Activities

On the afternoon of Sunday, 12 July, the Library Associates gathered for a summer program, a lecture by Mr. David Leer Ringo of Singer Island, Florida. Mr. Ringo spoke on "New Documents From the Underground Railroad." He provided fresh insights into this secretive network's activities in Kentucky and Ohio, especially as they related to the trial of Joseph Patton in Maysville. Members then viewed an exhibition from the Ringo Collection in the Gallery and enjoyed a reception in the Solarium.

On Sunday, 13 September, an exhibition of photographs entitled "Appalachian Women: Three Generations," opened in the Department of Special Collections. Members of the Library Associates and guests were greeted by Pres. Hopkins, who introduced the exhibiting photographer, Wendy Ewald. Ms. Ewald remarked briefly on her experiences in preparing the images and the narrative text which accompanied them. The project was built around the lives of five eastern Kentucky women whom she documented pictorially over a period of several years. The subjects of the photographs, all of Letcher County, were Bertha Fields, Rena Cornett, Luveena Halcomb, Wanda Hall and Kay Fields. The Associates heard also from Prof. Nancy Dye of the Department of History, who had prepared the text of the printed catalogue of the exhibition. Poet George Ella Lyon, author of the catalogue's Afterword, appraised the significance of Ms. Ewald's work and gave a reading of poems evocative of the life of mountain women. Following the formal program and a viewing of the exhibition, a reception was provided in the Solarium.
“Errata . . . Franklin in Memory,” a new play by Daniel Blake Smith of the University of Kentucky’s Department of History, will be performed in Memorial Hall on the university campus January 21-23. Aided by a generous grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council, Mr. Smith’s play, a comedy/drama about the widely different public and private lives of Benjamin Franklin, will tour selected colleges in the state before opening in Lexington. Directing the play will be James Rodgers, chairman of the university’s Department of Theatre. “Errata” will have its first performances outside Kentucky, March 31-April 3 in Philadelphia, where it will be produced in association with the Organization of American Historians’ national convention. The Library Associates is serving as a sponsor for one of the Lexington performances. A reception will be held for Mr. Smith, Mr. Rodgers and members of the cast after the January 23 performance.