Letter from the Dean

Welcome to the Fall edition of Notes from the Stacks. In the following pages you will read some items of interest from around our libraries. Archives and Special Collections recently purchased a 1541 edition of Ptolemy’s *Almagest* for the William Marshall Bullitt collection using endowment funds including one from Bullitt’s grandson, Lowry Watkins, Jr. The well-regarded Bullitt collection includes first edition works by Euclid, Gauss, Euler, Newton and Copernicus, among other mathematic and scientific luminaries. We are excited and grateful for Watkin’s support of the University Libraries.

Additionally, we’ve completely updated the display room in the lower level of Ekstrom Library that showcases an eclectic mix of books, photos, videos, and other memorabilia from our extensive Edgar Rice Burroughs collection. Archives staff worked with donor Jess Terrell to select and arrange the items and we are sincerely grateful for his input and contributions to the EERB collection.

I would also like to highlight the University Libraries’ release of a new book of student profiles from within and around our libraries. Ashley Triplett, Libraries’ Student Supervisor in Ekstrom Library’s Access and User Services, created the series, interviewing and taking photos of students within the Ekstrom, Art, Music, Archives and Kornhauser libraries to create profiles in the manner of “Humans of New York,” an artful and popular Instagram series. Along with other initiatives such as the Student Advisory Board, the interviews demonstrate our keenest desire to listen and understand students’ needs and goals, so that we can contribute to their success.

Your financial help allows us to continue our important work and we are most grateful for it.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Fox, Jr.
Dean, University Libraries

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK ON LIBRARY’S INSTAGRAM PAGE

(Left) Ekstrom Library’s Instagram page recently celebrated Banned Books Week with a series of photographs depicting scenes from familiar books that at one point had been banned. Several of Ekstrom’s student assistants posed as characters, and Student Supervisor Ashley Triplett edited her photographs. Check us out on Instagram at www.instagram.com/ekstromlibrary/

ON THE COVER


NOTES FROM THE STACKS

Published four times a year, twice in print. For more information, contact: Carolyn Dowd University Libraries (502) 582-6718 carolyn.dowd@louisville.edu

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.
HONORING LIBBYE AND GUY MONTGOMERY
At the annual Wilson Wyatt Alumni Awards Ceremony held on October 12, the University Libraries thanked Libbye and Guy Montgomery as exemplary ambassadors and donors. We are so lucky and grateful for their support of the Libraries.

DO-IT-YOURSELF LIBRARY RESEARCH
Recently the Libraries launched a new interactive online tool that allows students to understand the sometimes complex process of conducting library research. Research DIY features visually appealing infographics, videos, and step-by-step instructions to help students get started with a wide variety of research tasks. Find it here: library.louisville.edu/research-diy/home

ERB: PROLIFIC WORK, VIVID IMAGINATION SHOWCASED IN NEW DISPLAY
Archives and Special Collections personnel recently unveiled a delightfully eclectic display of sculpture, posters, photos, memorabilia and, of course, books by Tarzan creator Edgar Rice Burroughs. Jess Terrell, avid ERB bibliophile and Libraries donor (shown at right), assisted in arranging the artifacts for maximum visual effect. We are sincerely appreciative of Jess for his support of this collection, which comprises the world’s largest institutional assemblage of Burroughs’ works.

“YOU AIN’T ALONE” — PROFILING STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE LIBRARIES
Getting to know the students who utilize our resources and spaces daily was the goal of the University Libraries’ new photo book of Student Profiles. Access and User Services Student Supervisor Ashley Triplett photographed 20+ students who study and work inside our libraries, and asked questions about themselves, to find out what they are thinking, how they experience student life at UofL, and how they feel about the library and their futures. Here are a few examples (below):

“Real or Not Real?” at the Frazier Museum: (l-r) Rob Detmering; James Miller, duPont Manual High School; Stephen George, Louisville Public Media; Rachel Platt, WHAS 11; Andy Treinen.

“Ekstrom Library offers a broad selection of resources. Maybe that’s why I like it so much. The staff are great and will help you find anything you are looking for.”
— Lloyd

“Ekstrom Library is a great place to find soli-darity. It gives you an opportunity to sit and work with hundreds of other students going through the same struggle, all to further their education. That makes it much easier, knowing you aren’t alone.”
— Sarah

WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY
News & Updates from Around the Libraries

Lakeside Dean Rob Fox with Libbye and Guy Montgomery at the Wilson Wyatt Alumni Awards.

Donor Jess Terrell stands in front of the new Edgar Rice Burroughs display in the lower level galleries of Archives and Special Collections at Ekstrom Library.

“Think the library is a great place to find solidarity. It gives you an opportunity to sit and work with hundreds of other students going through the same struggle, all to further their education. That makes it much easier, knowing you aren’t alone.”
— Sarah
Imagine a job where you were able to learn about all kinds of different and fascinating topics in the process of helping someone answer a burning question. That is part of the work of the Research Assistance and Instruction (RAI) office. Librarians, professional staff, and peer research assistants answer questions like the following (in addition to more prosaic ones like, “Why can’t I access this journal article I need?”) via e-mail, chat, phone, or face-to-face:

- How many buildings are there on Belknap Campus?
- How did St. Paul come to be a Roman citizen?
- What is the childhood address of Hunter S. Thompson?
- What was the roll call vote for the Kentucky senators and House members for the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- Can you help me research design for justifying the excavation of a privy?
- How many theaters exist in the Palestinian Territories occupied by Israel?
- What are the cultural reactions regarding American Indians during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (1870-1929)—particularly in how American Indians and the related federal policies were represented in the media?
- Where can I find industry and consumer data for Gillette Fusion?

Over the years, we have helped with questions that ranged from the esoteric (how to locate journal articles on the dead Sabaeann language, from someone wanting to piece together the language and write a book about it) to the downright impossible, like how to find a copy of WHAS Radio’s broadcast license from 1927, or where to locate information on obscure magicians and street performers from Europe. While we go to great lengths to track down an answer, sometimes there’s luck involved. One day, a call came in to Rob Detmering, the librarian responsible for Film Studies. The caller was looking for one of the original copies of a 1972 film called “Asylum of Satan.” The film had reportedly been shot here in Louisville and the out-of-state caller thought that the university might have a copy. Rob asked around to the Archives, the Art Department, and a few other campus contacts that he thought might know something, but to no avail. Rob did some digging in the online database of the Courier-Journal, which the library subscribes to, and discovered the film had been shown at a film festival in 2008 at Baxter Avenue Theatre. Rob called the theatre and spoke with someone who not only knew the film but knew the location of the copy that they had used in the showing.

We often learn a lot as we’re helping. Our former Libraries Diversity Resident George Martinez received a question from a faculty member asking about the history of the African American Theatre program at UofL. He looked through some microfilm and consulted with our colleagues in the Archives & Special Collections to find articles that traced the history of a controversy over how money generated by the Fiesta Bowl was being used for scholarships. The results of that controversy was the increase in hiring and scholarship distribution to increase the diversity at UofL.

All questions are welcome at Ekstrom’s RAI Department. Oh, and there is some doubt as to whether Ali ever threw his medal off any bridge, but the closest answer is the Clark Memorial.
The most recent addition to the William Marshall Bullitt Collection of Rare Mathematics and Astronomy arrived just before Derby 2017: a 1541 edition of Ptolemy’s *Almagest*. Included in this book are two very rare star maps of Johannes Honter.

A note first about the Bullitt Collection: William Marshall Bullitt was a descendant of Alexander Bullitt, who had been named one of the first trustees of Louisville in the original 1780 charter signed by Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson. Alexander Bullitt was also among subscribers who in 1798 funded the Jefferson Seminary, claimed as the founding institution of University of Louisville. Although William Marshall Bullitt grew up in Louisville, after his 1913 marriage to Nora Iasigi Bullitt he began to develop a residence on the family’s historic land at Oxmoor, east of the city. The home would eventually house Bullitt’s extensive library of art, literature, and exceptionally rare mathematics and astronomy books.

Bullitt had reveled in the study of mathematics at Princeton but returned to complete a law degree at the University of Louisville, graduating in 1894. Even as he practiced law, Bullitt remained keenly interested in mathematics and physics and maintained friendships with astronomer Harlow Shapley and mathematician G.H. Hardy. They were among the guests William Marshall Bullitt invited to a house party and mathematician G.H. Hardy. They were among the guests William Marshall Bullitt invited to a house party and mathematician G.H. Hardy. They were among the guests William Marshall Bullitt invited to a house party and mathematician G.H. Hardy. They were among the guests William Marshall Bullitt invited to a house party and mathematician G.H. Hardy.

Mr. Bullitt to donate his collection to their libraries, although both Princeton and Harvard had encouraged him. Bullitt decided to build a book collection of the first printed editions of those same mathematicians, including Euclid, Gauss and Euler. Working with antiquarian book dealers Bullitt also added physicists and astronomers to his collection: Newton, Copernicus, Kepler, and others. Eventually he gathered over 300 of the most important books in the history of science, including a first edition of Newton’s 1687 *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy) bearing both the bookplate of Lord Halifax, who had helped fund the publication, and Newton’s handwritten annotations on the errata page.

Although both Princeton and Harvard had encouraged Mr. Bullitt to donate his collection to their libraries, he ultimately left that decision to his wife. After Bullitt’s death in 1957 Nora Bullitt gave the collection in stages to the then-new Patterson Rare Book Room, just opened in the University of Louisville’s new library — now Schneider Hall. Eventually the family also gave all the correspondence between Bullitt, his mathematician friends, and the antiquarian dealers who helped build one of the most important science collections in the United States.

Today, the collection is growing once more through the generosity of Bullitt’s grandson Lowry Watkins, Jr. who has established an endowment: the William Marshall Bullitt Memorial Book Fund in Astronomy and Mathematics, in memory of his grandparents.

To the extent possible Archives and Special Collections staff observe Mr. Bullitt’s original collecting principles by seeking only first or highly significant editions of the most important mathematicians and astronomers. The collection attracts university and high school classes, academic organizations and individual scholars; over the years visitors often have asked whether the collection includes an edition of Ptolemy’s *Almagest*, the work that not only presented Ptolemy’s own mathematical and astronomical writings, but also his synthesis of an earlier mathematician Hipparchus of Rhodes. Both scientists presented a geocentric system with the earth at the center of movements of stars, suns and planets. This view of the universe persisted until Copernicus’ work in 16th century.

And this point brings us to the reason why Ptolemy’s *Almagest* is a fitting addition to the William Marshall Bullitt Collection. Among the most important books in Mr. Bullitt’s original collection are the 1543 first edition of Nicholas Copernicus’ *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (“On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres”) and its exceptionally rare 1540 precursor, Georg Joachim Rheticus’ *Narratio Prima* (First Account), the first presentation of Copernicus’ heliocentric theory. Rheticus had visited and studied Copernicus in 1539, traveling to Frombork, a small town on the Baltic coast, where Copernicus was a canon at the cathedral. Rheticus took the astronomer a present: a Greek language edition of Ptolemy’s *Almagest* published just the year before. Copernicus no doubt was grateful for the text in Ptolemy’s original language, but he already had made extensive reference to *Almagest* in his work. Scholars believe Copernicus had used the Latin translation done by George of Trebizond, the same translation now part of the Bullitt Collection.

In addition to the 1541 edition of *Almagest*, our rare book collection holds a 1548 Italian translation edition of Ptolemy’s *Geografia*, which includes a number of ornate engraved maps.

Both books with are available in our research room in Ekstrom Library’s Lower Level 17.
EXHIBITS
Current and upcoming

Archives and Special Collections

“All In!” Louisville and the Great War
Through December 15
Photographic Archives & Kain Rare Books Galleries, Ekstrom Lower Level

When the United States entered World War I, the people of Louisville were eager to play their part. Whether serving overseas, working at Camp Taylor, or conserving food so more would be available for the war effort, Louisvillians were ‘all in.’ One hundred years later Archives and Special Collections recognizes their work with an exhibition of vintage photographs, war posters, documents, and artifacts from its collections. The exhibition includes a wide range of objects from panoramic photographs of African American soldiers at Camp Zachary Taylor to records of the Camp Taylor Library and posters distributed by a Louisville boy scout.

“Drive” — Photographs by Sarah Lyon
Louisville Photo Biennial
Through December 22
Photographic Archives Gallery

In the exhibit “Drive,” Sarah Lyon takes a look back into her own archives to examine what initially motivated her photographic pursuits. The show culminates with images from recent explorations of the American West, a new body of work she is creating on visits to areas that draw and intrigue her both spiritually and aesthetically. “Drive” is an investigation of what happens with the artistic process as our lives evolve and change, and how we keep ourselves motivated to do what we do.

We are proud to have participated in the 2017 Louisville Photo Biennial, a regional festival occurring in over 60 venues throughout the Louisville, Lexington and Southern Indiana area from September 22 through November 11. Through exhibits, receptions, workshops and educational opportunities, the Biennial celebrates the medium of photography in all of its richness and variety, and its ability to touch and enrich our lives.

“Fine Young Kids”
January–May, 2018
Photographic Archives Gallery

This exhibit will feature photography from our Fine Print Collection that include or focus on children.

For information on current exhibits, see library.louisville.edu/archives/

Gallery hours are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Recognize these literary scenes?

GUESS THE BANNED BOOK IMAGE
Be one of the first ten individuals to identify all of the above banned book images from our Banned Books Week Instagram series and win a donor book from the University Libraries! Email Carolyn.Dowd@louisville.edu with your answers.