



Cleveland State University Friends of the Library Newsletter

**From the
Friends President**

Thankfully, libraries have few enemies, many friends and some Friends. The Friends of the Library at Cleveland State aim to assist this great library in many tangible ways. We sponsor programs of interest to students, faculty and the general public in order to bring favorable attention to the Library. We encourage gifts to the Library of special collections materials, particularly those with a strong Cleveland link. An example is the Sarah Ruth Watson Estate gift of detailed materials on Cleveland's many bridges. And we provide a means of social and intellectual interaction with this great University.

This newsletter describes only a few of the activities and ways to assist in supporting Cleveland's only truly urban academic library.

Join us. See the box below for details on membership.

—**H. Baird Tenney, President of the Friends**

Join the Friends

The Friends of University Library welcome new members. You may request a Friends brochure by calling (216) 687-2475. Contributions can be sent to:

Friends of the Library
c/o Cleveland State University Foundation
Cleveland State University
Mather Mansion, Room 204
2605 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland OH 44115-2403

You may choose various levels of membership, including individual (\$15), family (\$20), or benefactor (\$150). Makes checks payable to "Cleveland State University Foundation."

Friends of the University Library Newsletter
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Lafayette Arrives at Cleveland State

A rare microfilm collection of 25,000 letters, documents and other correspondence belonging to the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) has been given to the Cleveland State University Library. Arrangements for this gift were made largely through the remarkable efforts of Mr. John L. Horton of Rocky River, a retired Cleveland Cliffs executive and long-time member of the Friends.

The tale of John Horton's pursuit of this collection was told at the May 21, 1998 public

introduction of the collection. President Claire Van Ummersen provided a greeting to the assembly on that occasion following a Presentation of the Colors by the Sons of the American Revolution in period uniforms complete with signal drum.

William I. Shorrock, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs and historian of France and modern Europe then spun out the historical perspective of the papers coming from this remarkable marquis, who was a hero of both the American and French Revolutions.

A key military leader in the American Revolution, Lafayette is credited with drafting France's Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen which includes the familiar sounding "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights."

Among the correspondence in the collection is a handwritten battle report to his mentor and chief George Washington. Writing in English the Marquis reports "... Lord Cornwallis's journey to Virginia has not produced the smallest advantage. . ." This was in June 1781, only a few months before Cornwallis surrendered to the American forces at Yorktown.

The Friends are proud to have had a part in this event by supporting the celebration in May held in the Library's Special collections area. Cooperating were Albert Oberst, the Friends of the Lafayette Society, La Maison Française, and other French groups.

Vice Provost Shorrock concluded his remarks saying, "The best way we can honor the memory of Lafayette and the contribution of John Horton is to encourage extensive use of these historically important materials." Students and scholars are indeed going to come and access these resources. The only other microfilm copy is in the Library of Congress. The originals remain in the family's possession in France.



H. Baird Tenney, President of the Friends; John Horton, honored guest at the Lafayette Reception and member of the Friends; Claire Van Ummersen, President of Cleveland State University; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; and George Lupone, Interim Director of University Library.

Book Review

Adrienne: *The Life of the Marquise de Lafayette* by André Maurois; translated by Gerard Hopkins. With an introduction by René de Chambrun. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1961.

This biography has a special interest for us at Cleveland State University; in researching the book, the author made extensive use of the Lafayette papers at the Château LaGrange, France—a collection which Cleveland State has acquired on microfilm. It is a fine work by Maurois, a gifted writer and member of the French Academy. Maurois is a master of the *vie romancée*—a biography written with scrupulous attention to accuracy, yet colorful and engaging.

Adrienne was born into one of the most powerful families in pre-revolutionary France; married at an early age, she couldn't have known her husband would become a hero in two worlds—America and France. A devoted wife, she was content with an often lonely, background role. It was not until the French Revolution was in full swing, that her remarkable talents and abilities were set in motion. Lafayette, treading an uncomfortable middle road between his republican principles and his aristocratic background, was finally forced to flee the country. During his long period of imprisonment in Austria, it was Adrienne who saw to business. She never flagged in her efforts to free her husband, and re-establish the family, which was financially ruined by the revolution.

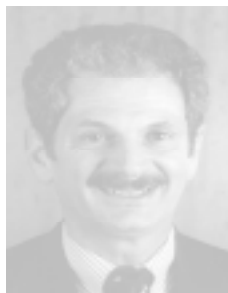
Adrienne possessed the innate ability, and sense of timing, to know whom to approach. It was she who negotiated with a succession of Emperors, foreign statesmen and French government officials, including Napoleon, for Lafayette's release and return to France. Maurois praises Adrienne's diplomacy, fine character and business acumen, which proved more realistic and adaptable than her husband, in treading the dangerous waters of revolutionary France.

The work is rich in primary source material—family letters and other correspondence. One of the gems: a letter from President George Washington to Lafayette's parents concerning the progress of his namesake, George Washington Lafayette, whom Adrienne had sent to America during the revolutionary terror.

This biography is truly an example of the quality of research which may be accomplished with access to the Lafayette papers, and we at the University are indeed fortunate to have acquired these. Finally, this is a book for everyone who loves France and the French people.—**Lesley Jorbin, Humanities and Music Librarian**

[NOTE: Acquisition of a microfilm copy of the Lafayette papers by CSU was made possible by special permission of René Chambrun through the generosity of Mr. John Horton, a member of the Friends of the Library group.]

Message from the Interim Library Director



I would like to thank every one the Friends for your support of the Library. The Friends organization has provided tremendous support to Cleveland State Library during the past few years. Through your efforts, we have been able to acquire special materials for the collection and offer programs of interest to the Friends and the community. Examples include a talk by Dr. Walter Leedy titled "Cleveland in Picture Post-cards" on May 6, 1998, and the annual Scholars and Artists reception. One of my favorite programs was the book talk by Mary Doria Russell,

the local author of the *Sparrow* and *Children of a Lesser God*. The word is out about the many things the Cleveland State Library offers to the city. Many thanks for spreading the word. —

George Lupone, Interim Director, University Library

Citizen of the Year

Dr. Thomas W. Flechtner, Chemistry, has been awarded Ohio Library Council's "Citizen of the Year." The Friends nominated Dr. Flechtner for this important award in recognition of his unwavering support of Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and Cleveland State University Library. Over the past several years, he has given his time and talent, actively serving on the Friends steering committee and has been instrumental in bringing the Friends and libraries into the spotlight.

Dr. Flechtner will receive his award on Thursday, October 22, 1998 at the OLC's 1998 annual conference, in Columbus.

1998/1999 Programs

Friends sponsor several programs during each academic year to inform or entertain or in any case to draw attention to this magnificent library and the University.

This year the Friends will again sponsor, along with two other groups, the annual Scholars and Artists Reception on **Tuesday, October 27 from 3:00 to 5:00** in the Library's 3rd floor special collections area. As in the past, this reception will showcase the publications and creative achievements of faculty, staff and students. Dr. Everett F. Cataldo is the featured speaker and the Friends will provide the refreshments.

In early 1999, the Friends plan to provide a descriptive tour of the newly remodeled main building of the Cleveland Public Library. A previous Friends event toured the recently completed new CPL building.

Books needed

The Cleveland State University Friends book sale is a major source of funds to support Friends activities. It has been an annual event but is now rolling continuously on the Library's first floor, available to students, faculty, and the public. Sometime in the future, we hope to hold a one-day book sale.

We need books—a continuous flow to continue this popular and profitable event. A few volumes or a whole collection are needed and appreciated. Recently James and Nancy Stevenson of Cleveland Heights gave the Friends over 600 volumes. Some were held by the Library for the collection and the others went right to the book sale. Transportation for larger collections can be arranged. For information, call Lisa Russell at (216) 687-2481.

Director Appointed

Glenda Ann Thornton, Ph.D. has just been appointed Director of the Cleveland State University Library, effective November 2, 1998.

She comes to us from the Auraria Library of the University of Colorado at Denver where she has been Interim Dean/Director/Assistant Professor.

The Friends welcome Dr. Thornton and in the same breath thank George Lupone, Interim Director for his highly effective work with the Friends. Happily, George will continue with his active work on the Friends.