Oral History Project are part of the oral history collection in the libraries.

The Frontier Nursing Service Collection is an outstanding addition to the Kentuckiana and Appalachian collections at the libraries. It affords research materials for many areas of study including nursing, sociology, history, anthropology, and women’s studies. The collection is available in the Department of Special Collections, King Library North. Associates who are interested in reviewing the materials are encouraged to do so.

Annual Dinner Meeting
The annual dinner meeting of the University of Kentucky Library Associates will be held at Spindletop Hall on Tuesday evening, 11 March 1986. The fifth Edward F. Prichard, Jr. Lecture will be presented by the noted author David McCullough.

Mr. McCullough was graduated from Yale University in 1955. He worked as a writer and editor for Time from 1956 to 1961 and for the United States Information Agency from 1961 to 1964. He has also served as a contributing editor for both American Heritage and Parade magazines, and is the author of several award-winning books, including The Great Bridge (1972), The Johnstown Flood (1978), The Path Between the Seas (1977), and Mornings on Horseback (1981). Many of the Library Associates may know our speaker from his recent work as host of Smithsonian World, the fascinating PBS series that may be seen locally on KET.

Mr. McCullough is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. He has received recognition for his talent as a writer with the New York Diamond Jubilee Award (1973), The National Book Award (1978), Francis Parkman Prize (1978), Cornelius Ryan Award (1978), the Los Angeles Times prize for biography (1981),
and the American Book Award for biography (1982), among others. He holds honorary degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Villanova University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Allegheny College, and Wesleyan University at Middleton, Connecticut.

Details of the meeting and reservation information will soon be sent to members of the Library Associates.

Annual Book Sale
Thursday and Friday, 24 and 25 April, have been set aside for the 1986 Library Associates Book Sale. The success of the book sale depends upon the quality and quantity of materials we have available. Many books and journals designated as surplus to the needs of the library are currently being assembled for the sale; however, much more is needed. We encourage the Library Associates to look over their libraries, attics, and basements for books, magazines, maps, records, or prints for the book sale. Please contact Paula Pope (257-9401) if you have materials to donate or if you would like to help with staffing during the sale.

Dedication of the Music Library
On Friday, 1 November 1985, the Music Library was formally named the Adelle G. Dailey Music Library in ceremonies held at the facility, located in the Fine Arts Building on campus. Paul Willis, Director of Libraries, welcomed the many guests attending the festivities. Dr. Donald Sands, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, offered his congratulations and appreciation to Mrs. Dailey for her many years of service to the university as its first music librarian.

Several faculty members from the School of Music participated in the ceremonies. Richard Domek, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, introduced Mrs. Dailey and her guests to the gathering; Harry Clarke of the School of Music provided a history of that school, while Music Librarian Cathy Hunt presented background on the Music Library. Professor Emeritus of Music Donald Ivey colorfully recounted his years of work with Mrs. Dailey.

Following these remarks, Paul Willis presented a plaque bearing the new name for the library. Dr. Clarke and Associate Director of Libraries Ruth Brown then unveiled the portrait of Adelle Dailey that will hang in the Music Library. Mrs. Dailey thanked
her many friends and colleagues attending the ceremonies and joined them at a reception in her honor.

Dedication of the W. Hugh Peal Gallery
On the afternoon of Sunday, 17 November members of the Associates gathered in the Department of Special Collections and Archives to dedicate its Gallery in memory of the library's distinguished friend, Mr. W. Hugh Peal (1898-1984). Over a period of many years Mr. Peal made gifts of books and manuscripts to the library which did much to enhance its standing as a research repository, and in 1982 the gift of his private collections relating to Charles Lamb, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Robert Southey, as well as many other English and American literary figures, major and minor, represented an event of national and international significance in the world of scholarship.

Those attending the dedication program were welcomed by Mr. Paul A. Willis, Director of Libraries, and heard remarks by Chancellor Art Gallaher, Jr., Prof. John L. Clubbe, of the Department of English, and Dr. James D. Birchfield, former Curator of Rare Books. Mrs. Margaret Peal, of Leesburg, Virginia, responded to the remarks of the university's representatives, emphasizing Mr. Peal's regard for his native Kentucky and for his alma mater, continuing through his days as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, his legal career in New York, and in his retirement in Virginia. Following the program, members of the Associates enjoyed a reception in the Solarium.

Agriculture Library Addition Dedicated
A new library foyer and public area in the Agriculture Library was formally dedicated in ceremonies at that Library on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20 November. The honored guest at the dedication program was Mrs. Robert Hume, whose gift of $22,000 made possible the addition and renovations. Mrs. Hume's late husband was a longtime County Extension Agent in Northern Kentucky and worked closely with the College of Agriculture throughout his professional career.

Agriculture Librarian Mrs. Toni Powell, Dean Charles Barnhart of the College of Agriculture, and Director of Libraries Paul Willis all spoke to the large gathering assembled for the dedication
program, expressing their appreciation to the honoree for her interest and support of both the College of Agriculture and the Library. Mrs. Hume also spoke and helped to unveil a plaque in the foyer that is inscribed as follows:

ROBERT C. HUME
LIBRARY FOYER

Dedicated to those who pursue learning and to the academic excellence of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Endowed by Lucy T. Hume
1985

—Paula Leach Pope
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