



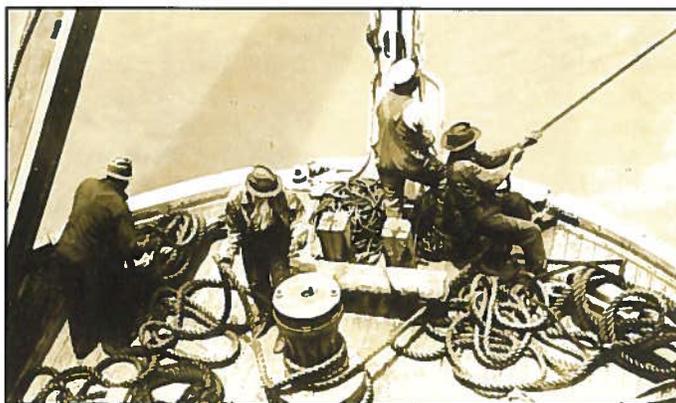
The Newsletter OF THE St. Louis Mercantile Library AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

A Member-supported Academic Research Center of History and Cultural Studies including the Barringer Railroad and Pott Inland Waterways Libraries and the Mercantile Library Art Museum.

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

Rolling on the River

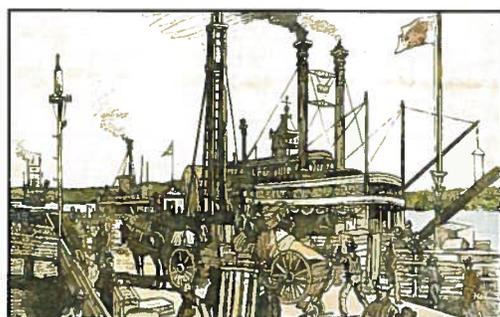
The exhibition *Rolling on the River: Images of Work and Industry on America's Rivers*, opened on December 1, 2012 in the Mercantile Library's Lobby Gallery, in conjunction with the Donald T. Wright and James V. Swift Awards dinner of the same evening. The exhibition tells the narrative of working life on the nation's waterways in the 19th and 20th centuries, covering various themes and utilizing many of the fine resources from the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library.



Creative individuals have always made a living off of the river. Included in the exhibition are a sketchbook of drawings by watercolorist James Godwin Scott, Karl Bodmer's iconic print *The Steamer Yellow-Stone*, and a first edition of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* inscribed by Eugene Field with an additional inscription by the author "Be good and you will be lonesome."

The exhibition begins with an examination of the river town levee, telling the story of how these important parts of town connected their citizenry with the outside world, by utilizing ephemera such as steamboat mail and illustrated newspapers.

The story of workers aboard steamboats is told with a lively display of photographs showing all manner of work, including images of engineers, strikers, deckhands, pilots, cabin crew and kitchen crew. Of particular interest are a photograph of river troubadour John Hartford in his pilot's uniform, and the lead line used by the crew of the Str. GOLDEN EAGLE, to "mark twain" – that is, to measure the distance from the waterline to the riverbed.



In addition to the cargo and passenger trade, vessels have long plied America's rivers with unique purposes, such as boats for chapels, excursions and the U.S. mail. Photographs, newspapers

and broadsides illustrate the story of these vessels. Among these is a photograph of a Pott Library board member working the ADMIRAL ticket booth in his earlier days.

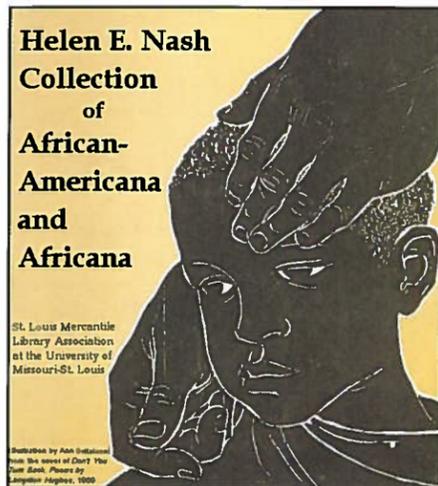
Contemporary river life is explored through artifacts, images and text, such as a watchman's time clock, navigation maps, and a river chart made by John Hartford out of a cigar box - a study aid for his pilot's exam.

Also included in the exhibition are photos, paintings and prints, including *Last Light* by Daven Anderson, as well as towboat flags and the only known bell mop – used by engine room workers to clean their hands – in any collection in the United States. These bell mops were elaborately woven as competitions between crews and offer a glimpse of a lost folklore tradition along the American inland waterways. *Rolling on the River* was originally slated to close on June 30th but has been held over. The opportunity to see this fascinating collection of artifacts, art, books, photographs and ephemera was appreciated by a large audience that marveled at the tale of the working lives of those dedicated to our rivers.



St. Louis area students enjoy a tour of the special exhibition

The Dr. Helen Nash Collection of African-American Literature



Bookplate for the Helen E. Nash Collection

Dr. Helen Nash, a prominent St. Louis physician (1921-2012), assembled a comprehensive and important collection of African-American literature. The collection of more than a thousand books and pamphlets includes important works on many aspects of the African-American experience in the United States, from slavery to abolition to the emergent black voices of autobiography, fiction, and poetry in the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection begins chronologically with Thomas Clarkson's *The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament* (1808), which contains the landmark plate illustrating the arrangement of human cargo on a slave ship. Indeed, many other 19th century volumes document the effort to abolish slavery in the United States. Prominent slave narratives include Drew, Tubman, William W. Brown, and Milton and Clarke, as well as a first edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. Harriet Beecher Stowe, a figure still central to our understanding of the volatility of this 19th century popular discourse, is well-represented, including the English first edition of her *Uncle Tom's Cabin* illustrated by George Cruikshank.

Dr. Nash chose to collect the many voices of the slave controversy, both those who argued for abolition and those who sought to uphold the place of "the peculiar institution" in the United States and its expanding borders. Nearly one hundred books from this decisive period anchor the collection. Other writers, such as Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois, emerged decades later to document the black experience in the new American Century, and writers such as Charles W. Chestnutt and Laurence Dunbar helped to lay the foundation for new voices and viewpoints in

American letters. Dr. Nash collected these writers extensively, including the early *Up from Slavery*, *Suppression of the American Slave Trade*, and *The Conjure Woman*. Of Dunbar's *Oak and Ivy*, self-published with earnings from his work as an elevator attendant, reportedly only 250 copies survived a fire at the small publishing house. Fortuitously, Dr. Nash's copy is a particularly fine example of the rare and fragile first edition and the title anchors an impressive collection of Dunbar's writings.

At the same time, a diverse literature competed with these authentic voices. White writers, from Joel Chandler Harris in the 1880s to Dubose Heyward and Roark Bradford in the 1920s, enjoyed immense popularity capturing the Negro South. Other, arguably less artful writers depicted racially-charged caricatures to the reading public. Early editions of Bannerman's *The Story of Little Black Sambo* embodies the difficulty in escaping that cultural bondage. These latter books in the collection serve as a sort of counterweight to the articulate and elegant investigation of what Du Bois dubbed *The Souls of Black Folk* in his collection of essays from 1903, represented in the collection by a fine example of the first edition.

Concurrent with this blossoming was an interest in not only the historical significance of slavery, but in Afro-American contributions to American society and culture. It is no surprise that Dr. Nash collected a core group of books that early in the 20th century documented the impact black culture had on the music and folklore of the United States.

Of course, the great writers of the Harlem Renaissance are widely represented in the Nash collection, including first editions of two great rarities, Jean Toomer's *Cane* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Other figures collected from the era include Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, Arna Bontemps, Wallace Thurman, and Claude McKay. The poet central to the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes, is represented extensively, with several copies of his books inscribed.

Both Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, literary giants of the mid-century, appear significantly in the collection; Wright's first book, *Uncle Tom's Children*; an inscribed first edition of *Native Son*; and a first edition of *Black Boy* help form the core of a large author collection. Ellison's monumental *Invisible Man* is represented by not only an American first edition and by a rare signed British first edition, but also by a warmly inscribed copy of *Invisible Man* to a woman who figures prominently in his youth in Oklahoma City. James Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain* anchors a fine collection of his works, which includes everything from *Giovanni's Room* to *Nothing Personal*—the latter a collaboration with the photographer Richard Avedon—to Baldwin's polemical works of the Sixties, *The Fire Next Time* and *Going to Meet the Man*.

Dr. Nash's selection of the literature of the Civil Rights movement ranges from seminal books by Martin Luther King and Ralph Abernathy, to the more radical arguments of Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis, Dick Gregory, and H. Rap Brown. Important new voices that emerged in the Sixties and Seventies are also voluminously represented; Leroi Jones (Amiri Baraka), Gordon Parks, Ishmael Reed, Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, August Wilson, Toni Morrison, John Edgar Wideman, and Ntozake Shange, all men and women that have helped form the very idea and identity of contemporary African-American literature.

Aside from the previously mentioned autographed copies of books, the collection includes numerous other signed copies, from Booker T. Washington, Laurence Dunbar, and Countee Cullen, to James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Maya Angelou. It is also worth mentioning the dust jackets accompanying many of the early books, including those from Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, and Countee Cullen, rare books that more often than not lack the brilliant pictorial jackets.

Dr. Nash eventually sought out every sort of book documenting the African-American experience. The collection includes not only rarities from early in the 20th century, when the economics of the marketplace meant that books by African-American writers often were published in small numbers, but also the hundreds of books that suddenly and significantly represented the great raising of consciousness in the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies, a flood of books that collectively documented childhoods in Georgia and Alabama, the struggles for civil rights in Mississippi and the Industrial North, the exploration and validation of experience—in memoirs, autobiography, poetry, novels, short stories, and histories—that will serve both students and scholars in the years to come.

— Rod Shene

A major new acquisition for the Barriger Library



Barriger curator Nick Fry surveys a shipment of archival records.

als and re-boxing for shipment to the off-site storage facility in Columbia, the team found records dating back as far as 1842 and other documents produced as recently as the late 1960's.

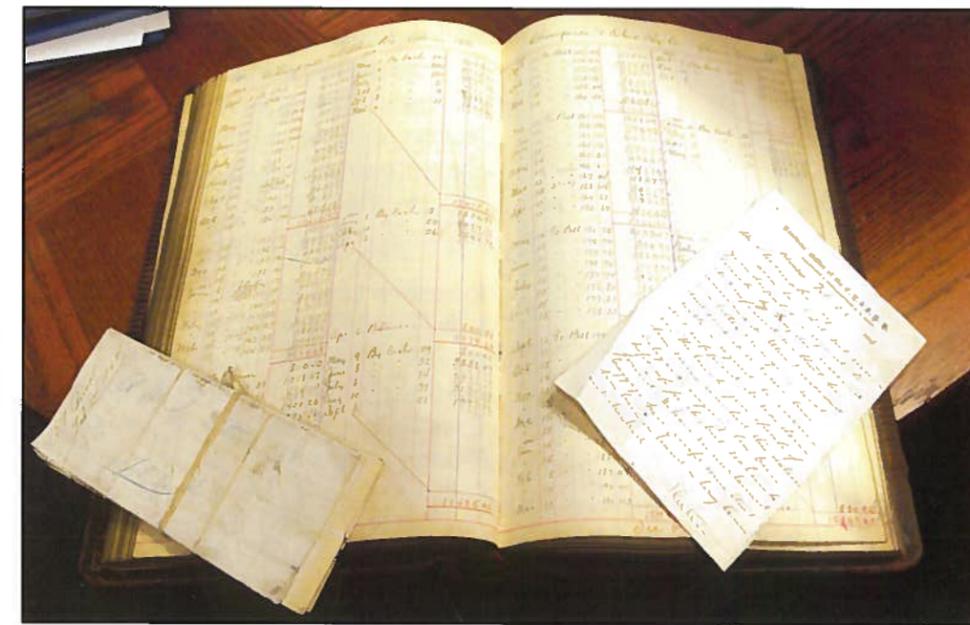
These additional records complement our existing holdings from Mr. Barriger's own papers on railroad financial matters from 1919 to 1974. It also strengthens our holdings of major railroad records by adding three of the great trunk lines of the East Coast and mid-West with the B&O, New York Central System and C&O railroad system. In conjunction with our records from the GM&O Railroad Historical Society the library now has records from railroads that stretch from the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Thanks to the hard work of the processing team, the first 11 pallets were processed and sent to the Records Center in Columbia. The remaining 29 pallets arrived in Missouri at the end of May and the curator of the Barriger Library is currently working on a digitization and processing plan. With this new acquisition the Barriger Library now holds more railroad material than any other single institution outside of a government archive.

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Curator's Colloquium Saturday, September 14th *Taking the Time: Railroads and the Standardization of Time*

For this special event curator Nick Fry will display a selection of historic timetables and other time-related railroad materials and discuss the significant role the railroad played in the creation of American time zones. For tickets and information phone 314-516-7248.



An historic railroad ledger and business papers acquired with the collection.

Spring Ushered in at the Library with a Very Special Dinner



Guest speaker Jay Gitlin provided a fascinating look at the French language.

March 22 was a memorable evening at the Mercantile with a reception, dinner and guest speaker planned to honor a very special Library friend, Ruth Bryant. Ruth that evening was honored for her years of service to French cultural studies in St. Louis by the French government with its presentation to her of investiture as a Chevalier in the Ordre des Palmes Academiques. Jean-Francois Rochard, the Adjunct Cultural Attaché of the French Consulate in Chicago, presented the award amidst the warmth and friendship of a fine Mercantile Library gathering at a sumptuous dinner.

Earlier in the evening a reception was held at which the Mercantile Library staff presented one of the Library's great treasures related to French history, the complete folios of the *Description de l'Egypte*, the great architectural description of the monuments of ancient Egypt, which were elaborately and artistically described by Napoleon's scientists and artists during the French Egyptian campaign two centuries ago. Funds generously donated by Ruth's many friends on this occasion will aid in the conservation of this great Mercantile treasure. Other rare French books and prints were also shown that evening – some of Ruth's favorite books in the Mercantile's collection.

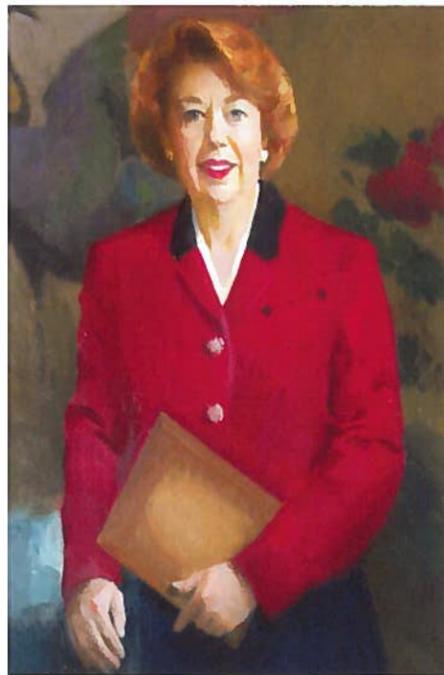
The evening concluded with a rousing talk by Professor Jay Gitlin, the Associate Director of the Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders at Yale University, on "French is an American Language."

The Mercantile Library was the first home and preserver of French historical memory in the region and this is a source of pride, making it quite appropriate to honor one of its great friends in this manner. Many of the earliest books to have survived in St. Louis of bygone days were ordered from Paris and held lovingly by the French pioneering citizens of our community for generations. These often made their way into the collection here including, of course, the legendary manuscript narrative by Auguste Chouteau on St. Louis's founding.

Ruth Bryant has always recognized that special link between the cultural strands of the French foundations of the St. Louis community and its first library, the Mercantile, and she has demonstrated so much love to both. It was logical thus for her friends to come together to recognize her contributions and to create a new Francophile memory in the Library's annals and the event that was perfectly timed to launch the Mercantile's yearlong celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis.



Director John Hoover oversees the festivities.



Ruth Alyne Bryant, portrait by Gary D. Hoffman, 2000.

Ruth Bryant, Mercantile Library Board President 1994-2000

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Ruth Alyne Bryant is a graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. She is an honorary member of Beta Gamma Sigma, a scholastic honor society for business excellence, and holds a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In 1987 she was presented the President's Award by the University of Missouri alumni in recognition of outstanding service to the University by a non-alumnus.

While building a distinguished career with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, including serving as president of the National Association of Bank Women, Inc. (1970-1971), Ms. Bryant became deeply involved with the promotion of French culture in the United States. In 1971 Ms. Bryant was one of six American women invited by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a two-week visit to France to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. She represented banking and during her visit was put in contact with top bank executives in Paris. The visit began with a briefing at the U. S. Department of State and a luncheon at the residence in Washington, D. C., of the French Ambassador to the U. S., His Excellency Charles Lucet and Mme. Lucet.

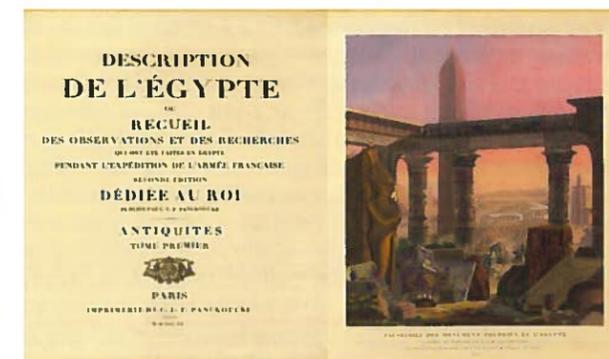
Extensively involved in the civic and cultural life of the St. Louis area, Ms. Bryant is a member of the Chancellor's Council at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and served as its president from 1985 to 1988. She is a Board member of the St. Louis Mercantile Library and served as Board president from 1994 to 2000. During her term as president she played a major role in the affiliation of this 167-year-old research library with the University of Missouri-St. Louis. From 2003 to 2007 she was president of the Alliance Francaise de St. Louis and has served as a Board member of the Federation of Alliances Francaises USA. She recently completed a ten-year term as president of the Center for French Colonial Studies, a national organization that supports scholarly research and public awareness of French colonial history and culture in 17th and 18th century America, especially along the Mississippi River.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Ms. Bryant has been recognized in St. Louis as a Woman of Achievement in the area of Civic Preservation (1997) and in Memphis for Business Achievement.

Napoleon's Egyptian Adventure of Discovery

During the era of the French Revolution, the French world increased more than ever before and one great example of that purpose was the grand expedition of hundreds of French scholars and thousands of technicians, artists, geographers and other intellectuals who fanned out across Egypt to create a great reconnaissance of the mysteries of the ancient and storied landscape of that fabled and shrouded nation.

The multivolume folios of the *Description de l'Egypte* were the printed result of that endeavor of discovery at a time of scientific change and ferment across Europe. It is a massive work of nearly one thousand prints made from thousands of drawings and transcriptions which were produced over a twenty year period in nearly two dozen folio volumes of illustration and text, depending on the edition. A rare book and an expensive one, this extraordinary set is usually only accessible now in great libraries. Its preservation for the future is important in that it is one of the early visions westerners had of the ancient near east. The illustrations have captured the imagination of readers for two centuries. The work stands as a monument to French ingenuity and collaborative scholarship in a tumultuous time of a world in revolution—in politics, economics, science and the arts.



The Mercantile Library's copy of the first edition is emblematic of a large collection of French heritage and Napoleonic literature in this, St. Louis's first and greatest library of special historical and cultural research collections. The first work of art collected by the Mercantile indeed was Antom-marchi's "Death Mask of Napoleon". If you would like to help preserve this important collection of French history in the capital of old Louisiana, please call Julie Dunn-Morton at 314-516-6740.

Spotlight on Staff: Judy Friedrich and the Mercantile Library – All in the Family

Judith Friedrich is a native of Granite City, Illinois who began her library career as a student worker at the Elijah P. Lovejoy Library at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Judy received her BS in Elementary Education from SIUE before spending eleven years there as a paraprofessional first in acquisitions and later in cataloguing. In November, 1988 Judy joined the staff of the Mercantile Library as a cataloguer. She quickly assumed additional duties in acquisitions and providing backup assistance for circulation. In 1996 Judy completed her MLS through the University of Missouri-Columbia program. While her career with the Library has been one of growth in her duties, with the UMSL affiliation she returned to cataloguing full-time.

Judy's ties to the Mercantile go beyond the professional; she and her husband, Bill, met at the Library. As a member, Bill had many reasons to visit the Reading Room, but after meeting Judy the frequency of his visits significantly increased! Bill's persistence paid off and the two were married at the Mercantile Library in 1991, with Board member Judge Thomas Grady officiating. At that time Judy moved to St. Louis and has been a city resident ever since. Judy continues to provide invaluable support to the Library's mission.

"I've been at the Mercantile for 25 years and the one thing that I absolutely love is seeing the book collections up close and personal. They are awesome!" Judy Friedrich



The Friedrichs and Judge Thomas Grady celebrate Bill and Judy's wedding.

Volunteer Spotlight: Allen Langston – Just Ask the Man with the Bowtie



Allen Langston represents the Library at the CVC's "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" event May, 2013.

Allen Langston first came to the Mercantile Library at the urging of several friends who were docents here. Their enthusiasm for the collections convinced him to visit – and that's all it took. Allen began volunteering at the Library in October of 2010, assisting with re-shelving *Globe-Democrat* and other rare materials and numerous other duties. In December of 2011 Allen applied for and was accepted into the Mercantile Library docent corps. He completed the training in March 2012 and has continued with weekly and special event volunteer support as well as providing informative and engaging tours for our visitors. Allen is the lead volunteer for the Library's annual Fine Print, Rare Book and Paper Arts Fair; he's become a familiar and welcoming face for our dealers each year as he assists them with essential pre-Fair set-up.

Allen's twenty-three-year career as an officer with the Security Police in the U.S. Air Force and his degrees in History and Public Administration are reflected in his strong organizational skills, his unwavering commitment to the Library and his fascinating history-themed tours. We are fortunate to have dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers like Allen supporting the Library every day.

"Being a weekly volunteer and a docent at the Mercantile Library is an uplifting and stimulating experience. Each staff member ensures that volunteers feel valued as contributing members of the team." Allen Langston

Spotlight on Board Members: Author/Educator John Wright keeps Researching and Publishing Local African American History



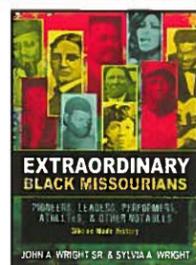
John Wright speaks about his experience researching and writing on local African American history.

Dr. John Wright, Sr. has served on the St. Louis Mercantile Library's board of direction since 2009. His extraordinary list of accomplishments, ranging from his public service to historical research and authorship, is a source of pride for the Mercantile Library. A graduate of Harris Teachers College in 1962, John Wright has served the St. Louis public schools as a teacher, a principal, and as Superintendent of the Kinloch School District. He has also served on several boards of education, as President of the Board of Trustees of St. Louis Community College, and as Missouri State Coordinator for the Educational Policy Fellowship Program of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

Dr. Wright also earned a Ph.D. from Saint Louis University with his dissertation entitled "The Desegregation of the All-Black Schools that Existed in St. Louis County Prior to 1954." He has since written extensively on the St. Louis African American experience including *Discovering African American St. Louis, A Guide to Historic Sites*, and has contributed to the Black America Series with such titles as *The Ville: St. Louis, African Americans in Downtown St. Louis*, and *St. Louis: Disappearing Black Communities*. His new book, *Extraordinary Black Missourians: Pioneers, Leaders, Performers, Athletes and Other Notables Who've Made History*, co-authored with his wife Sylvia, was recently featured at a Mercantile Library book signing event. Both Dr. and Mrs. Wright were on hand to discuss the book, their research and writing process, and to sign books for a captivated audience.

We are very grateful to John Wright for his long and dedicated service to the St. Louis Mercantile Library and we look forward to working with him for many years to come!

"My first contact was with the Mercantile when it was downtown where Mr. Charles Brown helped me with research on the founding of St. Louis. Since then I've greatly admired the Library and continue to do research there. It is an invaluable resource for the City." John Wright



Events at the St. Louis Mercantile Library

AUGUST 2nd

Special Exhibition: *The Missouri Tribes: 1750-1840*, featuring artwork by Michael Haynes and 19th century native artifacts that tell the story of the seven tribes living in Missouri will be on view through October 2013.

SEPTEMBER 14th

Curator's Colloquium: *Taking the Time: Railroads and the Standardization of Time* featuring Nick Fry, Curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library. This event is open to the public; tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. For tickets and information email curtisv@umsl.edu or call Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248.

NOVEMBER 1st

The 16th Annual James Yeatman Lecture featuring Nancy Ylvisaker, Director of Bellefontaine Cemetery. This is a members only event. For information email curtisv@umsl.edu or call Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248.

NOVEMBER 15th

Special Exhibition: *War and Healing: Artwork from the Combat Paper Project* special event 6 – 9pm. This compelling exhibition of works created by combat veterans is a tribute to those who serve and an inspiration to those they protect. Join us on November 15th from 6 – 9pm for a special viewing and program to launch the second volume of Proud to Be: *Writing by American Warriors*, a juried anthology of writings by American military veterans. To RSVP for the event or for more information email dunnmortonj@umsl.edu or phone Julie Dunn-Morton at 314-516-6740. The exhibition will be on view through December 30, 2013.

DECEMBER 7th

Curator's Colloquium: *Life Aboard a 19th Century Steamboat*, featuring Sean Visintainer, Curator of the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library. This event is open to the public; tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. For tickets and information email curtisv@umsl.edu or call Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248.

DECEMBER 30th

Special Exhibition Closing: *The World of James Yeatman: A Vision of Art, Culture, Commerce & Politics in Early St. Louis* special exhibition closes today. Be sure to see this comprehensive exhibition before it ends. Free public tours are available Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 2pm, or at other times by appointment. To verify tour availability please email curtisv@umsl.edu or call Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248.

JANUARY 2014

Membership Renewal: All Mercantile Library memberships are renewed on January 1st. This completes the first year of our now annualized memberships, and we are grateful to all the members who responded so promptly and enthusiastically to this revitalization of our historic program. Members have always been the lifeblood of the Library, and we are pleased to report that last January's drive brought back many individuals whose memberships had lapsed as well as new members from the Library's mailing list.

Won't you join us in spreading the word about all the benefits of membership in St. Louis' oldest cultural institution? Memberships can be purchased year-round and make great gifts. From April 1 – October 31 membership dues are pro-rated to reflect the partial year benefits, so this is a great time to encourage your friends to join you in supporting the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UMSL.

News from the Mercantile Library Art Museum

The St. Louis Mercantile Library Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the art of Missouri and the nation's heartland. Our permanent collection installation, *Missouri Splendor: St. Louis Artists and the Landscape*, explores the many artists who have lived and worked in our state and the changing styles of landscape art that resulted from their varied training and influences. This exhibition will close on October 30, 2013 as we prepare to re-hang the collection highlighting new acquisitions and taking a fresh look at familiar favorites. The new installation, *Art in St. Louis History*, will open in early 2014 as part of the Library's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis and will complement our two commemorative exhibitions; *From Chouteau to Scharf: The Early Histories of St. Louis*, a rare book exhibition opening in February, 2014; and *Mapping St. Louis History: An Exhibition of Historic Maps, Rare Books and Images Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis* opening in October, 2014. If you are a fan of Missouri Splendor or if you've not yet experienced this exhibition, why not take advantage of our free tours every Saturday at 11am and Sunday at 2pm to learn more about Missouri's rich artistic history? We look forward to seeing you soon.

In collections news, the Museum gratefully acknowledges the recent donation of four oil sketches by Carl Wimar (1828-1862), made during the artist's steamboat trips up the Mississippi River in 1856. These colorful landscape scenes expand the Library's current collection of Wimar drawings and sketches to better tell the story of the artist's experiences in the West. The Museum recently purchased two drawings by Seth Eastman (1808-1875) depicting scenes along the Mississippi River in the 1840s. The drawings are two of four that the Library hopes to acquire to document the work of this important American artist whose military career placed him on the western frontier where he captured scenes of Native American life and the landscape. An additional pending acquisition is a panorama study of the St. Louis riverfront after the great fire of 1849. To learn more about this work please see the insert that accompanies this newsletter. If you have questions about potential donations or other collections support please contact Julie Dunn-Morton, Curator of Fine Art Collections, at 314-516-6740.



Seth Eastman (1808-1875), *The Mississippi River – 5 Miles Below St. Louis – Vide Poche, 1841.*





See inside for a special opportunity to help secure an important work of art for St. Louis. The detail shown here is from a watercolor panorama depicting the aftermath of the fire of 1849 that devastated the St. Louis riverfront and damaged or destroyed numerous vessels. The work was created in St. Louis by a local artist known for his panorama work, and the broad horizontal composition of this painting indicates it was meant to be shown in this dramatic “moving picture” format. For more information about this amazing work of art and how you can support the Library’s efforts to keep it in St. Louis, please see the insert.

ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY
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***From Chouteau to Scharf: The Early Histories of St. Louis -
An Exhibition in Honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis***

February 14 – September 1, 2014

The Library will join in the city-wide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis with the special exhibition *From Chouteau to Scharf: The Early Histories of St. Louis - An Exhibition in Honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis*. This exhibition will provide an in-depth look at the many ways St. Louis' history has been explored, explained and expanded through early manuscripts and a myriad of rare published histories, with only a handful of surviving copies in the nation's libraries.

St. Louis History in Art: Selections from the Mercantile Library Collection of Paintings, Prints, Drawings and Sculpture

February 14, 2014 - ongoing

As part of its year-long celebration of the founding of St. Louis, the Mercantile Library will open a major reinstallation of the permanent collection telling the story of our city's history through its art. Featured works will include early portraits by George Caleb Bingham and his contemporaries, sketches by Carl Wimar and prints by his fellow artist-explorers who first documented the American west. The chronology will culminate in works by modern and contemporary St. Louis artists who continued these traditions. Artwork will be complemented by published works and historical documents related to our city's cultural development that will bring St. Louis' artistic history to life.

The Chouteau Narrative: A Symposium in Honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis

June 26, 2014

August Chouteau's hand-written narrative of the founding of St. Louis is among the Mercantile Library's greatest treasures. To commemorate the city's anniversary, the Library will partner with the Center for French Colonial Studies to host a scholarly symposium exploring the significance of this historic document. Scheduled speakers include Jay Gitlin, Carl Ekberg, William Foley and Sharon Person. Registration information will be available in February 2014.

Mapping St. Louis History: An Exhibition of Historic Maps, Rare Books and Images Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis

Opens October 17, 2014

Join us as we continue honoring the city's 250th anniversary with the special exhibition *Mapping St. Louis History: An Exhibition of Historic Maps, Rare Books and Fine Art Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis*. Visitors will be able to watch the city develop and expand through maps that are not only important documentary objects but things of beauty as well. Each map will be complemented by a contemporaneous print, painting or photograph and rare printed histories that complete the telling of St. Louis' story.

Center for French Colonial Studies/Centre pour l'Etude du Pays des Illinois

Annual Conference October 17 – 19, 2014

The Mercantile Library is pleased to host the opening reception for the Center's annual conference. For more information on this conference please see the CFCS website: frenchcolonialstudies.org

"Most Marvelous Machines": Steam Travel by River and Rail in 19th Century America

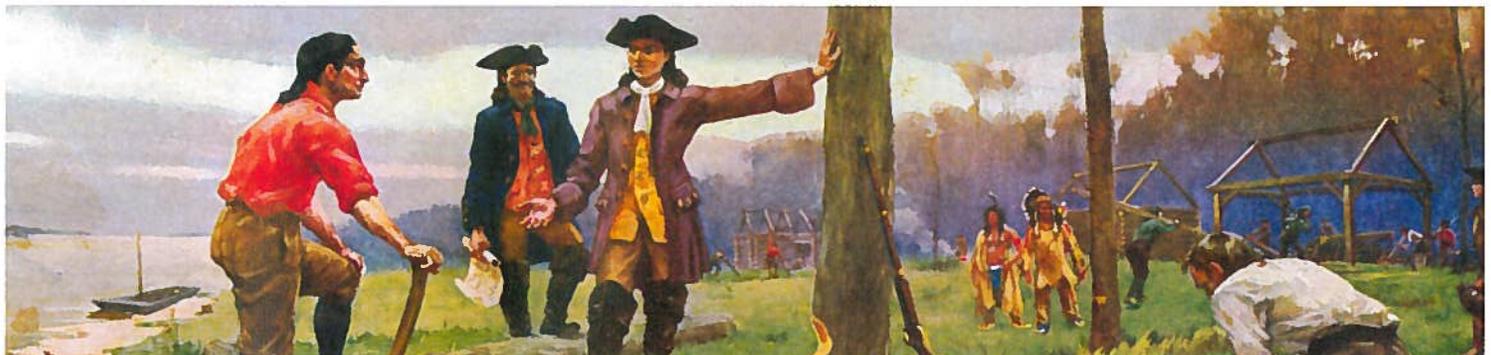
Opens January 2014

Travel back in time to the era of steam-powered travel in America with selections from the Barriger Railroad and Pott Inland Waterways libraries. This modern marvel of technology changed the face of travel and impacted American life in ways far beyond modes of transportation. Vintage photographs, historic documents, prints and artifacts bring this fascinating story to life.

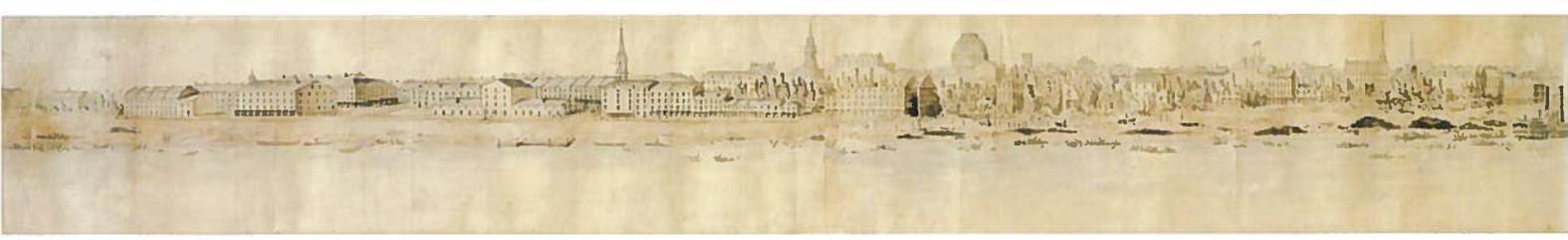
Whistle Stops: Campaigning by Train

Opens February 2014

This focused exhibition combines collections from the Barriger Railroad Library and the Shopmaker Political Collection to reveal the essential role the railroads played in American presidential campaigns. Going beyond the well-known "Dewey Defeats Truman" photograph, this exhibition explores the many ways the railroad industry both supported and was impacted by American elections.



See reverse for a special opportunity



July 30, 2013

Dear Mercantile Friend,

For 167 years the Mercantile Library Association has collected, treasured and preserved the work of Missouri's fine artists, not only for its beauty, but also for its role in visually documenting and preserving our region's history. We invite you to join us as we continue this tradition by acquiring a work of both artistic and historical importance – an acquisition of even greater significance as our city approaches its 250th anniversary. The work illustrated at the top of this page, *St. Louis after the Great Fire, 1849*, depicts a pivotal event in nineteenth century St. Louis life when the steamer *White Cloud* caught fire and spread flames down the riverfront; the subsequent rebuilding significantly changed the face of the city.

The painting is a carefully rendered, delicately colored depiction of the burned out buildings and wreckage, composed in a long, horizontal format emphasizing the extent of the damage. Although the work is signed "Lemasson" it descended in the family of the well-known St. Louis artist Henry Lewis (1819-1904) and compares favorably with his known works. Lewis was best known for his thirteen-hundred foot long panorama of the Mississippi River, a "moving picture" that was shown around the country, unrolled from a spool on one end of a stage and rolled onto a spool at the other, while enthralled audiences watched the length of the great river flow past them. It is possible that Lewis painted this piece as a study for another panorama under a pseudonym adopted to compete with his rival panorama painter, the French artist Leon Pomarede.

St. Louis Riverfront after the Great Fire, 1849 is an essential addition to the Mercantile Library's permanent collection. We are proud to have raised over half of the necessary funds to secure this work; we now invite your help in reaching our goal. Please detach and return the slip at the bottom of this page with your contribution today. We are grateful for your friendship and your support.

Sincerely,

John N. Hoover
Director

Detach and mail this form with your donation to:

St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis // One University Blvd. // St. Louis, MO 63121



St. Louis after the Great Fire, 1849 Purchase Fund Support

YES! I am happy to support the Mercantile Library's Fine Art mission. Enclosed is my donation of:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$5000 | Panorama Level Sponsor | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1000 | Mural Level Sponsor | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 | Patron | City, State, Zip: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Supporter | Phone: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Friend | Email: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | Other | |

My Check is Enclosed

Charge to my Visa, MasterCard or American Express: Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

◆Your Name will be placed on our Honor Roll of Supporters in Grateful Acknowledgment of your Contribution.◆
Thank you for your support!