



# The Newsletter

OF THE

## St. Louis Mercantile Library

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS

OCCASIONALLY PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS ABOUT COLLECTIONS, PROGRAMS AND BOOKS



"Steam Locomotive running through Takanawa, Tokyo", late 19th-century – Shibusawa Memorial Museum

## “Different Lands, Shared Experiences: The Rise of Industrialism in America and Japan” Opens in Tokyo

During the International Sesquicentennial Celebration marking the Perry Expeditions to Japan in the mid-1850s, the Mercantile Library collaborated with the Shibusawa Memorial Museum in Tokyo to mark the growth of trade, capital and industry in both nations spanning the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

For the Mercantile Library, this exhibition, which originally was shown in 2004 on the University of Missouri – St. Louis campus in partnership with the International Studies Department, was a chance to revisit the Library’s heritage in documenting global trade and in supporting our founders’ views that St. Louis was to play a large part in trans-Mississippi economic development. (Indeed, one of these men, Silas Bent, was a young cartographer and officer on board Perry’s flagship for the monumental voyage which helped to open American markets to Japan.)

The exhibition in Tokyo showcased the history of American economic growth through prints, maps, objects and rare books and papers held by the Mercantile Library for generations, as well as river and rail holdings present in the Pott and Barriger special collections at the Library. Our curators sent everything from Clark’s famous map of his and Lewis’s travels, to early photographs of St. Louis as a representative nineteenth century American burgeoning urban area, to Shapleigh Hardware catalogues, to a model of an oil well. The program in turn compared and contrasted similar items representing all aspects of business and socio-economic history collected by the Shibusawa Memorial Museum, named after a family which played a strong role for generations in the economic development of that fabled and far away land.

*(continued on page 8)*

## The Mercantile Library – Growing Through Our Members Generous Giving and Corporate Support

The Mercantile Library is pleased to acknowledge recent grants for our programs and collections coming over recent months. Along with the regular support of our members, such underwriting helps the Mercantile grow to meet the needs of readers and scholars worldwide, while supporting the educational experiences of the thousands of University of Missouri – St. Louis students and their faculty, who pass through our doors throughout the year.



John Hoover receives a check from Greg Christopher Peterson, director of government affairs, Union Pacific Railroad, in support of the Barriger Railroad Collection.

Recently, the Herman T. and Phenie R. Pott Foundation contributed a generous grant of \$85,000 to support all aspects of operations related to the river research collections here in the Herman T. Pott Inland Waterways Library at the Mercantile. Railroad corporate foundations, led by Union Pacific Foundation and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation have completed or begun recent installments on pledges totaling nearly \$150,000 to support collections, and programming in the Barriger rail history collections at the Mercantile Library.

Private giving related to conservation, capital expense planning and our annual appeal – all supported by our generous members – have netted nearly \$70,000 this fall.

The Mercantile Library's heritage and impact in our community, to say nothing concerning our historic partnership with UM – St. Louis, depends on the ongoing support of visionary members – like you. Thanks to all and if you would like to discuss special ways in which you can help the Mercantile, while benefiting from a tax deduction in the process – a named book fund, a memorial, a deferred bequest – please call the library at 314-516-7242, or 314-516-6105 to discuss your ideas further with our staff.

### Board Spotlight: Don Anderson



Don Anderson

The Mercantile Library's advisory board benefits from the support and ideas of Don Anderson, now in his second term and chairing an enthusiastic public relations committee on behalf of the Library and the University.

Don is President of RailCruise America, V.P. and General Counsel of the Innsbrook Corporation, and the Judge of Ellisville, Missouri. In addition to his real estate focused practice, he was the President of the Transportation Museum Association of the National

Museum of Transportation for over a decade.

During his tenure over 60% of the Transportation Museum's world class collection was placed under one roof.

Don has also served as Director of the American Kennel Club Museum, and is a member of Board of Midwest Bank Centre, Inc., the holding company for Midwest Bank Centre. He is Lead Director and Chairman of the Governance and Nominating Committee for that banking institution.

The Mercantile Library is grateful for his enthusiastic service on our dedicated Board of Direction, a body now nearly 160 years old in educational service to St. Louis.

## Programs for Educators at the Mercantile; Back to School for Its Curators

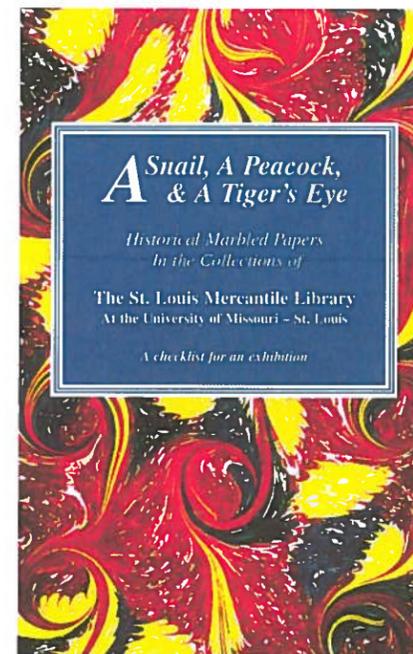
Over the past several winters, the Mercantile has collaborated with the St. Louis Public Schools to present nationally funded and recognized historical workshops for selected middle school history teachers.

One program, entitled "With Liberty and Justice for All" has employed the curatorial staff of the Mercantile in selecting historical items, including maps, newspapers and rare books and other primary sources and in presenting these materials as topical suggestions to work into the curriculum of young people studying history and literature in our community. These programs were led by selected professors of the Washington University American Studies Department, including Dr. Wayne Fields, Dr. Peter Kastor, and others.

A second program, geared to high school teachers, will create the same opportunities to educators wishing to use the extensive holdings of transportation history at the Mercantile Library, and will be led by Dr. Carlos Schwantes, the Mercantile Library Professor of the History of Transportation and the American West, and by Dr. Daniel Rust, of the UM – St. Louis Transportation Research Center.

The Mercantile Library is very proud to be working with our colleagues in the Public Schools to ensure open access to our holdings by the community in which they were created, for the good of young students across the St. Louis area.

## A Snail, A Peacock and A Tiger's Eye: Historic Marbled Papers in the Collections of the Mercantile Library



The Mercantile Library is a vast treasure trove for the study of the history of books themselves. Fine printing from the masters, elaborate bindings that span the centuries, to the ways in which artisans crafted each tome are part of the Library's heritage and legacy for the study of the book arts.

One of the lesser known special collections of the Mercantile, one that has been passively collected since

the day the Library opened in 1846 and actively, yet quietly, for the last several decades, is that of decorated papers as used in binding. Specifically historic examples of marbled paper are the main items in this collection, and now is the time to see these splendid examples of this centuries-old craft.

"A Snail, A Peacock and A Tiger's Eye" is a reprise exhibition of the Library, first shown to the public in the early 1990s. The new version of the show takes advantage of technology, in offering the viewer a detailed look at the making of these "butterflies" of paper design, in a video by master marbler, and member, Curtis Finley, who has perfected papers used by restoration binders which possess no reactive chemicals.

A new catalogue is available for \$12.00 with tipped-in, actual examples of classic marbled paper, the same often hidden in the closed endpapers of books, perhaps well known to past generations of readers, but gradually disappearing off regular library shelves as damaged books are removed for rebinding. The program will remain open for viewing through the winter months at the Library.

### New Members

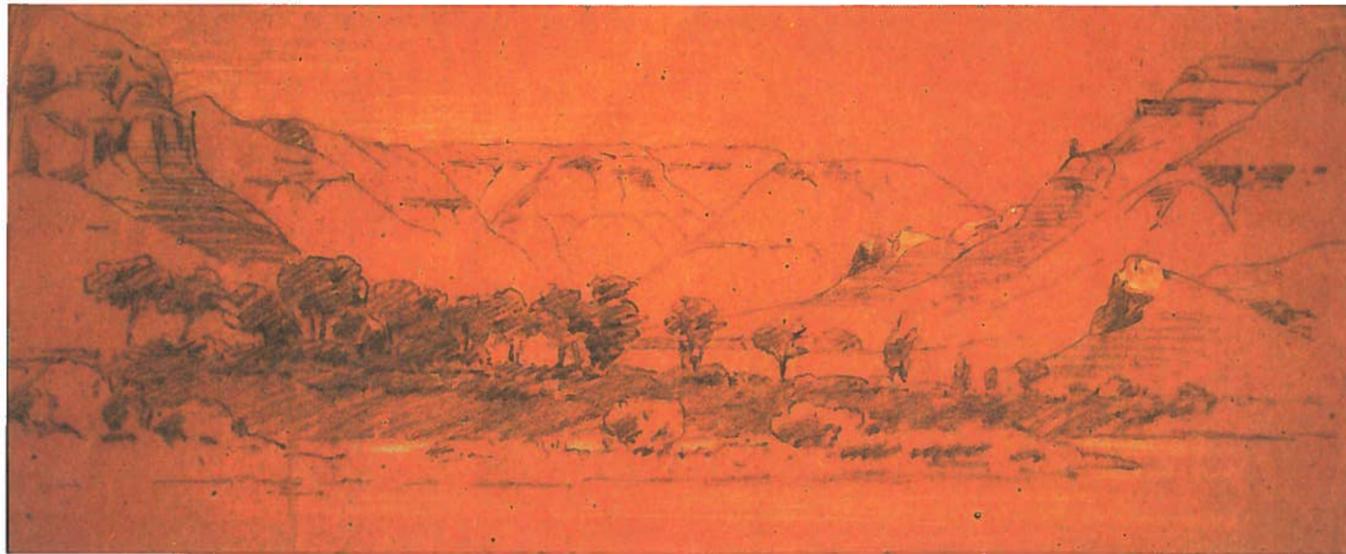
The Library welcomes its new friends joining as members, an historical family stretching back 160 years.

David P. Allen  
Adam Arenson  
John A. Broadhead  
Herbert D. Condie  
Bruce Coonan  
Shelley Cox  
John Dunham  
Linda K. Flanders  
Sam and Marilyn Fox

Andre A. Jackson  
Rolland Kinney  
Kevin A. Kious  
Richard Kluesner  
Thomas Langsdorf  
Dr. C. Manac'h-Rooyal  
Taylor C. McMullin  
Josh Newby-Harpole  
Jeanne M. Ortega

Albert Pope  
Jean E. Robertson  
Mary Sue Schusky  
Sharon L. Slane  
Helen Shopmaker  
Norman W. Thompson  
Irene Tichenor  
Shirley Zork

## Recent Acquisitions to the Art Collections: Drawings by Carl Wimar



M265.2005.001

The Mercantile Library has been fortunate, throughout its history, to benefit from the benevolence of its members who have supported the Library's art collection with donations and financial contributions. In 2004, the generosity of several members of the Board of Directors enabled the Library to purchase an initial group of five drawings and eleven oil sketches by the eminent St. Louis artist, Carl Wimar (1828-1862). In 2005, thanks to the continued assistance of its members, the Library was able to expand this collection with the purchase of three additional – and important – drawings by this same artist. The formation of this collection is a major step in advancing one of the Library's collection goals of presenting landscapes by regional artists, in that it comprises works by a major St. Louis artist that are as significant and unique as they are beautiful.

Carl Wimar began painting in oil at a young age in his native Germany. In 1843 he immigrated with his family to St. Louis, where he became fascinated with the Native Americans living in the area. At the age of eighteen Wimar was apprenticed to a leading St. Louis artist, Leon Pomerade. The two artists traveled by steamboat



M265.2004.001

up the Mississippi River on a sketching expedition to gather source material for the creation of a panorama of life on the river. In 1852 Wimar returned to Germany to study at the esteemed Düsseldorf Academy, where he continued to paint Native American subjects. Many of these works were sent back to St. Louis where they were highly valued. Wimar returned to St. Louis in 1856 and remained active in the art community there until his untimely death from tuberculosis at the age of 34.

The works recently added to the Mercantile Library collection are attributed to the period 1858-59 when Wimar traveled extensively in the area of the Missouri



M265.2005.003

and Yellowstone Rivers to sketch the landscape and the native peoples. The oil sketches on paper board or canvas are typical of the type of quick studies Wimar would have done while traveling, working in oil paints to depict the seasonal colors of the landscape. For example, the oil on paper board of a fiery sunset with smoke on the distant horizon is a quick, roughly done sketch providing an indication of the intensely colored sky and the billowing effect of the smoke [M265.2004.008]. However, Wimar also created sketches with crisply delineated

## Recent Acquisitions: Drawings by Carl Wimar (Continued)



M265.2004.008

forms that reveal a wonderful attention to detail, as in the work depicting a dead tree branch [M265.2004.002]. The drawings, some in pencil and others in charcoal highlighted with white chalk, reveal Wimar's innate sensitivity to the expressive use of line and shadow to express the nuances of both the human figure and the landscape. With a few simple pencil strokes, Wimar recorded a figure, possibly a fur trader, on a page of random sketches [M265.2004.001]. This brief sketch contrasts with the detail included in more finished studies like that of the landscape of the Upper Missouri River from 1859, where Wimar used charcoal and white chalk to capture, even on this small scale, the grandeur and panorama of the river valley [M265.2005.001]. Wimar also recognized

the need to document significant people and events, as evidenced by his sketch of Jim Birches Grave on the Upper Missouri River. Here, Wimar's charcoal shading reveals the rich detail in the center of the composition, while the rest of the scene is subtly indicated with an exquisite economy of line [M265.2005.003].

These beautiful works are an invaluable addition to the Library's art collection. Don't miss your opportunity to view them in the upcoming exhibition, *Carl Wimar: Scenes from a Sketchbook* in the Mercantile Library's entrance foyer gallery opening in August, 2006.

JDM



M265.2004.002

## The Library's Art Collections: "Missouri Splendor"

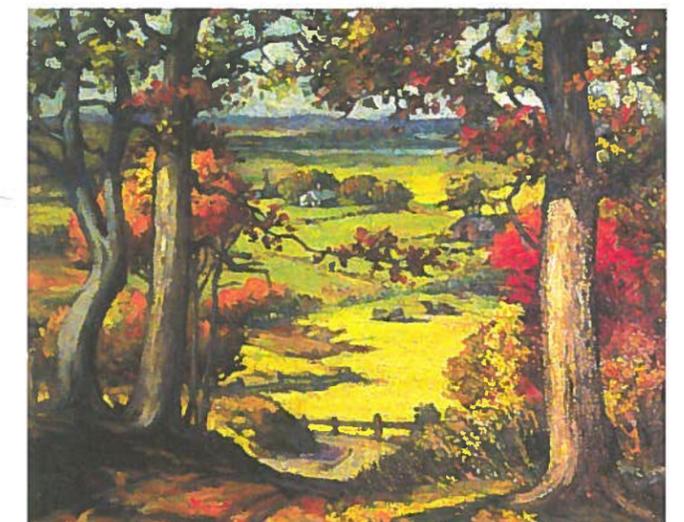
One of the great underpinnings of the Library's art has always been its collection of landscape paintings, prints and drawings. This January the new exhibition "Missouri Splendor" opens at the Mercantile, curated by Dr. Julie Dunn-Morton, Woodcock Curator of American Art at the Mercantile.

This exhibition follows the recently Mercantile Library sponsored show on Frederick Oakes Sylvester in collaboration with the Sheldon Art Galleries and also curated by Dr. Dunn-Morton.

This emphasis on landscape echoed the interests of local citizens and artists, as by the 1880s a landscape movement had formed in St. Louis that would become one of the city's most distinctive artistic features. Local landscape painters preferred evoking a mood of recording topographical detail, much like the artists of the French Barbizon school, and the region's varied geography provided a multitude of subjects that artists continue to explore even today. In the spirit of this tradition, the Mercantile Library is pleased to present *Missouri Splendor: St. Louis Artists and the Landscape*.

As noted above, the significance of the Library's holding of landscape paintings has been recognized in another recent exhibition conducted in collaboration with the Sheldon Art Galleries. *The Great River: Frederick Oakes Sylvester in St. Louis* (May 27 – September 3, 2005) was staged at the Sheldon Art Galleries and featured works from local and regional public and private collections.

The paintings, drawings, photographs, books and ephemera featured in the exhibition highlighted Sylvester's life and career in this city and the variety of work created by this important, but often overlooked, artist. It is hoped that this focused exhibition will bring greater attention to Sylvester's contributions to the cultural history of the region and the nation and that it may serve as a precursor to a more complete retrospective of Sylvester's work.



*Missouri Splendor*, by Lillian Thoele, ca. 1940

## News of Other Acquisitions

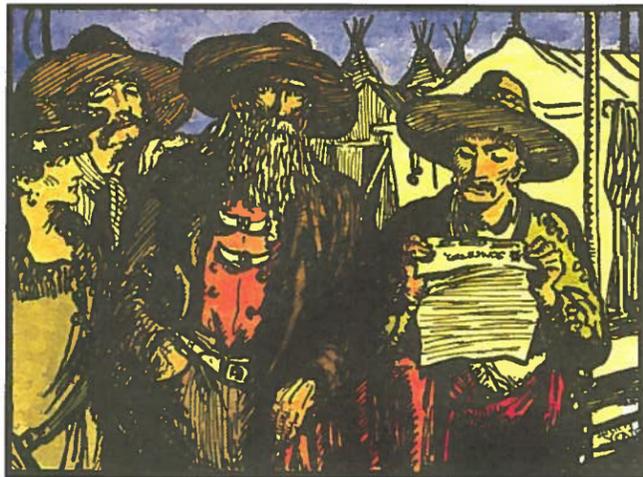
In keeping with recent art exhibitions at the Mercantile, the Library has also acquired a fine painting of the St. Louis riverfront by Frederick Oakes Sylvester, to be added to a growing collection of Sylvester's great Mississippi River impressions housed at the Mercantile. Added to this is a copy of the limited edition of Sylvester's atmospheric book of poetry, *The Great River*, with extra illustrations and an original watercolor by the great Missouri painter.

The Library has also acquired a comprehensive collection of books printed in the first half of the twentieth century by noted fine printer/designer, John Henry



Untitled (View of St. Louis) by F.O. Sylvester

Nash, of San Francisco. These magnificent works will be added to the Mercantile's historic and ever-growing book arts collections of bindings and fine printing, concentrating on American presses and subject matter, a collection which has recently, by the way, added an early hand printing press, close in time to the kinds of presses the earliest printers of St. Louis employed, as well as bench of wood type. Related to this are recent acquisitions of works on paper marbling, including the central text on the subject, by C.W. Woolnough, *The Whole Art of Marbling, As Applied to Paper Book Edges*. Also acquired recently is a Civil War ship journal of Mississippi riverboat paymaster, J. W. Keely, which doc-



A Broadside by the Cuala Press, 1914 – "Jesse James"

uments the life of the Union side-wheeler, *New National* along the Cairo to Louisiana run between 1863-4. An original drawing of an Indian mission in the Rockies, with explanations, in the hand of Father Pierre De Smet has been added to the fur trade, native and early western collections at the Mercantile.

From **Don Anderson**, the Library has acquired on behalf of the Barriger collection, a steam locomotive valve gear instructional model. From **John Barker**, the Barriger collection has received thousands of HO scale models, proudly displayed in the Barriger Library along with examples of larger scale models of the distinguished



The Silverado Squatters – A Nash Imprint

Miles collection previously donated. From master riverboat modeler, **Glen Hensley**, has come a model of the horse ferry, *Tilda Clara*, in operation at New Haven, Missouri. From **Mary Randolph and Walter Ballinger**, has come a fine run of the bulletins of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian. From **Stuart Symington, Jr.** have come four framed works including two excellent landscapes by noted Missouri painter, Fred Conway. We thank all of the friends and members who continually help the Library to grow.

## Upcoming Events

Members of the St. Louis Mercantile Library were treated to a series of delightful events during the month of December. On the 7th was featured our annual Bixby Book Club Holiday Dinner, open to all members of the Library. Our featured speaker, Gregory Ames presented a talk entitled "Circus Trains & Shut Eye Trains: The Special Magic of Children's Railroad Books". December 11th brought an elaborate Sunday afternoon tea with the dedication of the G. Duncan Bauman Memorial to the Mercantile Library, a splendid historical record of the distinguished journalist. December 16th celebrated the opening of the John Barker model train collection recently donated to the Barriger collection at the Mercantile Library. This special collection features thousands of small scale model trains with a special focus on St. Louis area railroads and their colorful past. Our upcoming calendar of events includes:

**Jan. 4:** Lunch and Lecture: Theodore Shradly "Gateway To The Nation: Union Station & Its Pullmans"

**Jan. 19:** Members' Reception celebrating the opening of Wyoming photographs by Alice Cornell.

### Continuing Exhibitions:

"The Bard as Muse: Shakespearean Prints from the Boydell Gallery" through April 2006

"A Snail, A Peacock & A Tiger's Eye: The Hidden Art of Marbled Paper" through July 2006

In the Woodcock Gallery: "Missouri Splendor: St. Louis Artists and the Landscape" through March 2007

Examples of Fine Printing History are on display through January 2006 in the entryway.

Upcoming: Alice Cornell's Photographs of Wyoming, January through April 2006

**Feb. 1** Lunch and Lecture: Paul Hutton on Western pop culture

**Feb. 10** Bixby Book Club Annual Valentine's Day Party, with a look at art deco bindings and dust wrappers

**Mar. 1** Lunch and Lecture: Gregory Ames on his forthcoming railroad book, "Old Maude" about America's first double locomotive

**Apr. 5** Lunch and Lecture: William H. Gerdt, on American Neoclassic Sculpture

**April:** Happy 160th Birthday to the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association this month! Be watching for special events throughout this anniversary year

### Upcoming Spring Exhibitions

**Late April through November** "St. Louis and the Fur Trade".

**Late April through June** "Book Illustrations from India"

**Tba:** "The World of James Yeatman and his Mercantile Library"

**May 3:** Lunch and Lecture: Carlos Schwantes on "Vanishing Before Our Eyes: Printing Press, Computer, and the Mystery of Disappearing Transportation History"

Late May the Mercantile will sponsor the visit to our city of the North American Fur Trade Conference – and the Library will be appropriately festooned with artifacts from that stirring era.

Looking ahead, autumn brings members a new exhibition on the drawing of the great 19th century St. Louis painter, Carl Wimar, from the Library's collection.

## The Mercantile Library's New "Globalism"

The Mercantile Library's Board of Direction recently established through direct giving from the Board itself, the Library's first map and print division, (watch for news of an upcoming dedication). In the meantime our curatorial staff has been organizing and cataloging the thousands of rare maps, prints and broadsides, plans, atlases and panoramic visual research materials which will find a new home in the map room. The Library is asking its members if they have old globes gathering dust in the attic or the basement – maybe orphaned in a corner of the house – that you could spare for the map room. The Library would be grateful if you could help us adorn the new area with globes from St. Louis collections. Please call the Library at 314-516-7245 or 314-516-6740 to arrange a pick up if you can spare an old globe for a new home.

The Mercantile will be hosting the James Neal Primm Lecture and Dinner in September, with a colloquium for history faculty and students the following day.

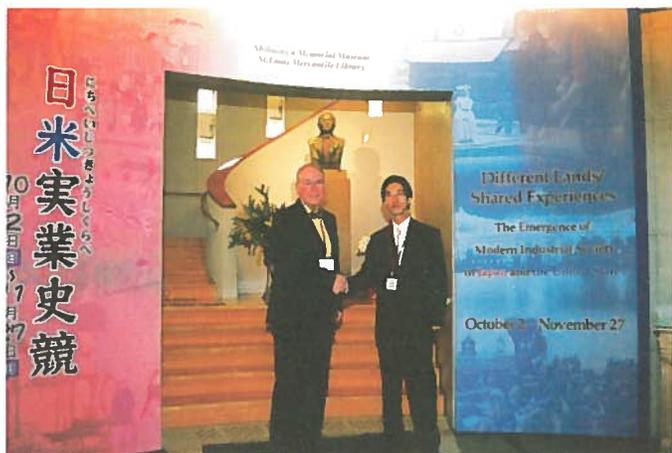
In October the Western History Association comes for a visit and we will be marking the event with a major exhibition, funded by the Missouri Wine Growers, on the long and fascinating history of the wine industry in our state.

We return downtown in November for our annual Yeatman Lecture at the Noonday Club. Speaker to be announced.



Lucy Bauman accepting honors at the dedication of the G. Duncan Bauman Memorial at the Mercantile.

## “Different Lands, Shared Experiences: The Rise of Industrialism in America and Japan” Opens in Tokyo *(Continued)*



John Hoover of the Mercantile Library is welcomed by Jun Inoue, director of Tokyo's Shibusawa Memorial Museum for the opening of the two institutions' collaborative exhibition.

The Mercantile and the Shibusawa have jointly published a catalogue of this exhibition, one that helped in a tangible way to celebrate the history of such diverse stories as the exploration of the American frontier to the role of world's fairs – such as St. Louis' famous one – in presenting the new nation of Japan on the world stage. It is available at the Library for \$25.00. Coming in such a



The Mercantile's and Shibusawa's holdings were exhibited side by side in Tokyo.

seminal year of St. Louis stocktaking during the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark celebrations, it was felt by our curatorial staff that the multi-dimensional role for the preservation of the past and the adaptation of the same on the modern stage by our institution was very successfully presented to an international public.

## The Mercantile Library's Adopt-A-Bird Program



PLATE LXVI – The Ivory-billed Woodpecker recently “adopted” by a generous member of the Library.

By now our members have received a mailing for the Library's Appeal – the first such we have sent our members for the opportunity to support in several years. We hope you will read the enclosure and note the good work that has been done in conserving one of the Library's greatest books through a Save America's Treasures grant, its copy of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*.

We would like to create a strong endowment for future conservation of many of the greatest of the Library's treasures, and to support the matching money we have used to invest in the future accessibility of our Audubon.

That is where we need your help. Please look at the enclosure, and the checklist. For \$1000 you can “adopt” one of Audubon's masterpieces; For \$2500 you can adopt one of the other great treasures listed. Or call John Hoover at the Mercantile for other titles if you would like to participate.

To date, the Adopt-A-Bird campaign has had a generous outpouring of support, but there are plenty of great works still available. We can't let the Cardinal stay “unadopted” for long here in St. Louis of all places, can we? Or the Robin, or the delightful little wrens in this great book.

All donors will be recognized for all time with a special dedicatory leaf inserted into the newly restored Audubon volumes and will receive a frameable certificate of adoption. We hope you will respond generously to our appeal by sending in your choice in the supplied envelope or by calling the Library at 314-516-7245, 314-516-7243, or 314-516-6105.