



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 29, No. 6 ❖ Winter, 2013

The Owl

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

WINTER READERS' PICKS

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché
Ekstrom Library*

With the imminent retirement of our online catalog, I have been thinking about the quote from Hegel that is on our newsletter's masthead: "The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." Though I have studied philosophy and know a little bit about Hegel, I have never really known just what this sentence means. In the years I have been reading or contributing to *The Owl*, I have often given a passing thought to this but have quickly gone on my merry way without ever really figuring it out. If pushed for an interpretation without reading up on Hegel, I might have said it means that readers and other intellectual types like to stay up late at night, but I'm sure Hegel had something deeper in mind than that. I imagine I am not alone in my perplexity, so I thought a discussion of Hegel's sentence might be welcome.



Before getting to Hegel, let's be clear on the basics. Minerva is the ancient Roman goddess of wisdom. Her ancient Greek equivalent is Athena, who was the child of the all-powerful Zeus and Metis, who was renowned for her wisdom. In an attempt to prevent the realization of a prophecy he had heard that Metis would bear children more powerful than he, Zeus ate Metis. Some nine months later, Zeus began to suffer from a terrible headache, which was relieved when Prometheus cut open Zeus' head with an ax. Athena popped out from his head fully

formed. One interpretation of this myth is that Athena's emergence from Zeus's head reflects an ancient intuition that thought, knowledge, and wisdom somehow originate in operations inside the human head.

In the poems of Hesiod and Homer, Athena is often referred to as "glaukopis Athene," which means "owl-eyed Athena." This epithet is the beginning of the owl's close association with Athena and with wisdom. Depictions of Athena in ancient art often include an owl; and a common form of currency in ancient Greece, especially in Athens, was a silver coin called a Tetradrachm, which featured the head of Athena on one side and her owl on the other. Athena's association with owls is continued in Roman mythology. Thus, the "Owl of Minerva."

Given Minerva's association with wisdom, it is no surprise that a university such as ours should choose a depiction of her for its official insignia and that our library should name its catalog after her. Another bird, the Cardinal Bird, better represents our regional identity, but the association with Minerva is closer to our academic mission. Now, what of that other bird, the Owl of Minerva, and what of Hegel?

Hegel's line about the Owl of Minerva comes at the end of the preface to his 1821 treatise *The Philosophy of Right* (Ekstrom 2923.E5 K5 1945). In this work, Hegel attempts to show how the subjective morality of individuals in-

teracts with and becomes reconciled to the objective constructs of civil society and the state. As with all things in Hegel's philosophical system, this reconciliation is achieved through a historical process. This process is the famous Hegelian dialectic involving a conflict between a thesis and an antithesis resolving itself into a synthesis. And it is only when this synthesis is produced that philosophy can come to comment upon and understand it. Hegel's Owl of Minerva, again associated with wisdom and specifically philosophical wisdom, takes flight only as the dusk falls. That is, philosophy only begins to understand what history has wrought when history has actually achieved something. History happens during the day, philosophy at night.

So, maybe my initial, unsophisticated interpretation wasn't so far off the mark.

Our library newsletter has been called *The Owl* since its June 1991 issue. Previously, it had been called *The Ekspress*, when its audience was limited to the faculty and staff of Ekstrom Library. When the newsletter expanded to address everyone in the Libraries, it needed a new, less Ekstrom-centric name. And so, the "Name That Newsletter" contest was announced in the final issue of *The Ekspress* in May 1991. The winner was announced in the inaugural issue of *The Owl* the following month. Chuck Hughes, a former Ekstrom staff member, suggested the winning name and offered the quote from Hegel, explaining, more succinctly than I have, that "cultural understanding can be realized only upon reflection on the past." He went on to add that his reference to Hegel was "not meant to slight the hordes of daylight Minerva users."

Chuck may have been more right in making this caveat than he could have known. In "Hegel as Ornithologist: The Owl of Minerva," one of the funniest academic articles I have ever encountered (please see volume, 2010/11, of *The Owl of Minerva*, the journal of the Hegel Society of America, found in Ekstrom Current Periodicals xB2900.094), Dudley Knowles and Michael Carpenter argue that Hegel's line about the Owl of Minerva is literally false. By examining various ancient sources, including the Tetradrachm coin, they identify the real Owl of Minerva to be the European Little Owl, which, despite having the Linnaean species name of *Athene noctua*, is not strictly nocturnal and can be commonly seen hunting during the day.

Whether the owl of your understanding flies by day or by night, these readers' picks should provide you with plenty of sustenance. Many thanks to those who contributed their picks, and best holiday wishes to all.

James Adler, Kornhauser Library

With a couple of exceptions, most of these picks were read over the recent Halloween season, a time of year when I gravitate to the uncanny and outré in literature.

I'll start things off with the carnival atmosphere of *The Circus of Dr. Lao*, by Charles Finney (Ekstrom PS3511. I64 C5 2002). When a small, strange circus unexpectedly arrives in the sleepy little town of Abalone, Arizona, the citizens are not quite sure what to think about it, or for that matter, just what it is they're actually seeing when they step inside the sideshow tents. They're not particularly excited by any of it, no matter how extraordinary, unusual, wonderful, or impossible. A nice bit of cynicism, this, rather funny, and a prime influence on Ray Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

Then there's *Frankenstein* (Ekstrom PR5397.F7 2007), Mary Shelley's romantic classic of science gone astray, the unintended consequences of playing God, and the equally unexpected consequences of being given life. Imagine if the ugly duckling had never actually been a swan, but instead had been some sort of misbegotten, alienated freak



The Owl is published six times a year as an online PDF publication by the University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville, KY 40292.

There is a combined June-August "summer" issue and a November-January "winter" issue.

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

Editorial Board: Anna Marie Johnson, Kathie Johnson, Jessie Roth.

Book Editor: Chris Poché. Layout: Amy Purcell.

© 2013, University of Louisville Libraries. *The Owl on the Web*: <http://owl.library.louisville.edu>

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

Deadline for publication is the 21st of each month preceeding publication.

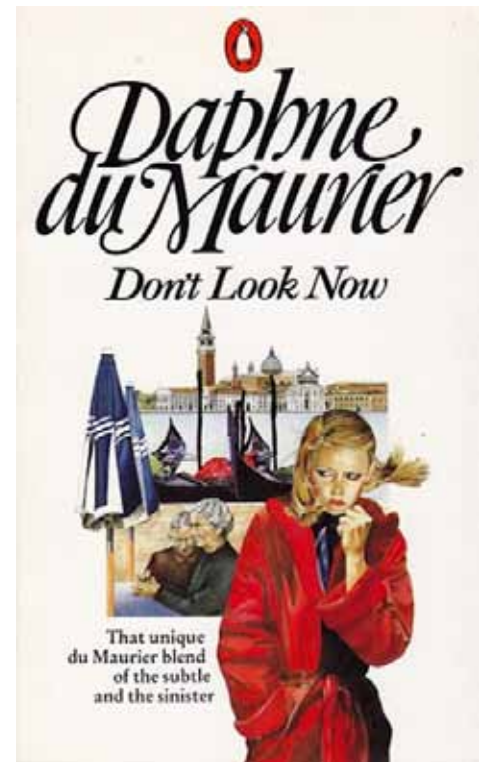
Opinions expressed in *The Owl* are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.

hell-bent on revenge against a world that never had accepted it and never would.

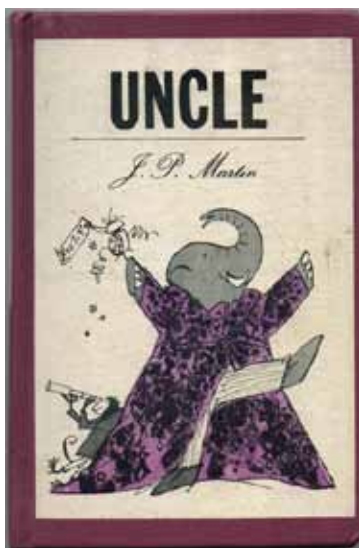
The Haunting of Hill House, by Shirley Jackson (collected in the Library of America anthology, *Shirley Jackson: Novels and Stories*, Ekstrom PS3519.A392 A15 2010). This is one I've wanted to read for years, and now I have. It kind of set the template for the modern haunted house story: a group of investigators get together and spend time trying to determine just what it is that goes on inside a house of unsavory reputation, generally with unhappy results. That's essentially what happens here, as one member of the investigating team goes slowly off the rails. Extremely subtle, it's more a tale of abnormal psychology than of the supernatural. Or is it?

The Golem, by Gustav Meyrink (Ekstrom PT2625.E95 G613 1976). Weird German expressionism, superbly atmospheric, with a bizarre episodic, dreamlike structure. Set at the end of the nineteenth century, a rumor spreads that the Golem, a magical creature of Jewish legend whose appearance portends woe, is perhaps stalking the ghettos of Prague. Murder, revenge, madness, dissolution, confusion, repressed love, lust, mistaken identities and doppelgangers, along with strange journeys overland, underground, and beyond, all ensue.

Don't Look Now: Stories, by Daphne Du Maurier (Ekstrom PR6007. U47 D66 2008). I used to see Du Maurier's books on my grandmother's shelves for years, but I never read any of them until, on something of a whim, I picked up this collection of macabre short tales. Two of the stories included have been adapted for the cinema: the title story, by Nicholas Roeg; and a little piece called "The Birds," made infamous by Alfred Hitchcock (who also filmed Du Maurier's novel *Rebecca*, which is also worth a read). I certainly enjoyed Hitchcock's film as a youngster, but Du Maurier's story is better, much darker in tone, and has no real resolution, other than an unrelenting grimness. Those two stories may be the best-known, but nearly all of them are decent, and several are superb. Du Maurier excels at the unexpected or trick ending. I especially enjoyed "Kiss Me Again, Stranger," in which boy meets girl and ends up following her to a cemetery, and "The Blue Lenses," in which a woman's eye operation allows her to see things in new, not entirely pleasant ways.



Returning to the world of the carnival brings us to William Lindsay Gresham's ***Nightmare Alley*** (Ekstrom PS3513. R614 N5 1948), a splendid novel of the noir type. Stan Carlisle works as a carny, but he wants more out of life. He's a smart lad, self-directed, and not above using people for his own advantage, so he learns quickly how to run cons of ever-increasing complexity. Step-by-step, his rags-to-riches story is written on the backs of his dupes until he meets with the inevitable: a con artist better than himself. After reading this, you'll never see geeks quite the same way again.



One of these days I intend to do a reader's pick of children's books, but until then, I'll give a plug to the British author J.P. Martin's *Uncle*. Fictional elephants for children? Babar, of course! Forget Babar. Meet Uncle. From The Complete Uncle Kickstarter page:

Uncle is a kind-hearted elephant who lives in a massive and labyrinthine castle, accompanied by a motley crew of companions and employees, including the Old Monkey, Goodman the Cat, the One-Armed Badger and many more. Near his castle sits Badfort, home of Uncle's enemies, a disreputable group including Hateman, Jellytussle, Hitmouse and other unpleasant characters. Over the course of the books, Uncle and his followers find themselves mixed up with camels, dwarfs, treacle, bears, ghosts, Captain

Walrus, a singing flower, wizards, respectable horses and much, much more. Although the books were intended for children, they are loved by an adult audience for their wordplay, subversive and surreal humour and wonderful drawings. They're very funny.

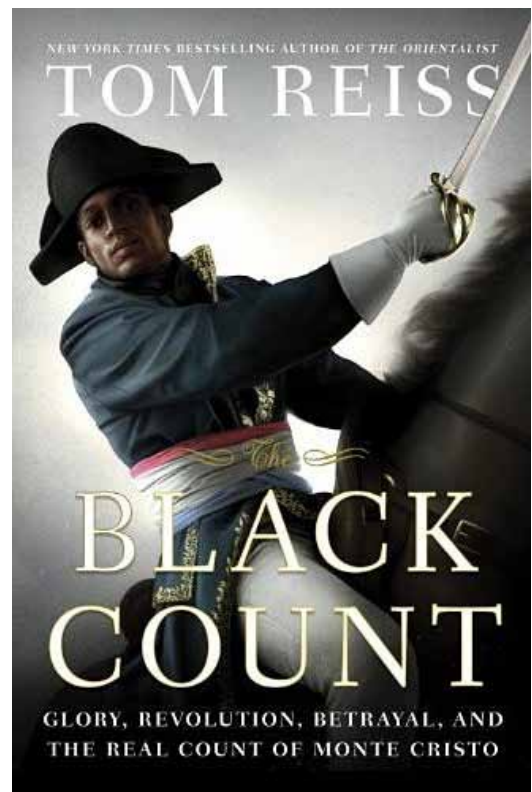
They are very funny. Uncle is Babar if Babar weren't a crushing elitist bore. Though I note that my youngest daughter loves Babar.

Chris' note: Unfortunately, we do not have any holdings for the *Uncle* books. I visited the Kickstarter site and found that *The Complete Uncle* was published at the end of November. It looks like quite handsome volume collecting all six *Uncle* books. Two of these—the original *Uncle* and the follow-up *Uncle Cleans Up*—have also been reprinted by the *New York Review Children's Collection*. (I'm a big fan of the NYRB series of books. The Penguin Classics have pretty much everything prior to the nineteenth century covered. NYRB is covering the rest.)

Gwendline Chenault, Ekstrom Library

The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo, by Tom Reiss (Ekstrom Browsing DC146.D83 R46 2012). This 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner is a view into the lineage and life of General Thomas Alexandre Dumas, who was born in Saint-Dominguez (now Haiti) to a woman of African descent and a French nobleman. It is a story of human triumphs and betrayals. The book depicts events of General Dumas' charmed life in Paris and schooling as a sword fighter. Known, respected and disliked for his bravery, masterful military strategies and conquests, General Dumas served in the French Revolutionary wars and under Napoleon during the Italian campaigns. He entered the military at age 24 and by 31 was commanding 53,000 troops as the General-in-Chief of the French Army of the Alps. It is a story of life, love, war, turmoil, bravery, and betrayal.

You'll need to hold on tight. It is a ride you will not forget. The story will be familiar. The novelist Alexandre Dumas is the son of General Dumas. The novelist drew upon his father's stories and accomplishments when writing the classics *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. Enjoy!!!



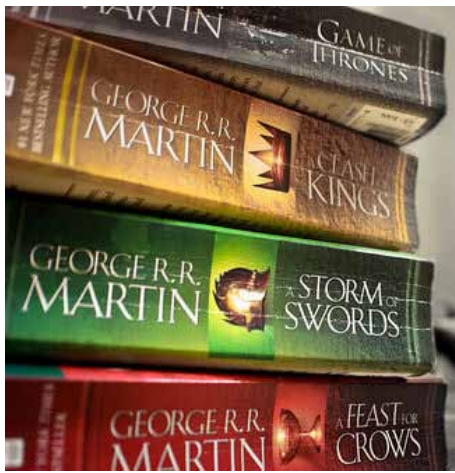
Rob Detmering, Ekstrom Library

I just finished ***The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century***, by Alex Ross (Music ML197.R67 2007). It's an outstanding overview of classical music in the last century, with references to other genres where appropriate. Ross examines the influence of political and social history on the often radical sounds of the period and offers vivid descriptions of the music in a manner that is accessible to those (like me) who have a limited understanding of theory. The online audio guide for the book ([http://www.therestisnoise.com/2007/01/book-audiofiles.html](http://www therestisnoise.com/2007/01/book-audiofiles.html)) is a great way to sample the music and get a sense of how styles and forms evolved over time.

Mark Dickson, Music Library

June: ***Ender's War***, by Orson Scott Card (on order). I knew the first book was coming out in movie form this fall, so I wanted to read the novel again. I had first read the novelette years ago and then read the novel. This was a re-reading. The story was compelling for its time. However, re-reading it this past summer didn't endear the story to me any more than before. I still believe Jack Haldeman's *The Forever War* is the best sci-fi war novel.

July: ***A Game of Thrones (A Song of Ice and Fire #1)***, by George R.R. Martin (Ekstrom Kindles and PS3563.A7239 G36 1996). Since this past summer, my usual diverse sampling of reading has been narrowed after starting George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* saga. I started with the first season of the tv show (thanks, Media Department!).



However, there were too many details that weren't clarified, so I started reading the first book. And now I'm hooked. The specific hook for me is difficult to pin down. I'm not a big fan of sword and sorcery sagas. I do like European medieval history, but these characters feel too modern for this to be a "historical romance." And the alien seasons of ten-year winters and "endless" springs push it into sci-fi for me. "...once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far, away." The court intrigues remind me of the bewildering moves and counter-moves in the film *The Lion in Winter*. And there are characters that are fascinating for me, and others I loathe like a soap opera fan. On to the second book, but first ...

August: ***Steely Dan: The Complete Guide to Their Music***, by Brian Sweet (Music 156.7.S82 S8 2004). I have always loved the music of Steely Dan – not every song or every album, but the high level of the work. This book

was an interesting glimpse into some of the details from the band's history: where the inspiration for some of the song lyrics came from; the evolution of members of the band; and how solos were conceived and executed.

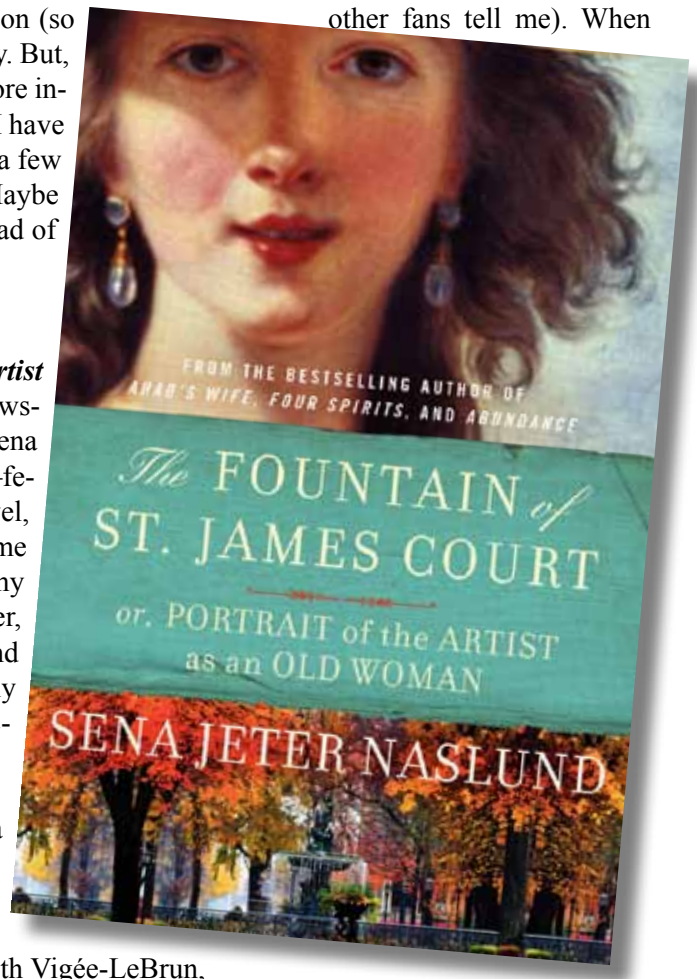
September: ***A Clash of Kings*** (*A Song of Ice and Fire* #2) by George R.R. Martin (Ekstrom Kindles and PS3563. A7239 C58 1999). Having seen the second season, I felt ready for the second book. My hunger for the detail that wasn't available in the tv show was sated once again. However, I began to realize that the size and scope of this book was shuttering my energy for reading anything BUT this series. But STILL the third book was looming ...

November: ***A Storm of Swords*** (*A Song of Ice and Fire* #3) by George R.R. Martin (Ekstrom Kindles and PS3663. A7239 S7 2000). This was the tipping point for me. I haven't seen the third season of the tv series, but I finished the third book, which goes beyond the scope of the third season (so the third season becomes available on media, I will be ready. But, other fans tell me). When two things: first, this book is the best of the series so far. More incredible twists occur in this volume than in any other book I have ever read. And second, I have to stop reading this saga for a few months so I can catch up on other books left unfinished. Maybe the next two in spring and summer of 2014. I'll still be ahead of the publication of the last two books.

Robin Harris, Law Library

The Fountain of St. James Court; or, Portrait of the Artist as an Old Woman, by Sena Jeter Naslund (Ekstrom Browsing PS3564.A827 F66 2013). First of all, full disclosure: Sena Jeter Naslund is one of my favorite authors of all time—female or male. From the time I fell in love with her 1999 novel, the beloved *Ahab's Wife*, I have read all of her work that came before and after. Needless to say, I could not wait to get my hands on her most recent book! Released this past September, ***The Fountain of St. James Court*** is a typical Sena Naslund novel—cleverly conceived, brilliantly executed, beautifully written, and completely engaging. And part of the action occurs in Louisville's own St. James Court neighborhood.

Two stories unfold in the novel. One is a modern tale of a day in the life of contemporary novelist Kathryn "Ryn" Callaghan, who lives on St. James Court and has just finished her latest book. The book that Ryn has finished, a historical novel about the life of the eighteenth-century artist Elisabeth Vigée-LeBrun,



is Naslund's second story. So, *The Fountain of St. James Court* is a novel within a novel, building upon the lives of two extremely gifted and complex women—one a writer, the other a painter. Although Ryn and Elisabeth hail from different countries and different time periods, they have much in common: both rejoice in the joy of motherhood and the wonders of strong female friendships, and both struggle with the problems of infidelity, aging, and the loss of loved ones. (Those familiar with Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and/or James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* will certainly appreciate the structure of Naslund's book and the strength of her literary allusions throughout.)

The three things I love most about all of Naslund's books are her strong female characters, her sense of place, and her meticulous research into the historical periods her characters inhabit. In this book, Naslund's ninth, she exhibits all the strengths of her previous works—her point of view is strongly feminist, her eye for detail is keen. And readers familiar with Naslund's 2006 novel, *Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette*, will recall Elisabeth Vigée-LeBrun as the ill-fated queen's portrait painter and friend.

While you are engaged in Naslund's splendid storytelling, you'll find yourself learning quite a bit—not only lessons about human nature, but also lessons about history, and about art.

As an "old English major" I am selective about what I read, and careful about my recommendations. I heartily recommend this book and can honestly say it does not disappoint. In other words, it was well worth the wait!



Sena Jeter Naslund will speak at the 8th Annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2014, in Ekstrom Library. Details to follow in upcoming issues of *The Owl*.

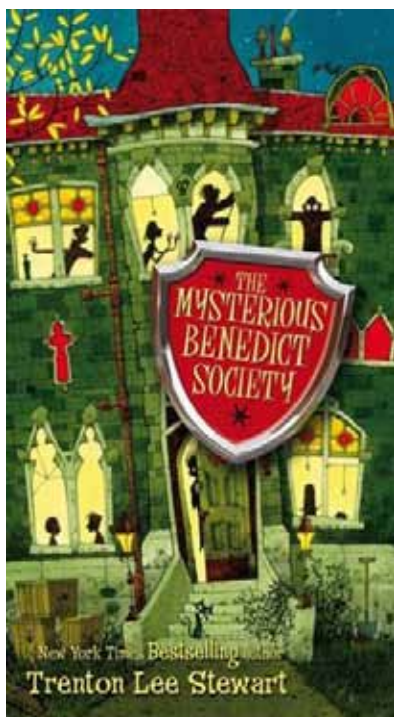


Andy Huff, Ekstrom Library

The Fountainhead, by Ayn Rand (Ekstrom PS3535.A547 F68 1968). Howard Roark is an idealistic young architect who would rather struggle in obscurity than compromise his art. Peter Keating is his antithesis—a young architect who will compromise his art for his clients. This book deals with the careers of Howard and Peter. I'm enjoying the book so far (three-quarters of the way through it). It gives a nice overall impression of Rand's philosophical theory of objectivism, with Roark being the obvious proponent of her philosophy. The book has a rather strong female character in Dominique Francon, but her strength is compromised by an event that happens to her early in the novel. Another minor character worth mentioning is Ellsworth Toohey, whom I can't stop comparing to Varys in George R.R. Martin's epic series *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Toohey is useful as a plot device because of his influence on society at large. His dislike for Roark is seen many times throughout the novel.

Anne Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library

Since Rob Detmering and I have been teaching a class called New Media and the Information Society (Honors 331/341), there hasn't been a lot of time for leisure reading; however, what I have been reading for the class has been really enjoyable and pertinent to our profession, so I'll share some of those titles. Our class text was Nicholas Carr's *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* (Ekstrom Browsing QP360.C3667 2010), which provides a nice overview of a range of issues. The book is an extended argument that our use of the Internet (in particular Google, but other aspects, too) is changing our brains for the worse. To balance Carr's perspective, I also read Clay Shirky's *Cognitive Surplus: How Technology Makes Consumers into Collaborators* (Ekstrom HM851.S5464 2010) in which he argues that the Internet has helped to enrich our society on a number of levels. As a result of Internet usage, many people are not sitting around watching as much television in their leisure time as in the past. Combine this fact with the ease of sharing information such that people are more interested in creating and sharing content, and the Internet has created the right conditions for the solving of some important problems. I also very



much enjoyed *The Googlization of Everything (and Why We Should Worry)*, by Siva Vaidhyanathan (Ekstrom HD9696.8.U64 G669 2011 and kindles). He takes a close look at the effect of Google on everything from intellectual property, to the way we think and search, higher education, and a number of other cultural arenas. If you want to go even deeper, I suggest *The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media*, by José van Dijck (Ekstrom HM742.D55 2013). The book examines Wikipedia, Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube from a variety of perspectives including techno-cultural and socioeconomic. It was particularly useful to me in understanding the relationship between Google and Wikipedia.

My other reading involves children's books, of course. I've really enjoyed the *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan and my seven-year-old son tells me the second series called *Heroes of Olympus* is just as good. We'd also recommend *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, by Trenton Lee Stewart (Ekstrom PZ7.S8513 My 2007). Four young children (Reynie, Kate, Constance, and Sticky) who presume themselves to be orphans are recruited because of their intelligence to be spies by Mr. Benedict and infiltrate The Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where they discover a horrifying secret. The book is the first in a series of adventures, and I particularly like them because they don't talk down to the listener and cleverly work in explanations for the often high-level vocabulary

that they use.

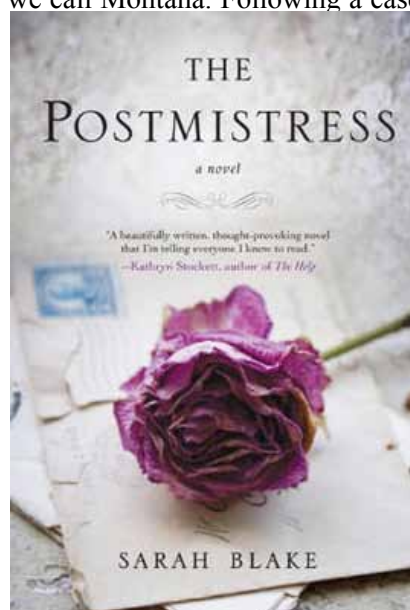
Rosie Linares, Ekstrom Library

At the recent opening reception for the L&N railway exhibit in Archives and Special Collections, Charlie Castner shared one of his favorite stories related to the collection. A man, in his youth, had hopped a freight train in Mobile and ridden to New Orleans. His guilt over his free ride calcified over the ensuing decades, and he eventually sent a letter to L&N, complete with the cost of the fair at the current rate. This anecdote brought to mind a wonderful novel I read years ago, *The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet*, by Reif Larsen (Ekstrom PS3612.A773 S46 2009), whose title character hops trains from Montana to Washington, D.C. Itching to reread it, I scoured my scant bookshelves for a copy I bought last year at the monstrosity that is Powell's Books in Portland, Oregon. Here's the thing. I only buy books I've read before, and I tend to immediately press them upon someone that Just. Must. Read. This. Book. Needless to say, I couldn't find my copy, as it is probably sitting on a particular someone's dusty shelf in Seattle ...

So, about the book: T.S. is a twelve-year-old genius living in the vastness that we call Montana. Following a case of misinformation, he wins a prestigious scientific research award and is asked to give a speech in Washington, D.C. Hence, the freight-hopping. Lucky for us, T.S. is also an avid cartographer. His maps and sketches fill the margins of his journey and make for a striking and memorable read as he documents his travels and his personal ruminations on science and the world. By the end, you'll be an expert on boxcars and entomology. Rooted at the center, however, is a story about family and loss. A good friend once told me that the best novels aren't necessarily the most pristine in terms of craft (I'm looking at you, *Ulysses*) but are those that affect you in surprising ways. Sometimes reading is like skimming the surface of a pool of water, and sometimes, if you're lucky, you get plunged deep into the watery depths. This book left me drenched.

Mary Marlatt, Kornhauser Library

For those who like WWII era fiction, *The Postmistress*, by Sarah Blake (Ekstrom Browsing PS3552.L3493 P67 2011), is a nice cozy read. It's the kind of book you want to curl up and read with a mug of hot chocolate and a cat in your lap. Reminiscent of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*,



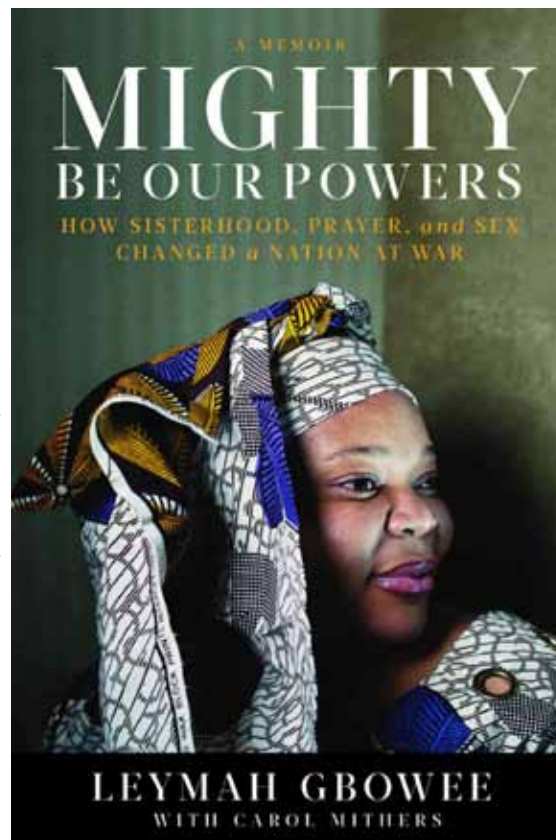
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, it follows three women through the months preceding the U.S. involvement in WWII. One of the women, Frankie Bard, is an American reporter in Europe, and the other two women are in a small town on Cape Cod, listening to her reports from the London Blitz and the German border with growing apprehension. (Frankie Bard is loosely based on Martha Gellhorn, award-winning journalist and author, who reported from Europe and Asia during WWII.)

Troy Plumer, Ekstrom Library

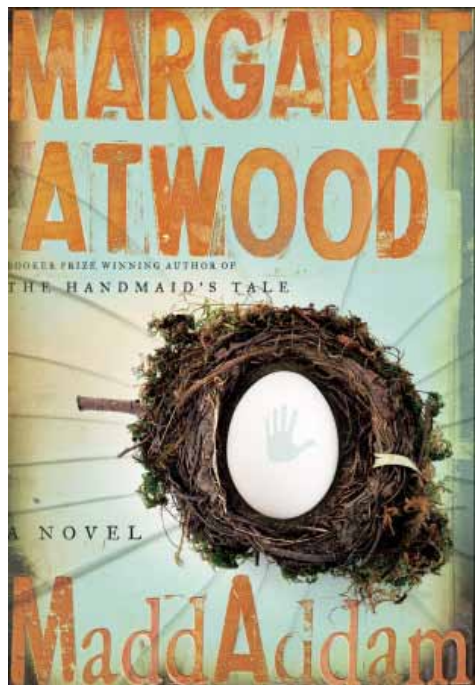
The Fault in Our Stars, by John Green (Ekstrom Kindles and Browsing PZ7.G8233 Fau 2012).

Virginia Smith, Law Library

Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War by Leymah Gbowee (ON ORDER), is not only a memoir, but an inspiring tale of motherhood, feminist empowerment and peaceful revolution. Gbowee, along with Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and a Yemeni journalist, were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of each of their efforts as women to bring about peace, foster democracy, and help end the suppression of women. I read *Mighty Be Our Powers* prior to my trip to Liberia this past summer and was reminded of *Lysistrata*, Aristophanes' comedy about a group of Greek women who withheld sex to force their husbands and lovers to end the Peloponnesian War. Luckily, I arrived in Monrovia while they were celebrating the tenth anniversary of peace since the civil war and was thrilled to see that members of Women in Peace and Security Network (WIPSEN), the women's group that Gbowee led, was still demonstrating along Tubman Boulevard. I highly recommend her book to anyone interested in learning more about dispute resolution, feminism and social change, and the history of Liberia.



Amy Purcell, Archives and Special Collections



Science fiction is “reading outside the box” for me, but sometimes I like it. For instance, I’ve always liked Margaret Atwood. So a couple of years ago I started reading the *MaddAddam* trilogy, starting with *Oryx and Crake* (Ekstrom PR9199.3.A8 O7 2003) and *The Year of the Flood* (Ekstrom PR9199.3.A8 Y43 2009). Currently, I’m about three-quarters of the way through *MaddAddam* (Ekstrom Browsing PR9199.3.A8 M34 2013). According to *The Economist*, the trilogy is “set in a wholly believable dystopian future,” which is true. . .what is it about sci-fi? It so often is a bleak setting. At least that’s how I see it. The social commentary of this book is don’t mess with Mother Nature, it doesn’t turn out so good. . .genetic engineering gone wrong. So, it’s that setting with adventure, a love story, battles and strong, interesting characters. There are also animals, like the intelligent, killer pigoones; mo’hairst (that grow human hair) and the once-sweet, non-smelly rakunks. The bad guys are the savage outlaws or Painballers and there are also the sweet, innocent, kudzu-eating Crakers who come in all colors, are all beautiful, and all have green eyes. That’s cool, I like all that. I also like it that the narrator, Toby, is a strong woman who was once one of the Gardeners and understands herbal remedies and knows how to live off the land, which is pretty important in a dystopia!

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Derick Yara

U of L position and department: Library Assistant in Collection Development at Ekstrom Library

Hometown: Radcliff, Kentucky

Family Members: Raising two beautiful children with my amazing wife, and best friend of 11 years

Hobbies/Activities: Basketball (Go Cards!) and Golf, Traveling abroad, and Comics

Favorite Vacation Spot: Having served on active duty in Germany with the USAF, and marrying a (soon-to-be retired) USAF member, we have had the privilege of travel. Being stationed in Germany and England (among others) made travel easy. We have been able to explore 20+ countries together. I have favorite locations in all of them. But, my top locations could possibly be the Bavarian Alps, West Florida Coast or East English countrysides.

Favorite Quote: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." Abraham Lincoln

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself:

I was raised by my mother and Army grandparents in Fort Knox area. From an early age I was submerged in Cardinal culture and grew up watching U of L sports. After graduating high school, joining the military, I separated as a veteran from active duty. I found work in base libraries where we moved with my wife's military career. My wife deployed often, so my library families became great support systems for my kids and me, with work and recreation. I never expected to manage an entire library at my previous location, much less work for the university I followed my whole life. So, a regular kid from Radcliff, being offered a position at Ekstrom has really been a dream opportunity for me.



Name: Belinda Yff

UofL position and department: Hospital Librarian, University Hospital (Rowntree) Library

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Pets: 1 dog (Chico)

Favorite Movies: Classic movies (I love the Turner Classic Movies channel), *Lord of the Rings*, the *Harry Potter* series

Favorite Food: Anything with chocolate!

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself: My family moved out to a farm setting approximately two years ago. It has been an adjustment (think "Green Acres"). But I've come to enjoy the views and the wildlife (the big exception was the snake in the house).

Library and Department News

Archives & Special Collections

Amy & Nanci's Excellent Adventure

Amy Purcell and her friend Nanci (visiting from Australia) went to Playa del Carmen in Mexico at the end of October. They arrived just as the city was preparing for the upcoming La Dia de los Muertos. This was particularly interesting since Ekstrom Library was doing the same back in Louisville! While there, they mingled with the locals using the city bus for transportation and eating tacos from the street vendors. They also took a bus to visit the ruins in Tulum and went snorkeling at Akumal. Akumal beach is famous for two things – sea turtles and being THE beach to shoot Corona advertisements. (Amy met a stock photographer on the bus to Akumal who told her about the Corona ads.) While snorkeling they saw sea turtles and swam over a stingray.



All Aboard!

“All Aboard” is the first exhibit ASC has curated using materials from all the various primary sources of the merged units. At the exhibit opening reception, Charlie Castner was recognized for his 25 years of dedication and service to the L&N collection. Charlie is responsible for bringing the collection to the University of Louisville. After his retirement he volunteered to work with the collection and help provide reference with his unique insight (Charlie worked in the PR department at L&N for almost 30 years) to researchers around the world. In the process, he has become a part of the ASC family, and is appreciated as a colleague and a friend.

Ekstrom Library Circulation Department

Horrar Honored

On October 3, in an evening ceremony at the Chao Auditorium, Melissa Horrar received an Outstanding Community Engagement Award for service, for her work with the Alfred Binet Educational School. Her department is a sponsored job site where the employees teach job and life skills. According to Melissa, “the volunteers actually do a great deal of meaningful departmental work, and they can work alongside their peer age group. We feel lucky to have them and have probably benefitted more from knowing these students and working with them than the other way around.” This year marked the fifth anniversary of the award.

Office of the Dean

From Dean Fox

As you are all aware, we recently updated our organizational chart to reflect the new associate dean position and the merger of University Archives and Ekstrom Special Collections. I continue to look for areas where we can adapt to reflect the rapidly changing library landscape and to accommodate positions lost to the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP).

As a result of this review, I have made the decision to merge the Collection Development department and the Ekstrom Technical Services department into one unit as of January 1, 2014. I have asked Tyler Goldberg to serve as the head of the combined unit. Concurrent with this merger, I have asked James Manasco to assume the Engineering and Physical Sciences liaison position vacated by the resignation of Mike Wilson. This position serves a critical role in our outreach to the Speed School and to some departments in Arts and Sciences. James has previous experience in science and engineering librarianship and has maintained a continuing research and service agenda in related areas.

I look forward to working with Tyler and James in their new roles and know they will appreciate your support during this transition.

Reference & Information Literacy Departments

Leadership in Lawrence

Fannie Cox spent a lovely week in beautiful Lawrence, Kansas visiting the University of Kansas for her Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Leadership Development Program. She was able to attend several presentations related to Open Access week, as that library has provided leadership in that area of scholarship. Fannie learned a lot, including that not all of Kansas is flat!

KLA/KSMA presentation

Sue Finley (with Allen Ashman) presented “Google Books, Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive, HathiTrust, Perseus: What’s the Difference and Why Should You Care?” on September 12, 2013 at the annual Kentucky Library Association/Kentucky School Media Association conference. The talk offered a clear look at each of these complex projects.

LITA National Forum

Claudene Sproles and Anna Marie Johnson thoroughly enjoyed the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) National Forum, held here in Louisville, November 9-11. Everyone should go to a conference outside their area of expertise for a change! Although some slides offered scary bits of computer code, many of the topics were very applicable to our work, including new metrics for evaluating scholarly publication and real-time displays of subjects searched in a library’s discovery system.

Farewell, Mike!

The Departments bid farewell to Mike Wilson, who not only left us, but also left librarianship to work for Mountjoy, Chilton, Medley LLP (a CPA firm here in town) as an Associate IT Assurance – Data Consultant. Sure, like that’s really a job, Mike! It sounds made up!

Kornhauser Library

Welcome, Belinda!

Kornhauser welcomed the new hospital librarian, Belinda Yff, on Tuesday November 5. She has jumped in with both feet, and has spent much of her time so far in orientations and meetings! It is great to have the hospital library fully staffed once again.

On the move!

We are gearing up for major moving and renovations. The journals on the second floor of the library will be moved to an off-site location for implementation of a journal retention project. Once the journals and shelving have been moved, that area will be renovated for student study space.

VSIP Exodus. . .

The exodus has begun! Kornhauser Library said goodbye to Carol Brinkman on September 26. Carol was

the longtime Director of Kersey Engineering Library, and came to Kornhauser in 2007 after Kersey closed. On October 31, Maura Ellison, who had been at the library since 1980 and Carol Vitenty, who started in 1984, both took advantage of the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP). We wish Carol, Maura and Carol the very best in their retirement!

Workshop

Elizabeth Smigielski attended a Systematic Review Workshop entitled “The Nuts and Bolts for Librarians,” in Pittsburgh at the end of October. She reported it was an excellent workshop that focused on the librarian’s role in a systematic review.

New digs!

Kathie and Ron Johnson FINALLY got moved into their new home. After two-and-a-half years of owning and renting it (with one year of repairing and improving the outside, and one year of renovating the inside) they were ready to move in, and took their chances. Most of the work was finished, but there was no kitchen at all for the first week. Gradually, the kitchen came together, culminating with brand new appliances installed on November 18 and 19! Kathie was thrilled they stayed within budget for most of the work, BUT they had not included the cost of eating out or carry-out in that budget – a big OOPS! This was a downsizing move (from two-stories with over 3000 sq. ft. to a single floor with 1600 sq. ft.) which meant a major purge of belongings – painful but necessary. In the middle of all this, Kathie had foot surgery and physical therapy, thus limiting mobility (including no driving for two months).



Remembering Dave Reed



Dave Reed passed away Monday, November 18 at Norton Hospice on Broadway, after a long illness. He was 76 years old.

Dave was head of Ekstrom Public Services from 1981 to 1998, after which he retired under medical advice.

Those of us who knew Dave were always impressed with his wisdom, kindness, and advocacy for library workers. He is remembered as being particularly patient and even-handed with the most difficult library patrons. Always forward looking, he was tireless in efforts to get new computer technology in place to support public services.

Dave enjoyed hunting, fishing, photography, folk music, history, and was an avid sports fan. Dave loved riding his motorcycle and took long trips exploring the western part of the United States.

He is survived by his wife Sandy (married 52 years) and children Michael, Thomas, and Trish. According to wishes of the family, there is to be no funeral or memorial.



By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian

Photo by Clyde Paul

Soon, when you pay a visit to the new Student Recreation Center, you'll be confronted with a large screen which will allow you to browse images of Intramurals champions by year.

Soon, you will also be able to view those same images in the UofL Images collection within our Digital Collections.

This is not a coincidence. The office of Intramural and Recreational Sports contacted us in early 2012 when staff were planning the new Student Recreation Center and realized that the glass walls in the design would not accommodate the fifty years' worth of Intramurals champions boards then interspersed along the walls of the soon-to-be-renovated Humana Gym, the soon-to-be-closed Crawford Gym, and the Student Activities Center (SAC).

Those enormous posters document fun aspects of student life that may never had made it into the yearbooks (which



were published rather sporadically until they ceased entirely in 1982), but were memorable to the student participants; alumni reportedly stop by the gym(s) when on campus to point out their championship photos to children or grandchildren. The sports range from trends (Wallyball tournaments give way to Fantasy Football) to timeless classics (running and swimming); from individual achievements (bodybuilding) to team efforts (basketball, baseball, soccer); from indoor recreation (such as billiards) to outdoor fun (a springtime Putt Putt Golf excursion). Hairstyles and athletic wear also went through many changes during the five decades the posters were produced, but the individual and school pride and teambuilding instilled by the activities shows through across the board(s).

Intramurals and Recreational Sports inquired about the costs of scanning the images – and wondered whether the university archives would be interested in keeping the physical images after they had been scanned. We provided an estimate for the first question, and resounding “yes!” to the second; the nearly 7,000 images (removed from the posters) now have accession numbers and acid-free enclosures as well as scans and metadata, with funding provided by Intramural and Recreational Sports and labor provided by Archives & Special Collections student workers Steve Edwards, Max Baechle, and Hao Nguyen and faculty members Chad Owen, Heather Fox, Carrie Daniels, and me.



Thank You

Carrie Daniels

Bob Fox

Rachel Hodge

Terri Holtze

Rachel Howard

Anna Marie Johnson

Kathie Johnson

Melissa Laning

Mary K Marlatt

Calvin Miracle

Clyde Paul

Christopher Poché

Jessie Roth



... for contributing to this issue of The Owl



Thanks to Sheila, Sahab, Troy and Adam for going above and beyond to help me resolve my IT issues! —
Denise Nuehring



The week of October 21, the University Libraries hosted an interactive traveling exhibit of papers and images of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from the King Archive. Andy Clark and Raymond Slaughter helped with setup and installation; Mariam Williams (Braden Institute), Hannah Parks, Anna Marie Johnson, Andy Clark and Jessie Roth helped with planning; Jessie Roth, Rosie Linares, Virginia Mattingly, Ashley Triplett, Delinda Buie, Robin Harris, Rachel Howard, Heather Fox, Maurini Strub, Trish Blair and students from the Braden Institute: Malesha Griffin, Runora Jeffrey, Lauren Copeland and Alexis Johnson (who made it possible to keep the exhibit open in the evening hours) all helped to staff the booth. Thank you to everyone who worked to make this exhibit a success!

Several student assistants helped with the installation of “A Pilgrim Lens” (an exhibit of photographs by Terry Taylor) in the exhibit area by the Media Department. Tyler Perry and Rey Wooldridge put up the hanging

hardware and prints and Femmy Rose helping with the final adjustments. Both Terry Taylor and I were VERY grateful for their help and the show looks great! —**Amy Purcell**



Thank you to all who helped out with the Student Assistant Appreciation Halloween Party. Thank you especially to Ben King, Troy Plumer, Gwen Chenault, Rayanne Turner, Trish Blair, Jennifer Oberhausen, Claudene Sproles, Anna Marie Johnson, Weiling Liu, Sheila Birkla, Rachel Howard, Bruce Keisling, Melissa Laning, Maurini Strub, Alice Abbot-Moore, Ashley Triplett, Raymond Slaughter and Karen Nalley for helping with snacks, setup and many other parts of the party. It was a great success, and our students had a lot of fun. —**Andy Huff and Hannah Parks**



I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff at Kornhauser for being so supportive and understanding while I was off work recovering from foot surgery and when I returned to work on a somewhat limited schedule. In the midst of this we put our house on the market, moved, and I started physical therapy – all of which played havoc with my work days. Everyone here has been great and put up with my erratic hours and limited physical mobility. —**Kathie Johnson**



I'd like to thank all of ASC but especially Elizabeth Reilly, Marcy Werner, Delinda Buie, Chad Owen, Amy Purcell, Pam Yeager, Jeremiah Rose, and James Rose for all their work on *All Aboard!* And when I say "all their work" I mean there was a lot of it, and mostly at the end under a deadline. The exhibit is terrific thanks to you all. I'd also like to send out a special thank-you to Heather Fox, Chad Owen, Sarah-Jane Poindexter, and Pam Yeager for coming in on a Sunday so we could open the exhibit to the public on the weekend. —**Carrie Daniels**.



On behalf of my female colleagues at the law library, I'd like to thank Robin Harris for treating Jodi, Janissa, and me to the Women Center's annual Empowerment Luncheon on November 14. —**Virginia Smith**



A big thank you to Sam McClellan, who helped plan and present a workshop to high school students on the college application process at the 9th annual Latino/Multicultural College Fair at the SAC! —**Rosie Linares**.



Library Exhibits

Archives & Special Collections

Ekstrom Library

Lower Level, East Wing

Kain & Pennington Galleries

Cases, Main Floor West Wing

All Aboard!

A celebration of the Louisville & Nashville
Railroad from Archives & Special Collections

November 6, 2013 – February 7, 2014



L&N Collection, Photographic Archives, 1996.20.0402



© 2013 Lucky 7 Arts/A.Marsh

Ekstrom Library

First Floor

1000 Cuts

Exhibition of sculpture
by Andrew Marsh

September 23, 2013 –
February 7, 2014



© University of Louisville

Music Library

First Floor

*Various Works of
composer Djurio*

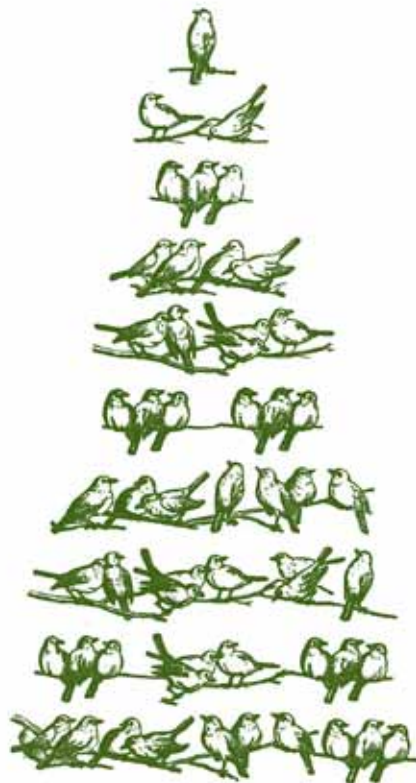
Zivkovic, Grawemeyer

Award Recipient for

Music Composition 2014

December 2013 –

January 2014



Robert E. Fox, Jr.
Dean, University Libraries
cordially invites you to attend the
Libraries Annual Holiday Party

Thursday, December 19, 2013

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Ekstrom Library – Third Floor Atrium

R&VP by December 10, 2013

852-6745