Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 2, no. 3]

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Selected Acquisitions

John Jacob Niles Collection
The University of Kentucky Libraries are indeed fortunate to have been selected as the repository of the papers of the late John Jacob Niles. An internationally-known personality and performing artist, Mr. Niles has been acclaimed for his contributions as a collector of folk ballads and as a composer. Mrs. Rena Niles, who will donate the Niles Collection, will make available to the libraries a wide variety of materials, including original musical manuscripts, tapes, photographs, books, journals and other papers. One particularly interesting item is a copy of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* autographed by its editor, the noted English ballad collector Francis James Child. In addition, Mrs. Niles will present to the libraries the dulcimers which were constructed and used by John Jacob Niles in his performances and recordings. The Niles Collection represents an important resource in music and folklore, and will be a much-appreciated contribution to the university's research holdings.

Ringo Gift
Several collections of unusual interest form the recent gift of Mr. David Leer Ringo. Mr. Ringo, a resident of Singer Island, Florida, was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Kentucky in 1975. He serves as a member of the university's Development Board.

A group of books relating to the history of Flanders, Belgium and France embraces some twenty-two continental imprints dating from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Included are *Annales et Historiae de Rebus Belgicis* (Amsterdam: Bleau, 1662) and *Annales et histoires des troubles du Pays Bas* (Amsterdam: Bleau, 1662) both by Hugo Grotius, remembered today as an early advocate of international law. Also of particular appeal are four tinted engravings from Pieter Bor's *Oorsprongk-Nederlandsche*
Oorlogen (originally published in four volumes at Amsterdam, 1679-1684).

Americana and local history materials figure prominently in the Ringo gift. Perhaps the most outstanding example is the much-sought Iconography of Manhattan Island: 1498-1909 by I. N. Phelps Stokes, published in New York in six volumes in 1915. For Kentuckians, a broadside published at Frankfort, 25 September 1866 and headed "New Bounty and Pension Laws" is an especially valuable item. Published by the law firm of Harlan and Harlan, the broadside details claims which may be made against the United States and the Commonwealth by veterans and others.

Also included in the Ringo gift is a group of materials essential to any study of transportation in northern Kentucky—the archive of the Green Line System, now known as the Cincinnati, Newport and Covington Transportation Company. The collection consists of correspondence, reports, maps, union agreements, a file of The Greenliner semi-monthly newsletter, and several thousand photographs from 1880 to 1965. The collection chronicles the development of the system from horse-drawn cars to electric trolleys and finally to gasoline and diesel powered buses.

T. S. Eliot Collection

Prof. Henry Clarke Thacher, Jr., of the Department of Computer Science has made a gift to the libraries of a collection of works by and about the poet and critic T. S. Eliot. The collection contains some twenty-five items, chiefly first English and first American editions of works by Eliot. There are several limited editions. Among these, Anabasis: A Poem by St.-J. Perse with a Translation into English by T. S. Eliot (London: Faber and Faber, 1930) and Ash Wednesday (New York: Fountain Press, 1930) are signed by Eliot. Perhaps the scarcest item in the group is Journey of the Magi, printed in New York by William Edwin Rudge in 1927. Rudge produced an edition of only twenty-seven copies of this book in order to secure the American copyright; of these, only twelve were for sale. Also of particular interest is an issue of The Dial (for November of 1922) containing the second appearance of "The Waste Land." (The first appearance was in The Criterion the previous month.) This collection will prove of special interest to students of English and American literature.
Coffee and Tea Service A Gift to Library

Mrs. Rufus Lisle has presented the libraries with the coffee and tea service of her late sister, Mrs. Frances Dugan Shine. Mrs. Shine was for many years a librarian at the University of Kentucky, where she served as University Archivist and first Curator of Rare Books. She was a niece of Miss Margaret I. King. Mrs. Shine’s daughter, Mrs. Darnall Stone of Oxford, North Carolina, and her son, Dr. Hammond Dugan of Thornhill, Ontario, join Mrs. Lisle in making this much-appreciated gift. The service will be used for entertaining on special occasions at the libraries.

Notable Books Purchased on Special Funds

Two German postincunabula were recently acquired on the Algernon Sidney Thompson Fund. The two related works are Johannes Reuchlin’s *Sergius vel Capitis Caput* and *Scenica Progymnasmata: Hoc est Ludicra Praeexercitamenta*, both printed in Pforzheim in 1508 by Thomas Anselm. Reuchlin’s plays are Neo-Latin, but mark the beginning of modern comedy in Germany. The second title (for which no copies of the first edition are known) is the more important. A satire on the practices of astrologers and lawyers, it contains a proem by Sebastian Brant, author of the famous *Stultifera Navis*, or “Ship of Fools.” The play’s music, by Daniel Megel, is of special significance as the first non-liturgical music printed in Germany and as a key precursor to the opera. The diamond-shaped notes are printed from woodblocks. The fund supporting this purchase was provided by Prof. Lawrence S. Thompson of the Department of Classics.

The *Officina Bodoni: An Account of the Work of a Hand Press 1923-1977* is a recent acquisition on the Emma Lou Lecky Fund, established to obtain works in the field of fine printing. This book about the foremost hand press of the last half century was compiled by its proprietor, the late Giovanni Mardersteig. The English edition was edited and translated by Hans Schmoller, who spoke on Mardersteig at the Seminar in Graphic Design held at The King Library Press in October of 1978. Mardersteig was born in Germany and began his career in fine printing in Switzerland in 1923. In 1927 he moved his press to Verona where he died in 1978. His account of the publications of the Officina Bodoni was published by his son, Martino Mardersteig, at the son’s printing firm, the Stamperia Valdonega, in Verona.
Appalachian Materials

An important addition to the Appalachian Collection is the original manuscript of the play entitled *The Scotian Women*. By Kentucky author Lee Pennington, the drama is based on the mining disaster which took twenty-six lives in Letcher County in 1976. The play premiered at the University of Kentucky’s Guignol Theatre 19 February 1981; the manuscript includes changes made during production.

Another valued acquisition for our Appalachian resources are eight scrapbooks compiled by Kentucky-born Rebecca ‘Caudill. The scrapbooks are the gift of Mrs. Caudill in cooperation with the Rebecca Caudill Library in Cumberland, Kentucky. Over the years Mrs. Caudill has given the manuscripts for ten of her books to the libraries.

The most sizable increase in the Appalachian Collection in recent years will no doubt be from the bequest of the late folklorist and author Marie Campbell. Mrs. Campbell, of Amherst, Massachusetts, is remembered for her books *Cloud Walking* (1924), *Folks Do Get Born* (1946) and *Tales From the Cloud Walking Country* (1958). Among the several thousand volumes in the collection are works by such Kentucky authors as Ben Lucian Burman, Thomas D. Clark, Thomas Merton, John Jacob Niles, James Still, Jesse Stuart and Robert Penn Warren.

Other Notable Acquisitions

Prof. Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, the internationally-known scholar in the history of printing and typography, has made a gift to the university of the manuscript of his forthcoming study, *The Woodcut in the Seventeenth Century*. The University of Kentucky Libraries presently hold Prof. Lehmann-Haupt’s collection of early literature on microscopy and welcome this addition of material related to his research and scholarship. Now Professor Emeritus at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, Dr. Lehmann-Haupt was awarded the 1980 Gutenberg Prize by the City of Mainz, Germany and the Gutenberg Society. He once served as Curator of the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz and, later, as Curator of Rare Books at Columbia University in New York.

Another fine acquisition in the field of the book arts is *Twenty-One Years of Bird and Bull: A Bibliography, 1958-1979*, a recent publication of Henry Morris’s Bird and Bull Press. The works of Henry Morris have fostered interest in technical aspects of the book.
arts, such as methods for producing handmade papers, marbled papers and roller-printed paste papers. In this bibliography, published jointly with W. Thomas Taylor, Morris provides a lively history as well as a record of his many productions.

The recently acquired *Eastward the Armies*, a selection of poems by William Everson is the third major work of the young California printer Richard Bigus. The book is illustrated with five linoleum cuts by Tom Killion. A variety of papers in different tones serve for the text and binding. A goatskin thong is used to lace the spine in a Japanese binding.

The Arion Press edition of Edwin Abbott Abbott's *Flatland* is an exciting and innovative example of book design. First published in 1884, *Flatland* is recognized today as an early science fiction classic developed around geometry, physics and fantasy. The work's latest publisher, Andrew Hoyem, has set out to illustrate the book's significance through its physical form. (Arion Press's *Flatland* is designed to unfold into a single flat band of paper and text.) The work is introduced by science fiction author Ray Bradbury and illustrated by Andrew Hoyem.

**Three Special Funds Established**

Special funds donated by friends of the university libraries aid in providing activities and acquisitions not otherwise possible. We are fortunate in the past quarter to have had three such funds donated.

*The Edward F. Prichard, Jr., Library Associates Lecture Fund* has been established by a contribution to the university from Mr. Prichard. Mr. Prichard's gift has been matched by the Office of the President. Earnings from this generous fund will be used to underwrite the cost of a speaker for the Library Associates' Annual Dinner Meeting.

*The Elizabeth Turner Clark Fund* is the gift of Prof. Thomas D. Clark and is named in honor of his wife. Instrumental in developing the Department of Special Collections and vigorous in seeking out original research materials for the needs of students and scholars at the university, Dr. Clark has provided this fund to aid the library in continuing its acquisition of needed books, maps, manuscripts, photographs, mercantile records and other materials.

*The John A. O'Donnell Memorial Book Fund* has been established by Mrs. Estelle O'Donnell to commemorate the work of her husband, a former Scientist Director of the U. S. Public Health Service and, at the time of his death in 1979, a Professor of
Sociology at the University of Kentucky. The fund will be used to acquire literature in the field of drug abuse, as well as in other areas.

—James D. Birchfield