

# Government Documents' New Home



*Before...*



*and after in new location.*

During December, the entire Government Documents collection was moved from the third floor to its new location in the lower level of the Howard-Tilton Library. This difficult undertaking was accomplished by Graebel Movers, the Government Documents staff, all of the Reference librarians and two student assistants, who pooled their efforts in moving 5,000 shelves of material, scheduled at the rate of 1,000 shelves a day. This involved 500,000 documents of 100 pages or more, plus a large number of shorter documents. It took a day longer than originally planned, but the collection was successfully moved before the end of the year.

Any time moving of materials and construction work are done in an operating library, the problem of unwelcome noise arises. Although the move occurred between semesters so that the least possible number of students would be disturbed, the noise caused earlier in the semester by the shelving installation and refinishing couldn't be helped. We regret the annoyance this caused our patrons, but hope the benefit of more space outweighs the inconvenience of the move.

This move was one phase in the major collection rearrangement which was planned in order to help alleviate the library's acute space problems. The newly installed compact mobile storage in the new Government Documents area provides an extremely efficient use of space and this in turn frees a considerable amount of third floor space, giving the

social science collection some much needed room for expansion. At the same time, space is also cleared for the new Selley Reading Area.

The lower level was selected because it is the only floor able to support the weight of the high density storage. There are five shelving sections, each consisting of twelve mobile units between the stationary ones. This provides 19,000 linear feet of storage. An aisle may be created where needed between the mobile shelves and this requires very little physical effort by the staff members—the manual control will dial with the pressure of one finger. The Spacesaver brand HC-3 system was chosen because this kind of compact storage is especially easy and safe to use.

Karen Stabler, the Head of Reference, supervised the move and actively participated in book shifting. She said that much of the shelving space is needed now, but that there is sufficient room to allow for future growth. A complete shelf-reading of the collection has been done since last April, assuring that the materials are in very good order. One complication was the limited depth of each shelf. Any item larger than 10"x12½" was set aside as oversized, since it would prevent the complete closing of mobile shelves. So there turned out to be an unexpectedly large oversize section.

In general, the Government Documents staff members had mixed feelings about moving to an area without windows,

*continued on page 3*



## Special Acquisitions

The Tulane University Library has recently been the recipient of a number of outstanding donations that have greatly enriched the collection. Most notable of these are the John Kennedy Toole Papers, a bequest of Mrs. Thelma Ducoing Toole; the magnificent Kelmscott Press edition of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* (1896), a gift of Tina Freeman (Mrs. Philip) Woollam; and the monumental ten-volume encyclopedia *Cours complet d'agriculture théorique* (1781-1801) by the Abbé François Rozier, a gift of Mrs. Morgan Whitney. The new acquisitions are housed in the Manuscripts-Rare Books Department.

The papers of Pulitzer Prize winning author John Kennedy Toole include typescripts, printer's copy and page proofs of *A Confederacy of Dunces*. There are also thirteen foreign-language editions of the novel, which has been translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German, Swedish, Dutch, Norwegian and Finnish. Of special interest are the letters that Toole wrote to his parents while he was in the army

San Juan, Puerto Rico  
15 May 1963

Dear Mother and Dad,

I have been trying to write with some regularity lately and hope that you have received the letters. At the moment it is difficult to realize that within two and a half months I should be off this island.

The "creative writing" to which I turned about three months ago in an attempt to seek some perspective upon the situation has turned out to have been more than simple psychic therapy. I am now well over one hundred pages and feel that the story shows no signs of bogging or faltering; this is, of course, a first draft, but it is an unusual and entertaining first draft that is, at the very least, a solid foundation for whatever revisions, additions, and editing may be needed. My most immediate hope is that I will at least be able to complete the first draft before I am released from the Army; at the rate of my current progress, this may be possible. You both know that my greatest desire is to be a writer and since I finally feel that I am doing something that is more than barely readable, I am very concerned about a civilian situation which will make completion and revision of this particular work possible. That is why I am planning on New Orleans for a while at least; I believe that I have already written you that I turned down the Hunter offer to teach in the Bronx. I do not want Manhattan again... at least not now. As a matter of fact, I feel no particular anxiety about civilian life, and feel that I shouldn't anyway. If this thing can be worked upon, I am almost certain that a publisher would accept it and so do one of two others to whom I have shown excerpts. I must not ask any longer (in haste.)

I love you both very much and think of you more often than you imagine.

Love,

Kennedy

### Personal letter of Toole's

and stationed in Puerto Rico. It was during this period, 1962-63, that he began writing *Confederacy*, and several of the letters mention progress on the work (see illustration). Additionally, the collection contains manuscripts of two unpublished short stories and a poem, photographs of Toole as a child and as a young man, and correspondence of Mrs. Toole about her son and about his novel. The papers are being processed at the present time and will be available to researchers when catalogued.

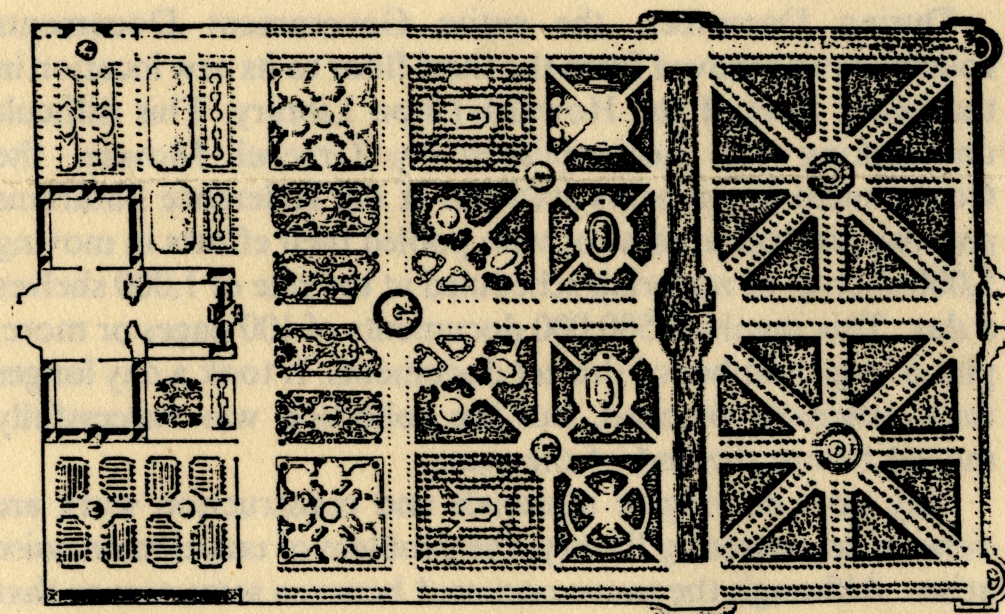
The Chaucer volume was the work of the famous English printer William Morris of the Kelmscott Press. It was his aim to produce a book that was also a work of art by following sound design principles, using the best available materials and employing skilled and meticulous craftsmen. The book took four years to produce. Morris designed the title page (see illustration), borders, initials and ornaments, and Sir Edward Burne-Jones provided eighty-seven illustrations. The designs were first drawn on paper, then photographed onto woodblocks by a photographic process called the planotype, and finally the blocks were cut by W.H. Hooper. Morris used a handmade paper of special manufacture for which he designed watermarks. The work, completed in May, 1896, appeared in an edition of 425 copies. The book measures 17"x11½"x2½"

and has 554 pages. The Tulane Library has eleven other titles published by the Kelmscott Press, but the new acquisition is the jewel of the crown.



Title page of Kelmscott Press edition

The Rozier encyclopedia of agriculture, the *Cours complet d'agriculture théorique*, is a product of the Enlightenment in France and reflects the spirit of scientific and intellectual inquiry typical of the eighteenth century. Its author was a botanist, agronomist and clergyman. He also held a professorship at the Royal Academy in Lyons. The encyclopedia minutely documents all aspects of agriculture, with descriptions of plants, domestic animals, farm buildings, irrigation systems and tools. Beautiful copperplate engravings illustrate many of the entries. The *Cours* circulated widely and was highly regarded and influential in its day. The geometric formality of nineteenth-century Louisiana gardens, as seen in contemporary maps and drawings, for example, is similar to the design for parterres printed here (see illustration). The *Cours* is a particularly valuable addition to the Tulane Library, because it complements our extensive holdings on botany, horticulture and architecture.



Design for parterres

The Tulane University Library wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Woollam and Mrs. Whitney and to Mrs. Toole's estate for these munificent donations. The continuing interest and generosity of patrons such as these have helped to build the research collections of the Library. These gifts will be of great value to scholars for many years to come.

Guillermo Nández Falcón

## From the University Librarian...

The lead article in this issue brings up one of our most pressing needs in the Howard-Tilton Library—space. The compact storage system, made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Selley, gives us some precious shelf space on our most crowded floor. There will finally be some relief for social sciences materials as well as a pleasant and useful display area for periodicals. But the solution is really a temporary one—the floor will soon be full again. Moreover, it will be inconvenient to have government documents separated from social sciences materials. In any case, other areas are almost as crowded—Science-Engineering and Reference on the first floor; Rare Books, Manuscripts and Archives on the fourth, and microforms. Equally important are more study areas for our users and carrels and studies for the graduate students and faculty.

Surely the increase in electronically-stored information and more microforms will solve our problem, some say. Not so, in my opinion. The printed format will continue to be the chief

### New Home (continued)

according to Ms. Stabler, but their outlook improved when they saw how modern-looking and attractive the new area became. Although some finishing touches need to be made, the staff will be settling into their new office facilities. The Government Documents stacks will be closed to the public, as they were when on the third floor and the staff will be well prepared to help patrons even more efficiently in the new location.

Susanna Powers

photography by Susanna Powers

## Library Staff News

### Howard-Tilton Memorial Library

Bruce Fleury, Head of Science-Engineering, has been appointed Research Associate at Audubon Zoo.

Philip Leinbach, University Librarian, has been asked to serve on the committee selecting a new director for the New Orleans Public Library.

## Address Unknown

The Library's mail can be amusing at times. The addresses alone get a chuckle, especially when compared with the institution that addressed them. The following address was sent by the U.S. Department of Education.

Grand Info Officer  
Howard Tilton Libery  
Tulane Univ  
New Tilton Library, LA 70118

The National Republican Congressional Committee sent this one.

Library  
Howard Filton  
Tulane Univ Ferrit  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

## Forthcoming...

In March we will cover the completion of our mini-renovation and the opening of the Selley Reading Area.

medium for information diffusion in the next decade. Besides, not only do we add books and periodicals—we acquire manuscripts, family papers, photographs, University records, maps, phonorecords and tapes, blueprints and scale models (in the Southeastern Architectural Archive).

Lest we be thought to be proceeding on impressions rather than hard facts, we are measuring our space, predicting our growth and coming up with proof of our needs. Such a report should be ready in late spring.

Meanwhile, the University administration is listening. Solutions include four more floors (my choice), reoccupying Jones Hall (now the home of the Law School) and remote storage. The Library's space needs are in the Five-Year Plan. But we all must unite to push for more room for the Library as a high priority. Assuring Tulane's future as an outstanding educational institution requires no less.

Philip E. Leinbach

## Of Special Interest...

### BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Library book sale, held on the 10th and 11th of November 1984, netted more than \$2500, reports the President of the Friends, Evans J. Casso. He wishes to express his thanks to all who assisted in the sale. The proceeds of the sale become part of a Friends acquisition fund that is administered by the Rare Books Librarian. The money is used to buy special items that cannot normally be purchased out of the regular book budget. Thus the sale contributes to the enrichment of the Library's collection.

### BROCHURES

Howard-Tilton Library has several new brochures outlining a few of the library's services. The Social Science division compiled a guide for doing research in social work. The guide lists useful sources such as indexes, abstracts and government documents. Anyone involved in the study of social work will find this brochure helpful. A user's policy brochure was developed for the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, the Norman Mayer Business Library, the Rudolph Matas Medical Library and the Monte M. Lemann Law Library. The brochure covers the policies of in-library use, circulation of materials and interlibrary loan. The computer search service brochure states the policies and guidelines of the service. In the future, the brochure will include fact sheets on computer files of various subjects. It will give the data bases that can be searched and their cost. These brochures are useful guides for making the most of the Tulane Libraries' services. The brochures can be picked up at the Reference/Information desk, first floor, Howard-Tilton Library.

### COMPUTERS

The first of two IBM PCs has been installed in Howard-Tilton Library's Catalog Department. The IBM PC has been modified by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) as a M300 work station. This enables the computer to work as a personal computer as well as an OCLC terminal. As an OCLC terminal, it is on a dedicated line to the OCLC computer in Ohio and can perform functions such as cataloging and bibliographic searches. The dual function of the IBM PC allows for flexibility and a gradual reduction of the time involved in cataloging a book. The Catalog Department is looking forward to learning all the different functions the M300 work station can perform.



# Howard-Tilton Memorial Library

## JANUARY

14-31 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m.-10:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.

## FEBRUARY

1-17 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m.-10:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
18 Monday 8:00 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.  
19 Tuesday MARDI GRAS CLOSED  
21-28 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m.-10:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.

## MARCH

1-31 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m.-10:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.

## APRIL

1-4 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
5 GOOD FRIDAY CLOSED  
6 Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
7 EASTER SUNDAY CLOSED  
8-24 Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m.-10:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:45 a.m.  
25-30 Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m.

## MAY

1-6 Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m.

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SIGNIFICA is published bimonthly. It is distributed to the faculty and professional staff of the University, Life members of the Friends of the Library, members of the Association of Research Libraries and others interested in the University Libraries. Requests to be placed on the mailing list, comments and questions about the contents may be referred to the editor, Carmen Lee, University Librarian's Office, 865-5131.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Carmen Lee, Guillermo Nájuez Falcón and Susanna Powers

# Tulane

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