Spring 1983

The Library Associates [v. 4, no. 3]

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The Library Associates

Report of the Annual Dinner Meeting

On Friday, 18 March 1983, the Library Associates gathered at Spindletop Hall for the annual dinner meeting. The occasion began with a reception honoring the second Edward F. Prichard, Jr. Lecturer, Washington attorney Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., and Mrs. Rauh. The reception also featured an exhibition of recent acquisitions in the fields of Kentucky history, modern fine printing, and British literature of the Romantic period. Publications of the King Library Press were also displayed.

Following the dinner Prof. John T. Shawcross, President of the Associates, welcomed members and their guests and expressed the thanks of the organization for the work of those serving on the Executive Committee over the past year. President Shawcross then introduced the university’s Director of Libraries, Mr. Paul A. Willis, who summarized the achievements of the libraries for 1982-1983. Special mention was made of the W. Hugh Peal gift and the forthcoming programs to dedicate the John Jacob Niles Collection and the papers of Governor Lawrence Wetherby.

President Shawcross, acting on behalf of Mrs. Suzanne Karem, our Nominating Committee Chairperson, presented the committee’s proposed slate for president and vice-president for 1983-1984 and members of the Executive Committee for 1983-1985:

- Mr. Dennis Carrigan, President
- Dr. James C. Klotter, Vice-President
- Dr. David F. Burg
- Prof. Ronda S. Connaway
- Prof. George M. Cunha
- Mrs. Jean K. Gossick

The slate was elected unanimously.

Prof. Shawcross then called upon Prof. Paul Oberst, of the College of Law, to introduce the speaker, Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., who addressed the Associates on the topic “A Half-Century in Civil Liberties.” Mr. Rauh, like Mr. Prichard a Harvard Law School
graduate and former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, recalled discussing with Mr. Prichard in Washington many years before the Justice’s decision on a celebrated civil liberties question, that of requiring the pledge of allegiance to the flag in public schools. He recounted for the group, as well, his unusual experiences in representing two famed American playwrights in unusual civil liberties cases. He defended Arthur Miller on charges of contempt of Congress (this event, Mr. Rauh revealed, brought the dramatist’s wife, Marilyn Monroe, to the Rauhs’ home for two weeks), and he also represented Lillian Hellman before the House Un–American Activities Committee (as recounted in her book Scoundrel Time).

In looking back over the last fifty years Mr. Rauh examined the impact of United States and Soviet rivalry on matters of internal security. He pointed to the threat against First Amendment freedoms posed by Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s abusive congressional investigations of outspoken but innocent citizens during the 1950s and weighed them against what he regarded as the still greater threat of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as it grew increasingly to be in the total control of one man, its former director J. Edgar Hoover. Mr. Rauh stressed that civil liberties are essential for exploring political differences in an ideological arena and that intimidation and coercion defy the intellectual basis of American freedom. The successes of civil libertarians have, he assured his audience, actually strengthened the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights.

Recent Activities

Susan G. Bell on Woman and the Medieval Book

“Christine de Pizan and Her Times” was the subject of an illustrated lecture for members of the Library Associates on Thursday, 10 February 1983. The speaker was Dr. Susan G. Bell of Stanford University, who dealt with the life and career of an important fifteenth-century humanist author. Christine de Pizan was an Italian living in France. She wrote The Book of the City of Ladies and tracts refuting misogynist literature. Her manuscripts, according to Dr. Bell, were widely copied for some of the most important collectors of the time and are now preserved in some of the chief European libraries.

Dr. Bell’s visit occurred in conjunction with “The Illumined
Word," an exhibition at the University Art Museum of the libraries' Latin manuscripts. Prof. Christine Havice of the Department of Art was guest curator of the exhibition of manuscripts, for which she and her students prepared an interpretive catalog.

Roderick Cave, Printing Historian
Roderick Cave, one of the leading scholars in the field of printing history and well known as author of The Private Press (1971), spoke in the Department of Special Collections on Wednesday, 9 March 1983. Prof. Cave dedicated his discussion to current activity in the field of private-press publishing. He exhibited a variety of examples of recent private-press work and discussed problems of marketing as well as collecting private printing. Of particular interest to practitioners, he pointed out, is the problem of sources of supply for the time-honored but quickly disappearing letterpress process; he outlined his discovery, however, of active typefounders and suppliers in New Delhi, India, who continue to produce typefaces long discontinued in this country and in Europe. Following the program, members of the Associates had the opportunity to meet Mr. Cave at a reception in the Solarium and to view an exhibit of English and American fine printing in the Lobby of King Library-North. Prof. Cave is Dean of the School of Librarianship at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

The Annual Book Sale
The Library Associates' annual book sale was held on Thursday and Friday, 21 and 22 April 1983, at Margaret I. King Library-South on the university campus. A large number of duplicate, superseded, or otherwise surplus titles were made available to the membership, students, faculty, campus visitors, and the public. Proceeds will go to the support of the libraries. Tables were also sponsored by the University Press of Kentucky, the King Library Press, and The Kentucky Review.

Dedication of the John Jacob Niles Collection
On Thursday, 28 April 1983, the Library Associates dedicated to scholarly use the John Jacob Niles Collection, a unique archive of personal papers, musical manuscripts, published scores, recordings, books, photographs, and musical instruments formerly belonging to the celebrated American ballad collector, composer, folklorist, and
performing artist.

An evening program in the Recital Hall of the Center for the Arts featured performances of John Jacob Niles's music by Jacqueline Roberts, accompanied by Nancie Field, and by the University of Kentucky Chorale under the direction of Schuyler Robinson. Paul Willis welcomed those attending the dedication, and University Chancellor Art Gallaher received the Niles Collection on behalf of the institution. A multi-image presentation based on oral histories and materials in the collection surveyed Niles's life and career. Barry Bingham, Sr. offered his recollections of John Jacob Niles, a buoyant and influential force in twentieth-century American musical culture. Following the formal ceremonies a reception was held at the University of Kentucky Art Museum, where a loan exhibition of paintings and other artworks by John Jacob Niles was on view. An exhibition from the Niles Collection was also mounted in the Gallery, King Library-North. The Niles Collection is the generous gift of Rena Niles of Lexington and her sons Thomas M.T. Niles and John Edward Niles of Washington, D.C.

Future Activities

Dedication of the Papers of Governor Lawrence Wetherby

The papers of Governor Lawrence Wetherby will be formally presented to the University of Kentucky in a special program to be held on Saturday, 8 October 1983. Members of the Library Associates will be receiving additional information concerning this significant occasion.

Sixth Seminar in Graphic Design

The King Library Press, in conjunction with the Library Associates, will sponsor its sixth Seminar in Graphic Design on Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 October 1983. Featured in this year's activities will be Richard-Gabriel Rummonds, whose much-praised Plain Wrapper Press operated until recently in Verona, Italy. Formerly senior book designer for Alfred A. Knopf in New York, Rummonds gained widespread acclaim for his spectacular private-press work. His books boast literary texts of noted twentieth-century authors such as Jorge Luis Borges and Anthony Burgess and illustrations by
talented European artists such as Arnaldo Pomodoro and Joe Tilson. Rummonds is presently Professor of Librarianship at the University of Alabama and a critic for *The American Book Collector*.

—James D. Birchfield

The University of Kentucky Library Associates

The University of Kentucky Library Associates were organized in November 1954 and reactivated in January 1977. They are an organization of library-minded alumni, faculty, students, and friends who take a special interest in the resources and activities of the University Libraries. By their annual gifts and contributions, the Associates help the Libraries acquire special research materials—books, manuscripts, family papers, and the like—that could not be included in the regular library budget.

Each year the Associates organize a number of activities for the public and the membership. They also sponsor in part the publishing and teaching programs of The King Library Press, the hand press in the Department of Special Collections. Publications of the Press are offered to members at a twenty-percent discount. A subscription to the Associates' journal, *The Kentucky Review*, is provided free to members.

Membership is open to anyone contributing annually fifteen dollars or more (five dollars for students) in cash or library materials. For further information write The Secretary, The Library Associates, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, KY 40506.
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