



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 27, No. 6 ← Winter, 2011

The Owl

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



WINTER READERS' PICKS 2011

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché,
Ekstrom Library*

AFTER TWO YEARS OF BEING THE book editor for *The Owl*, I find myself looking back at past columns as I wonder about what to write next, hoping not to repeat myself. That is, I don't want to be writing the same kind of col-

umn about the same kind of books. But I suppose I should follow the suggestion that I give to all of you who contribute, or are still thinking about contributing, to this column and not make any assumption about what this column "should" be. That may be absolutely necessary this time around as my reading over the past six months has been relatively varied. The good and the bad books I have read don't really add up to produce an interesting thematic thread.

There has been at least one constant throughout the columns I have written. I have always had a book about popular music to write about, usually something about the Beatles. And I have another one but on a perhaps lesser known subject this time. Pink Floyd is one of the most successful and well known bands of the rock era, but Syd Barrett, its original founder and leader, is

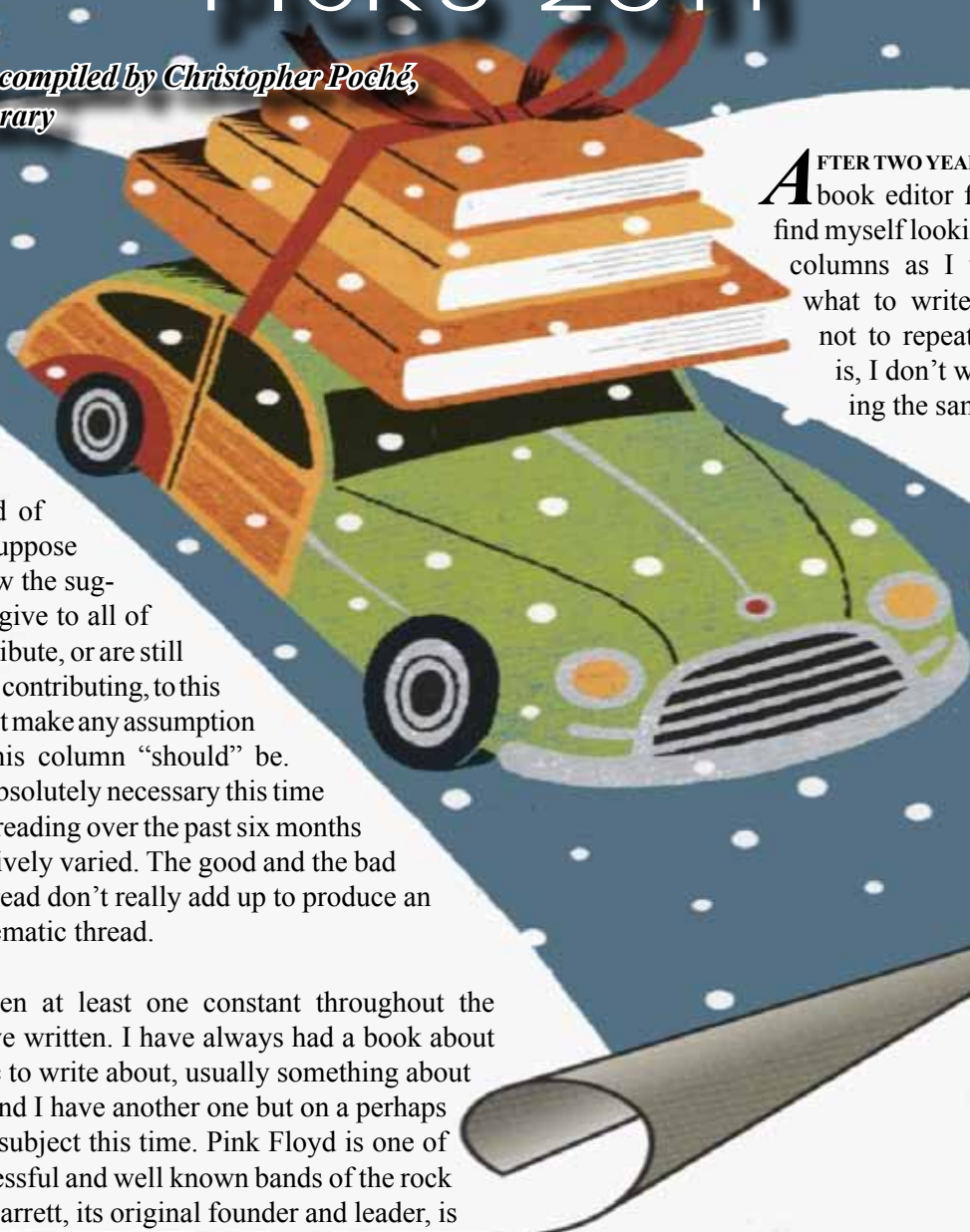


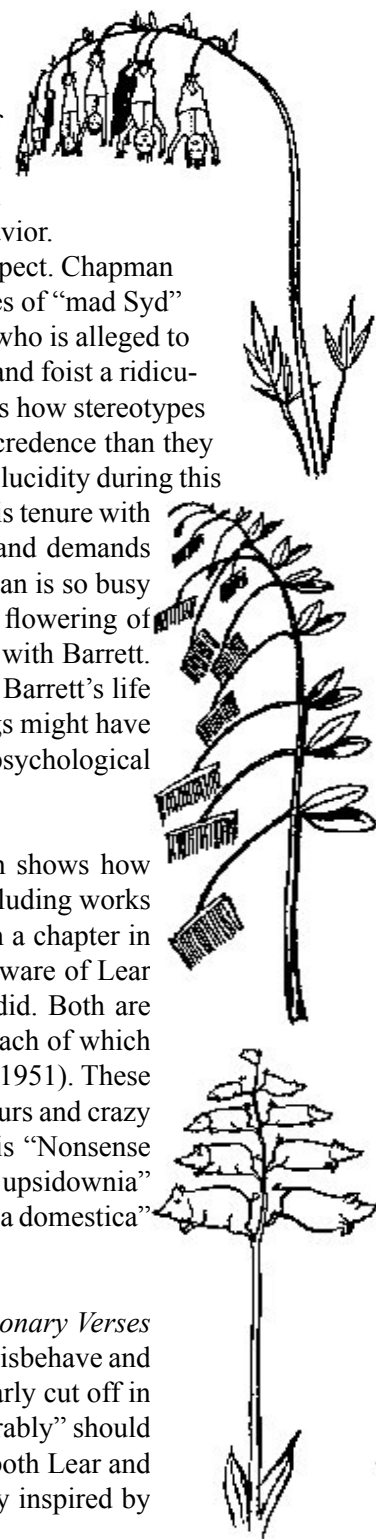
Image: Daedalus Books

much less well known. There has not been a lot written about this enigmatic figure, and Ron Chapman's *A Very Irregular Head: The Life of Syd Barrett* (no holdings) is perhaps the best book written on the subject just by the dearth of other serious work. Barrett's true claim to fame is for a very small, if rich and thrilling, body of work: Pink Floyd's first album (*Piper at the Gates of Dawn*), a handful of perfect psychedelic singles, and two compellingly fractured solo albums. Sadly, he is often better known, if he's known at all, for his history of mental illness and bizarre behavior.

Chapman's book debunks much of what we supposedly know about him in this respect. Chapman does a good job of showing how little information there is to substantiate the stories of "mad Syd" who supposedly stared blankly through the latter end of 1967 and all of 1968, and who is alleged to have done crazy things like crush up a bunch of Mandrax tablets in his Brylcreem and foist a ridiculously large glob of it on his head before a performance with Pink Floyd. He shows how stereotypes of the "mad genius" and the 1960s "acid burnout" have given these stories more credence than they deserve. And he produces enough documented evidence of good performances and lucidity during this same time period to corroborate his theory that what Barrett did toward the end of his tenure with the band he founded was, essentially, to conscientiously object to the pressures and demands of the business of popular music and celebrity. But it seems that in the end Chapman is so busy debunking myths and pointing out the survival of a searching creativity after the flowering of the original Pink Floyd that he forgets to even try to account for what was wrong with Barrett. And Chapman certainly does not deny that something went wrong or that most of Barrett's life was not a frightful loss. But he never suggests just how much a role the use of drugs might have played and whether or not it exacerbated some underlying and already existing psychological problem. However good this biography is, Barrett remains an elusive subject.

A Very Irregular Head pointed my reading in an interesting direction. Chapman shows how Barrett's lyrics were influenced by the children's literature he grew up reading, including works by Lewis Carroll, Kenneth Grahame (Pink Floyd's first album draws its title from a chapter in *The Wind in the Willows*), Edward Lear, and Hilaire Belloc. I was only vaguely aware of Lear and had never heard of Belloc, and so I decided to check them out. I'm glad I did. Both are fabulously inventive and hilarious writers. Lear wrote five books of "nonsense," each of which are collected in *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear* (Ekstrom PR4879.L2 N5 1951). These works include humorous poems and stories, each bursting with delirious non sequiturs and crazy puns, all augmented with Lear's own whimsical illustrations. My favorites are his "Nonsense Botany" series, which include illustrations of plants with names like "manypeeplia upsdownia" (top right) and "piggiawiggia pyramidalis" (bottom right). That's "smalltoothcombia domestica" in the middle.

Belloc's work is not absurdist like Lear's but is twisted in its own way. His *Cautionary Verses* (Ekstrom PR6003.E45 C3 1962) are darkly humorous poems about children who misbehave and come to bad ends. Titles like "Henry King, Who chewed bits of String, and was early cut off in Dreadful Agonies" and "Rebecca, Who slammed Doors for Fun and Perished Miserably" should give you the idea. Anyone who has enjoyed the work of Edward Gorey will love both Lear and Belloc. I used to think Gorey was an absolute original but now see he was clearly inspired by Lear and especially Belloc.



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Co-Editors: Robin Harris (robin.harris@louisville.edu, 852-6083) and Amy Purcell (apurcell@louisville.edu, 852-1861).

Editorial Board: Bill Carner, Anna Marie Johnson, Jessie Roth.

Book Editor: Chris Poché. Layout: Bob Roehm.

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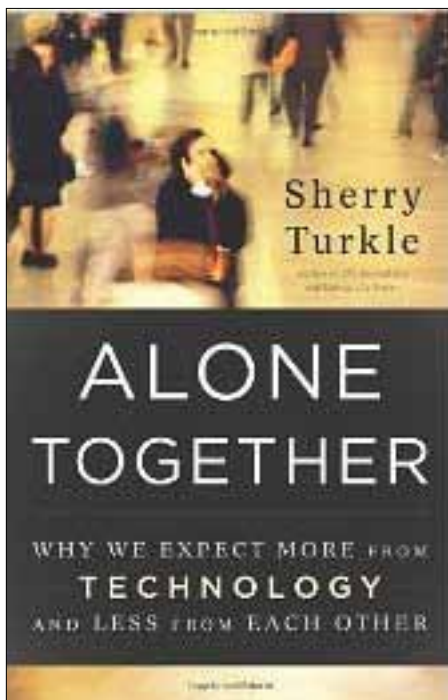
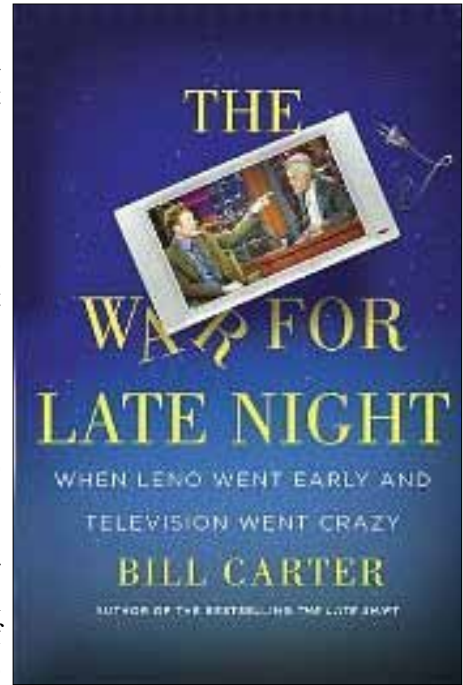
Missing from this column is my other staple: a good novel or two. I am sure to rectify this for next time, as I have received some very interesting recommendations of late. Also missing, though this is typical, are books on science. I have picked out several that intrigue me, but I never get around to them. Putting this on record here may serve as a final push to get me to broaden my horizons a bit. We'll see ... Till next time, and as always, thanks to everyone who contributed to this column. And a special thanks to those of you who submitted picks for the first time.

Rob Detmering, Ekstrom Library

The War for Late Night: When Leno Went Early and Television Went Crazy, by Bill Carter (Ekstrom Browsing PN1992.77.T63 C375 2010). This is a thoroughly engaging account of the Conan O'Brien/Jay Leno late night debacle at NBC in 2009-2010. I highly recommend the book to anyone interested in the business side of show business or Conan O'Brien's hair.

(Chris's note: I second Rob's recommendation of *The War for Late Night*. The portraits of Leno and O'Brien that emerge from this book are fascinating. Just as the Academy Awards tend to neglect comedies when giving best picture Oscars, it seems I tend not to think of comedians as great artists, or, at least, I don't think much about the creativity involved in producing humor. This account of the latest late night brouhaha serves as a corrective to this lack of curiosity on my part, and shows just how serious and dedicated these two men are to their craft of writing comedy and performing for audiences.)

Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell, by Susanna Clarke (Ekstrom PR6103.L375 J65 2004). I've been reading this fantasy novel off and on all year and still haven't finished it. But this is more a comment on my laziness than any failing of the book, which reimagines British history as a narrative of magic and the supernatural. Clarke's scope is immense, though the majority of the story takes place in the nineteenth century. Despite the length, Clarke keeps things moving with an engaging cast of characters and a gift for wit with a satiric edge. Apparently, this book won the Hugo and a bunch of other awards in 2005—or so says that wise wizard of the web, Wikipedi-us.



Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other, by Sherry Turkle (Ekstrom Browsing HM851.T86 2011). Continuing on with another book I haven't finished yet (I started reading more books after I realized I didn't actually have to finish them), this is a primarily interview-based study focusing on the potential negative consequences of new and emerging technologies, including Facebook, mobile devices, and robots. While I'm not sure I agree with all the conclusions, Turkle offers a compelling argument that, somehow, our increasingly connected world has left many of us feeling disconnected.

Mark Dickson, Music Library

I so enjoyed reading *I Wish I'd Been There: Twenty Historians Bring to Life Dramatic Events that Changed America*, edited by Byron Hollinshead (Ekstrom E179.I15 2006), that I ordered the companion volume.

So now I'm reading *I Wish I'd Been There, Book Two: European History*, also edited by Hollinshead (Ekstrom D20.I2 2008). These essay treatments of specific historical events make great bedside table fare.

I'm also reading *The Intellectual Devotional American History: Revive Your Mind, Complete Your Education, and Converse Confidently About Our Nation's Past*, by David S Kidder and Noah D Oppenheim (Ekstrom E169.1.K485 2007). More great bedside table fare: one page per day=a year's worth of historical nuggets.

Colleen Eubank, Ekstrom Library

The Vivisector, by Patrick White (Ekstrom PR9619.3.W5 V58 1970); and *The Fifth Child*, by Doris Lessing (Ekstrom PR6023.E833 F54 1988). Perfectly super duper happy fun filled stories for cold winter nights. Known to cure seasonal affective disorder. *Proven*. And if those don't make you feel great inside, check out *Jude the Obscure*, by Thomas Hardy (Ekstrom PR4746.A1 1978). The children's murder/suicide scene is enough to warm the coldest of hearts because they "are too many...." Enjoy!

Robert Guillen, Ekstrom Library

The Lion in Winter, by James Goldman (Ekstrom PS3513.O337 L5 1983).

"Of course he has a knife. He always has a knife. We all have knives. It is eleven eighty-three and we're barbarians."

Conniving. Manipulative. Treacherous. Not exactly the words we associate with winter and its glittery holidays, when our expectations are more of mirth than malice. But the undermining of expectations is precisely the reason why I love to read this play about the intrigues of the English royal family, and most famously depicted by Katharine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole in the 1968 movie.

Set in the palace of Chinon at Christmas in 1183, there is nothing particularly historical about this play, and it does not strive to teach anything about English history, any more than *Hamlet* teaches us about the Danes. Despite the royal pedigrees—Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their (in)famous prodigy—this is ultimately, at its core, a story about a family. And while some may exchange big buckets of popcorn and universal remotes during the holidays, this family, instead, offers alliances, troops, property, and treachery, all for the purpose of greater, personal gain. And no price is too high (almost) to pay for what they ultimately want, even if they don't yet understand what that truly is.

These characters, as Goldman writes them, spin webs from words and hooks from elegant pronouncements of love. Goldman is a poet, and his rhythmic dialogue thumps like war drums but slithers when it needs to. When his characters offer soliloquies on life and regret, they speak in metered melancholy. Little dialogue in this play should be taken at face value. When Henry vows to Alais, his young mistress, "*Believe I love you, for I do. Believe I'm yours forever, for I am. Believe in my contentment and the joy you give me ... I'm an old man in an empty place. Be with me,*" he is, in fact, by a public declaration of love, also hatefully murdering his wife, as she stands there helplessly



**Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn
in *The Lion in Winter* (1968)**

watching his latest affections unfurled.

Goldman continually challenges us to read into the meanings of familial exchanges, to understand that, sometimes, the replies mean something else, or worse, the words will lead us where we don't want to be.

Later in the play, Geoffrey coldly reminisces with his mother, the most powerful woman in the world,

GEOFFREY: I remember my third birthday. Not just pictures of the garden or the gifts, but who did what to whom and how it felt. My memory reaches back that far and never once can I remember anything from you or Father warmer than indifference. Why is that?

ELEANOR: I don't know.

GEOFFREY: That was not an easy question for me and I don't deserve an easy answer.

ELEANOR: There are times I think we loved none of our children.

GEOFFREY: Still too easy, don't you think?

ELEANOR: I'm weary, and you want a simple answer and I haven't one.

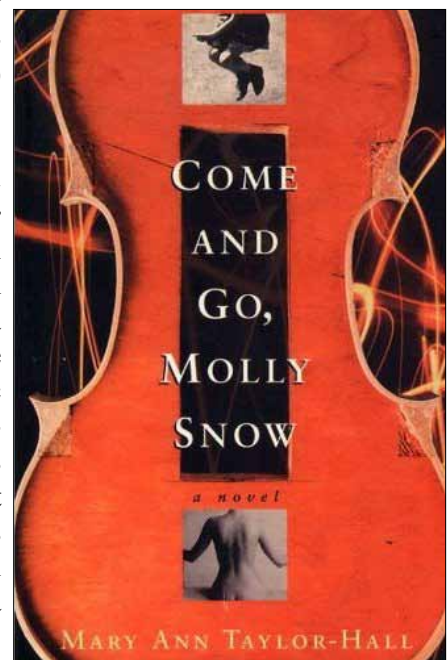
A pointed question, rooted in antagonism, leads instead to a trap lined with honesty, from which he cannot easily wriggle free. And, to watch this on stage or on screen is dazzling, but to read this, to personally marvel at word choice and cadence, and to apply sympathetically and without much choice, the attendant emotions of the characters' silent destination on to our own, is to, quite honestly, acknowledge Goldman's mastery of this genre. It is my personal joy to read this, and discover that, by the author's design, I, too, have lived the life, even if I haven't.

For those who may be hesitant to read a play (since we, typically as youths and perhaps to our current distaste, slogged through Shakespeare's antique English before even beginning to understand his difficult, complex themes), but are inclined to read poetry, read this play like that. Sink into the rhythm of the language and slip between its layers of meaning. If you are interested in a story, know that this one is about relationships, not always dissimilar to ours. And while we may not be bargaining with territory, or threatened with the brig, beneath all our finery, beneath our titles or nicknames, our chiseled or anecdotal stories, don't we all experience primal relationships which inform our identity? And isn't it, sometimes, helpful to know that neither a king, nor the wealthiest woman in the world, are exempt from the entanglements of our intimacies?

(*Chris's note:* Peter O'Toole played Henry II in *two* films adapted from plays in just four years in the 1960s. The other is *Beckett*, based on Jean Anouilh's play [Ekstrom PQ2601.N67 B413 1960], with Richard Burton playing the title character. Both are great films that give O'Toole the opportunity to chew all available scenery and to shout a lot, which is something he does exceedingly well. The play is also good and is filled with great aphoristic one-liners.)

Robin Harris, Law Library

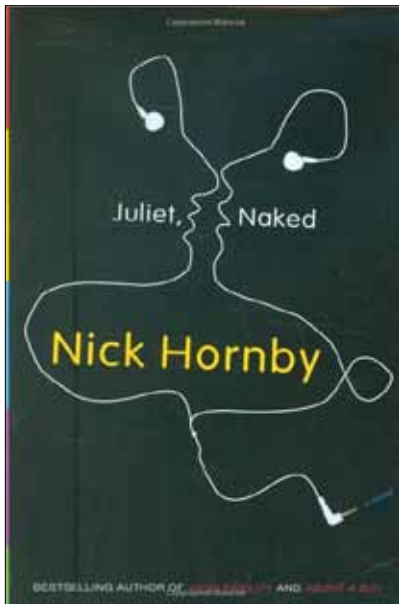
My picks are by Mary Ann Taylor-Hall, one of the featured artists at the 2012 Kentucky Women's Book Festival (Saturday, May 19, 2012 in Ekstrom). *Come and Go, Molly Snow* (Ekstrom PS3570.A983 C66 1995) tells the sad, complex story of Carrie Mullins, a wonderful fiddler who at age eighteen moves from a town in Florida to Lexington, Kentucky, to realize her dream of becoming a bluegrass virtuoso. She joins a band, Hawktown Road, and falls hard for the band's leader, Cap Dunlap. This relationship sets in motion the central, tragic moment in the story. Carrie's musical ambition, her wild life, and her bad decisions regarding men drive the action of the book, but her strong friendships with women provide the emotional backbone. A powerful feminist undercurrent runs throughout. This beautifully crafted novel was one of my favorite books of the 1990s, and when I read it again recently, Carrie's story resonated with me even more. (Note: In 2009 the University Press of Kentucky released a paperback edition.)



At The Breakers (Ekstrom Browsing and stacks PS3570.A983 A92 2009), Taylor-Hall's second novel, also deals with a complicated woman who has had her share of disastrous relationships. Jo Sinclair is forty-two years old, a recent college graduate, an aspiring writer, and the mother of four children, three of them grown. Jo literally runs away from her home and her waitressing job after she suffers a brutal attack by the latest man in her life. She ends up at The Breakers, an old hotel in Sea Cove, New Jersey, that is being renovated by a local businessman, who hires Jo to paint every room. As she works to transform each room, Jo works to transform herself as well. Taylor-Hall skillfully presents the dual transformations and develops a fascinating cast of characters populating the hotel and the town of Sea Cove. New York City and a professor from Jo's college days also play a pivotal role in the story.

Andrew Huff, Ekstrom Library

I'm currently reading Stephen King's *It* (Ekstrom Kindles and stacks PS3561.I483 I8 1986) and I'm just really enjoying it.



Anna Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library

Juliet, Naked, by Nick Hornby (Ekstrom Browsing PR6058.O689 J85 2009). I loved this book! Annie and Duncan are together because they've never really thought about being with anyone else. Duncan is a huge fan of Dylan-esque singer Tucker Crowe, a recluse who hasn't made an album in twenty years. After they return from a tour of Crowe "sites" in America, Duncan is sent an acoustic recording of Crowe's master album, *Juliet*, which he loves but Annie thinks is not so great. Both write reviews and post them to the Internet. Annie gets a message from Tucker Crowe himself beginning a months-long correspondence and eventual brief affair. This book looks at "fanboy" culture, how the Internet can bring people together, but can also spread craziness. It is also a lovely meditation on fatherhood.

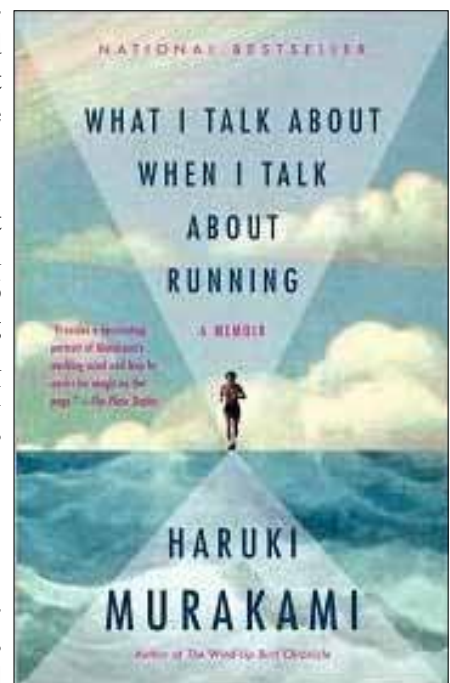
Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self, by Danielle Evans (Ekstrom Browsing PS3605.V3648 B44 2010). Loved the characters but got frustrated with their choices and the sense of inevitability with their capacity to make bad choices. Especially liked "Jellyfish," "Harvest," and "Robert E. Lee Is Dead."

Atlas of Unknowns, by Tania James (Ekstrom Browsing PS3610.A458 A92 2009). Amazing story, spanning two continents. Secrets within secrets in an Indian family lead to misunderstandings and mysteries as the story moves effortlessly between post 9-11 United States and India. Humor, drama, well-drawn characters, and a happy, albeit unresolved in many ways, ending. I admired her ability NOT to tie up the story's loose ends.

Also, while I was on maternity leave, I got caught up on all my favorites: Janet Evanovich (Stephanie Plum is still plucky and fun), Alexander McCall Smith (new, non-series book, *Corduroy Mansions*, Ekstrom Browsing PR6063.C326 C67 2009, was lovely as usual), Carl Hiaasen (*Star Island*, Ekstrom Browsing PS3558.I217 S73 2010, was the best I'd read in a long time from him), Tim Dorsey, Sue Grafton, Sara Paretsky, and Terry McMillan. I discovered that I love Robert Parker's Spenser novels. Oh, and I finally read Muriel Barbery's *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* (Ekstrom Browsing PQ262.A6523 E4413 2008). It was everything Gail Gilbert said it was.

Ben King, Ekstrom Library

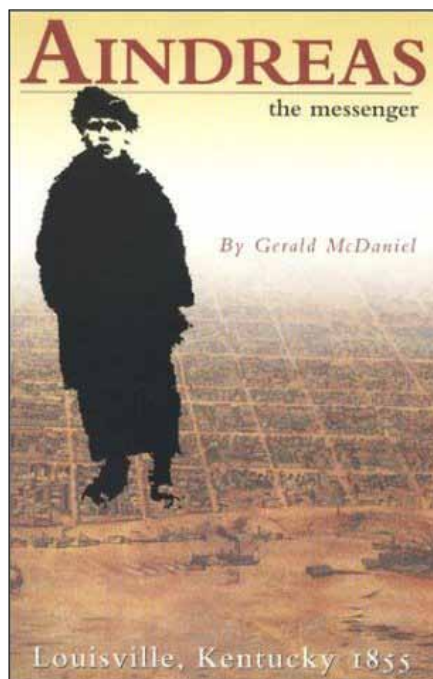
I enjoyed *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running: A Memoir*, by Haruki Murakami (Ekstrom Browsing PL856.U673 Z465 2008). The book is about running and what it has meant to the author's life. I just really enjoyed



this guy's style of writing. It covers the period of August 2005 to October 2006. He talks about the marathons and triathlons he has run in and how people seem to think that a person who is running long distances is thinking all of these thoughts; he says a lot of times he is not really thinking about anything. He also writes novels, and explains that the main reason he runs is so he can write novels, as running helps him write. He also brings out the point that some people think writing novels is easy, and that you are just sitting there writing. But he talks about how hard it is to create a story and hold it all together. Maybe one reason I found this book such a breath of fresh air is because I have always enjoyed running, although I certainly do not go to the extremes with running or physical activity as the author does. For example, he talks about running so far that he has to stop and change to a half-size larger running shoe because his feet are swollen. Anyway, reading about a guy with such a high-energy approach to life gives me hope for my age group, as he is about three years older than I. I also found it interesting that one time when he was standing by the water getting ready to compete in a triathlon, it occurred to him how insignificant it all was. He compared it to pouring water in a pan with a little hole in the bottom. I also found that I laughed out loud a few times while reading the book. The author said that he intended to run every day for as long as he could. He said he would even run when he was old and decrepit if he could still do it, and would do it even when people told him he should stop. I just found him a good example of someone who is hurting no one else, but is setting his own course, and sticking to it.

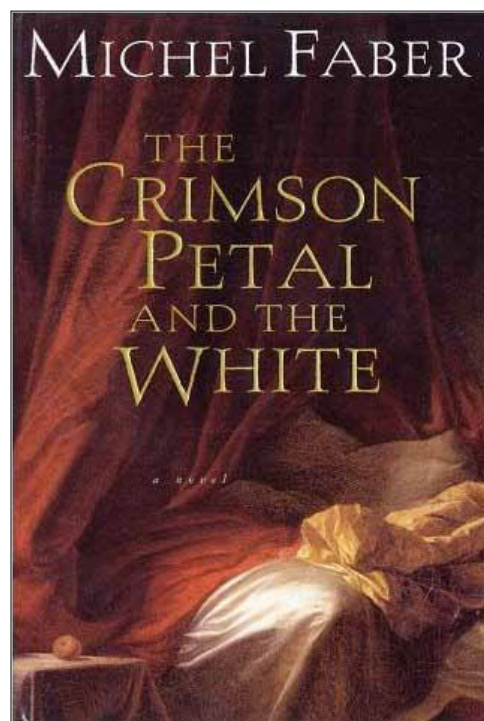
Mary Marlatt, Kornhauser Library

This fall our book club read *Aindreas The Messenger: Louisville, Kentucky 1855* (Ekstrom PS3525.C42 A53 1999). The author, Gerald McDaniel, is a retired local attorney, not a best-selling author. His writing is not terribly sophisticated, but it is clearly written and provides a glimpse of Louisville in 1855. There is a sequel, *Aindreas The Scribe 1865* (Ekstrom PS3525.C42 A536 2002) that I have not read yet. This is another peek into the Louisville of the past, from the Galt House fire in January 1865 until the end of the Civil War.



Patty Payette, Delphi Center

For some reason, the book that popped into my mind as a good winter read is *The Crimson Petal and the White*, by Michel Faber (Ekstrom PR6056.A27 C75 2002). An epic, juicy novel about everyday life of 1870s London, it's Charles Dickens meets Jonathan Franzen. It's a hefty novel that took me two months to read, but I enjoyed every page. If you love this book that provides an inside peek of everyday life in early London, you'll also enjoy Emma Donoghue's *Slammerkin* (Ekstrom PR6054.O547 S58 2001)—loosely based on a true crime story from 18th century England and has that similar flavor of a postmodern Dickens character study.



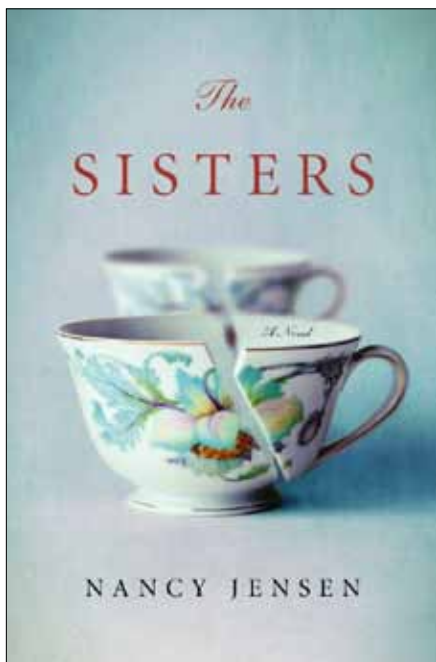
Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

I am always on the lookout for a new Ann Patchett book so I was excited about and anxiously awaited her latest novel, *State of Wonder* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3566.A7756 S76 2011). The story takes you with Marina, a researcher with a pharmaceutical company, to the Amazon jungle in search of the elusive Dr. Swenson—a renowned, brilliant scientist and her former (feared) medical professor. Marina's journey into the jungle feels like a journey back in time. This is in part as she re-lives her medical school experience with Dr. Swenson. But it's also the nature of the Amazon and the rustic lifestyle of the people who live there.

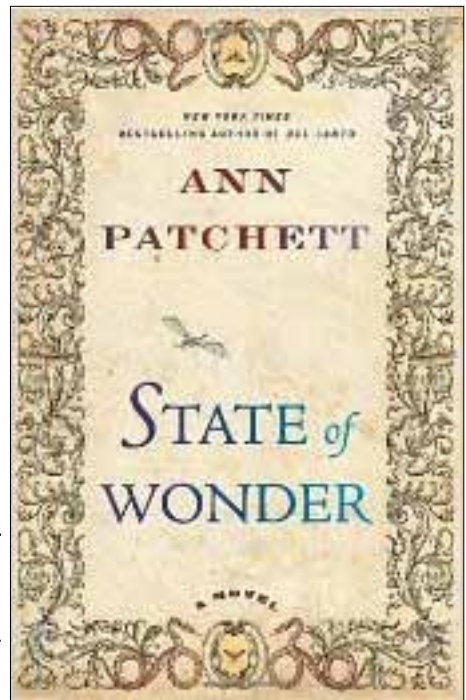
This book was reminiscent of a book by another favorite author: *The Poison-*

woodBible, by Barbara Kingsolver (Ekstrom Kindles and stacks PS3561.I496P65 1998). Both books leave you with the feeling that the jungle can change you. And depending on your character, it can either make you stronger or it can break you.

Sometimes when I read a novel it seems like I get all kinds of “signs” within the story that make me think I *need* to read the book. After just reading two pages of *The Sisters*, by Nancy Jensen (Ekstrom Browsing PS3610.E573 S57 2011), that’s how I felt. First of all, the title is *The Sisters* and I have two sisters. The epigraph (I just Googled for the correct term: “In literature, an epigraph is a phrase, quotation, or poem that is set at the beginning of a document or component. The epigraph may serve as a preface, as a summary, as a counter-example, or to link the work to a wider literary canon, either to invite comparison or to enlist a conventional context.” – *Wikipedia*) contains a quote by W. B. Yeats and a quote by James Joyce—two authors that are prominent in the Rare Books’ Irish collection and Bertie (one of the sisters)



gets out a treasured stereograph, of which we have many examples in Photo Archives. The book is set in Kentucky and the last ‘sign’ is a bit of a stretch but still ... the family name Hansford is mentioned, which is SO



close to my rare maiden name of Hanaford. Besides the signs, the book grabbed my interest from the very beginning, when Bertie is trying on the dress that her sister Mabel worked two months to purchase for Bertie’s eighth grade graduation in June 1927. The family is poor, the stepfather is mean, and the sisters’ mother is dead. The reviews tell me that the book goes through the Depression, World War II, and Vietnam. And while I’ve only read two pages, I can already tell it will be a good book. You just can’t go wrong with sisters! What drew me to this book is the author Nancy Jensen. Here’s the scoop: Jensen will be one of the authors speaking at this year’s sixth annual Kentucky Women’s Book Festival to be held in Ekstrom Library the third Saturday in May. She’s the recipient of the Kentucky Foundation for Women’s Artist Enrichment Grant, was awarded the Al Smith Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council, and she currently teaches at Eastern Kentucky University. This is her first novel.

Emily Symonds, Ekstrom Library

The Ghost Map: The Story of London’s Most Terrifying Epidemic, by Steven Johnson (Ekstrom RC133.G6 J64 2006). This book is five years old but just came on my radar. If you like history, are interested in science, and have a strong stomach, then *The Ghost Map* is a fascinating read. Johnson delves into medical history, the history of London and its sewers, and the personal accounts of the residents of a London neighborhood hit by a massive cholera epidemic in 1854.

Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library

Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President, by Candice Millard (Ekstrom Browsing and stacks E687.9.M55 2011).

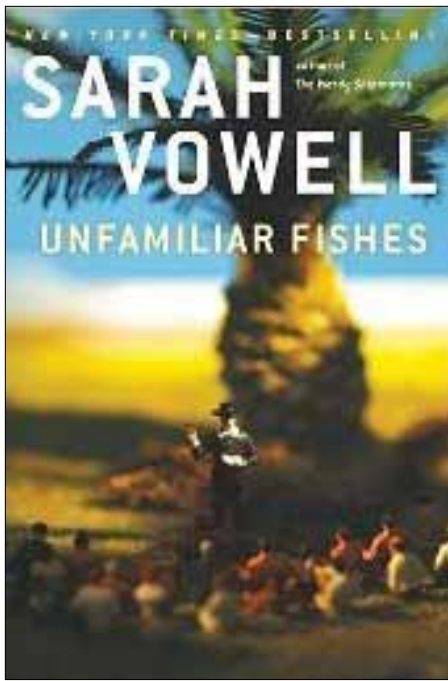
Cleopatra: A Life, by Stacy Schiff (Ekstrom Kindles and Browsing DT92.7.S35 2010).

The Night Circus, by Erin Morgenstern (Ekstrom Browsing, PS3613.O74875 N54 2010).

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, by David McCullough (Ekstrom DC718.A44 M39 2011).

Aaron Vowels, McConnell Center

Unfamiliar Fishes, by Sarah Vowell (Ekstrom Browsing DU625.V89 2011). Sarah Vowell has established herself as a quality writer with a quirky vantage point on history. If you enjoy sarcasm, cynicism, and in-depth discovery of a particular area or event, then Vowell is the writer du jour. This book is a great read for winter as it deals with the



warm, sunny clime of Hawaii and its “founding” and exploitation by missionaries. Vowell shares her insight into the last of our 50 states through the eyes of both the natives of Hawaii and the imperialist missionaries of our nation. Certainly there is some bias, but it is not heavy-handed without reason. As well, the fact that historical native leaders of Hawaii tended to have names that started with the letter K makes the story only a little challenging to follow. However, I recommend this book and all of Vowell’s books.

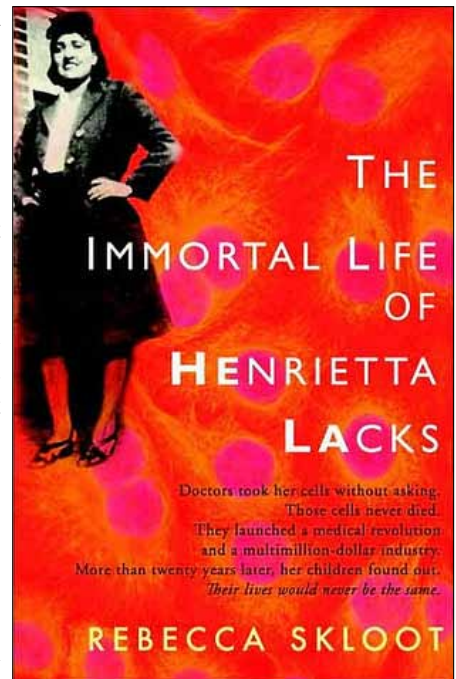
A Fine Balance, by Rohinton Mistry (Ekstrom PR9199.3.M494 F56 2001) is an exquisitely written novel that explores the period of history during the State of Emergency under Indira Gandhi in India in the mid-1970s. Fair warning, there are parts of this book that are completely heartbreaking and will certainly place personal issues in sharp perspective, but the character development and story that weaves the tales of four individuals will have you turning page after page.

Mistry combines historical issues with

creative fiction, bringing characters to life. These characters will have you cheering for them, even in the face of impossible situations. This book is not an easy one to stomach, at times, but even amid the trials of these four the novel emerges as quality writing.

Pam Yeager, Ekstrom Library

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot (Ekstrom Kindles and stacks RC265.6.L24 S55 2010). Very readable non-fiction that tells the remarkable story of Ms. Lacks and her family, her unfortunate death from cervical cancer, and the characteristics of her cells that made them a fundamental part of cancer research from the mid-20th century until today. Definitely written for non-specialists.



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Nicholas Sweat

Preferred nickname (if you have one): Nick

UofL position and dept: Document Delivery, ILL/
Circulation

Hometown: Lebanon Junction, Kentucky

Schools attended: B.A. in Political Science from the
University of Louisville

Pets: Border collie named Captain Jack Sparrow

Zodiac sign: Capricorn

Hobbies/Activities: Reading, writing, enjoying nature

Favorite books: *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick
Rothfuss, *The Wheel of Time* series by Robert Jordan

Favorite movies: *Avatar*, *Jurassic Park*, *Star Wars*

Favorite food: Veggie pizza



Library and Department News

Art Library

And the Winner Was.....

Uncommon Threads, The Handicrafts in Book Arts was the title of an exhibition at [23 Sandy Gallery](#) in Portland, Oregon, representing local and national artists working in contemporary book arts, painting, photography and printmaking.

Uncommon Threads featured books made with traditional handicraft techniques: knitting, embroidery, sewing, beading, felting, needlework and so on. The fifty-one books in the exhibit were crafted by 47 artists from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Argentina. (To give you an idea of the vibrancy of book arts, 227 works were submitted to the call for entries.)

Laura Russell, owner of 23 Sandy, asked librarians across the country to vote for their three favorite books in the show. A randomly selected voting librarian would receive one of the favorites. As luck would have it, that librarian was me (Gail Gilbert)! The Art Library is now the owner of Doreen Barnaville's book *Fading Skills* (which happened to be one of the three I voted for).

Here's what Doreen Barnaville, teacher, textile artist and printmaker who lives in Wales, had to say about her book, pictured right:

"As children we were taught how to sew through repetition and practice. Whilst sometimes tedious, the skills became embedded into our being, never to be forgotten. These inherent skills seem to be fading away as fewer of the young can invest time to learn in this lasting way. In this book I have captured the instructions for different stitches—sometimes faint and blurred and lacking definition—difficult to grasp. This tenuous knowledge within the book is held in the fragile and faded pages—the more we seek to grasp it, the more the fabric frays—so taking the knowledge with it. This book is made of raw cotton muslin, printed using cyanotype printmaking. The images have been extracted from an Edwardian household guide. The covers are of frayed raw cotton muslin. Stitch bound. 13 pages. 9x7x0.25 inches. 2011. Unique."



Ekstrom Library

Office of the Dean

Personnel News

Brittany Sutton accepted the position of Library Assistant with Ekstrom Circulation, effective November 7, 2011. Brittany reports to Andy Huff.

Randy Kuehn has resigned in order to accept the position of Head of Library Technology Services at Eastern Illinois University. His last day in the office is December 9, 2011. Congratulations to Randy!

Staff Recognition

On October 28, ten people from the University Libraries and Law Library, were recognized for their service to the university:

- Erea Marshall, 40 years*
- Larry Raymond, 30 years*
- Elizabeth Osoffsky, 20 years*
- Amy Purcell, 20 years*
- Nancy Baker, Law Library, 15 years*
- Janissa Moore, Law Library, 15 years*
- Kathy Rogers, 15 years*
- Steve Whiteside, 15 years*
- Kelly Buckman, 10 years*
- Mioshi Cobble, 10 years*



Pictured above is recent retiree Erea Marshall (third from left) with the other University 40-year honorees, flanked by University President James Ramsey and former basketball coach Denny Crum.

Dean's Innovation Fund

The Dean's Innovation Fund has been created by Dean Fox to encourage University Libraries faculty and staff to pursue innovative new projects related to the libraries strategic goals. Any full or part-time faculty or staff member may apply for small grants, generally to a maximum of \$500, to pilot a new ideas, for example: to try a new service or product; to host an event; to attend or sponsor a professional development program; or, to initiate any other work-related project that requires seed money to get started. The purpose is to incubate and support new ideas for improving library services or to strengthen the knowledge and skills of libraries employees.

To apply for funding, send a brief memo to Dean Fox explaining the purpose of the project, the anticipated time-frame, the expected impact on services or professional development, and a budget indicating how the funds will be used. The request must be sent to the Dean at least one month before the funds are needed. Projects or professional development cannot be funded retroactively through the fund. Within sixty days of the funded project or event completion, the grantee must submit a brief report to the Dean describing the project, how well it achieved intended goals and the implications for future libraries planning. The Dean will chair a small committee of faculty and staff members who will assist him with reviewing proposals.



Congratulations, Jessie!

Please join us in congratulating **Jessie Roth** (back row, second from right) as one of U of L's 2011 Outstanding Performance Award recipients. The awards were presented in a ceremony November 30 and recognize a strong service orientation demonstrated through commitment, leadership, quality of work, and dependability among other factors. This is a great personal recognition for Jessie and one indication of all the good people we have working in the University Libraries.



Music Library

Alley Cat Advocate

Karen Little (right) was a recent recipient of a Bell Award for her community service. Each year, the WLKY Spirit of Louisville Foundation honors 10 adults and two teenagers for demonstrating the "spirit of Louisville." Her nomination reads: "She established

the non-profit organization Alley Cat Advocates, which provides for the humane treatment of un-owned cats, and implemented a system called ‘Trap, Neuter, Return’.”

UARC

Congressman Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Dedication

The University Archives and Records Center celebrated the opening of the Congressman Romano L. Mazzoli Papers and the refurbished Mazzoli Reading Room with a reception hosted by President Ramsey’s office on Tuesday, November 8. Romano L. “Ron” Mazzoli (UofL School of Law, 1960) served in the Kentucky Senate from 1968 through 1970, and then spent 12 terms (24 years) representing the people of the Kentucky’s 3rd District in the United States House of Representatives. He is probably best known for his work on the “Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986,” the bipar-



tisan effort which has come to be known as the Simpson-Mazzoli Act. The Congressman also held a reputation of making constituent service a priority and for his ethical standards. At one point in his political career he stopped accepting campaign contributions from political action committees (PACs), opting only for individual contributions, something very rare for elected officials.

Approximately 150 people came out for this event, some from as far away as Virginia and California, and filled the open space on the fourth floor of Ekstrom right outside the doors into the Archives. After presentations by President Ramsey, Dean of the Libraries Robert Fox, Mayor Greg Fisher, and current 3rd District Congressman John Yarmuth, Congressman Mazzoli spoke about his career, his family, and his love of the University of Louisville and its Libraries. This was followed by refreshments and tours of the new reading room and the exhibit documenting Mr. Mazzoli’s family history, childhood, professional career and post-congressional activities (which include returning to school, at Harvard no less, to earn a Master’s degree from the Kennedy School of Government in 2004). (Thank you, President Ramsey, and Julie Kroger, Director of Special Projects, Administrative Support Services!)

The project of collecting, housing and processing the Mazzoli Papers has been ongoing since 1973, when Bill Morison, former University Archivist, contacted the Congressman about housing his collection here (Thank you, Bill). It picked up in 1994 when Mazzoli decided not to seek a 13th term. The collection, which was over



1150 boxes, was shipped to the Archives from four locations (Washington D.C. office, Louisville office, National Archives-Suitland, Maryland, and National Archives-Atlanta, Georgia) in five separate shipments, the smallest being 11 boxes, the largest being almost 750 boxes. Within the largest shipment, there were 20 separate transmittal listings ranging from 4 to 89 boxes, and the boxes arrived on pallets in no particular order. They were shelved in our off-site warehouse and tracked by transmittal and box numbers. A map grid was created to have an accurate location code for every box. (Thank you, Margaret Merrick, former Archivist for Records Management, for all of your help with this.)

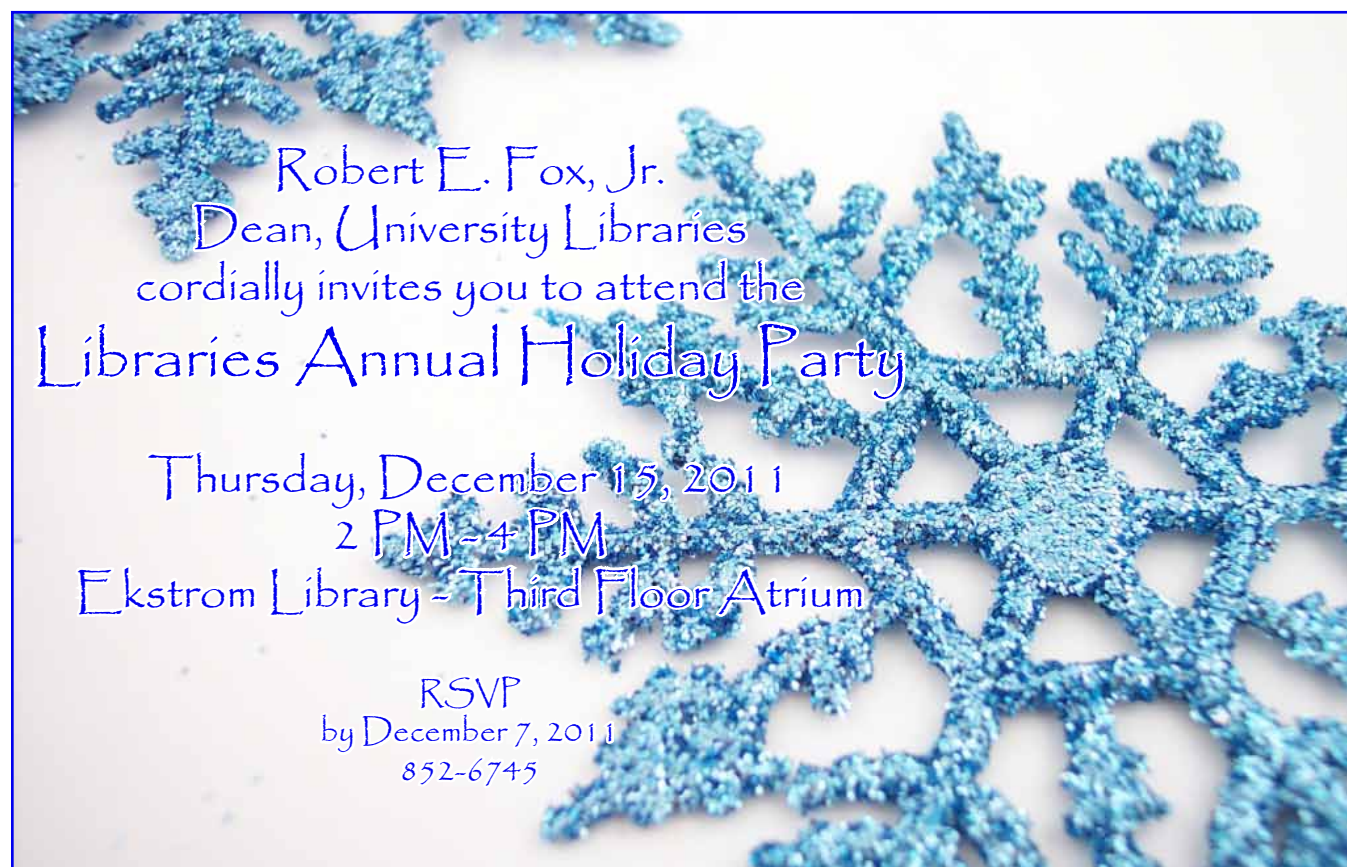
Fast forward 12 years – and it is time for the project to begin in earnest. The first step was working with the congressman and the university’s development office on fund-raising. (Thank you, Traci Simonsen and Cheryl Crane.) Next came the hiring and training of a volunteer (John Kleber) and project assistant (Kevin Collins). Lastly was the coordination of the transfer of about 100 boxes at a time from the warehouse to the Archives main facility. (Thank you, Raymond and crew!) The actual processing of papers began in Fall 2007 and was completed in December 2009.

Next, work began on creating an inventory of the collection, and a box level listing was completed by Kathie Johnson, with help from several student workers, in October 2011. (Thank you, UARC colleagues for freeing up my time as much as possible when working on the inventory and exhibit.) The processing was followed by an oral history project, supervised by Carrie Daniels, co-director of the Oral History Center, scheduled by Kathie Johnson, and conducted by project assistant Kevin Collins, with help from Carrie. We also had consultants from the History and Political Science Departments who helped form questions and trained Kevin on how to do oral histories. (Thank you, Tracy K’Meyer and Jasmine Farrier). This resulted in over 60 hours of taped interviews with over 30 individuals.

During 2011 plans were also made for the refurbishing of the reading room(s) in the Archives. A wall between two rooms was removed to make a larger area. Angela Johnson, of Planning, Design & Construction, helped choose carpet, fabric, paint colors and furniture for this “new” room. Work was done during the summer and beautiful new mahogany furniture arrived in early October. The room now looks like it deserves the name of “our” congressman.

The collection is now open to the public and the inventory is available online, as are some of the oral history interviews (transcripts and actual audio). The reading room is open from 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday and provides a wonderful space for our researchers. This has been a very long and sometimes exhausting experience, but the end result is worth all of the work and we are thrilled to be the repository of the Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Project!

THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN and MRS. ROMANO L. MAZZOLI!



DigiNews

Digital Collections Update



By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian

Two digital collections, Ghost Signs of Louisville (not yet available, but will be soon, [example above](#)) and the [Furnas Family Album](#) feature, albeit in different ways, the work of students in the Department of Fine Arts.

Although students have contributed to our digital collections in the past by scanning, drafting metadata, creating lesson plans (for the [Illuminated Manuscripts collection](#)), and even donating images (to the [August 2009 Flood Collection](#)), those tasks were either completed as part of a paid position or represent a small portion of a larger collection. For these two new collections, while the Libraries have provided the infrastructure (including training, hardware, and software), the students have done their own image and metadata creation for class credit. In addition to fulfilling course requirements, they get to add a link to their resumes demonstrating the work they accomplished. The Libraries benefits by adding content to our digital collections with a relatively low time commitment on our part, and contributes to the educational mission of the university by collaborating with faculty and students to further learning objectives.

The ghost sign project originated when Emily Symonds shared a link to a similar project at another university. Amy Purcell was taken with the idea of documenting these fading remnants of advertising in our urban environment, and knew someone else who would be as well: Mary Carothers, Associate Professor of Photography (and the force behind the permanent exhibit UNBOUND , to be dedicated December 8 in Ekstrom Library), who had a strong track record of getting her students engaged in the community, including a 2010



<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/u/?furnas,283>



<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/u/?furnas,305>

collaboration with Photographic Archives to exhibit contemporary photographs of Louisville's Russell neighborhood alongside historic photos from our collections. Professor Carothers incorporated an assignment to photograph and describe "ghost signs" into her Documentary Photography course in Fall 2011. The students met with Dwayne Butler in late August to learn about copyright issues relating to photography and with Amy Purcell to learn how to use an Excel metadata template I had created for them. They then fanned out into Louisville's neighborhoods to seek hand-painted advertisements on office and industrial buildings; capture them using digital cameras; and document where, when, and what they had captured. After their work had been evaluated by their professor, it was handed over to me to edit and add to the digital collection, the home page for which was designed by Terri Holtze.

The [Furnas Family Album](#) collection was created by Marcy Werner, an Art History graduate student with concentrations in Curatorial Studies and Public History (and a former student employee who scanned the Poe Civil War portraits, many of the [yearbooks](#), several oversize [maps](#), and the Morton [woodblock prints](#)). She sought an opportunity to fully curate a digital collection, describing as well as scanning historical materials. Special Collections staff selected the Furnas Family Album for its size (appropriate for an independent study), subject matter (images of and by a Louisville family at the turn of the 20th century), and condition (some fragile formats that would be more easily handled as digital surrogates). Under the supervision of Delinda Buie and with guidance from Bill Carner, Sue Finley, Amy Purcell, and me, Marcy completed her work on the project in Summer 2011.

The addition of century-old images complementing existing collections, and contemporary born-digital images supplementing our visual documentation of Louisville's built environment, would be newsworthy enough; the story behind their creation makes these collections extra special.



The University of Louisville Libraries celebrate the unveiling of UNBOUND, an exhibition produced by Mary Carothers, M.F.A. and her Advanced Photography class. Invited by the Ekstrom Library to create a publicly viewable wall installation to define the issue of diversity, the class chose to address the issue of banned books. The installation consists of a series of interactive cabinets in which anonymous books are held by hands from all walks of life and open to reveal illustrations of some of our country's most challenged works of literature.

**Unveiling and Reception
Thursday December 8, 2011
4 to 6 pm
2nd floor William F. Ekstrom Library**

**RSVP by December 1, 2011
502-852-6745**

Sponsors: CODRE Diversity Programming Committee, Margaret M. Bridwell Art Library, University Libraries

Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

University of Louisville Photographic Archives Gallery,

Lower Level, Ekstrom Library

Steel: Mid-century Photographs of Pittsburgh from the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company Collection with Contemporary Photographs by Sue Wrbcian

Sue Wrbcian, George Mason University, guest curator.

Monday, October 10, 2011 – Friday, January 13, 2012

Right: SouthSide Works. Sue Wrbcian, 2011

The 1937 Flood: 75th Anniversary Exhibit
Thursday, January 26 – Friday, March 9, 2012



Second Floor, East Wing

UNBOUND

Permanent exhibit produced by UofL photography professor Mary Carothers, and her Advanced Photography class and funded in part by CODRE (UofL Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality). See more information on page 15.

Music Library

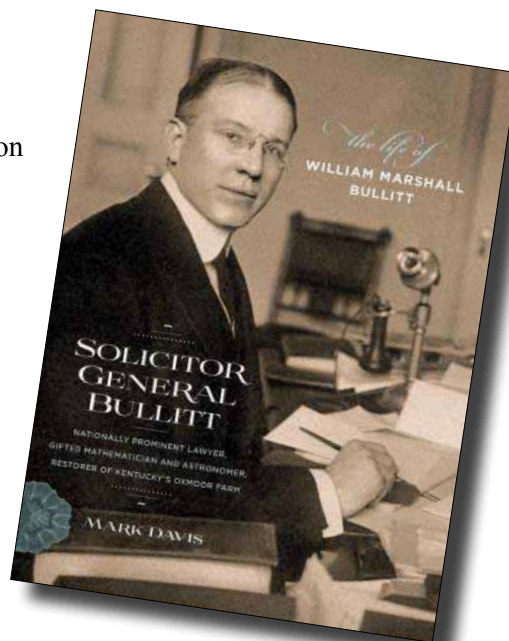
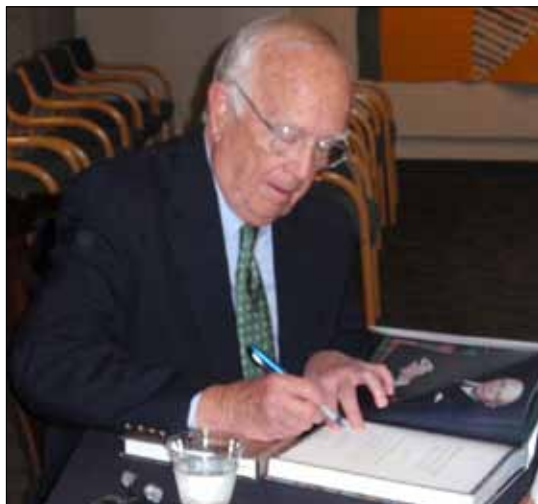
First Floor

Works of Esa-Pekka Salonen

Winner of the 2012 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition

Third Floor

Music Therapy @ UofL - 10 Years and Counting



Mark Davis signs copies of *Solicitor General Bullitt*, his new biography of William Marshall Bullitt, at the November 7, 2011 reception hosted by Rare Books. Books from the Bullitt Collection are currently on display there. (Photo by Terri Holtze.)

THANK YOU HAPPENINGS



As “The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945” exhibit closes I wanted to say a very hearty 'Thank You So Much' to those in the library who helped with the exhibit: **Alice Abbott-Moore, Greg Brown, John Burton, Cody Clark, Kelsey Clark, Andy Clark, Fannie Cox, Erea Marshall, Karen Nalley, Diane Nichols, Ania Rodriguez, Raymond Slaughter, Hanh Trieu, and Hope Triplett.** —*Toccarra Porter*

Thank you to all the faculty and staff for being patient while we worked out the email migration process. —*Sheila Birkla*

I would like to thank **Andy Huff, James Manasco, and Hannah Brooks** for organizing the Halloween party, as well as all who volunteered to assist this year. It was an amazing success. I would also like to thank **Sheila** for her amazing support and help with the email migration. —*Trish Blair*

I want to thank everyone in UARC for covering for me while I worked on the final stages of the Mazzoli Project, as well as **Neal Nixon** for loaning me back to UARC one day. I also want to thank our student assistant **Steve Edwards** for doing all the heavy lifting when we re-shelved all 633 of the Mazzoli boxes. **Julie Kroger**, Director of Special Projects in President Ramsey's office did all of the event coordinating – she is awesome! **Raymond Slaughter and the dock crew** did the set-up and take-down – again, thank you! —*Kathie Johnson*

Hello. I would like to thank **Calvin and Sheila** who work in the OLT Dept. I'm a new hire and my email wasn't working, and they both helped me for hours and hours for about two weeks to get it fixed and finally got everything working. —*Brittany Sutton*

I wanted to thank everyone who helped with the student assistant Halloween party. Without everyone's help it would not have been such a big success. —*Andy Huff*

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's UofL CARES Campaign! —*Karen Nalley*

Thank You

Mary Carothers

Gwendline Chenault

Tom Fougousse

Robert Fox

Gail Gilbert

Terri Holtze

Rachel Howard

Kathie Johnson

Melissa Lanning

Diane Nichols

Christopher Poché

Jessie Roth

Janene Zaccone



...for contributing to this issue of The Owl