Winter 1984

The Library Associates [v. 5, no. 2]

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Seminar at the King Library Press

The Sixth Seminar in Graphic Design at the King Library Press was held on Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 October 1983. The program was conducted by two noted guests from the graphic arts field: Ms. Jerilyn Davis, a New York-based book conservator, and Prof. Richard-Gabriel Rummonds, former proprietor of the Plain Wrapper Press in Verona, Italy, and presently Professor of Librarianship at the University of Alabama. Ms. Davis led a practicum in binding technique and related problems of preservation and restoration. Prof. Rummonds presented a slide-lecture, "The Plain Wrapper Press — A Bittersweet Recollection," and carried out a demonstration of printing on a handpress. A reception for the participants and for friends of the King Library Press was held in the Department of Special Collections on the evening of Friday, 14 October. Following the seminar, a six-week book arts workshop was held at the Press with instruction by Ms. Joan Davis, its Acting Director.

1984 Library Associates Book Sale

The annual Library Associates Book Sale is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 April 1984, in King Library — South. A third day is planned for Saturday, 28 April, at the E. S. Good Barn, off Cooper Drive, where adequate parking will make the sale more accessible to the public. Contributions of material for the sale are welcome, and Associates may contact Mrs. Ruth Vaughan, Gifts and Exchange Division, at 257-5895 about arranging for such donations.

The Libraries and the Antiquarian Book Trade

A rich store of anecdotes detailing notable acquisitions by the University of Kentucky Libraries over the years, from sources as distant as the Oriental Bazaar of Istanbul and the shelves of Warren Howell in San Francisco, is the focus of the fourth of the libraries' Occasional Papers. The University Libraries and the Antiquarian Book Trade: Fragments of Library History, by Lawrence S. Thompson, formerly Director of Libraries and presently Professor...
of Classical Languages and Literatures, sketches the provenance
of many of the libraries' treasures, often tracing them back
through their generous donors to the benefactors' own trade
sources — sometimes the great auction houses or the celebrated
book dealers of New York and London, sometimes the earnest
book scouts of the American Midwest. Tales of books in transit to
Lexington from such bibliocratic capitals as Barcelona, Florence,
Paris, and Copenhagen abound in Professor Thompson's witty
essay. Associates wishing to acquire a copy of this Occasional
Paper (at a price of $5.00) should write to Administrative Services,
Margaret I. King Library, University of Kentucky, Lexington,
40506-0039.

— James D. Birchfield

oral History Program celebrates tenth anniversary

The library's Oral History Program celebrated its own history on
Tuesday, 15 November 1983, with a reception and exhibit in the
Department of Special Collections. In the ten years of its existence
the program has collected nearly 2000 hours of tape in 1500
interviews conducted with such distinguished Kentuckians as A. B. Chandler, Earle C. Clements, John Sherman Cooper, and Robert Penn Warren. Thirty-four named oral history projects have helped to document Appalachian history, black history, Kentucky literature, and the history of the University of Kentucky. Director of Libraries Paul Willis welcomed the more than 125 friends and supporters of the Oral History Program by sketching the beginnings of the oral history effort and noting its value both in supplementing the book and manuscript collections and in providing a rich primary source in the area of Kentuckiana. Oral History Coordinator Terry Birdwhistell, who planned the activities of the celebration in conjunction with Susan Allen and Anne Campbell, acknowledged the role of many individuals, university departments, and state agencies in the success of the ten-year-old program. Dr. George C. Wright, a historian from the University of Texas at Austin and presently a Mellon Fellow at Harvard, spoke on the importance of oral history in augmenting the historical record, citing several of the University of Kentucky’s projects, including those on black Kentuckians he was involved in while a graduate student and later a teacher in the Department of History. Of special interest was Professor Wright’s account of the interviews he has conducted in recent years to document his forthcoming Race Relations in a Border City: Black Louisville, 1865–1930.

— Terry Birdwhistell