

ELAINE B. SMYTH

Title: Head, Special Collections

Rank: Librarian

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LSU Libraries
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Education

Master of Librarianship, University of Washington, Seattle, 1979

B.A., French Literature, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, 1974

Professional Experience

November 2006 - present. Head, Special Collections. Responsibilities include administering the LSU Libraries' Special Collections division, comprising public services, collection development and preservation, and technical services, carried out by 30 FTE including 11 faculty. Additional duties include collection development and curatorial care for published materials and art in Special Collections; public service; grant-writing and development; participation in the overall management of the LSU Libraries.

July 1999 - October 2006. Curator, Special Collections. Responsibilities include collection development and curatorial care of the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, the Rare Book Collection, the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection and the LSU Libraries' art and artifact collections; public service; coordination of exhibitions and other outreach activities; participation in the overall management of Special Collections; oversight and supervision of 15 FTE including 6 faculty.

November, 1995 - June 1999. Curator of Rare Books and the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection and Head, Access Services for Special Collections, LSU Libraries.

February, 1990-October, 1995. Head, Rare Book Collections, Special Collections, LSU Libraries.

October, 1988-January, 1990. Head, Manuscripts Processing Unit, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Special Collections, LSU Libraries.

September, 1979 - June, 1981. Catalog Librarian, Catalog Dept./Dept. of Rare Books, Olin Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Other Relevant Experience

November, 1987 - September, 1988. Copy editor, LSU Press, Baton Rouge.

July 1981 - July 1987. Cataloger and Executive Assistant, W. Thomas Taylor, Inc., Austin, Texas.

April 1976 - June, 1978. Library Assistant, Dept. of Rare Books and Acquisitions Dept., Olin Library, Cornell University.

Continuing Education

Completed the ARL "Coaching for Performance" Online Workshop, October, 2002

Attended "School for Scanning" sponsored by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, Dec. 3 - 5, 2001, Delray Beach, Florida.

Attended "Advanced Seminar in Special Collections Management," Rare Book School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, July 23-27, 2001, taught by Merrily Taylor and Samuel Streit, Brown University Library.

SOLINET Train-the-Trainer Disaster Recovery Workshop, March, 1999

SOLINET Preservation Workshop, April, 1997

Attended "Publishers' Bookbindings, 1830-1910," Rare Book School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, taught by Sue Allen. July 10 -14, 1995.

Attended "Electronic Formats in the Rare Books Environment," Rare Book School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, taught by David Seaman. July, 1994.

Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Services, Basic Management Skills Institute, New Orleans, May, 1992

ALCTS Collection Management Preconference, Chicago, June, 1990

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Publications

Books

Plain Wrapper Press, 1966-1988: An Illustrated Bibliography of the Work of Richard-Gabriel Rummonds. With Bibliographic Descriptions by Elaine Smyth and a Foreword by Decherd Turner. Austin: W. Thomas Taylor, 1993. 74 p.

Twelve Bindings / Michael Wilcox. With remarks on the bindings by Michael Wilcox & on the books by Elaine Smyth & W. Thomas Taylor. Austin, Tx.: W. Thomas Taylor, 1985. 41 p.

Shorter Works

Articles in refereed journals or bulletins

"A Practical Approach to Writing a Collection Development Policy," *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship* 14:1 (1999): 27-31. Also available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/rbm/backissuesrbmlvo/smyth.PDF>

"Working with Friends of the Library to Augment Staff Resources." Co-authored with Robert S. Martin," *Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship* 9:1 (1994): 19-28.

"Preservation on a Shoestring, or What to Do Until the Conservator Comes," *LLA Bulletin* 55:3 (Winter 1993): 124-128.

Other publications

"Collectors: David Culbert, Baton Rouge, Louisiana," *Bookways* 8 (July 1993): 52-53

Reviews of fine press/typography books in *Bookways*: 6 (January 1993): 45-46; 4 (July 1992): 42-43; 3 (April 1992): 28-29; 3 (April 1992): 31-32; 2 (January 1992): 39-41; 1 (October 1991): 37-39; and the Guild of Bookworkers *Newsletter* (Spring, 1995).

Miscellaneous

“The E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection,” *Plant Science Bulletin* 47:4 (Winter 2001) 2-4. Available at <http://www.botany.org/bsa/psb/2001/psb47-4.pdf>.

A series of brief articles and short news items about acquisitions and events published in *Lumières*, the newsletter of the Friends of the LSU Libraries, Spring 1991, Fall 1992, Fall 1993, Spring 1995, Fall 1995, Spring 1997, Fall 1997, Fall 1998, Spring 1999, Spring 2001.

Traité de la relieure des livres. By Jean-Vincent Capronnier de Gauffecourt. A bilingual treatise on bookbinding, translated from the French by Claude Benaiteau. With an Introduction by John P. Chalmers. Edited by Elaine B. Smyth. Austin: Taylor, 1987. 130 p.

Other creative and artistic contributions

Exhibitions curated:

“The Imaginative Life of Andrei Codrescu,” Hill Memorial Library, 2005

“A Jubilee for Janus Press,” Hill Memorial Library, 2005

“Science in the Art of Margaret Stones,” Hill Memorial Library, 2004

“In the Midst of War: Civil War Imprints from the Collection of Robert J. Bruno,” Hill Memorial Library, 2004

“*The North American Indian* by Edward S. Curtis,” Hill Memorial Library, 2002

“Aardvark to Zebra: Art & Zoology in the McIlhenny Collection,” Hill Memorial Library, 2001

“In Flowering Time: The Work of Margaret Stones,” Hill Memorial Library, 2000

“Beautiful Science, Beautiful Books,” Louisiana Arts & Science Center, 1999

“From Parchment to Pixels,” featuring 500 years of book arts, Hill Memorial Library, 1999

“Tradition and Innovation: Thirty-Six Years of the Janus Press,” Hill Memorial Library, 1998

“Love Stories,” Hill Memorial Library, 1998

“Saving Lear’s Parrots,” Hill Memorial Library, 1996

“William Morris: One Hundred Years After,” Hill Memorial Library, 1996

“Panoply of Pastimes,” an exhibition on 18th-century British amusements, mounted for the annual meeting of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Hill Memorial Library, 1993.

“Designing for Excellence: Albert Crochet at the LSU Press.” Hill Memorial Library, 1990.

“Bruce Rogers: His Work and His Words.” Hill Memorial Library, 1988.

Participation in other professional meetings, symposia, workshops, and conferences

Workshop presenter: “Best-Laid Plans: Simple Steps toward Disaster Preparedness for Libraries,” for the Louisiana Library Support Staff Association meeting, Ruston, Sept. 20, 2007

“A Brief History of the Book,” a slide lecture presented at the Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, October 3, 2002.

“Underappreciated? The Eighteenth Century in LSU’s Special Collections,” a presentation to the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, March 11, 2000. Subsequently published in the newsletter of the Society.

“Disaster Preparedness and Recovery,” a presentation to the Louisiana Library Association 2000 Annual Conference, Alexandria, La., March 16, 2000.

“LSU Libraries, Special Collections: New Ways to Find Research Materials,” co-presenter with Special Collections staff, Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting, March 24, 2000.

“Making It Work: The Whys and Wherefores of Written Collection Development Policies,” a paper presented at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association) Preconference, Montreal, June 1999.

“Electronic Imaging and Eighteenth-century Books, or, Candid and Impartial Considerations on Entropy, the Library and Scholarly Endeavor,” paper delivered at the annual meeting of the East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-century Studies, Baltimore, Maryland, November 13, 1993. Subsequently published in the newsletter of the Society.

“New Ways to Serve, Old Ways to Preserve: Electronic Imaging and Artifactual Evidence,” paper delivered at the annual meeting of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Baton Rouge, March 12, 1993.

Seminar presenter, “Electronic Text/OCR Scanning: New Initiatives,” Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ACRL/ALA) Preconference, New Orleans, June 1993.

Seminar panelist, “Exhibition Catalogue Awards Judging Criteria,” Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ACRL/ALA) Preconference, Santa Cruz, June 1992.

Other presentations

Regular guest lecturer in Library & Information Science (LIS) 7003, “Principles of Collection Management” on collection management for Special Collections, 2001-2005

Lectured on fine printing in LIS 7700, History of the Book, Spring 1993

Guest lecturer on the MARC AMC format, LIS 7908 Special Topics: Special Collections, Spring 1989

Served as trainer for the SOLINET workshops on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery, Fall 1999, offered to LSU Libraries staff and library staff from Louisiana and Mississippi

Awards

LSU Faculty research sabbatical, July - December, 2004 and January - June, 1996.

Recipient of the D. W. Schneider Library Faculty Merit Award, for excellence in job performance, 2000.

Recipient of the Mary Ellen LoPresti Publication Award, given by the Art Libraries Society of North American/Southeast Chapter, 1996. For “Saving Lear’s Parrots” exhibition brochure.

Research Assistantship, School of Librarianship, University of Washington, Seattle, 1978-1979

Phi Beta Kappa, 1974

National Merit Scholar, 1970

Research support/grant activities

Co-Principle Investigator for “Louisiana Historical Newspapers: Preservation and Access,” submitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents Enhancement Program, in the amount \$468,000, October 2005. Funded in the amount of \$400,000

Co-Principle Investigator for “The Francophone Heritage of Louisiana: The Compilation of a Corpus of Early Louisiana French Correspondence,” submitted by the Center for

French and Francophone Studies to the Louisiana Board of Regents Enhancement Program, in the amount of \$17,000, October 2005. Funded in the amount of \$17,000

Project participant for Medieval and Renaissance Interdisciplinary Studies (MARIS) planning grant (August 2002-June 2004) funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, PI Dr. Maribel Dietz, \$23,377, and development grant (June 2003 - June 2005) funded by the Board of Regents, PI Dr. Kirstin Noreen, \$42,183. I expended \$23,344 in grant funds to purchase library materials to support MARIS.

Grant writer for grant to acquire the Thomas H. and Joan W. Gandy Collection of Gurney/Norman Photographs, funded in the amount of \$80,000 by the Coypu Foundation, 2003.

Project coordinator for “The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial: A Heritage Explored,” funded in the amount of \$219,618, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, November 2000 - January 2003.

Grant writer for grant to acquire and exhibit original natural history art work created by Dr. Eugene C. Beckham published in *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana* by Harold A. Dundee and Douglas A. Rossman (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1989). \$36,600 requested from the Coypu Foundation, 1999. Not funded.

Scholarship grant recipient (\$550) from the Rare Book School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, July 23-27, 2001, to attend “Advanced Seminar in Special Collections Management.”

Project director for “Turning the Page: A Celebration of the Book as Art,” funded in the amount of \$5,569 by the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, with additional support from Barnes & Noble Booksellers and Franklin Press, August-September, 1999.

Grant writer for grants to establish endowments to support “The John Stauffer McIlhenny Visiting Scholars Program”; “The John Stauffer McIlhenny Lectures in Natural History”; and “The John Stauffer McIlhenny Endowment for the Support of the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection,” July, 1997. \$660,000 requested from the Coypu Foundation. Not funded.

Project author and director for preservation and exhibition of the LSU Libraries’ copy of Edward Lear’s *Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae, or Parrots*, with accompanying brochure and school children’s workbook. Funded in the amount of \$5,075 by the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, August, 1996.

Proposal co-author and project co-director for an exhibition and symposium observing the 20th anniversary of the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection in the LSU Libraries, funded in the amount of \$8,200 by the McIlhenny Company, Avery Island, Louisiana, October 1991.

Proposal co-author (plan-of-work section) and project supervisor for retrospective conversion project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Research Libraries Group in the amount of \$15,085 to create MARC AMC records for 700 collections in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections during 1990.

SERVICE

University service

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Programs, 2007-2008

Faculty Senate Grievance Committee (elected), 2001-2004; chair, 2002 - 2004

Faculty Senate (elected), 1999-2001

Review and Long Range Planning Committee, 1998-2000

Panel member for the regional Competitive Edge Grant Development Conference sponsored by the LSU Agricultural Center and LSU's Office of Sponsored Research, Baton Rouge, November 1998.

Library service

Library Faculty Policy Committee (elected), 1989-1993, 1999-2001, 2005-2007

Faculty Reappointment Review Committee, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003

Promotion and Tenure Review Committee, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006

Promotion Review Committee, 2007

Schwing Lecture Series Design Competition Jury, 1992.

Served as mentor for seven tenure-track library faculty members

Professional service and memberships

Adjudicator/grant panelist for the Institute for Museum and Library Services, 2007, 2005

Adjudicator/grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2005, 2001, 1999

American Library Association, 1989 - present; including

ACRL (including ACRL/LA)

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Member, Guidelines for the Digitization of Special Collections Task Force, 2007-

Member, Budget and Development Committee, 2007-

Chair, Nominating Committee, 2005-2006

Vice-chair/Chair-elect/Past Chair, 2003-2005

Chair, 2000 Preconference Program Planning Committee. Organized a 2.5-day preconference on "Beyond Words: Visual Information in Special Collections,"

Chair, 1999 Program Planning Committee

Co-Chair, Conference Development Committee, 2001-2003; member 1997-2006

Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, 1995-1998

Member, Preconference Program Planning Committee 1993, 1995-99

Chair, Seminars Committee, 1995-1997 (member 1993-1995).

Chair, Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee, 1993-1995.

American Printing History Association, 1997- present

Louisiana Academic Library Network Consortium, Preservation/Disaster Preparedness Task Force member, 1999-2001

Louisiana Historical Association, 2003-present

Society of American Archivists, 1988-1990

Society of Southwest Archivists, 2005-present

South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 1992-1994, 2000-2003

Other Service Activities

Panelist at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association on preparing for the next storm in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lafayette, LA, March 24, 2004

Presented workshop on "Salvaging Wet Collections" sponsored by SOLINET at the Louisiana State Library, October 12, 2005

Provided expert consultation to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the New Orleans Notarial Archives, and Cameron Parish Public Library, October - December 2005, in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Co-author with Tara Laver and Mark Martin, "Special Collections Aids Recovery," in *Archival Outlook*, the newsletter of the Society of American Archivists, and the November 2005 issue of *Southwestern Archivist*, the newsletter of the Society of Southwest Archivists, available at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/whatsnew.html>
Service as the invited representative from LSU to the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Foundation, 2005 - present

Volunteer for the Louisiana Book Festival; escorted Carl Brasseaux (2003 Louisiana Writer Award); introduced Andrei Codrescu (2004)

Service as an external evaluator for promotion and tenure of 6 colleagues at various institutions, 2000-2005

Served as the rare/antiquarian books expert for the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's annual "Attic Treasures" open houses, 2001-2003