Spring 1998

UA51/1/4 Collections & Connections

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Imagine assembling over 66,000 pieces of fabric into a single quilt. To accomplish this, you cut ten different colors of cotton percale into pieces so small that the individual scraps measure no more than three-eighths of an inch once you sew them together. Oh, did I mention that you are a man, Bowling Green jewelry store engraver George Yarrall? This story behind the Spectrum Quilt is one of several fascinating tales told in the upcoming exhibit, “Cover Stories: Warren County Quilts and Quilters.”

From June 6 to November 15, “Cover Stories” will feature more than 20 quilts from the Kentucky Museum collection. Other textiles with stories to tell include a pair of applique quilts made by Martha Woods Potter and her daughter Mildred Potter Lissauer. Upon seeing her mother’s quilt, Carnation Basket, Lissauer reportedly responded, “I can do better than that!” Her result was the Godley Quilt, recently featured in American Quilt Collections: Antique Quilt Masterpieces.

Two quilts in the exhibit document Warren County’s ties to the textile industry. Around the turn of the century, Mrs. J. T. Matlock made the first quilt, a Log Cabin (Multiple Barn Raising Variation). She used velvet remnants reportedly acquired from Mrs. A. H.

Global Reach with a Local Touch

Consider that the Web no longer resides only in Charlotte’s Web for spider Charlotte to send messages to pig Wilbur; that most libraries use computers instead of 3 x 5 cards for information access; that technology pushes us, provides us with opportunities and challenges us to increase our use of the information universe; and that computer literacy is as much a survival skill today as it is the ability to read. These developments and so many others remind us that “Global Reach, Local Touch” represents more than just the theme of the 40th observance of National Library Week, April 19-25, 1998. WKU Libraries focused on the impact of information technology and worldwide connections through the Internet, storytelling, recognition of authors and special manuscript collections. Banners, buttons, and door prizes at WKU and the Glasgow Campus Library reminded everyone of this national celebration.

University Libraries planned special events throughout the week to highlight connections to the world of information. On Monday afternoon Eugenia K. Potter, editor of Kentucky Women, gave a slide presentation and autographed her book. On Tuesday afternoon the eleventh annual Western Authors Reception featured publications by Western faculty and staff and the presentation of the annual Faculty Library Award to a WKU faculty member who consistently contributes to the development and use of library and museum resources.

WKU librarians offered workshops on “Effective Web Searching” and “China on the Web” on Wednesday and Thursday, adding to the global theme. For a local touch, WKU Libraries provided a Wednesday morning story time at the campus day care center. Culminating the week of events was the dedication and opening of the Blotner Archives, as part of the Robert Penn Warren Symposium, April 25-26. This ceremony offered an excellent blend of global and local influence.

National Library Week activities were partially underwritten by The Stoody Company. We appreciate its support of WKU Libraries.
Taylor’s dressmaking business. Forty years later, Della White Henderson Kirby pieced a quilt from scraps saved by Union Underwear employees.

The exhibit also features a quilt made with fabric from Elizabeth Moore Dunn’s trousseau, a quilt top that commemorates the War Between the States, and the Cathedral Windows pattern quilt that Mrs. Chester Young Duckett started at age 89. Three others, Tumbling Blocks (Cross Variation), Chester Dare and Tobacco Leaf have toured nationally.

The exhibit is sponsored in part by Trans Financial Bank, J. C. Kirby & Son Funeral Chapel and Southern Foods, Inc. Programming will include a Kentucky Quilt Registry sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society. Quilts dating from earliest times to 1940 that are located in Warren County or were made in Warren County are eligible. The Kentucky Tour of Folk Music will also perform in late August-early September.

— Sandy Staebell

Mrs. Ravenel Haile, widow of Tompkinsville guitar maker Hascal Haile (1906-1988), recently donated two guitars to the College Heights Foundation and The Kentucky Museum. One is a folk guitar Haile customized with delicate abalone inlay, silver frets and gold-plated tuning pegs. The other is a “Chet Atkins” signature electric classical guitar based on a Haile design. A Monroe county native, Haile made guitars for classical artists and for country musicians such as Chet Atkins, Waylon Jennings and Roy Clark. His honors include visiting the Carter White House, donating a guitar to the Smithsonian Institution, and appearing as the featured craftsman of the 1981 National Folk Festival.

— Sandy Staebell

Collections Connections

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University Archives is currently processing the Training School/College High Collection. All former instructors, alumni and friends who have diaries, letters, school papers, photographs or artifacts which document life on the Hill are encouraged to donate these items immediately. Once the collection is inventoried, many of these artifacts and photographs will be included in a Garden Gallery exhibit at the Kentucky Museum from July 28 to September 4, 1998, concurrent with the College Reunion.

Alumni Affairs is inviting more than 1000 College High alumni to the third College High Reunion July 31 through August 1. Participants can expect an agenda similar to the very successful reunions in 1988 and 1993. Major events for the reunion include the Cardinal Picnic, a College High Exhibit at the Kentucky Museum, “The Great Debate” between College High and Bowling Green High at Van Meter Auditorium, a Junior-Senior Banquet and Senior Prom at Garrett Conference Center with Music by Doc Livingston Band. In addition, class pictures will be taken. Reunions are wonderful opportunities to celebrate our educational heritage. For more information about the reunion or to donate College High materials, contact University Archivist Sue Lynn Stone at (502) 745-4793.
The columns on the Homepage of the University Libraries and Kentucky Museum fall into three categories: Information, Services, and Resources and Guides. The Information column is a list of links to factual information a patron might need. This includes the hours the libraries and museum are open, a calendar of events, details about awards, a way to find out about faculty, and even the mission of the library, among many other selections.

The Services column is a list of links which connect the user to information about various services. If someone needs to find out how to order an item through Interlibrary Loan, the details are just a click away. Information about museum exhibits, workshops, and the Ask Us! Web reference service is also listed in this column.

The last column is Resources and Guides, a listing of selections which are especially useful for instruction. There is a link to a guide to doing research. Details on how to evaluate a Web site for content, information about KERA, and tips on searching the Internet reside in this column. There is also a link to information about style manuals so that a student, who needs to create a footnote or a bibliography, can jump quickly to a listing of the style manuals the library owns (APA Style Manual or MLA Handbook, for example) and where those books are located. It’s even possible to access some hyperlinks from that page to Internet versions of the style manuals. A link to the Pathfinders page leads the user to a source of subject specific guides created by librarians in their subject specialty, and covering book and Internet resources in a given subject area.

The University Libraries and the Kentucky Museum’s Homepage has a new look, but do more than look! Spend some time and explore what the Homepage of the University Libraries and the Kentucky Museum has to offer! http://www.wku.edu/Library/ &

— Beth Knight

"A library is but the soul’s burial-ground." —H.W. Beecher

He “shOw Modular Model Railroad Club Expo” returns to The Kentucky Museum, April 11-May 3.

The modular layouts, designed and built by club members, feature operating model trains, track, buildings and scenery in 1/87 scale (one inch equals 87 inches in real life). Last year’s show, scheduled as part of the Bowling Green/Warren County Bicentennial exhibit “First American Roads, Rails and Rivers: Warren County Then and Now,” was immensely popular because the miniature Louisville and Nashville, CSX and R. J. Corman trains glided along tracks that ran through imaginatively re-created and readily identifiable buildings and scenes from the community.

For more information about specific times the trains will be operating, activities scheduled as part of EXPO ’98, or to arrange group tours, contact The Kentucky Museum at (502) 745-2592.

— Earlene Cheff

Well-known landmarks and familiar scenes invite train enthusiasts into this miniature world re-created by shOw Modular Model Railroad Club members, whose craftsmanship and artistic skills will be displayed at The Kentucky Museum April 1-May 3, 1998.

Collections & Connections, received an “Award of Excellence - Fund Raising Publications” in a competition sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education - Kentucky (CASE-Kentucky), as part of the organization’s fall 1997 meeting.

Newsletter co-editors are Earlene Cheff and Beth Knight; the editorial staff are Carol Cummings, Connie Foster, Jonathan Jeffrey, Elaine Moore and Sandy Staebell. Also involved in newsletter production are library and museum administrators Dean Michael B. Binder and Department Heads Linda Allan, Brian Cou tts and Riley Handy.

— Earlene Cheff

Hats Off!
Kentucky Death Records, 1911-1942, represents a significant addition to the Kentucky Library's genealogical and historical collections. A major gift from the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society and a donation from the Edmonson County Historical Society made possible the purchase of over 300 reels of microfilm from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Fortunately, the Kentucky Library already has an index to this valuable research tool.

Vital records are important research tools and document significant life events such as births, marriages, divorces, immigration, sickness and death. Vital records serve as important legal documents. In a mobile society, an individual must occasionally prove identity, age, citizenship or marital status. It is important to both the individual and government that these records be properly maintained in an official repository and be made available upon demand. The importance of this service increases as a society becomes more complex. Vital records are also used to compile statistical information that is helpful to government and other public and private entities.

During the nineteenth century, England and other European countries began national registration systems for recording vital records, primarily to compile medical statistics related to epidemics. The United States did not implement the practice until much later. The majority of states did not require registration until the first quarter of the twentieth century.

As early as 1852 Kentucky began keeping birth and death records. This registration system only lasted a decade, but some births and deaths were also sporadically recorded from 1874 to 1879 and from 1892 to 1910. A few larger cities maintained separate birth and death records, but these too are incomplete. Kentucky's modern birth and death registration was enacted statewide on January 1, 1911 and generally was adhered to by 1920.

Modern death certificates (those dating from 1911 to the present) have not been standardized in the United States, but they basically contain the same type of information: deceased's name, sex, race, date of death, age at the time of death, place of death, date of birth, marital status, name of spouse, occupation, residence, father's name, mother's name, cause of death, and place of burial. Kentucky's death certificates also include birthplace of the deceased's parents. The accuracy of this information depends to a great extent on the person providing the information, generally the closest relative and the attending physician or coroner.

Having this microfilm collection means that Kentucky Library patrons can make a copy of a death certificate for fifteen cents on site. In the past patrons had to send a request to the Office of Vital Statistics, pay a seven-dollar fee, and then wait several weeks for a reply. Genealogy and local history patrons will benefit tremendously from the savings in time and money coupled with the immediate information access.

— Jonathan Jeffrey

Ray and Elizabeth Cossey were recently presented a framed print of The Kentucky Building by Dean Michael Binder on behalf of the faculty and staff of the University Libraries and The Kentucky Museum in appreciation for their long history of service and support for our programs. Ray, retired from the U.S. Post Office and the U.S. Army Reserves, has worked as a lobby clerk at The Kentucky Building for 18 years, and Elizabeth is a former humanities reference librarian, with 16 years of service to WKU. The Cosseys have consistently, humbly and quietly continued to show their generosity to us throughout the years, and we are pleased to count them as two of our most special friends.
These workshops will be held at 7 p.m. various Thursdays at WKU’s Institute for Economic Development, 2355 Nashville Road, in the Lab (please use right entrance). There is no charge to attend, and there is lots of room to park. Space is limited so call to reserve a spot; however, last minute walk-ins are welcome if there is room.

The upcoming workshops are:

**June 16**  "Travel Web Sites"
It’s that time again to work out your travel plans. Join us as we take you to exotic places and show you how to book reservations on the web.

**July 9**  "Birding on the Web"
Web sites for the novice to expert birdwatcher. Learn how to attract, find and identify birds and record your sightings.

**August 27**  "Electronic Business Resources"
A review of a variety of web sites related to business. Entrepreneurs or those just interested in broadening their business horizons on the web won’t want to miss this.

**September 10**  "Shakers and Other Utopian Societies"
Shaker life and culture formed a vital part of Kentucky history. Come join us as we examine this and other communal societies.

To register for a workshop or to receive a brochure listing all BELLsOUTH Community Internet Workshops, contact the University Libraries Reference Office (j02) 743-6115 or e-mail WEB.reference@WKU.edu.

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**In Memoriam:**

**Mr. Rowland Tharaldson**

Tharaldson was a generous volunteer at the Glasgow Campus Library, assisting for two and a half hours a day, five days a week over the past five years. Tharaldson had a strong thirst for knowledge and an enormous respect for education. And he always recognized the importance of the library as an essential resource for a good education. In fact, he was almost 80 when he completed his bachelor’s degree in political science and history in 1991. Two years later he received a master’s degree in history at age 82. Having WKU classes available in Glasgow gave Tharaldson the opportunity to complete his education.

Rowland Tharaldson grew up in Bemidji, Minnesota, in a family of seven brothers and sisters. In his twenties he attended the University of Minnesota, hoping to major in journalism, but he had to quit his studies. After serving in the Army in WWII, he worked for the Arnold Center, Air Force Testing Facility in Huntsville, Alabama. He was also involved with the Mercury Space Program. Upon retirement he moved to Glasgow, Kentucky.

Before coming to the Glasgow Campus Library, Tharaldson volunteered in the Glasgow Employment Office and the Barren County Clerk’s office—all that while studying for his bachelor’s degree!

In a recent speech at the Glasgow Extended Campus, WKU President Ransdell singled out Tharaldson before his death. Ransdell commended Tharaldson for his selfless generosity with his time and continued involvement with the WKU community.

The Associated Student Body at the Glasgow campus presented the Glasgow Library with a framed picture of Rowland Tharaldson - In Loving Memory - March 31, 1998, for his support of their organization through the years.

Tharaldson was a friend, confidant, and inspiration to faculty and students alike. He shall be missed.

- Beth Knight and Fina Simpson

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"Books are yours, Within whose silent chambers treasure lies Preserved from age to age; more precious far Than that accumulated store of gold."

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APRIL

"ahow Modular Model Railroad Club Expo '98" featuring operating model trains, track, buildings and scenery in 1/87 scale in modules created by club members.

7:00 P.M. Investigating Murder Mysteries on the WWW, a community Internet workshop sponsored by BELLSOUTH. Presented by WKU Libraries in the computer lab at the Institute for Economic Development, 2355 Nashville Road. Use right entrance. Contact (502) 745-6115 for more details.

JUNE

"Cover Stories: Warren County Quilt and Quilter" About two dozen Warren County quilts from the museum's collection, will be featured in this show. These quilts, dating from the mid-19th century to the 1980s, will be exhibited in Galleries K & L through Nov. 15, 1998. Sponsored by Trans Financial Bank, J.C. Kirby & Son Funeral Chapel and Southern Foods, Inc.

9:00 P.M. Travel Web Sites, a community Internet workshop sponsored by BELLSOUTH. Presented by WKU Libraries in the computer lab at the Institute for Economic Development, 2355 Nashville Road. Use right entrance. Contact (502) 745-6115 for more details.

2:00 P.M. An InfoTrac Searchbank World Wide Web Workshop, held in the InfoLab, Helm 108.

JULY

2:30-4:00 P.M. A FirstSearch World Wide Web Workshop, held in the InfoLab, Helm 108.

2:00 P.M. An InfoTrac Searchbank World Wide Web Workshop, held in the InfoLab, Helm 108.

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