



# The Owl

“The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall.” — Hegel

## Holiday Readers' Picks

By Anna Marie Johnson, Information Literacy

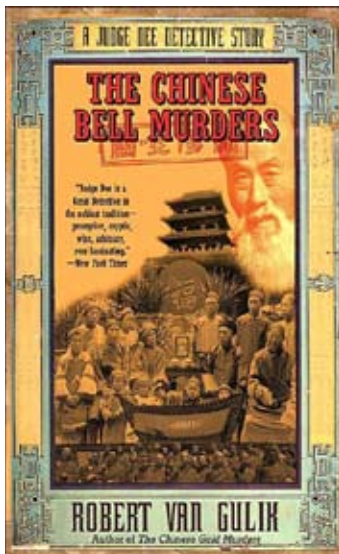
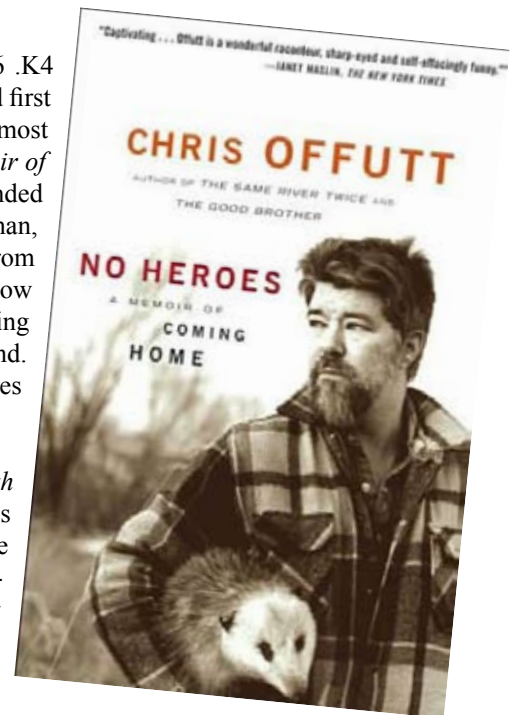
After the birth of my son Henry, I had a desire to read books that I've already read. Since I normally NEVER go back and re-read anything (ironic, since I'm married to a compulsive re-reader whose pick, by the way, is *Moanin' at Midnight: The Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf* Ekstrom Browsing ML420.H72 S44 2004), I attribute this phenomenon to the insecurity of having a new baby and the desire for something stable in my life. I re-read Anne Lamott's *Operating Instructions* (Ekstrom stacks PS 3562 .A4645 S26 1993), which is the diary of her son's first year. Typical of Anne Lamott, it is both irreverent and wildly funny. Her description of her son waking up and smiling with delight is exactly how Henry wakes up every morning...sort of a “how wonderful, you're not dead” kind of glee.

Being home all summer with my husband and our now two children in our tiny 1000-square-foot house (a large portion of which is taken up with books), I began to see the need to read some things that I'd owned and moved a number of times but never read. So I picked up Anna Quindlen's *One True*

*Thing* (Ekstrom stacks PS 3567 .U336 O28 1994) which is the heart-wrenching tale of a daughter's care of her mother through cancer and subsequent death. The father-daughter dynamics are the crux of the story though and the twist at the end is related to that dysfunctional relationship. This was made into a movie a number of years ago with Meryl Streep and Renée Zellweger and William Hurt, which is coincidental because my next pick is *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Ekstrom stacks PR 6056 .O85 F7 1969) which starred Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons in the film version. For some reason, I had carted this book around for years and never read it, but had always mixed it up with *An Officer and a Gentleman*, which I'm not even sure was a book. So, I was somewhat surprised to discover that *The French Lieutenant's Woman* was set in Victorian England! It is the story of a man who becomes obsessed with the "fallen" woman who inhabits his fiancée's seaside town. Being a mid-Victorian gentleman, he tries to pretend his interest is purely "scientific" (this being the age of Darwin and the gentleman-scientist) until finally he expresses his desire in, well, let's just say it wasn't the most romantic love scene I've ever read. There is a twist in this one, too, which I won't reveal, but the whole book is about the psychology and sociology of the Victorian era, which led me to my current two reads: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Frankenstein*. Too early to tell if they'll be picks, but I've decided at least for the time being to dwell in nineteenth-century England.

Finally, after reading *Conversations with Kentucky Writers* (Ekstrom stacks PS266 .K4 C66 1996), I picked up Bobbie Ann Mason's *Shiloh and Other Stories* which I'd read first as a freshman in college. I was struck by the difference in reading the same book almost twenty years later. Speaking of Kentucky writers, Chris Offutt's *No Heroes: A Memoir of Coming Home* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3565 .F387 N6 2002) is a highly recommended pick. It is his story of coming back to Morehead State University (he's from Haldeman, Kentucky) to teach with ambitions of making a difference for the students coming from eastern Kentucky. Since he now has moved back to Iowa, you can probably guess how things went, but the story is succinctly and crisply told and interwoven with the harrowing stories of his wife's parents Arthur and Irene, Jewish Holocaust survivors from Poland. I appreciated that Offutt doesn't editorialize much in either account but lets the stories and people speak for themselves.

Another one of the best books I've read in a long time was *Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life* (Ekstrom stacks BV2623 .W56 A3 2002) by Lauren Winner. This book was a gift from my sister who knows I like Anne Lamott, and it is in the same funny and irreverent vein, but smarter, too. Winner, who converted to orthodox Judaism as a teenager, is the daughter of a Jewish father and lapsed Southern Baptist mother. The book is the story of that conversion and then her subsequent and surprising re-conversion to Christianity.



### James Adler, Kornhauser Library

I've been in a mystery mode lately and have been particularly smitten with the Judge Dee Chinese mystery novels of Robert van Gulik. The novels are set in Seventh Century China and feature great atmosphere, great mood, and a world view that is foreign to many of us. Judge Dee is an actual historical personage, quite well known at that, whose magisterial adventures have also been translated by van Gulik. When he found that he could not locate others that would be readily accessible to Western readers, van Gulik decided to create his own tales, writing them during the fifties and sixties. Most of the plots and themes are taken from Chinese legal history and typically feature the Judge and his cohorts solving several mysteries at the same time, with occasional supernatural elements and a satisfying portion of ribaldry thrown in. There are sixteen books in this series, and I've read only four of them, all pretty much interchangeably good. Available here at Ekstrom are two books in one, *The Haunted Monastery and The Chinese Maze Murders: Two Chinese Detective Novels* (Ekstrom

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*The Owl's* purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

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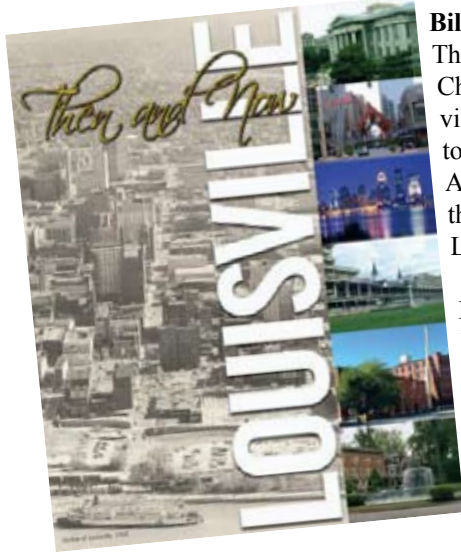
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stacks PR9130.9 .G8 H3 1977), plus several others, including *The Chinese Bell Murders*.

There are a number of other titles available at the Louisville Free Public Library if you're interested. I'd recommend the *Chinese Gold Murders*, for starters, and the *Phantom of the Temple*. May not suit everyone's taste, but if you like mysteries and want a change of pace from the usual fare, then these might surprise you.

Not technically a mystery, though featuring some mystery elements, is Grant Allen's *An African Millionaire: Episodes in the Life of the Illustrious Colonel Clay* (Ekstrom stacks PR4004 .A2 A35 1976). More properly, this is a set of stories featuring a charming gentleman rogue of a type that was popular during the early part of the 20th century. The titular African millionaire is Charles Van Drift, a self-made diamond magnate from South Africa, and a soulless plutocrat who is continually swindled out of one chunk of his fortune after another, all by the same thief, the shadowy "Colonel Clay," a master of disguise who delights in puncturing the pretenses and prejudices of his victim who grows increasingly deranged and paranoid as the book moves along. Alas, in keeping with the mores of Victorian times, the Colonel is at last caught, but uses his time in the witness stand to excellent effect. It's a quick read, and a very entertaining little book.



**Bill Carner, Ekstrom Library**

There are two new photo books featuring Louisville pix from the Photo Archives out for Christmas this year. Andy Anderson's *Historic Photos of Louisville* features a slice of Louisville life from the 19th and 20th Centuries, and *Louisville Then and Now* is an architectural tour of our fair city, with vintage photos of Louisville buildings from the Photographic Archives on the left hand page and contemporary photographs of the same locations on the facing page. The contemporary photos were made by former UofL students Chrissy Leake, Aron Conaway and me.

Both books make great gifts and will be available to purchase right here in the Ekstrom Library at a reception and book signing on Thursday, December 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

**Mark Dickson, Music Library**

I am fully expecting to get all of the following for Christmas (even if I have to buy them for myself).

*The Aeneid* by Virgil, Bernard Knox (Introduction), Robert Fagles (Translator). I have the Fagles *Iliad* and *Odyssey* translations (Ekstrom stacks PA4025 .A2 F33 1990 and PA 4025 .A5 F34 1996 respectively) in my personal collection. I started, but have not finished, the *The Iliad*. Too much "who slew whom." But my oldest son is reading the *The Odyssey* in high school so I have a renewed fire to finish the set. Maybe I will.

*Against the Day* by Thomas Pynchon (Ekstrom Browsing PS3566.Y55 A73 2006). I bought and started, but never finished, *Mason and Dixon* (Ekstrom stacks PS3566 .Y55 M37 1997). Maybe if I finish the Fagles Homer set, I will be burning with ambition to finish this one, too.

*Hannibal Rising* by Thomas Harris (due out Dec. 5). I have and *have read* all the other Thomas Harris "Lecter Books": *Red Dragon* (Ekstrom stacks PS3558 .A6558 R4 2000); *Silence of the Lambs* (Ekstrom stacks PS3558.A6558 S5 1988); and *Hannibal* (Ekstrom stacks PS3558 .A6558 H36 1999). So I'm pretty sure I will finish this latest one. Ekstrom also owns a copy of a book by Yvonne Tasker about the film (Ekstrom stacks PS 3558 .A6558 S53 2002).

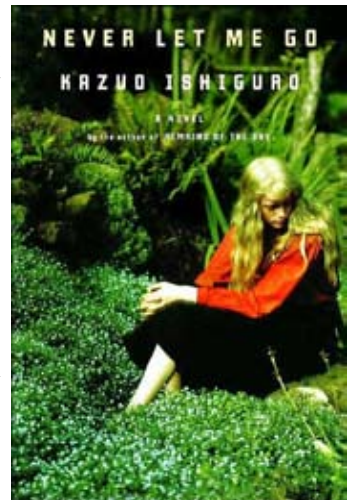
I have and have read all the Harry Potter books, but . . . I'll save talking about that until the Summer Reader's Picks, since the next book is expected to come out in Summer 2007.

In my defense, I do finish my *National Geographic* every month. Does that count?

**Gail Gilbert, Art Library**

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (Ekstrom Browsing PR6059.S5 N48 2005). This book elicited the best discussion my book club has ever had and we've been meeting more than 20 years! Here are some quotes from Amazon.com reviews:

"A tight, deftly controlled story . . . Just as accomplished [as *The Remains of the Day*] and, in



a very different way, just as melancholy and alarming.” — *The New York Times*

“Elegaic, deceptively lovely. . . . As always, Ishiguro pulls you under.” — *Newsweek*

“Superbly unsettling, impeccably controlled . . . . The book’s irresistible power comes from Ishiguro’s matchless ability to expose its dark heart in careful increments.” — *Entertainment Weekly*

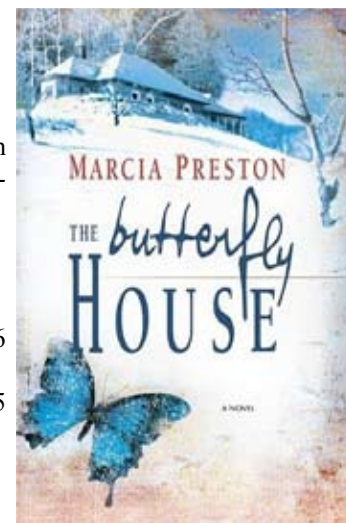
### Sarah Jent, Ekstrom Library

These are the books I have enjoyed reading over the past few months:

*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg (Ekstrom stacks PS3556 .L26 F7 1988)

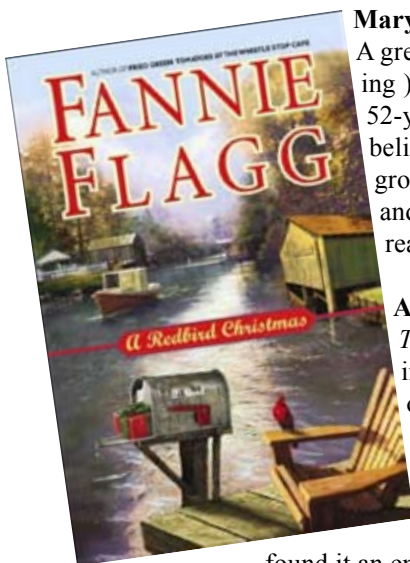
*Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!* by Fannie Flagg (Ekstrom stacks PS3556 .L26 W45 1998)

*The Butterfly House* by Marcia Preston (Ekstrom Browsing PS3566 R4123 B88 2005).



### Mary Marlatt, Kornhauser Library

A great stocking stuffer, even if it’s almost too sweet, is *A Redbird Christmas* (Ekstrom Browsing ) by Fannie Flagg. Informed that his emphysema has left him with scarcely a year to live, 52-year-old Oswald T. Campbell abandons wintry Chicago for Lost River, Alabama, where he believes he’ll be spending his last Christmas. The story of Oswald’s new life in a town with one grocery store and a resident cardinal (or redbird, as the natives call it) is about good neighbors and the power of love, and sparkles with wit and humor. This book is even better on audio, read by the author.



### Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

*The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig (Ekstrom Browsing PS3554.O415 W48 2006) begins in the autumn of 1909 in rural eastern Montana. It is a story about Oliver Milliron, a widower and his three sons, and the fate of the town’s one-room schoolhouse. Oliver responds to a newspaper ad for a housekeeper that starts out, “Can’t Cook But Doesn’t Bite. . . . Housekeeping position sought by widow. Sound morals, exceptional disposition.” This story follows the Milliron boys’ life as they go to school and deal with typical kid stuff that still goes on today. It is also a story of the hardships living in that time and place. I

found it an enjoyable read.

### Latisha Reynolds, Ekstrom Library

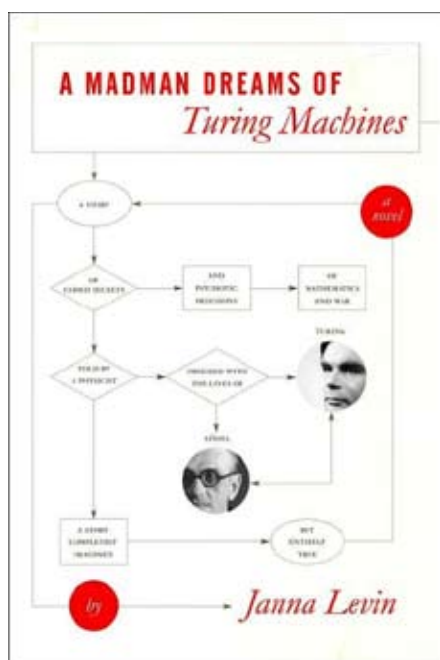
J. California Cooper is one of my favorite authors. She uses very simple “down home” characters to explore or answer universal questions about life. She sometimes uses African-American English, and many of her books deal with African American history through the characters and plot lines. What I really love about her books are her themes about love and life, and the wisdom of the most seemingly simple characters. *The Future Has a Past* (2000) is the most recent short story collection I’ve read of hers. One story deals with the lives and loves of two women . One has always had many boyfriends but is finding herself lonely as she is aging. The other story is about a woman who has always thought of herself as ugly. She gets involved in a bad relationship with a con man but later finds the love of a wonderful man.

We don’t have that title here, but we have many others. A few of them include: *Homemade Love* (Ekstrom stacks PS 3553 .O5874 H66 1986), *Piece of Mine* (Ekstrom stacks PS 3553 O5874 P54 1992), *Some Love, Some Pain, Sometime* (Ekstrom stacks PS 3553 .O5874 S55 1996), *Some People, Some Other Place* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3553 .O5874 S555 2004). Her newest title is *Wild Stars Seeking Midnight Suns: Stories* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3553. O5874 W56 2006).



### Virginia Smith, Law Library

I’m currently reading *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines* by Janna Levin (Ekstrom Browsing PS3612.E9238 M33 2006). I picked it up in hopes that it would be similar to *Einstein’s Dreams* by Alan P. Lightman (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.I45397



E38 2004), a book I absolutely loved. Janna Levin writes about the trials and affairs of mathematicians Kurt Gödel and Alan Turing, who both lived in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe, but whose paths never crossed. Alan Lightman culls Albert Einstein's letters and diaries to string together a series of fictionalized dream sequences that expound upon his thoughts of time and place. Both are imaginative stories told by scientists through the characters of genius.

I find that when the days grow shorter, I particularly enjoy reading about faraway places. In my quest for sunnier climes last winter, I stumbled across Bill Bryson's *In a Sunburned Country* (Ekstrom stacks DU105.2 B83 2000). My impression of the desert land Down Under was once dominated by visions of buff surfers at Bondi Beach, but has been replaced by those of hardy pioneers and flesh-eating garden spiders. Part travelogue, part comedy, it's sure to delight on a cold winter's night.

**Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library**

I read two good books about Marie Antoinette. The first was the 1991 biography by Evelyne Lever, *Marie Antoinette: The Last Queen of France* (Ekstrom stacks DC137.1 .L4813 2000). It was just about this time that Sena Naslund's *Abundance* (Ekstrom Browsing



PS3564.A827 A64 2006) came out and the two books complemented one another very well.

*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard (Ekstrom Browsing F2546 .M587 2005) concerns the period after Roosevelt lost the presidential election in 1912 and set off on a journey to the Amazon.

Other good books I have read recently are: *Mirel's Daughter* by Kay Gill (Ekstrom Browsing PS3607.I4426 M57 2006), *Sue Mundy* by Richard Taylor (Ekstrom Browsing PS3570.A9515 S84 2006) and *The Ice Castle* by Jeannette Walls.

## DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

"Special thanks to Katrina Butcher and her volunteers for an awesome Thanksgiving Potluck! We are very grateful for and marvel at Katrina for taking on this tremendous task! It was an event full of wonderful fellowship and food!"

--Sheila Birkla and Alice Abbott-Moore



"I'd like to thank Diane Nichols for agreeing to send over four chairs to replace our very old and beat up chairs, and to Raymond Slaughter's crew for bringing them over. I'd also like to thank Raymond for picking up 44 boxes of gift books from Bloomington, IN and his crew for bringing them to the Art Library. I'd like to thank Erea Marshall and Jessie Roth for the times they've printed color documents for me for exhibits. Finally, I'd like to thank Karen Nalley for personally picking up a new refrigerator for the Art Library so that she could save a couple hundred dollars for the Libraries.

"Thanks to all of you!"

--Gail Gilbert

# From the Dean of Libraries . . .

As we near the end of 2006 we have completed two more highly active and productive months.

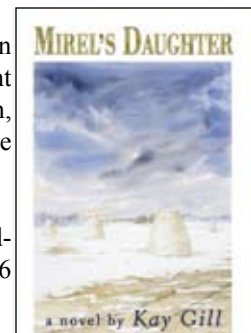
The robotic retrieval storage area now holds almost 400,000 volumes and Kersey Library has been completely integrated into the Ekstrom Library.

The SAALCK (State Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky) met in Louisville on October 6 to discuss the SAALCK brochure and the School of Library & Information Science, University of Kentucky reception, which turned out to be a positive event. Other items on the agenda were the collections committee report, the next generation library system and an update on SAALCK data and statistics collections.

On October 13 we were visited by Jennifer Peasley from Macquarie University in Australia. She was interested in seeing our new addition, especially the Robotic Retrieval System. On October 17 Ken DiFiori, Associate Director of Library Relations, Portico, spoke to the library faculty about Portico, which has the mission to preserve scholarly literature published in electronic form.

October 18-21 I attended the ARL meeting in Washington, DC including a workshop on “The Politics of Research Library Leadership: Mission, Identity, Constituency.”

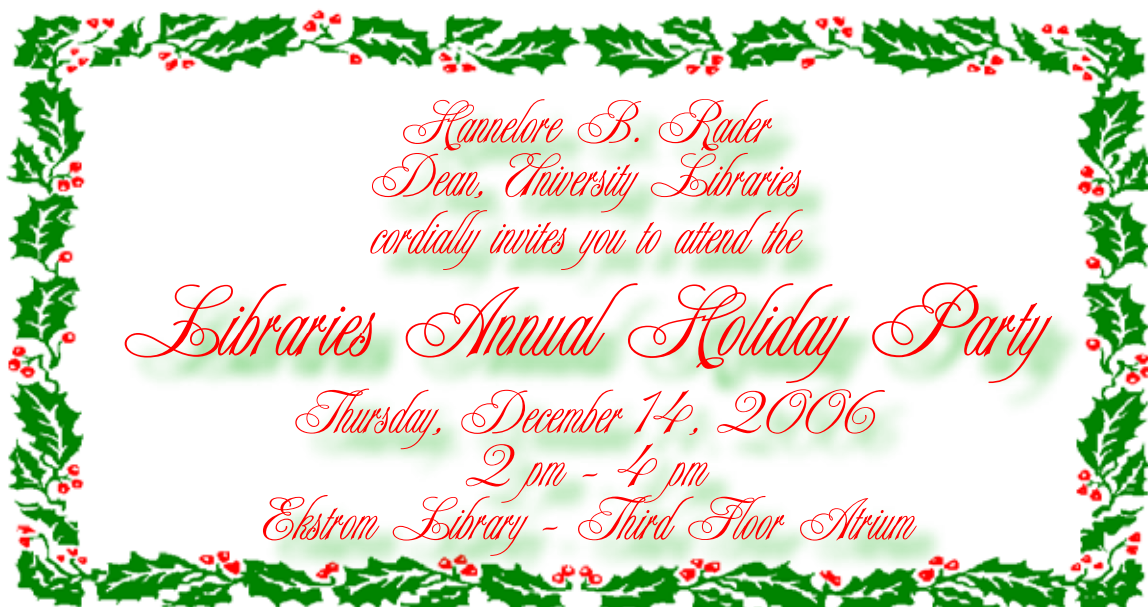
On November 10 I spoke to the Crescent Hill Women’s Club about the libraries and their role in educating students. On November 15 Kay Gill, a local author, gave a presentation about her recent novel *Mirel’s Daughter*. On November 17 the Libraries sponsored a program related to CONTENTdm, presented by Ball State University library staff and related to building digital collections using the CONTENTdm digital media management software.



On November 27 Provost Willihnganz met with the Dean, the Associate Deans and the ACC (Administrative Coordinating Committee) to discuss the Libraries’ accomplishments in 2005 and 2006 and our proposed strategic plan for 2007-2008.

Recently the Library Associates announced an online gift shop to help support the purchase of materials for the U of L Libraries collections. <http://library.louisville.edu/giftshop/>

—*Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries*



# Library and Department News

## Art Library



### *Nelle Peterson Christmas Card Collection*

Stop by the cases in Ekstrom's new wing on the first floor between the circulation desk and the classrooms to see a selection of handmade holiday cards from the Nelle Peterson Christmas Card Collection. Margaret Bridwell, former art librarian, purchased the 550 card collection from Peterson's estate in 1967. Nelle Peterson was an artist and craftsman, director of the Art Center Association School and the organizing force behind both the Louisville Craft Guild and the St. James Art Fair. Most of the cards were created in the 1950s and 1960s by artists from Louisville or with Louisville connections. However, the collection has been added to regularly since its purchase.

## Ekstrom Library

### Office of the Dean

#### *Resignations*

Effective October 20, 2006, **Dave Loeffler** resigned his position as Support Services Assistant for the University Libraries.

#### *New Personnel*

Effective November 20, 2006, **Melissa Horrar** accepted the position of Library Associate, Ekstrom Circulation. Ms. Horrar was recently employed with Yale University as a Project Manager.

#### *Red Letter Day*

Thanks to the hard work, high energy and competitive spirit of **Alice Abbott Moore, John Burton, Ben King** and student assistants under the guidance of **Margo Smith**, all pallets of books from the Kersey Library have now been moved to Ekstrom! And now all the Kersey books and journals have been integrated into the Ekstrom collections.

A monumental task accomplished by an amazing team! Many thanks to all who have worked on the project and to those who have picked up on other tasks so that this team could complete the move!

## Special Collections

### *CONTENTdm: Tactical to Practical Conference*

On Friday, November 17, 2006, the University of Louisville Libraries hosted a group from Ball State University Libraries

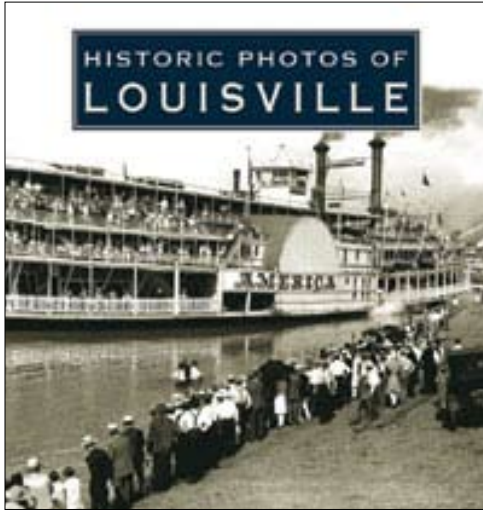


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Left to right: Budi Wibowo, James Bradley, John Straw, Sarah Duncan, Arthur Hafner, Bradley Faust, Fritz Dolak, Dwayne Buttler, Rachel Howard.

who presented on their experiences building digital collections using CONTENTdm digital media management software.

The day-long conference covered the administration of digital projects and partnerships; metadata standards and usage; intellectual property considerations; and technical customizations, providing a multi-faceted overview of a successful digital program to attendees from the University of Louisville as well as public and academic libraries, the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA).



### *Historic Photos of Louisville*

Andy Anderson has been promoting his latest book, *Historic Photos of Louisville*. He has attended book signings at Borders Books across the city and he appeared on the WAVE morning news November 28 at the crack of dawn. The book is published by Turner Publications and is available at bookstores all around Louisville for \$39.95.

### *Louisville Then & Now/Arena Groundbreaking GLI luncheon*

Several people from Special Collections and UARC attended the kickoff luncheon put on by Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) for the *Louisville Then & Now* publication and the U of L downtown arena groundbreaking. *Louisville Then & Now* is published by Greater Louisville Inc. in partnership with Butler Books and The University of Louisville Photographic Archives. Speakers at the luncheon included GLI President and CEO Joe Reagan who made the introductions, University of Louisville President James Ramsey, Archivist/Louisville Metro

Council Member Tom Owen, University of Louisville Athletic Director Tom Jurich, Mayor Jerry Abramson and Governor Ernie Fletcher.

### *Bill Down On the Farm*

The Photo Archives' Bill Carner (center, standing) joins horse trainer Bill Rice in explaining the uses of horses in agriculture past and present to Floyd County, Indiana fourth graders during Farm Week. Every October all Floyd County fourth graders visit the Konkel farm in Greenville, Indiana, to learn about agriculture and food production. for all nine years that the event has been held, Bill has been helping them understand that there are links in the food chain even before the drive-up window at McDonald's.

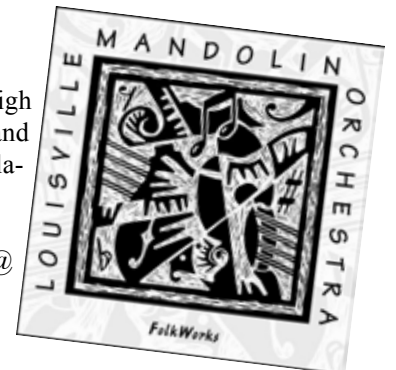


## **Law Library**

### *Louisville Mandolin Orchestra Concert*

The LMO will present a free concert on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Assumption High School's Performing and Fine Arts Center, 2710 Tyler Lane (at the corner of Bardstown Road and Tyler Lane). The group is directed by Bob Elkins and will perform works by Praetorius, Villa-Lobos, Puccini, Gershwin and Granados. (And there just may be a holiday tune or two!)

For more information about this concert, contact Robin Harris at 852-6083 or [robin.harris@louisville.edu](mailto:robin.harris@louisville.edu)



## **University Archives & Records Collection**

### *Barbra Streisand Live!*

Kathie Johnson fulfilled a life-long dream on October 13 by seeing Barbra Streisand live in concert at the Verizon Center in Washington DC. Seeing Barbra has been a running joke in the Johnson household for over 30 years as they missed a Streisand performance in Las Vegas when they were living near there and husband Ron promised to take Kathie to see her "the



next time” Streisand was in town. That next time never happened and Barbra stopped doing live concerts, except for an occasional fund-raiser, for the next two decades. She did do a concert in New York City in 1994 and toured in 2000. This summer Kathie read about Barbra’s latest tour and realized that she could travel to one of the locations for the concert — with the easiest being DC or Chicago. So she flew to Virginia, met up with a friend and they drove into DC for the night. Even with seats in the



second to the back row of the fourth level, the concert was great. Barbra and her guests Il Divo put on a wonderful show. Her voice is still as great as ever, and Ron is happy that he will no longer suffer from spousal harassment for missing Barbra Streisand live 35 years ago.



## Library Exhibits

**Ekstrom Library**  
 East Lobby First Floor  
*Kentucky Women Writers*  
 Through December 2006



**West Wing First Floor Display Cases**  
*Evolution of the University Libraries*  
 Through December 2006

**West Wing Lower Level Lobby**  
*2006 Nobel Prize Winners*  
 2006 Nobel Prize winners in chemistry and physics including photos and materials on the research topic for which each winner was awarded the prize  
 Through December 15, 2006

**Lower Level Lobby Cases**  
*Faculty Publications*  
 Books published by University of Louisville faculty and donated to the University Libraries, 2003-2006  
 December 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007

**Special Collections**  
**Photographic Archives Gallery**  
*Historic Photos of Louisville*  
*Louisville ♣ Then and Now*  
 Two new photo books!  
**December 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007**  
**Reception & book signing,**  
**Thursday December 7, 4:30-6:30pm**



Boys playing on swing in Louisville’s Central Park in the 1960s.  
 Photo by Lin Caufield.

**Rare Books**  
*The History of Louisville History*  
 An exhibition of rare books on Louisville history  
**December 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007**

**Music Library**  
**First Floor**  
*Michael Colgrass*  
 Selected works of 2006 New Music Festival guest composer  
 Through December 2006

**Second Floor**  
*New Books*