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Melton Collection Donated to Kentucky Library

"My name is Stella [Bradley] Pool. I am a graduate of Western ('72) and...would like to inquire if the Kentucky Library would be interested..." So began an e-mail message directed to the Special Collections Librarian in April of this year. This e-mail inquiry was one of the first received by the Kentucky Library that has resulted in a donation. If Mrs. Pool's collection is any indication of the material that might be received through this new communication tool, we hope to receive many more inquiries.

Pool explained how the Melton family had migrated from North Carolina to Webster County, Kentucky, in the early part of the nineteenth century, and her desire to have these records housed safely in a repository. In May she delivered the collection which contained four early land grants signed by Kentucky governors, some manuscript material related to the Poole, Melton, Lively, and Strum families, photographs, advertising material, some Henderson County newspapers, and other western Kentucky ephemera. Of special importance were 1,376 historical postcards from the turn of the century.

One of Mrs. Pool's relatives, Cynthia I. "Sibbie" Melton, compiled this fantastic melange of tinted delights. The postcards date chiefly from the first twenty years of this century. Although confined to a wheelchair, Sibbie saw the world through postcards. Her relatives, neighbors and friends were eager to help her build the collection. One neighbor, who traveled throughout western Kentucky, sent many views of local sites. "The locally produced postcards hold the greatest interest for us," said Kentucky Library Coordinator Connie Mills, "but the collection contains a wide variety of cards ranging from occasional cards sent at holidays to novelty and romance cards."

Some of the cards were loose, but many of them were housed in postcard scrapbooks that were popular at the turn-of-the-century. Sibbie had carefully numbered many of the cards on the front, so she could keep up with the total number in her collection.

Also included in the collection is a series of articles produced by Sibbie for the Henderson Gleaner in which she reports on the activities of the small hamlet of Cairo in southern Henderson County. They provide interesting information for the local genealogist and for the social historian. In reporting on an excellent sermon delivered by Rev. C. R. Crowe, Melton noted: "We can usually judge how much a people appreciate their preacher by the way they pay him. There has been \$25 more paid on Rev. Crowe's salary than any other preacher ever on this circuit, and he has collected nearly \$75 for mission from the Cairo church alone." She informs readers about social functions, marriages, deaths, elections, weather, visitors, the changing seasons, and

nature's bountiful beauty. In the fall of 1906, she noted: "The wild grape vines are hanging full of delicious ripe grapes and there are plenty of blushing persimmons waiting for more kisses from Jack Frost's icy lips to destroy that bitter puckering taste and make them sweet and good."

The "Melton Collection" is now available to researchers in the Kentucky Building. Thank you Mrs. Pool for inquiring if we would be interested.

~Jonathan Jeffrey

WKU Libraries Launches TOPCAT 2000

WKU Libraries kicked off the Fall Semester with the August 31st launching of its new state of the art catalog, TOPCAT 2000. Users of the new web-based catalog can "point and click" to search the Libraries' holdings; print, e-mail or download results; and seamlessly link to cited Internet resources.

Materials held in WKU Libraries' collections can be located using a variety of search options including keyword, author, title or subject. Library patrons with WKU ID numbers will be able to verify what they have checked out and determine whether they owe any fines or fees. In the future they will also be able to place hold requests for desired items, search course reserve materials, and search other libraries' online catalogs and initiate interlibrary loan requests for materials not held by WKU Libraries.

TOPCAT 2000 can be accessed from WKU main, branch and extended campuses via the campus network, WKUNet, or remotely via the web address <http://topcat2000.wku.edu>. You may also go to the WKU Libraries' Home Page at www.wku.edu/Library and click on TOPCAT 2000. Once connected to TOPCAT 2000, you will find extensive online help.

~Elaine Moore

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Two Librarians Honored

Connie Foster, WKU Libraries' Serials Coordinator, was selected as the "Outstanding Academic Librarian for 1999" by the Kentucky Library Association (KLA), Academic Library Section for her many efforts, publications and services to academic librarianship. In addition, Ms. Foster was elected to serve as president for the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), an international professional association. This past September, Ms. Foster, in her capacity as NASIG president, presented a paper on "Professional Growth in Libraries" to the annual meeting of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma Mexico in Mexico City. Ms. Foster received her award at the KLA Fall meeting in Louisville on October 14, 1999.

Haiwang Yuan, WKU Libraries' Web Site and Virtual Library Coordinator, was this year's recipient of the Kentucky Library Association Award for the best article published in Kentucky Libraries. The article, "Librarian, Educator, and Parent Partnership: Keeping Children Safe on the Internet," was selected by the Member Services Committee as the best of the feature articles published last year in the journal Kentucky Libraries. The award was presented at a KLA Awards Luncheon at the KLA Fall Conference in Louisville on October 14, 1999.

~Beth Knight and Jack Montgomery

Lights! Camera! Action!

We're not taking over the Hollywood scene, but WKU Libraries is dramatically altering its collection landscape with new scholarly resources. Researchers can experience the excitement of historical events enhanced with sounds, art, photos, maps, and other interactive links. These interactive features, known as multimedia, will soon be part of the library collection in the form of CD-ROMs.

A new multimedia workstation in the Reference area will offer patrons the ability to hear and see events, link to maps and pictures relating to a topic, and generally explore all aspects of a topic. Headsets will subdue the sounds associated with these interactive products.

To launch our collection is the Encarta Africana, two CD-ROMS by Microsoft. Encarta Africana is a comprehensive encyclopedia of Black history and culture with more than 3000 articles, 2500 videos, audio clips, maps, cultural artwork and photographs, and an interactive time line of Africans and people of African descent. History really does come alive through interactive products such as this. Encarta Africana is a major breakthrough for our emerging multimedia collection.

~ Beth Knight and Jack Montgomery

Coutts Wins Louis Shores Award

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association (ALA) administers 12 major awards to recognize outstanding achievement by members of the library profession. This year, Western Kentucky University's Head of the Department of Library Public Services, Dr. Brian E. Coutts, was the recipient of RUSA's Louis Shores/Onyx Press Award for his continued excellence in reviewing books. Dr. Coutts was presented the award, consisting of a citation and a cash award, during the annual ALA conference in New Orleans last June. The award was given in recognition of the reviewing excellence in the body of work he has produced over the last thirteen years with co-author John B. Richard, and for the quality of their annual column "Best Reference sources" which comes out in the April 15th issue of Library Journal every year.

~ Beth Knight

Book Festival 2000

The name's the same--Southern Kentucky Festival of Books. Our mission's unchanged--to promote reading, love of books, and literacy in the state and region. But little else will remain the same for next year's book festival, scheduled for March 24-26 at the Bowling Green/Warren County Convention Center.

Under the leadership of volunteer co-chairs, Ray Buckberry, Jr. and Regina Newell, and working with partners, Barnes & Noble and the Bowling Green Public Library, plans are to make book festival 2000 bigger and better.

That's not to say we'll "throw out the baby with the bath water." Many of the highly successful and well received activities will remain. But because of the tremendous response from people in

the community and region, we are looking to increase attendance by providing additional opportunities for people of all ages.

Besides increasing the number of authors, a variety of speakers and programs, a high priority is to increase the festival's educational component by reaching out regionally to involve more schools in the contests for schoolchildren; working with librarians and classroom teachers to arrange for childrens authors to make pre-festival visits in area schools; adding dramatic performances; writing workshops for young people, etc.

To make the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books 2000 as successful as the first event, volunteers are needed. If you're willing and available to lend your time and talents to help, please contact the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books office (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu

~Earlene Chelf

Kentucky Building Gets Visitor Parking Lot

In July 1998, Dr. Henry Harding, retired Dean of Academic Services at Western Kentucky University, sold four lots and houses to WKU. These lots, three on Kentucky Street directly across from the Kentucky building, and an adjoining house and lot facing Adams Street, were stipulated to be used for off campus visitors to the Kentucky Building.

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~ Riley Handy

ERC Benefits from Winchel Endowment

The Educational Resources Center at Western Kentucky University has recently acquired a new television and VCR. A new cart was purchased to provide mobility, and a new set of earphones enables patrons to utilize the new media without disturbing others. These new purchases are popular with ERC patrons, particularly those who teach and are enrolled in teacher preparation classes. Faculty from the College of Educational and Behavioral Sciences can schedule their classes to meet in the ERC to view a selected video, or they can assign their students to view selected videos for class assignments. Furthermore, future teachers can preview videos from the ERC's growing collection of educational videos as they prepare their lesson plans. Perhaps the most popular use of the new media is that by future teachers as they view videotaped versions of

themselves teaching lessons. There is no better way to critique one's teaching style than to study oneself in action! These new purchases were made possible by an endowment fund established by Beulah R. Winchel, a 1939 graduate of Western Kentucky University, and a woman who has been devoted to education and librarianship throughout her life.

~Darla Bressler

Reference Reorganization

At the beginning of this Fall Semester, the Reference area in Helm Library was completely reorganized for the convenience of patrons in an attempt to provide more immediate access to Internet-based databases as well as access to the library online catalog, TOPCAT 2000. This reorganization moved all the Reference area workstations closer to the Reference Desk so that library patrons could receive faster assistance from the reference librarians and staff. In addition, the copier was moved to another wall in Reference, the area was rewired, and all the old TOPCAT terminals were removed to make way for new Internet ready computers. The number of Internet capable workstations in the Reference area have been doubled and a few stand-alone computers run the few CD-ROMs for indexes which are not yet available on the Internet or the WKU main CD-ROM server.

Now, the study tables which used to be directly in front of the Reference Desk have been moved to the back of the room where the students studying at them will be less likely to be disturbed by any reference interactions going on at the Reference Desk.

~ Beth Knight and Jack Montgomery

Smithsonian Virtual Exhibits include Kentucky Museum Exhibit

What do the Kentucky Museum, the Chicago Historical Society, Georgetown University, and the State Library of Victoria in Austria have in common? Their staffers have created online exhibits that are listed on the "Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web" page, a project of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. This Web site features more than 450 virtual exhibits, including the Kentucky Museum's own online exhibit, "[First American Roads, Rails, and Rivers: Warren County Then and Now](#)."

The URL to access this Smithsonian Web page is <http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions/online-exhibitions-title.htm>. Once you reach the main page, link to the Exhibitions list which organizes exhibits alphabetically by title. Please note that the Smithsonian Library staff has listed "First American Roads, Rails and Rivers" under the letter "R".

~ Sandy Staebell

Community Artist - In Residence Begins Project

Well known Bowling Green artist, Delaire Rowe, is now serving as community artist-in-residence for "Expressing Kentucky," a year-long project underwritten by a grant from the Kentucky Arts Council. Designed to reach as many people around the region as possible, "Expressing Kentucky" includes six exhibits that will be on display at various sites around Bowling Green including a mural which volunteers recently completed at the Capitol Arts Center.

"Expressing Kentucky" is a collaborative project between the community artist in residence, project partners, and area community groups. Throughout the year-long project, Ms. Rowe will ask participants to reflect on the creative process and incorporate some of their responses into exhibit materials. WKYU-TV will videotape the artwork in these exhibits and use some of the footage in its "Main Street" and "Outlook" programs.

The first exhibits will feature artwork produced by Ms. Rowe, clients of Barren River Adult Day Care at Western Kentucky University, clubs affiliated with the Houchens Center, school children and teachers from throughout the region. All those interested will simultaneously participate in workshops and create artwork of their own, some of which will be added to existing exhibits. A new exhibit of art by Kentucky native, Joe Downing, will be the focal point for project activities in the Spring of 2000. Eventually, a traveling exhibit composed of artwork selected from all shows will tour the area.

In addition to the Kentucky Museum, project partners include the Capitol Arts Alliance, Very Special Arts Kentucky, Bowling Green Special Olympics, Barren River Adult Day Care at Western Kentucky University, the Houchens Center, WKYU-TV, Public Theater of Kentucky and Girls Inc.

All area groups and organizations are invited to participate in "Expressing Kentucky." For more information or to sign up for workshops, call Delaire Rowe at 745-6082, or email her at delaire.rowe@wku.edu.

~Sandy Staebell

BellSouth Community Internet Workshops Year 2000 Schedule

July 20

Health

Internet health-related sites for the layman.

Penny Papangelis

**Join us at one of University Libraries
Electronic Research Workshops!**

These workshops will be held in the computer lab in room 116 from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. at the South Campus, 2355 Nashville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (please enter using the right entrance). These hands-on workshops are free and open to WKU faculty, staff and students and the public. To register, or if you would like more information about these or upcoming events, contact University Libraries Reference Office (270) 745-6115 or web.reference@wku.edu

January 27

Internet Browsing and Searching

Learn the basics of navigating and searching the Internet.

Haiwang Yuan

February 24

Weather on the Web

Check out weather conditions around the world.

Glen Conner, State Climatologist

March 23 *Tax & Legal Information on the Web*

Find tax forms and information, laws and regulations

April 13

Genealogy

Searching family mysteries, this session will show you more...on the web.

Rich Weigel, WKU History Det.

June 22

Travel Web Sites

Join us as we take you to exotic places and show you how to book reservations on the web.

Brian Coutts

August 24

Retirement & Senior Sites

Explore web resources of interest to seniors.

Rosemary Meszaros

September 21

Kentuckiana for School Teachers

Kentucky information on the net for the school curriculum.

Darla Bressler

October 26

Science Fiction on the Web

Science fiction and fantasy books, writers,
reviews, publishing information, TV
series, movies and more.

Beth Knight

November 16

Cooking & Recipes for the Holidays

Try out new recipes from a variety of site,
plus cooking tips and nutrition!

Ruth Kinnersley