

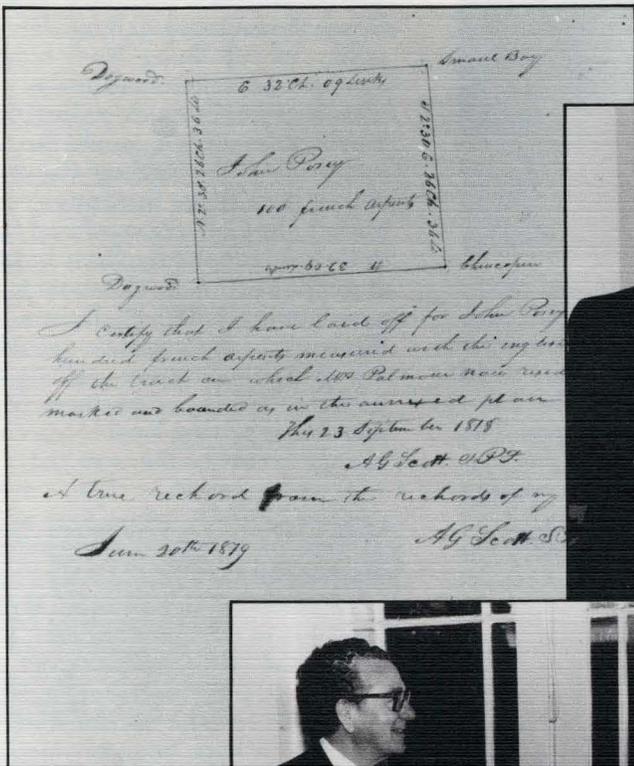


THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

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Volume III, Number 1

Winter 1985



Clockwise, Attorney General William J. Guste, Jr., and Benjamin W. Yancey, president of THNOC's board of directors, toast the historic compromise; Attorney General Guste with THNOC board member G. Henry Pierson, Jr., at the conference; and a surveyor's plat, dated 23 September 1818, one of the survey documents included in the recent acquisition.

Historic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS BROUGHT TO THNOC

A collection of over 1,000 early surveyors' drawings and notes has recently been brought to Louisiana. Of particular interest to historians of the colonial and early national periods, these documents have been processed by the manuscripts division staff and are now available to researchers at the Historic New Orleans Collection.

The surveys of present-day Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas were prepared

by several surveyors, including Carlos Laveau Trudeau, Andre LeSage, Josiah Nicholas, and Luke Collins, during the years 1775 to 1827. The whereabouts of the individual documents during the 19th century is a matter of conjecture, but by 1922 this large group of items from disparate sources had been brought together and was purchased by the Western Reserve Historical Society for their Americana collection.



Attorney General Guste and Mr. Yancey sign agreement at the donation ceremony.

The location of the documents has long been public knowledge. As Theodore A. Sande, director of WRHS stated on October 15, 1984, "Their importance has long been recognized by the Western Reserve Historical Society, which has conserved and made them available to all scholars and interested persons for more than fifty years. These documents were prominently listed among the Society's holdings in *A Guide to the Manuscripts and Archives of The Western Reserve Historical Society*, published in 1972. Three years later, this listing was reported in detail to libraries throughout the country by the Library of Congress [the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*]."

In 1982 WRHS deaccessioned these documents and offered them for sale in a catalogue for a publicly advertised auction scheduled for November 4, 1982, at the Swann Galleries, a well-known book and manuscripts dealer in New York. There was a great deal of interest among New Orleans research institutions and individual collectors in this proposed sale and at the possibility of bringing such a large body of Louisiana-related materials to the state. Staff members at a number of area institutions called, urging the Collection to bid at the auction.

The Collection has consistently followed a policy of acquiring similar large documentary collections that enrich the research opportunities in the state. THNOC has very

considerable holdings in real estate development and land-use patterns, including Spanish colonial land papers and plats and surveyors' field notebooks, collected by the Lawyers' Title Insurance Company. The documents offered for sale complemented the Collection's existing holdings, and their acquisition would continue a well-established acquisitions policy.

The location of these documents has long been public knowledge.

The staff of the Historic New Orleans Collection recommended, and the board of directors agreed, that the Collection enter the bidding for these valuable documents. Although \$150,000 was set aside for the auction, it was realized that such an amount might be insufficient to acquire the documents because THNOC had learned that well-endowed out-of-state institutions, as well as manuscripts dealers, also intended to bid.

Until this point, the attempt to purchase important research materials and to provide easy availa-

bility for researchers had proceeded smoothly. Unfortunately, a conflict arose which delayed this desirable result for two years. It eventually required the good offices of Louisiana state officials and a considerable spirit of compromise to complete the purchase first planned in October 1982.

In late October, the Louisiana State Museum declared an interest in bidding for these documents. THNOC director Stanton Frazar offered to continue a long-standing policy of refraining from bidding against a Louisiana institution; only after that institution's ceiling price had been exceeded, would the Collection enter the bidding. However, if any Louisiana institution were outbid, the Collection refused to be deterred completely from bidding at public auction for documents relevant to its holdings. It was also feared that LSM might be outbid by competing institutions, private collectors, dealers, or business firms, thereby depriving local researchers of easy access to the materials.

It was a surprise, then, on November 1, 1982, when four of the six lots of documents were withdrawn from auction under the threat of replevin by the State of Louisiana. THNOC subsequently purchased the two remaining lots. Replevin is the action taken by state officials to reclaim official state papers which have been erroneously or improperly removed from possession of the state. According to Louisiana R.S. Title 44:411, an action of replevin in this state involves the Director of the Archives and Records Service, who was not consulted in the controversy until the following year. At no time during the entire course of negotiations and discussions was an action for replevin filed against the Western Reserve Historical Society, nor was a formal demand for the return of the documents made to them. The Society, in fact, extended an invitation to all concerned parties, including any appropriate representatives of the State of Louisiana, to examine the documents, to evaluate all expert reports and findings, and to arrive at an amicable conclusion.

Once the items had been withdrawn from auction, the Louisiana State Museum began bargaining for the purchase of the documents with

offers varying from \$30,000 to \$50,000, well below the professionally estimated market value (\$100,000 to \$275,000) for such an important collection of documents.

The Historic New Orleans Collection consistently maintained the position that it did not desire to purchase the documents if the State of Louisiana could prove that those documents belonged to the state. However, it retained the right to bid on any papers of historical interest which could properly be offered for sale.

A conditional offer was made by the Historic New Orleans Collection to Western Reserve Historical Society to purchase the documents at a fair market price of \$150,000, the sum originally set aside for bidding at auction. At any time, however, THNOC stood ready to withdraw that offer if conclusive proof of state ownership were established. Numerous attempts to provide that proof were unsuccessful.



Noelle LeBlanc, back to camera, Secretary of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, talks with Robert R. Macdonald, Henry B. Alsobrook, Theodore A. Sande, and Arthur P. Steinmetz at the October 15 conference.

Attempts to settle the controversy were attended by considerable press coverage and controversial publicity. Several times during the two-year dispute, newspapers quoted statements from public officials and others which provided speculative or questionable information about the provenance of the documents, originally referred to as maps. For example, it was claimed that the state had sought the return of these documents since 1803. On another occasion, it was claimed that "historical gaps in judicial cases" became apparent when LSM indexing of colonial history documents began in 1976. The final reports for the state contained neither of these contentions, nor were the "historical gaps" identified.

Not until March 1983 did any staff member of LSM examine the documents. The resulting report, referring to land survey documents rather than maps, based state claims on an 1817 purchase of records from the widow of Carlos Laveau Trudeau. It overlooked the fact that about 1/4 of the documents are dated subsequent to 1817 and so could not have been included in that purchase. It also overlooked the fact that the description of the materials covered by the 1817 sale by the Widow Trudeau had been lost, and that, accordingly, no one could de-

termine what specific materials, maps, documents, or other records were covered by that sale.

In an effort to ascertain the provenance of the documents, THNOC consulted recognized experts in the field of Spanish land documents and Louisiana history—Dr. Light T. Cummins, chairman of

It seems likely that most of these documents were not originals . . .

the history department at Austin College, and Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, director of Research Consultants of Seville, as well as Dr. Henry Bartholomew Cox, historian, attorney, and senior member of the American Society of Appraisers. Dr. Cummins is the co-editor of *A Guide to the History of Louisiana*, and Dr. Inglis has presented numerous papers on related subjects.

As Dr. Cummins points out, in Spanish Louisiana "scribes rou-

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

Editors: Patricia Brady Schmit,
Louise C. Hoffman

Head of Photography: Jan White

The Historic New Orleans Collection Newsletter is published quarterly by the Historic New Orleans Collection, which is operated by the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation, a Louisiana non-profit corporation. Housed in a complex of historic buildings in the French Quarter, facilities are open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Tours of the history galleries and the residence are available for a nominal fee.

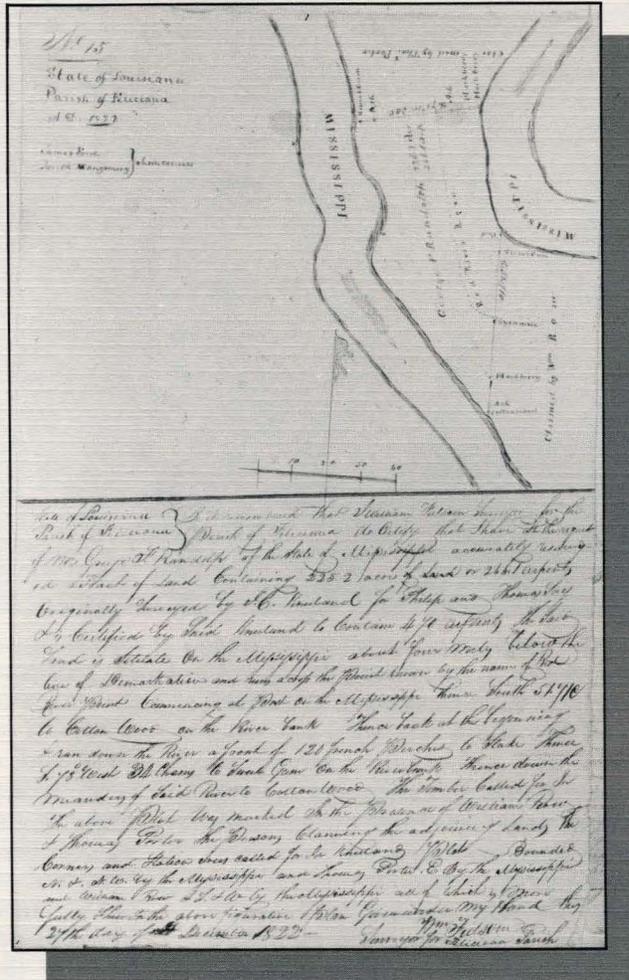
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Stanton Frazar, Director

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The Historic New Orleans Collection

Surveyor's plat,
dated 1822.



tinely produced multiple copies of a document,” each of which was considered to be a “duplicate original.” “Documents not from this provenance as ‘duplicate originals’ were routinely certified in writing at the bottom of the text as being copies. Most of the WRHS papers carry such certification.”

It seems likely that most of these documents were not originals, but were certified copies of originals, possibly used by the surveyors themselves, by notaries, by lawyers, by landowners, or by land speculators.

In July 1983 the Attorney General determined that the Louisiana State Archives and Records Service, rather than the Louisiana State Museum, was the proper repository of the state to lay claim to the survey documents. A report by the State Archivist claimed the documents, but did not prove that these particular documents, rather than similar ones, had ever been the legal property of the state.

Similar documents are owned by a number of outstanding institutions. The University of Michigan, Tulane University, the New Orleans Public Library, Yale University, and Louisiana State University hold exactly similar Louisiana/Mississippi documents: originating from the same surveyors during the same time period, marked with the same docketing, and covering the same geographical area. To date, none of these institutions has been approached with a demand for the return of these documents. Yale won a similar case, among other reasons because it was proved that knowledge of the existence of the documents in that suit had been publicly available for many years.

An attempt was made in November 1983 to conclude the matter through litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States. Assistant Attorney General Eavelyn T. Brooks filed a proceeding on behalf of the State of Louisiana in the Supreme Court of the United States

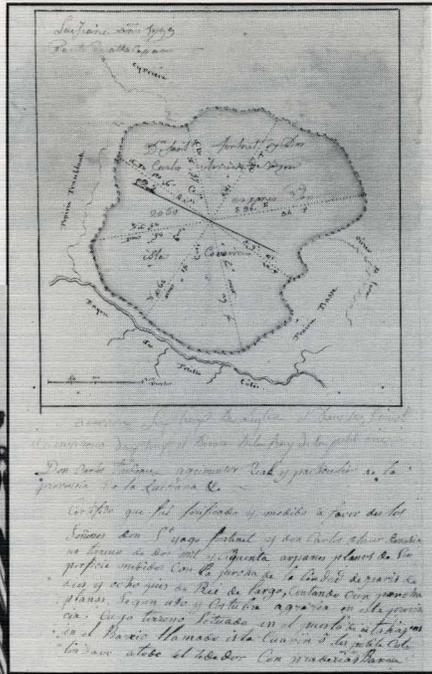
asking that Court to assume original jurisdiction of the case. The Court declined, without comment, to consider the case.

In order to continue its efforts to clear title to the survey materials, the State would have had to file suit in the courts of Ohio against WRHS. The prospect of costly litigation and of continued public controversy led state officials and members of the board of the Historic New Orleans Collection to effect a compromise considered to be in the best interest of all parties. The compromise was worked out at a series of meetings between members of THNOC’s board and Assistant Attorney General Brooks; Secretary of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Noelle LeBlanc; Dr. E. Ralph Lupin, chairman of LSM’s board; and attorney Henry B. Alsobrook, acting for the state museum.

“... the best interests of the people and the scholars of Louisiana.”

By the terms of the compromise, the State of Louisiana waived all claims of ownership to these documents and requested THNOC to complete its purchase from Western Reserve Historical Society. The Collection complied with the request and purchased the documents. The Collection then donated the documents to the State, retaining for a period of thirty years the exclusive right to possess, use, process, exhibit, publish, and make the documents available for research. It presented a microfilm copy (previously made by WRHS) to Dr. Donald J. Lemieux, State Archivist, for deposit in the Louisiana State Archives. The original documents are now housed at the Collection and are available to researchers.

A potentially expensive and unnecessary conflict was resolved. At



Left, Susan Cole, curator of manuscripts, examines the survey documents. Above, surveyor's plat, dated 1799.

a press conference in the Counting House of the Collection held on October 15, 1984, Benjamin W. Yancey, president of THNOC's board of directors, announced the terms of the agreement, commenting that "this agreement resolves all disputes concerning these survey materials in favor of the public and of the best interests of the people and the scholars of Louisiana." (See further excerpts from Mr. Yancey's remarks in accompanying box.)

"... in Louisiana, cooperation between the public and private sector is a fact."

Attorney General William J. Guste, Jr., accepted the donation for the State. He remarked, "There has been much talk during the political

campaign which now dominates the scene about the possibilities created by cooperation between the public and private sectors of our Nation. I am pleased to report that in Louisiana, cooperation between the public and private sector is a fact."

Those at the conference, invited by Mr. Guste, had a major interest in the successful settlement of this matter. Among those present were Mrs. Brooks; Mrs. LeBlanc; Dr. Lemieux; Dr. Lupin; Mr. Alsobrook; Dr. Sande, director of the Western Reserve Historical Society; Arthur P. Steinmetz, attorney for WRHS; Robert R. Macdonald, director of the Louisiana State Museum; Dr. Edward F. Haas, chief curator of the Louisiana Historical Center of LSM; members of the board of directors of the Historic New Orleans Collection; Stanton Frazar, THNOC director; and THNOC staff members.

It was an auspicious occasion for the participants, announcing an agreement with substantial benefits for the people of Louisiana, scholars, historians, and researchers.

Excerpts from the Statement of Benjamin W. Yancey

The State of Louisiana and the Historic New Orleans Collection have now entered into an amicable settlement and compromise of all controversies and differences over the survey materials. By this agreement, the Historic New Orleans Collection undertook to complete its purchase of the survey materials from Western Reserve Historical Society, and thereupon to donate those materials to the State. The State has agreed to forego and to waive all claim and title to the materials and has requested the Historic New Orleans Collection to complete the purchase. This agreement resolves all disputes concerning these survey materials in favor of the public and of the best interests of the people and the scholars of Louisiana.

Today, the Historic New Orleans Collection, by formal act of donation, has donated the materials to the State. The State, in turn, has agreed that the Historic New Orleans Collection shall retain, for a period of 30 years, the exclusive right to possess, use, catalog, exhibit, publish, and to make the survey materials available for public research, inspection, and study. The Historic New Orleans Collection likewise has agreed that, at the expiration of that 30-year period, it will deliver the survey materials to the Attorney General of the State or to the Louisiana State Archives and Records Service.

Thus, by this joint and happy arrangement, the survey materials have been brought back to their proper home, Louisiana, for the use and benefit of the citizens of Louisiana.

This highly gratifying result has been made possible by the very cooperative attitude of the Honorable William J. Guste, Jr., Attorney General of the State, and of his staff, particularly his Assistant Attorney General, Mrs. Eavelyn Brooks, as well as that of the Secretary of State, of the Louisiana State Archives, and of numerous other state officials, to all of whom we extend our thanks.

The Return of the Natives



Portrait of Mme. Auguste de Gas, née Musson, and her sister, the Duchesse de Rochefort. (1979.28).

The 1835 portrait of the Musson sisters, New Orleans-born but long-time residents of France, became part of the Collection's holdings when it was purchased in 1979. A small jewel, the painting measures approximately 16 by 12 1/4 inches.

The Musson family moved to Paris in 1819. Upon the death of his wife, Jean Baptiste Eugène Germain Musson, a prominent businessman, left New Orleans for France with his three sons and two daughters. The family resided there for many years, and both daughters married. Anne Eugenie Musson became the Duchesse de Rochefort and Marie Celestine, the wife of Auguste de Gas. Her son, Edgar Germain Hilaire de Gas, who later became famous as

Edgar Degas, was born in Paris in 1834.

In 1835 the beautiful Creole sisters sat for Swiss artist Catherine Julie Guy Longchamps (1806-1879), a painter of pastel portraits. One could speculate that it was commissioned by their father as a keepsake. He left Paris shortly after the portrait was painted and returned to New Orleans, joining his eldest son Michel as a planter and cotton merchant.

There are no records to indicate the exact location of the portrait for over 100 years. It is likely, however, that it hung in the Musson mansion at 372 Esplanade¹ if it were brought to New Orleans by Germain Musson. The portrait was in

the collection of Gaston Musson of New Orleans at the time of the 1965 exhibition, *Edgar Degas, His Family and Friends in New Orleans*² at the Delgado Museum (now New Orleans Museum of Art).

The choice of women artists to paint ladies followed a European tradition originating in the 18th century. Two prominent portraitists of the period were the court painter to Marie Antoinette, Elizabeth Vigée-LeBrun, and Italian-born Rosalba Carriera who had many royal ladies as patrons.

Longchamps's interpretation reflects the classical tradition. Its most prominent exponent was Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres who was most concerned with drawing and form. The black and white chalk and wash portrait depicts the young matrons posed in a very formal arrangement. Longchamps's composition is tightly drawn, figures abstracted almost to the point of distortion and shapes sharply defined. The basic design is deceptively simple yet enriched by the filmy texture of the matching gowns, the pattern within the Oriental rug on the table, and the figured fabrics on the chairs and footstool contrasting with the stark geometry of the marble floor. Dressed in the height of fashion, the sisters pose in their off-the-shoulder dresses, tightly belted bodices emphasized by the "ham-shaped" bouffant sleeves. This sleeve treatment made the shoulders and neck seem more elongated when capped by an up-swept coiffure.

The portrait was auctioned in New York in 1967. The painting remained in the possession of prominent dealers until 1979 when the Collection's purchase returned the lovely sisters to their native city.

—Dode Platou

¹ Only part of the house is still on the property, now 2306 Esplanade. The original house where Degas visited was filled with three generations of Musson-de Gas families.

² The exhibition honored the Museum's purchase of Degas's portrait of Estelle Musson de Gas, who was both his first cousin and the wife of his younger brother René. The exhibition catalogue (1965) gives an extensive account of Degas's visit to New Orleans (October 1872 to February 1873). The close ties between the New Orleans and French families are examined at length, along with identification of all known paintings by Degas from that period.

From the

Director



If one has followed the occasional press reports about the Spanish land documents and THNOC's interest in acquiring them (unless they actually were the property of the State), one might not easily have understood the situation. This possibly resulted from the fact that we were understandably reluctant to comment publicly until the matter was satisfactorily settled with all parties. That time came on October 15, 1984.

And in this issue, we present our first words on the frequently discussed subject: the facts in a concise form.

The documents are now here in Louisiana—that is the important result. They will be housed at the Collection, and, in the year 2014, will be transferred to the State of Louisiana in accordance with the settlement agreement. Our policy as to these documents will be that which it has always been toward all collections—to make them available to all researchers, a service of which we feel justly proud and which has been widely acclaimed.

We've acquired other documents, on microfilm, quite as noteworthy, from archives in this country and abroad. The success of these projects underscores our commitment to cooperate with other institutions, both in research and joint exhibitions, with generosity, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

The case of the land documents has been happily resolved, and now is the time to look ahead to this coming year and to future decades of active measures by the Collection to present and to preserve Louisiana's past.

—S.F.



Elsa Schneider, curator of education, presents a copy of THNOC's history packet to John A. Jones, Jr., of the Orleans Parish Schools.

Bringing History to the Classroom

Evidence of the Past, prepared by the Collection staff, supplements standard textbooks by bringing the immediacy of primary materials to the classroom. The history packet, which contains translations and facsimiles of six notarial acts, tells the story of the free persons of color who prospered on the Cane River near Natchitoches in the first half of the 19th century.

THNOC's donation of 500 packets to the Orleans Parish schools now allows students to learn about the closely knit families of the Cane River through a study of the original documents. Students may also become familiar with the 1825 Civil Code, look at the role of women in the 19th century, and see for themselves the lack of standardization in spelling and punctuation.

How two New Orleans classrooms responded to the material is the subject of a short film supervised by Elsa Schneider, curator of education, and John A. Jones, Jr., of the Orleans Parish schools. Edna Karr Junior High School and Andrew J. Bell Junior High School were the participating schools. One teacher placed her emphasis on the history of the Cane River settlement and the laws affecting these *gens de couleur libres*. The second

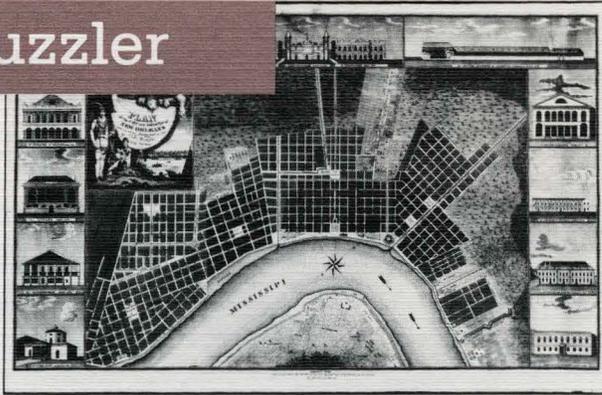
teacher stressed the use of primary sources which led children to think about their own original materials—report cards and birth certificates were examples—as a source of information. The popular theme of family life kept interest high in both groups.

Students benefit from seeing history, perhaps for the first time, without the interpretation of a textbook. They read the act of enfranchisement executed on May 2, 1825, which granted Louis Monet his freedom; they discover that ten years later this same Monet bought his mother for 906 piastres and 97 sous (about \$906.49) in order to obtain her freedom.

Elsa Schneider feels that original documents or their facsimiles should be available to all. She calls this opportunity “that rare glimpse” that makes human events come alive from the annals of history. “With so much wonderful information at the Collection, students need to know it's there,” says Mrs. Schneider. “With the Cane River packet, we'll bring it to them.”

Private, parochial, and public schools throughout the state have bought *Evidence of the Past* at \$5.00 each for their history classes.

Puzzler



Above, Map 1, Plan of the city and suburbs of New Orleans from a survey made in 1815 by J. Tanesse, city surveyor, 1817 (1971.4). Below left, detail, Map 1. Below right, detail, Map 2, 1825 edition of Tanesse map (1946.2).

The illustrations for *Puzzler* show the center sections of two maps from our map collection. They look alike, until one examines them closely.

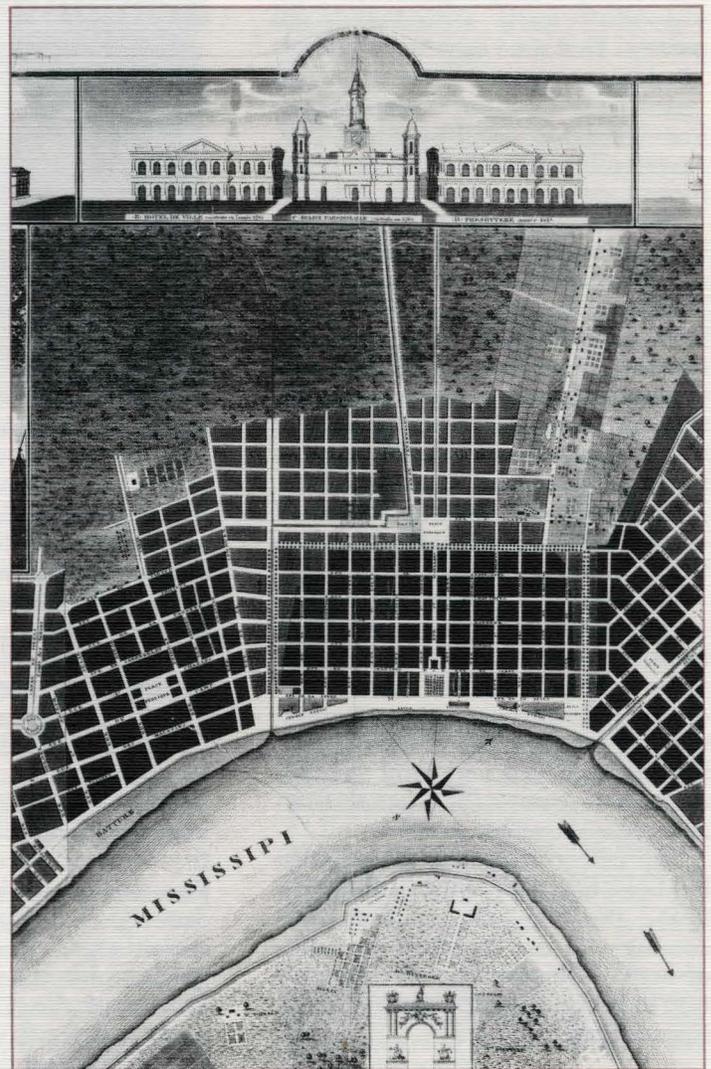
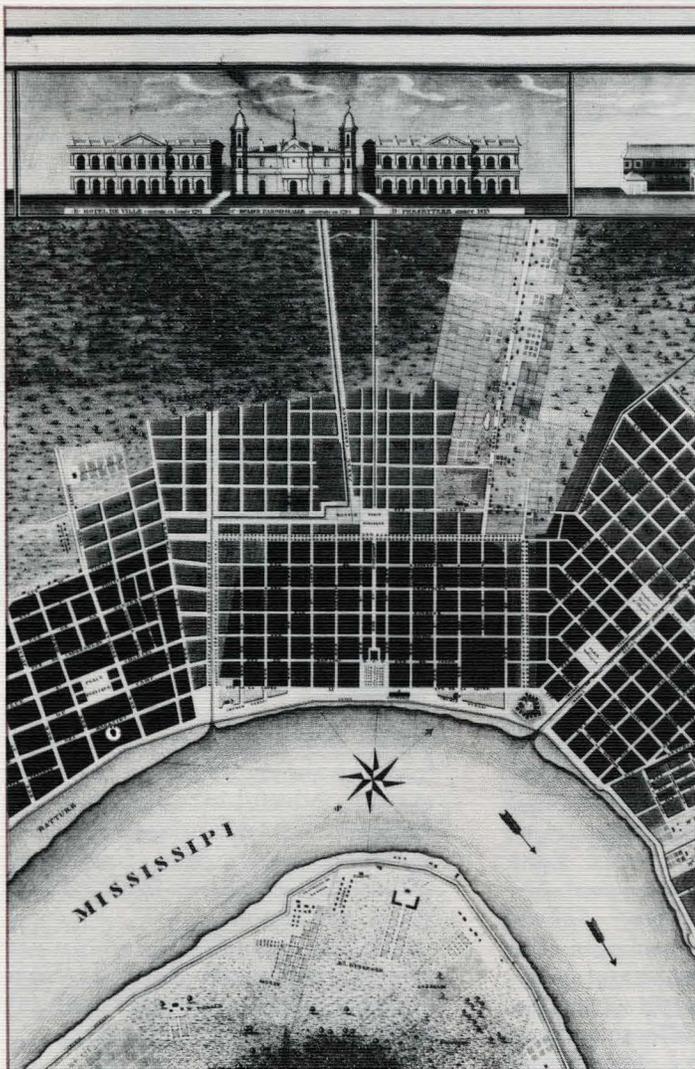
Map 1 is the first printing of the famous engraved map of New Orleans published in 1817 from the surveys of Jacques Tanesse. The map was engraved and probably printed in New York where it was sold by one of the publishers, Charles Del Vecchio. It was sold locally by Pierre Maspero.

Map 2 was printed in 1825 from the same engraving plate, after a few

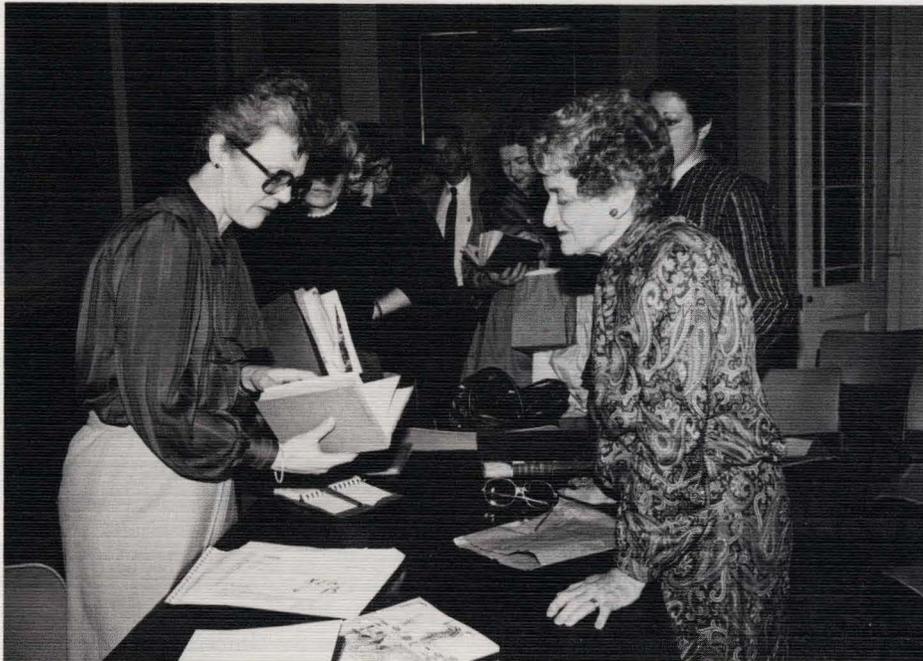
alterations were made to bring it up to date. Two of the four notable changes appear at the top and the bottom. First, a bell and clock tower were built in 1820 above the central pediment of St. Louis Cathedral, and the engraver expanded the top border with a lunette to fit this new extension on the church roof. The second change appears near the bottom of the map, where a triumphal arch seems to rise in present-day Algiers behind the Duverjé plantation. Researchers often assume that the arch was indeed built in Algiers as a visual attraction to be seen from Jackson Square and the levee. It was erected, however, in Jackson Square in honor of a famous visitor to New Orleans in 1825, and the map was probably reissued to commemorate the occasion.

Who was the famous visitor? And what are the other two changes made on the 1825 map?

Answer on p. 15.



THNOC Seminars for Bibliophiles



Dr. Mary-Jo Kline, expert in Americana, and Mrs. A. L. Schlesinger, Jr.

"My wish is that . . . these things of art which are the joy of my life . . . should be dispersed under the auctioneer's hammer, so that the pleasure which the acquisition of each one has given me shall be given again in each case, to some inheritor of my own taste." Mary-Jo Kline, expert in Americana from Sotheby Parke Bernet's books and manuscripts department, opened two days of seminars on collecting and valuation, November 15-16, with this quotation from the will of a 19th-century collector. The latest in the series of the Historic New Orleans Collection Seminars, the talks were presented in conjunction with Sotheby's, the famous New York auction firm.

Valuing Books and Manuscripts was geared for museum staff, historians, collectors, librarians, dealers, and others who are frequently called on to consider the monetary value of their materials. A verbal tour of Sotheby's operations and a discussion on valuation, covering such problems as market versus historical value, unique items, and modern materials were the highlights of Thursday afternoon's session.

On Friday, *The Art of Collecting* was a brief presentation for the public on the pleasures and pitfalls

of collecting. Although "even as a child, I collected no sea shells, coins, or bottle caps," Dr. Kline said she has come to understand and to sympathize with the urge to collect. Throughout the afternoon, she gave verbal valuations of any American book or manuscript brought to the Collection. Louisiana has some very fine collections: over 50 people from throughout the state took advantage of this free service, and the items shown were impressive.

Dr. Kline joined Sotheby's in

1983. Since then, she has been responsible for the sales and catalogues of all printed and manuscript Americana. With a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University, she was the associate editor of the John Jay Papers and then editor of the Aaron Burr Papers, as well as consultant to several editing projects. She is the author of the forthcoming handbook, *A Guide to Documentary Editing*.

The Historic New Orleans Collection Seminars have been presented on an occasional basis for ten years. In September of the past year, *Preserving Your Family Heritage* provided guidelines for the care of family papers, photographs, and paintings. Response to this seminar was so positive that it will be repeated sometime during 1985.

Other seminars in the series will be announced as they are scheduled.



Mrs. Truman Woodward, Mrs. Charles Monsted, and Mrs. Henry Pitot are shown at THNOC's earlier seminar, *Preserving Your Family Heritage*.



Pictured at left is Opothle Yoholo, speaker for the Upper Towns of the Creek Nation in Georgia. This handsomely colored illustration appears in the early 19th-century *History of the Indian Tribes of North America*, which was brought to the seminar by one of our patrons. With the owner's kind permission, this illustration will be used in the forthcoming THNOC publication of the Edward G.W. Butler Papers. Lt. Butler and Opothle Yoholo met in 1825 during negotiations between the United States Army and the Creeks.

Bounty From Abroad

Hundreds of thousands of documents chronicling Louisiana's colonial past—on microfilm—have been added to the manuscripts division of the Collection. Reconstructing the fabric of life in the days of Spanish rule will be easier, from the secret details of treaties and boundary disputes to a description of colonial saddles.

Researchers can sift through a wealth of information that ranges from food shortages to the condition of buildings, from designs for paper currency to a record of school teachers and how much they were paid. There are rare early editions of Louisiana newspapers, monthly reports from outlying regions, and accounts of gifts to the Indians.

Dr. Alfred E. Lemmon, coordinator of special projects, was in charge of acquiring microfilm copies of Louisiana colonial records found in the *Archivo General de Indias* in Seville. The acquisition of these important sources was the extension of a project begun by Loyola University, the Louisiana Microfilm Project. The scope of this project was vast: the microfilming and cataloging of two immense series of documents relating to the Louisiana colony, the Santo Domingo Papers and the Cuban Papers. This project continued from 1958 until 1983, receiving support from Loyola University, the Na-



Dr. Alfred E. Lemmon

tional Endowment for the Humanities, and Louisiana State University. Scholars who directed the project during those years were Ernest J. Burrus, S.J., and Charles E. O'Neill, S.J., of Loyola and Paul Hoffman of LSU.

In 1983 when funds to complete the project had run out, the Collection agreed to arrange to microfilm the final five portions of the Cuban series. Dr. Lemmon met with colleagues at Loyola and LSU, which is funding the pagination and cataloging for the project, and then made two trips to Spain to complete arrangements with Spanish archival administrators.

Copies of the Santo Domingo Papers, composed of official correspondence between colonial officials and the Spanish government, and the first two sections of the Cuban Papers, composed of working papers of officials in Louisiana and West Florida (300,000 frames), have arrived at the Collection. The third and fourth sections of the Cuban Papers, currently being microfilmed in Spain (180,000 frames), are expected during 1985.

As *lagniappe* to his work in Seville, Dr. Lemmon visited eight other repositories in Spain and the *Archives Nationales* in Paris. He arranged for the microfilming of hundreds of items, including early maps and plans of Louisiana, documents, correspondence, rare newspapers, and atlases.

This huge quantity of Spanish and French colonial materials has been processed by the staff of the manuscripts division for easy accessibility and is now available to researchers. The cooperation of numerous institutions and individuals was responsible for bringing these invaluable documents to Louisiana.

CREDITS

Contributors: Florence Jumonville, Catherine Kahn, and Priscilla O'Reilly.

Photographs: Claire de la Vergne, Judy Tarantino, and Jan White.

At the Collection . . .



Researcher Helen Wetzel with Gen. and Mrs. Lucius D. Clay



Pat Cromiller with Her Royal Highness, Princess Maria Teresa, Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg



Students from the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning of Columbia University

Acquisitions



The Historic New Orleans Collection acquires hundreds of items through purchase and donation during the course of each year. Only a few recent acquisitions can be noted here.

CURATORIAL

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Sam R. Sutton of Mandeville, and of Chester V. Dyer of Ocala, Florida, THNOC now owns nearly 6,000 photographic prints and a like number of negatives and slides, executed between the years 1953 and 1980. This donation greatly in-



Aerial views from the Sutton and Dyer donation. Above, Superdome under construction, 1972 (1984.166, neg. 1075). Below, Pontchartrain Beach, 1955 (1984.166, neg. 131).



creases the Collection's contemporary pictorial holdings.

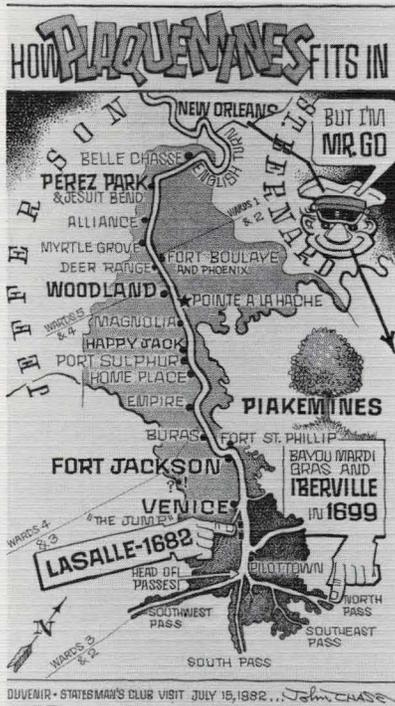
The photographs were made by Sutton and Dyer during the years of their partnership as aerial photographers and by Sutton alone after the partnership dissolved in 1961. Their aerial views of New Orleans, its suburbs, and the lower Mississippi River industrial corridor document the rapid expansion of the city during the past twenty years. Because of Mr. Sutton's careful record keeping, almost all of the photographs and negatives can be identified and dated.

■ Jacques Amans was among the most distinguished early 19th-century European portrait painters in Louisiana. His portrait of Françoise Gabrielle "Rosa" Montegut Pitot, a fine example of his early work in New Orleans (ca. 1838), is a recent gift from Henry C. Pitot. Rosa was the daughter of François Raimond Joseph Montegut and Rose Gabrielle Nicolas. In 1828 she married Armand François Pitot, an attorney-at-law and Counsel for the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana; the couple lived in the 900 block of North Rampart Street.

■ Author, historian, and cartoonist John C. Chase donated a group of his original drawings depicting Louisiana history, Chase-style. He



Françoise Gabrielle Pitot by Jacques Amans (1984.158).



Map of Plaquemines Parish by John C. Chase (1984.168.8.1).

began drawing cartoons for the *New Orleans Item* in 1925, moved to the *New Orleans States*, and continued with the *States-Item*. In 1964 he pioneered editorial cartooning at WDSU-TV.

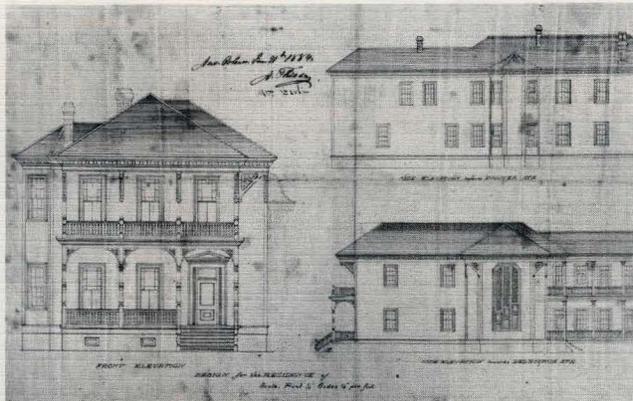
■ As early as the 1870s, New Orleans newspapers published drawings of Mardi Gras parade floats. In the 1880s, color lithographs, known as bulletins, were printed showing each float in the parade and were published in a folded newspaper format the day of the parade. Bulletin donations have played an important role in adding to THNOC's large collection, which provides an important source of documentation

for early parades. Richard L. Peterson recently donated a bulletin from the Krewe of Proteus, February 13, 1893, lithographed by T. Fitzwilliam & Co. and published by the *Daily Picayune*. Another gift of New Orleans Mardi Gras memorabilia from Mrs. J. P. Ewin includes early 1920s bulletins from Momus and Proteus.

Bulletins Needed

THNOC needs certain carnival bulletins from Comus, Momus, Proteus, and Rex. Interested donors should call the curatorial department.

Architectural renderings of the William Devlin residence (now demolished) on St. Charles Avenue were included in the Devlin Family Papers donation. The contract, dated January 1884, reveals this house to be the earliest known commission of noted architect Thomas Sully (1984.194.1).



MANUSCRIPTS

Daniel Henry Holmes, prominent 19th-century businessman and founder of D. H. Holmes department store, was a careful journal keeper. His voluminous diaries cover most of the second half of the 19th century. John Warrington of Cincinnati, owner of the journals, has cooperated with Robert Fiddler, president of D. H. Holmes, to provide the Historic New Orleans Collection with copies.

■ Captain Alex M. Halliday (ca. 1845-1919) was one of the best-known rivermen on the inland waterways. As president of the Westwego and Walnut Street Ferry Company and the Union Ferry Company, he was responsible for the boats which connected the east and west banks of the Mississippi at New Orleans. The Whitten Ferryboat Collection, the gift of Mrs. Florence Parker Whitten, contains correspondence, business records, and legal documents covering such topics as ferryboat accidents, charters, and other subjects related to transportation in New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

■ Another businessman involved in transportation was William Devlin, a major stockholder in the Carrollton Railroad. His personal and business correspondence and family papers reveal a man of deeply religious interest, who received the Order of St. Gregory from the Pope in 1872. The Devlin Family Papers were donated by Mrs. Andrew Booth.

■ *Régistre du Cimetière/ Barthélemi Duverjé*, register of burials in the Barthélemi Duverjé family cemetery in Algiers and later in Metairie Cemetery, and the manuscript volume of Villeré family history com-

plied by Alcée J. Villeré are additions to our research holdings.

■ The working papers of Henry C. Pitot for two separate volumes, *Observations on the Colony of Louisiana from 1796 to 1802*, and *James Pitot, 1761-1831, A Documentary Study*, were donated to the manuscripts division by the author. William E. Borah and Richard O. Baumbach, Jr., have donated their working papers for *The Second Battle of New Orleans: A History of the Vieux Carré Riverfront Expressway Controversy*.

■ Two scrapbooks filled with clippings of Louis Alfred Wiltz, mayor of New Orleans and later governor of Louisiana during Reconstruction, were the gifts of Samuel Livaudais, Jr.

■ Recent donations of programs from Donald Schultz and Tracy Hendrix, and from the Sibley Music Library at the Eastman School of Music have added to the Performing Arts Collection. Two other institutions have donated the following materials: the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, two bound volumes of the *Morning Star and Catholic Messenger*, 1869-1870 and 1872-1873; and the Dearborn Historical Society, two 1863 receipts for property seized from registered enemies, one of whom was Judah P. Benjamin.

The current issue of *Manuscripts Division Update* describes the collections of the manuscripts division which document Germans in New Orleans. You may request a copy of this issue from Susan Cole, curator of manuscripts, at 523-4662.

LIBRARY

Hopkins' New-Orleans 5 Cent Song-Book (New Orleans, 1861) stands paramount among recent purchases of the Research Library. It was issued during the Civil War to supplement the output of sheet music, which, though prolific, was not enough to satisfy the public demand for patriotic songs. *Hopkins'* was the first Confederate book printing of "Dixie," an especially popular song in New Orleans.

■ Thanks to the generosity of Henry Pitot, our holdings now include a copy of the scarce *Journal de la convention de la Louisiane* (Nouvelle-Orléans, 1845), the French edition of the journal of the Louisiana constitutional convention of 1845. Another noteworthy 19th-century publication, *La guerre et la paix: discours prononcé le 17 juin 1864, à la Nouvelle-Orléans* (Nouvelle-Orléans, 1864) by Th. Alleau, was presented by Ernest C. Villeré. Samuel Wilson, Jr., donated a biography of a senator from Louisiana, *Biographie de Pierre Soulé, sénateur à Washington* (Paris, 1848); and Miss Elizabeth Malone, a copy of the 1915-1916 *Directory of the Public Schools of New Orleans, La.*

■ Other gifts include *A History of the Order of Saint Lazarus in the United States of America: The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem* (New Orleans, 1984), contributed by the author, Mrs. Ethel Dameron Woodward; twenty pamphlets, most concerning 19th-century legal matters, presented by the Earl K. Long Library at the University of New Orleans; three dozen items donated by Michael Kirk, including *Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans* (New York, 1954) by Louis Armstrong and *Joy Street* (New York, 1950) by New Orleans author Frances Parkinson Keyes; *Vieux Carré Map Book*, donated by the City of New Orleans; and two theses contributed by their authors: "Nostalgie de la boue: The Land Settlement and Building Traditions of the Louisiana Acadians" by Collette A. Creppel (B.A., Harvard University, 1982) and "The Decline of German Ethnicity in New Orleans, 1880-1930" by Raimund Berchtold (M.A., University of New Orleans, 1984).

Staff

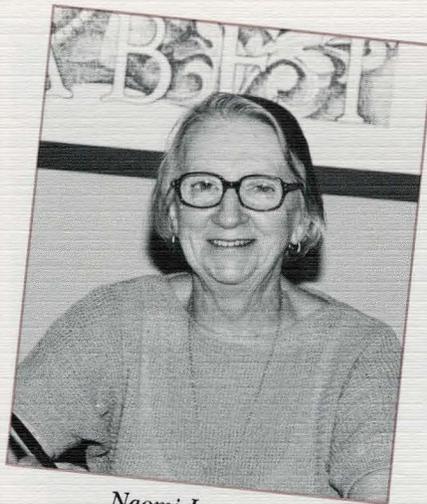
Curator **John A. Mahé II** served as consulting curator for the Arts Council of New Orleans's exhibition, *Seldom Seen: Portraits from Private Collections*, which followed *The Waters of America* at THNOC's CBD complex, December 1 through 15 . . . curator **John H. Lawrence** and manuscripts registrar **Catherine Kahn** served on the selection committee . . . both **Jan White**, head of photography, and **Judy Tarantino**, photographer, made contributions to the catalogue . . . chief curator **Dode Platou** is a board member of the Arts Council . . . **Alan Balicki** and **Tom Staples** helped mount the exhibition . . . and **Betty Killeen** staffed the shop . . . THNOC also lent two portraits, *Virginia Claiborne* by Helen M. Turner and *Dr. Joseph Hume* by Josephine Crawford; a daguerreotype of Mr. and Mrs. J. Curtis Waldo; and a photoprint of Sherwood Anderson by Edward Steichen.



John A. Mahé II

Head librarian **Florence Jumonville** compiled a bibliography of more than 235 Louisiana-related 1983 publications for the summer 1984 issue of the *LLA Bulletin*.

Dr. Patricia B. Schmit, director of publications, attended the fall meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing in Providence, Rhode Island . . . she also serves on the publications committee of the Louisiana Historical Association.



Naomi Lowrey

CHANGES

Senior docent **Naomi Lowrey** retired January 3 after eight years at the Collection . . . she will continue to be on call for special tours . . . docent **Mary Jane Parker** left THNOC to serve as director of volunteers at NOMA . . . replacing her is **Marla Morris**.

Assistant curator **Richard Marvin** resigned in October . . . the new curatorial assistant is **Raimund Berchtold** (M.A. in history, UNO) . . . **Jessica Travis** has joined the staff of the research library.

Raimund Berchtold



Jessica Travis

Head manuscripts cataloger **Mark Luccioni** left THNOC in October to assume archival duties at the Alabama State Archives in Montgomery.

Fredericka Turner has been promoted to assistant manager of the shop.



Fredericka Turner

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Staff members have recently made presentations to the following organizations: chief cataloger **John Magill**, the Loyola chapter of Phi Alpha Theta . . . **Elsa Schneider**, curator of education, the local chapter of the DAR, the American Society of Corporate Secretaries, and Le Petit Salon . . . **Dr. Patricia Schmit**, the Orleans Club, Stanton Manor, and the Friends of Archives . . . and assistant curator **Patricia McWhorter**, the Peoples' Program at Provincial House, and amateur radio operators at AMACOM '84.

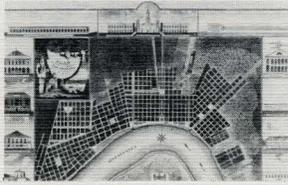
CORPORATE CUP



THNOC entrants in the December 16 Corporate Cup race were, *kneeling*, **Melvin Noah** and **Dale Triche**; *second row*, **Howard Estes**, **Susan Cole**, and **Jeanie Clinton**; and *last row*, **Dode Platou**, **Stanton Frazar**, **Ashley Scott**, **Warren Woods**, and **Charles Buchanan**. *Not pictured*, **Mary Louise Christovich** and **Fred Smith**.

Puzzler

Answer



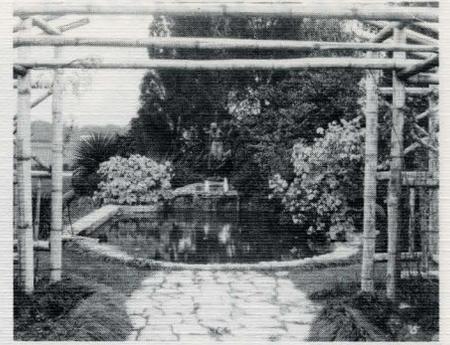
On the rainy morning of April 10, 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette arrived from Mobile on the steamboat *Natchez* as part of his fourteen-month tour of the United States, accompanied by his son, George Washington's namesake. The French hero of the American Revolution had been invited earlier by then-President James Monroe to tour the 24 states in the Union, and he was cheered here by most of the city's 40,000 residents. The arch had been erected in the *Place d'Armes* (now Jackson Square), and there Lafayette was greeted by

Mayor Louis Philippe Joseph de Rofignac and other city officials.

The arch was the design of the city's engineer, Joseph Pilié, and was decorated by the city's foremost scenic artist, Jean Baptiste Fogliardi. Consequently, it was built like a stage prop: a wood skeleton covered by heavy cloth painted in imitation of different marbles. The top, 63 feet above the ground—higher than the Cathedral, Cabildo, and Presbytere—was surmounted by a figure representing "Wisdom" next to a bust of Benjamin Franklin, the U.S. representative to France during the revolution and a friend of Lafayette. The Cabildo was New Orleans's city hall at the time, and it was temporarily refurbished as Lafayette's residence until he left for Baton Rouge on April 15.

The other two changes on the map are the removal of Fort St. Charles near the river end of Esplanade Avenue and the continuation of *rue de Condé* (now Chartres) and *rue de l'Hôpital* (now Gov. Nicholls) through the large square owned by the Ursuline nuns.

Mystery Garden



In the fall Puzzler, we asked our readers to help us identify the garden in the above photograph taken from the Charles L. Franck Collection. The "lost" garden has been identified as part of the McFadden estate in City Park. The curatorial department wishes to thank the following persons for their interest and consideration: Henri Gandolfo, Frank Lotz Miller, George Schmidt, Arthur Scully, and Monroe Stephenson.

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION's 1985 calendar covers the New Year perfectly for nostalgia buffs. Printed on extra-heavy paper, *Louisiana History Day by Day* looks backward to the 1884-85 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition. Each day is individualized with historical facts from Louisiana's colorful history.

Please send me _____ calendars at \$5.95 each

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Christmas at the Shop



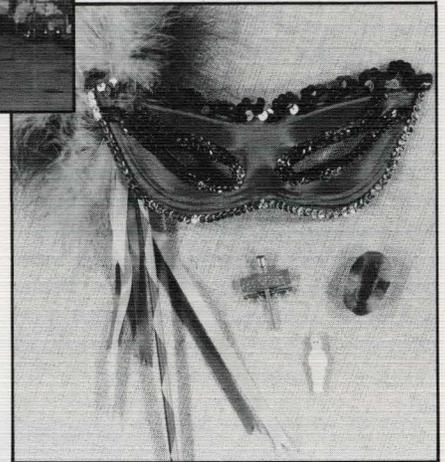
Left, Christmas festival in the Counting House. Right, Shop manager Sue Laudeman and Warren Woods, Shop bookkeeper.

The Shop's ball favors include these pins (clockwise): king cake, king cake baby, and flambeau.

"Remembering Olde Country Christmases" was a celebration. The third annual festival sponsored by the Shop at the Collection, November 29 through December 9, saluted the city's cultural diversity with international gifts and decorations. Ribbons, flags, and a porcelain *boeuf gras* from France all added to the holiday atmosphere.

Unusual items included a sterling

silver reindeer ring, reproduced from THNOC's 19th-century Dingeldein collection, and crawfish wreaths for a touch of Louisiana local color. With an eye to February, the Shop also offered Mardi Gras ball favors. A pin representing "frozen Charlotte," the king cake baby, and Carnival-inspired playing cards were popular items.



**THE HISTORIC
NEW ORLEANS
COLLECTION
NEWSLETTER**

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
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