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THE LOWER YOSEMITE FALLS

From a Carleton E. Watkins album at Syracuse University

THE COURIER

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Volume XV, Number 4, 1978

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News of the Library and Library Associates

Auction and Dinner Meeting

Library Associates' major event in the fall of 1978 was the members' dinner and Antiquarian Book Auction, held October 13, at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse.

Mr. John S. Mayfield spoke at the dinner which preceded the auction. In his forthright way, he spoke scornfully of those who collect books for profit; yet he managed to keep everyone amused by the scathing adjectives he used to describe such "avaricious idiots."

The auction sales earned \$3757.00. Catalog sales and cash contributions brought the total to \$4142.75. Expenses were only about \$100.00, thanks to donations of supplies and advertising, not to mention auction items.

There is no question that the auction could not have been held without the Auction Committee: Mr. Sid Wechter, Mr. Stephen Resnick, and Mr. Bruce Johnson. Without Mr. Wechter's drive and interest, there would not have been a successful auction.

But, as Mr. Wechter would be the first to say, the committee could not have done it without the help of many people contributing in any way they could, especially to the organizational and clerical tasks, and to the important public relations and publicity.

Early in the spring of 1978, flyers were designed and printed, and with the help of volunteers, mailed to over a thousand potential donors. When the books began coming in, they had to be tagged, listed and the donors thanked. When two very large donations came in, Miss Janet Graham and Miss Polly Hewitt were invaluable in a job that took hours.

Further, Mr. James Austin's house was visited three times for pick-up of books. The third time Miss Hewitt did the job herself and brought the valuable *Harper's Weekly* and *Every Saturday* magazines to the library. It was Miss Hewitt, who persisted in telling the executive secretary about Mr. Austin's books, until he was contacted just before he moved to another city.

Miss Hewitt apparently always spoke of the auction wherever she went, especially to book stores, and was a valuable public relations arm of the committee!

Another large group of books came from a donor who wished to be listed anonymously in the catalog. Mr. Resnick delivered these books to the library.

Later, Mr. Wechter, Mr. Resnick, helped by Mr. Bannister and Mr. Todd Weseloh, librarian at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, chose the books to be auctioned, set a price range, and settled on catalog entries. The catalog was typed, corrected, and then printed at the Copy Center at the Bird Library, at no cost to Library Associates.

Meanwhile, another thousand or so pieces of mail were prepared, in the office, with the news that the catalog was ready.

Off and on during this entire period, from spring to the week of the auction, publicity releases were sent where they would do the most good. Some publicity was sent by Richard Wilson from the Syracuse University News Bureau, some directly from Library Associates' office. Not counting 500 poster-flyers placed around the campus and in stores and libraries, or publicity sent to the membership, nineteen pieces of free publicity appeared, including announcements on radio station WONO-FM and a full page announcement in the Onondaga County Civic Center playbill.

Mr. Wechter contributed advertisements in the Rochester and Syracuse newspapers and arranged for copy in *AB Bookman's Weekly*.

The Syracuse University Libraries gave outstanding support. Requests for help, supplies, and expertise from the George Arents Research Library staff were cheerfully filled. A pair of bindings oiled, a folder wrapped and bound with ribbon, telephone messages taken, delivery of books to the museum arranged — all this they did, and more.

Large amounts of mail were sent through the library Mail Room. There were boxes needed for books, envelopes for catalogs, carts for hauling, and other small but necessary things, which involved a number of the non-professional staff of the library. Twenty maps, prints, and posters were mounted in 611 Bird.

Finally, on the day of the auction, thanks to a number of reliable aides, to good organization, and foresight on the part of those in charge, things went smoothly. Once the auction itself was underway, Mr. Wechter alone pulled it off successfully.

Letters have since been sent to nearly three dozen people who took part in making the evening a success. Mr. Wechter was able to find a dealer who bought all the books remaining in the office, some of which were left from both auctions and some of which had been donated as long ago as 1973.

Trustees who took a particular interest in the auction through donations of items and expertise include, besides Mr. Wechter, Dr. Tatham, Dr. Best, Mrs. Lemke, Dr. Marshall, Mr. Wilson,

Mr. Bannister, Miss Hewitt, Miss Graham, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wertheimer, whose gift was the centerpiece for the speaker's table, though she could not attend the dinner.

It was a fine effort from everyone!

Writer on the Board

Mr. Richard Wilson, director of the Syracuse University News Bureau, is a science fiction writer. He has had three novels published, plus more than ninety short stories and articles. In 1968, he won the Nebula Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America for his novelette, "Mother of the World," which has since appeared in several anthologies and been translated into other languages, including Japanese. The March-April 1978 issue of Isaac Asimov's *Science Fiction* magazine presented Mr. Wilson's story "The Far King" as the cover feature. He has a story in the new magazine *Destinies*, titled "The Story Writer."

Mr. Wilson is a member of Library Associates' Board of Trustees and chairman of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee.

Recent New Memberships

The following are the new members who have joined Library Associates between June 1 and December 1, 1978. The list includes those who became first-time members when they made an auction donation. Welcome to all!

Mrs. Chester Abend
Mr. Michael Q. Adams
Mr. James G. Austin
Mr. Kenneth Behrens
Mr. Ralph Berendt
Mr. Richard C. Burns
Mrs. Robert DeGroot
Mr. John Estabrook
Mr. Walter A. Grant

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Gold
Dr. Arthur W. Hoffman
Mrs. Marjorie May
Mr. Andrew B. Nye
Mrs. Ingeborg Quitzau
Mr. Harold J. Shoebridge
Mr. Todd Weseloh
Mr. Roger N. Whiting
Mr. Gary A. Wood

Syracuse University Press Endowment

The Syracuse University Press has always had a special relationship with Library Associates, having been the first publisher of *The Courier*. The Press has established an Endowment Fund to help ensure continued high-quality publication. At a special reception, Chancellor Melvin A. Eggers announced that Dr. William P. Tolley, chancellor emeritus, had made a gift of \$10,000.00 to give the fund a flying start. Mrs. Arpena Mesrobian, director of the Press, said that more than \$5,000.00 had been received from other individuals interested in supporting the Press.

Readers of *The Courier* know of the awards which the Syracuse University Press receives year after year.

On the Air

The CBS radio series on “Writers and Artists in America” presented an interview with Professor Walter Sutton of the Syracuse University English Department. Professor Sutton spoke on Stephen Crane, whose work forms an important part of the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University.

Dr. Sutton wrote an article on Stephen Crane for *The Courier*, IX, 1, October 1971 — “The Modernity of Stephen Crane’s Poetry: A Centennial Tribute.” He has been a member of the Publication Board of *The Courier* since 1970.

In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus Laurance B. Siegfried, who had a distinguished career in the graphic arts, died in September at the age of 86.

He was closely associated with his cousin, William A. Dwiggins, whose initials, WAD, are known to those interested in typography. Together they undertook and succeeded in the improvement of book typography and design.

In 1977, Professor Siegfried received national recognition for his contribution to typography from the Rochester Institute of Technology, which gave him the Frederic W. Goudy Award. (See *The Courier*, XIV, 4, Fall 1977, p. 29).

At Syracuse University, he was associated with the former Orange Publishing Company, the Syracuse University Press, was the “University Printer,” and professor and chairman of the department of Graphic Arts in the School of Journalism.

Mr. Roderick Benton, the widely known and fondly remembered book collector and dealer, died in July in Marcellus, New York. He was the owner of the Wolcott Shop, which had become a legend among book-lovers in Central New York. (See *The Courier*, XI, 4, Winter 1975, p. 22).

Mrs. Carolyn B. Wright, who was closely associated with the Onondaga Historical Association, died in the summer. Mrs. Wright did invaluable work for the Historical Association in preparing records of community leaders and events. She was chief aide to her husband, Richard H. Wright, who is president of the Onondaga Historical Association.

Mr. Carl O. Bachman died in March. He had been called “the foremost trial attorney in Northern New York.” He was actively interested in civic organizations, in education, and was a member of Library Associates for many years.

Mrs. Flora Mather Hosmer died in September. She was a member of Library Associates’ Board of Trustees. Well known in the Syracuse area for her activities as a director of the Syracuse Symphony, the Everson Museum, and Planned Parenthood of New York, she will be missed by the many who worked with her during her years as a civic leader.

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