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The Law Library of Louisiana

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FREE CLE PROGRAM APRIL 15TH

The Law Library of Louisiana and the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society are sponsoring a free continuing legal education (CLE) program worth one credit hour, examining the Louisiana Civil Code as both a borrower and a source of legal ideas.

"Origins, Reception, and Dissemination of Legal Ideas - The Civil Law Codification Experience in Louisiana," will be held on Thursday, April 15, in the Louisiana Supreme Court, 4th Floor Courtroom,

400 Royal St., New Orleans, from 11:30 am-12:30 pm. A light lunch will follow, from 12:30 pm-1pm.

Board member Judge James L. Dennis will introduce Agustín Parise, Research Associate at LSU Law School's Center of Civil Law Studies. Mr. Parise will begin the program by discussing the process of civil law codification in Louisiana and will then address the worldwide dissemination of the text of the Louisiana Civil Code. Lastly, Mr. Parise will

compare the mutual influence of Louisiana's and Argentina's Civil Codes as an example of jurisdictions which have utilized each other's civil laws.

The program is free and open to the public. However, due to limited seating, attendees must call or email to indicate they will attend. Please contact Georgia Chadwick at gchadwick@lasc.org or 504.310.2402. The program begins promptly at 11:30 am. δ

RECENT EVENTS AT THE LAW LIBRARY & THE SUPREME COURT

by Georgia Chadwick

Since the beginning of the year, many visitors have come to the Court to attend an event or to take a tour of the building and the library. In January, the American Association of Law Schools held their annual meeting in New Orleans, and several events were held to offer law professors attending AALS additional opportunities to learn about Louisiana's legal history. On January 6, the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society and Aspen Publishers sponsored a special presentation of Professor Paul R. Baier's play "Father Chief Justice." *E. D. White and the Constitution* in the Supreme Court's fourth

floor Courtroom. Over eighty constitutional law professors, judges, and guests attended the performance.

After the play, a reception sponsored by Aspen was held in the formal conference room. Steve Errick, Managing Director, Legal Education, of Aspen Publishers, was on hand to see that everyone received a special limited Centenary edition of the play, which Aspen had produced just for this occasion. The Law Library staff arranged various items, including photographs of White, for viewing during the reception. Of particular interest was a reproduction of White's commission as

Chief Justice, which President William Howard Taft signed on December 12, 1910.

Another series of special events held during the AALS meeting was sponsored by Greg Talbot, Publisher, The Lawbook Exchange. A group of thirty visiting and local law professors, law librarians, historians, and archivists gathered for a luncheon on January 8 to celebrate the release by The Lawbook Exchange of a revised second edition of New England Law School Professor George Dargo's book *Jefferson's Louisiana: Politics and the Clash of Legal Traditions*.

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RECENT EVENTS

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The book was originally published in 1976 and is considered essential reading for anyone wanting to learn about the territorial period of Louisiana's history.

Following the luncheon, the Historic New Orleans Collection gave the group a special tour of their exhibit "Between Colony and State: Louisiana in the Territorial Period," a fitting activity to coincide with the release Professor Dargo's book. A copy of the second edition of Jefferson's Louisiana was kindly inscribed by Professor Dargo for the Library's collection. The following day, Sally Reeves, former Chief Archivist of the New Orleans Notarial Archives, offered a tour of the unique historical materials at the Notarial Archives Research Center.

Among the many out-of-town visitors who toured the Law Library during these events were Greg Talbot and Valerie Horowitz of The Lawbook Exchange, Professor Peter Reich of Whittier Law School, Professor Claire Germain, Edward Cornell Law Librarian at Cornell University Law Library, and Stuart Basefsky, Senior Reference Librarian and Director, IWS News Bureau at Cornell's Industrial and Labor Relations School.

Dr. Simon Caterson, Librarian and Senior Tutor at Mannix



Harry Rosenberg as Justice Louis Brandeis and Donald Hoffman as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in "Father Chief Justice."

College at Monash University in Victoria, Australia, toured the Law Library and the Rare Book Room during his second trip to New Orleans. Although Dr. Caterson received a law degree, he chose to pursue a graduate degree in literature. He wrote about his first visit to New Orleans in 2009 for an Australian newspaper. This year he came during Mardi Gras, and he wrote an article about "the color and chaos" of the several parades he experienced.

Professor Frank Matero, a frequent visitor to New Orleans, but a first-time visitor to the Law Library, has been a special friend of New Orleans cemeteries for twenty-five years. Professor Matero teaches at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and is Director of Penn's Architectural Conservation

Laboratory. Based on his expertise in historic building technology and the conservation of building materials, especially masonry and earthen construction, Professor Matero received a grant for his students to complete a conditions and structure survey of all the tombs at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. He has also been involved with projects at Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, and most recently was instrumental in having St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 placed on the World Monuments Fund's 2010 Watch List. Professor Matero spent time at the Law Library researching early New Orleans city ordinances about cemeteries.

We often welcome to the Law Library visitors who come to learn more about their ancestors, many of whom were prominent Louisiana legal figures. Cathie

Ranlett Weinstein brought her three grandchildren to see the bust of their ancestor Thomas Jenkins Semmes (1824-1899), which sits outside the 4th floor courtroom; Hannah Brooke Choppin, Bailey Semmes Choppin and Ashton Victoria Choppin were all interested to learn about the distinguished career of their ancestor, a prominent New Orleans lawyer, a law professor at the University of Louisiana (now Tulane University) and the 1886 president of the American Bar Association. Monroe Kelly of New Orleans, a descendant of Chief Justice Frank Adair Monroe (1844-1927), visited the Museum and Law Library with his wife Stacy and their daughter Emmaline. Chief Justice Monroe retired from the court in 1922 after forty-five years of judicial service. Alison Stuart traveled from her home in Arkansas to see the portrait of her ancestor, Chief Justice Charles Austin O'Niell (1869-1951). Chief Justice O'Niell was the longest sitting chief justice in the history of the Court. East Feliciana Parish Clerk of Court David Dart came to see the bust of his ancestor Henry P. Dart (1858-1934), which is on display outside the 4th floor courtroom. Mr. Dart was a distinguished attorney, historian, editor and preservationist.

2010 is off to a busy start, and law library staff look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors throughout the year. δ

AN UNUSUAL GIFT

by Georgia Chadwick

As May approaches, relatives will be thinking of what to give law students graduating from law school. One such student, Christopher M. Hannan, associate at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz in New Orleans, received a most unusual gift for his graduation from Loyola Law School: his mother-in-law gave him a law book. There's

certainly nothing unusual in that, but the book Chris received was an original copy – not a reprint – of the *Digest of the Civil Laws Now in Force in the Territory of Orleans*, also known as the *Digest of 1808*. Chris told me about the book when he called on me for advice on how to store it. I went to look at it and found it to be in remarkably good condition, considering it is over 200 years old. I discovered that Chris was

already doing the right things to protect the book from light and dust. After Chris pointed out the name "Horatio Davis" inscribed on the title page, I did a little research and found that Davis had a connection to one of the most celebrated cases in U.S. legal history.

Horatio Davis, born in 1790, was the son of Col. Samuel Boyd Davis and Rose Elisabeth de

Boisfontaine. Samuel Boyd Davis was born at Lewes, Delaware, but in his youth he was a sailor and spent time in Louisiana. There, he became a friend and business associate of Daniel Clark, who used his political connections in the territory of Louisiana to amass great wealth. Like Clark, Col. Davis made a fortune in land speculation.

Daniel Clark fathered an

RUSSELL B. LONG : MASTER OF THE TAX CODE

by Miriam Childs

The old saying, "Don't tax you, don't tax me. Tax that fella behind the tree!" may not be far from the minds of those preparing returns for the 2010 tax season. This quote is attributed to none other than Russell B. Long, long-term Senator from Louisiana known for his mastery of the United States tax laws.

Russell Billiu Long, second child and oldest son of Huey P. and Rose McConnell Long, was born on November 3, 1918, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Long spent his childhood between Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. In 1941 he graduated from LSU and by 1942 had earned a law degree, also from LSU. Like so many men of his generation, Long saw military action in Europe, serving in the Naval branch of the armed forces from 1942-1945 and achieving the rank of Lieutenant.

Long secured the Democratic nomination to fill the U. S. Senate seat left vacant with the death of John Overton in 1948. Long's colleagues remember him as a non-partisan consensus builder, a man true to his word who didn't hold grudges. He was a skilled legislative strategist during an era when getting things done in Congress meant one-on-one meetings and winning over potential opponents. Long made many friends who were willing

to work with him and help him with legislation when he needed it. He thus evolved into a major Congressional powerbroker with far-reaching influence.

In the area of tax legislation, Long did much notable work, and he and was widely regarded as an expert on the United States tax code. He chaired the Senate Finance Committee from 1965-1981 and chaired or co-chaired the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation for several years. Long was a strong supporter of the earned income tax credit and tax breaks for oil and gas companies, and he took an active role in writing the 1986 tax code reform bill by proposing revisions and working toward a consensus on the bill. He also took part in crafting the Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980, which limits the windfall tax on newly discovered oil.

Above all, Russell Long believed his father's policies guided his philosophy, and he regarded himself as continuing the work his father began. This belief was borne out by his support of expanding Social Security benefits to the disabled, of strengthening child support enforcement measures, and of establishing pioneering employee stock option plans. Long was a staunch defender of Louisiana industries, especially oil and gas, shrimp fishing, and sugar, and he

also supported spending on public works in Louisiana for hurricane protection and flood control. Saints fans have much to thank him for as well; along with Hale Boggs, Long was instrumental in paving the way for the NFL to bring the Saints to New Orleans in 1967. In addition, Long used his influence to clear obstacles preventing the construction of the Superdome.

Long retired from Congress in 1987 after providing the state and nation with almost forty years of loyal, dedicated service. Russell B. Long died on May 9, 2003 in Washington, DC, and was interred at Roselawn Memorial Park in Baton Rouge. His legacy continues to positively affect the lives of many Americans today.

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"Russell B. Long, 84, Senator Who Influenced Tax Laws," *New York Times*, May 11, 2003.

Mann, Robert. *Legacy to Power: Senator Russell Long of Louisiana*. New York : Paragon House, 1992

"Russell Long's Belief in Big Oil Leaves Slick Louisiana Legacy," *New Orleans CityBusiness*, May 19, 2003. δ

illegitimate daughter born to Zulime Carriere in 1805, and placed the child, Myra, with the Davis family shortly after her birth. After Louisiana became a state, Colonel Davis sold his lands, which had appreciated in value, and returned to Delaware in 1812 a wealthy man.

Clark's daughter, then known as Myra Davis, moved to Delaware with the Davis family. Not until 1830 did Myra Davis

discover the details of her birth and that her father, Daniel Clark, had died in 1813 leaving a fortune. Myra Clark Gaines, as she was finally known, first sued the estate of Daniel Clark in 1834 to establish herself as his legitimate heir. The resulting legal battle lasted 55 years, ending after her death in 1885. Horatio Davis, effectively Myra's brother, testified in one of the suits filed by Myra that she was Clark's illegitimate

daughter and that the entire Davis family was aware of this situation.

Horatio Davis married Naomi DuBourg of New Orleans, was licensed to practice law in Louisiana in 1815, and became a notary in 1850. He also served as Secretary of the Louisiana Legislature and was appointed Adjutant General by Gov. Joseph Marshall Walker. He died in New Orleans on

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\$7.00 per document.

Mediated WestPack
\$25.00 per search

Mediated LexisOne
\$25.00 per search

October 17, 1857, and is buried at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

Sources:

Alexander, Elizabeth Urban. *Nortorious Woman: The Celebrated Case of Myra Clark Gaines*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2001.

"Myra Clark Gaines." Huebner, Timothy S. *American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. δ

PRACTICE-ORIENTED MATERIALS IN THE LAW LIBRARY



by Katie Nachod

A fundamental goal of any law library is to provide its users with the legal resources they need in the most useful, convenient, and cost-effective format. A recent journal article by Amanda Runyon entitled "The Effect of Economics and Electronic Resources on the Traditional Law Library Print Collection" [101(2) *Law Library Journal* 177, Spring 2009] explores how the exponential rise in the cost of legal materials and the increasing availability of and expectations for electronic resources have strained the already shrinking budgets of many law libraries. Law librarians involved in acquisitions, collection development, and reference services are trying to navigate the divide between print and electronic. While some libraries have abandoned paper and hitched their wagon to the electronic star, others, like our library, are still trying to keep a foot in both worlds. Ms. Runyon, a reference librarian at the University of Texas Tarlton Law Library, focuses on the situation in academic law settings, but the issues and choices she describes are also relevant to law libraries in courts, firms, and government agencies.

Cost, usability, and ease of access all come into play. Ms. Runyon cites an article published in 2000 which states that since the 1970s, the price increases for

legal materials have been nearly double the rate of inflation. While no follow-up has been published, given increases in the last decade, it's reasonable to assume that this upward trend has continued. Due to the constant influx of new laws, regulations, cases, agency decisions, and the like, many loose-leafs and legal treatises must be kept current with new pages, pocket parts, or supplemental volumes. Much of the profit for legal publishers, as high as 85% according to Ms. Runyon's research, is derived from such updating services. While electronic resources can be updated instantaneously without the librarians or users even being aware of the change unless they look at currency notes, paper supplements require time-consuming filing of new pages or processing and adding of supplemental volumes or pocket parts. While this labor-intensiveness perhaps argues against retaining paper titles, sometimes the paper version of a treatise or loose-leaf is easier to use for research, especially for those who have become used to its indexes and layouts.

With many print titles now accessible on electronic databases such as Lexis, Westlaw, Loislaw, HeinOnline, and others, law librarians must decide whether to continue to maintain expensive paper subscriptions to such titles. Our law library's collection serves the justices, judges, and court staff in our building, outside attorneys, and members of the general public; our collection development policies and acquisitions decisions consequently reflect a balancing act, where we do our best to be all things to all users while allocating our budget funds wisely.

We still subscribe to many print practice materials which may be of value to those of you in law firms whose libraries have

made the choice to cancel these titles, or in solo practice where the prices often prevent you from purchasing such items. Among these materials are the latest editions of the fifteen or so volumes that comprise the *Louisiana Practice Series*, each written by different authors, and all published by Thomson/Reuters (West). These treatises provide practical guidance for attorneys practicing in the specific areas of law covered by each, and they are also sources of helpful information for non-lawyers trying to do their own legal research. Most of the current editions are in our Reserve collection, behind the Reference Desk, but we also keep numerous earlier editions in the library stacks for retrospective research. Topics covered within the series include: civil procedure; civil appellate procedure; civil pretrial procedure; civil practice forms; criminal trial practice and forms; employment law; construction law, tort law, family law, elements of an action, environmental compliance, and a notary handbook.

Another large series, this one in loose-leaf form, is *The Art of Advocacy*, published by Lexis/Nexis. The set comprises a dozen titles shelved in various call numbers in our library stacks, each written by experts in their field. They offer step-by-step guidance to and insightful analysis of many aspects of advocacy on a client's behalf, including: appeals; cross examination of medical experts and non-medical experts; demonstrative evidence; direct examination; discovery; documentary evidence; jury selection; opening statements; preparation of the case; settlement; and summation. The 20-volume *Immigration Law & Procedure*, also a Lexis/Nexis loose-leaf, is written by nationally respected immigration specialists whose expertise has made this an authoritative treatise on the

subject, often cited in court opinions. A third Lexis/Nexis title, *Collier on Bankruptcy*, is recognized by those in the field as the most authoritative and comprehensive single source of bankruptcy law information, and is cited in hundreds of court opinions each year.

The Research Institute of America (RIA), which is now under the Thomson/Reuters (West) umbrella, publishes two multi-volume loose-leaf products that are useful to tax specialists and lawyers who deal with financial planning issues. The first, *Pension Coordinator*, provides in-depth coverage and analysis of pension-related news, government rulings and releases, source material, and relevant provisions of statutes such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act. The second is a companion set, *Benefits Coordinator*, which is an authoritative source for non-pension benefit plans, and offers insightful analysis of ERISA, federal tax rules, federal labor and discrimination laws, and state laws that affect employee benefit plans.

These titles represent just a small slice of the practice-oriented treatises and loose-leafs that we have available to all users of our library. If you don't see a title here that piques your interest, look in our online catalog, which is accessible from the court's web site at <http://www.lasc.org>, or stop by the library and challenge one of our library staff to find something on the topic of your choice. Whether your specialty is oil and gas, the environment, federal practice and forms, libel and slander, products liability, insurance, copyright, labor law, or something else, we may have just what you need to stay abreast of the latest developments, laws and regulations, or to answer a specific practice question. δ

NEGLIGENT (PET) HOMICIDE

by Marie Erickson

The issue of breed-specific legislation pops up regularly, especially at the municipal level, although some states – not Louisiana – have passed such laws. Rather than outlawing a breed of animal, or relying exclusively on vicious-animal ordinances or statutes, putting the blame on the human involved in the animal attack is a rational step forward. Louisiana took this step last year.

The 2009 Louisiana Legislature amended the negligent homicide statute to include fatal attacks by dogs or other animals whose owner is “reckless or criminally negligent in confining or restraining the dog or other animal.” La. Rev. Stat.14:32(A)(2) <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78409>. The penalty (0-5 years and/or \$0-5000;

2-5 years at hard labor if the victim was under the age of ten) has not changed, but new part (C)(3) repeats the sentence as it applies to dogs or other animals.

Part D, however, exempts a Noah’s Ark of recklessly – or criminally – unrestrained animals. These include police, search and rescue, or seeing-eye dogs. Also exempt: a dog lawfully inside a dwelling, business or motor vehicle, where “the dog is protecting that property.” Now the dog has the same right as you to slay the burglar. See La. Rev. Stat.14:20 <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78338>.

Note that the statute does not cover the use of an animal in a specific-intent crime. Jurisdictions are divided on the dog-as-dangerous-weapon issue, but a quick Westlaw

search found that some states have passed such statutes, including Arizona, California, Georgia, Ohio, and Washington State.

Livestock are also exempt, but probably not livestock kept as pets, such as potbellied pigs, which seem to be excluded from the livestock category by the first sentence of 14:32(E)(2).

Will letting the bull loose only subject you to civil liability if he kills someone? Probably.

I think it’s clear, however, that if you let him loose with the specific intent of his doing great bodily harm or killing someone, you could be charged with second-degree murder <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78409> or manslaughter <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78399>, depending on the circumstances. δ



Marie Erickson

THE LIBRARY’S E-RESOURCES

BNA Labor &
Employment Law

Gale LegalForms

HeinOnline

LegalTrac

Lexis Congressional

Lexis Shepard’s

LexisOne

Loislaw

NFPA Standards

Nineteenth Century U.S.
Newspapers

PACER

Westlaw/WestPack

WilsonWeb’s Index to
Legal Periodicals

LIBRARY INTERN NING HAN

by Miriam Childs

Ning Han, a student at the LSU School of Library and Information Science, completed a field experience this semester at the Law Library. In July 2007, Ning graduated from the Guizhou University School of Law in China with a Bachelor’s of Civil Law (LL.B.). She earned a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Corporation, Bankruptcy, and Security Regulations from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center in May 2008, where she studied on fellowship. Ning anticipates earning her Master’s in Library Science (MLIS) in August 2010.

Ning’s major field experience assignment was to compile a spreadsheet of books and materials in the digital collections made available by Hein Online. Once completed, the titles will be added to the library’s collection



and will be accessible from the online catalog. A second assignment given to Ning was to assist with the migration of the Reference wiki from the web to Excel. Ning was also asked to update the library’s pathfinder for online legal resources. Spending

time in Reference to observe a “typical” day on the desk added to the variety of Ning’s field experience tasks.

Ning is the current president of the Special Libraries Association Student Chapter at LSU.

Among her many talents, Ning is fluent in Mandarin and English, and she is proficient in HTML programming. Ning is an expert on China’s legal system, and she gave a presentation about the legal system to LSU’s International Law Society. We wish Ning the best in all of her future endeavors, and hope that her internship at the Law Library provided her with valuable experience. δ

NEW ORLEANS' NOTARIAL ARCHIVES

by Tara Lombardi

The New Orleans Notarial Archives, the only such repository in the United States, holds 40,000,000 pages of signed notarial acts dating back to the 1700s. The Archives owes its existence to the high regard in which notaries were held by the civil law system used in Louisiana, as opposed to the common law system used in the rest of the U.S. Because of this regard, the New Orleans Notarial Archives is more closely related to those repositories in European civil law nations, where the notary was given a prominent place in society as draftsman, guarantor, and archivist of contracts in the private sector.

Whether under French, Spanish or American law, New Orleans had notaries, and notaries maintained their own indexes and records of notarial acts. Before the Civil War, the records of retired and/or deceased notaries were kept by successor notaries, making them de facto archivists. After the war, New Orleans' notaries as a whole decided that there should be a central place to keep these records. The notarial volumes were so important that the notary was required to keep them in a building made of brick with a tile roof, so as to decrease their chances of destruction by fire.

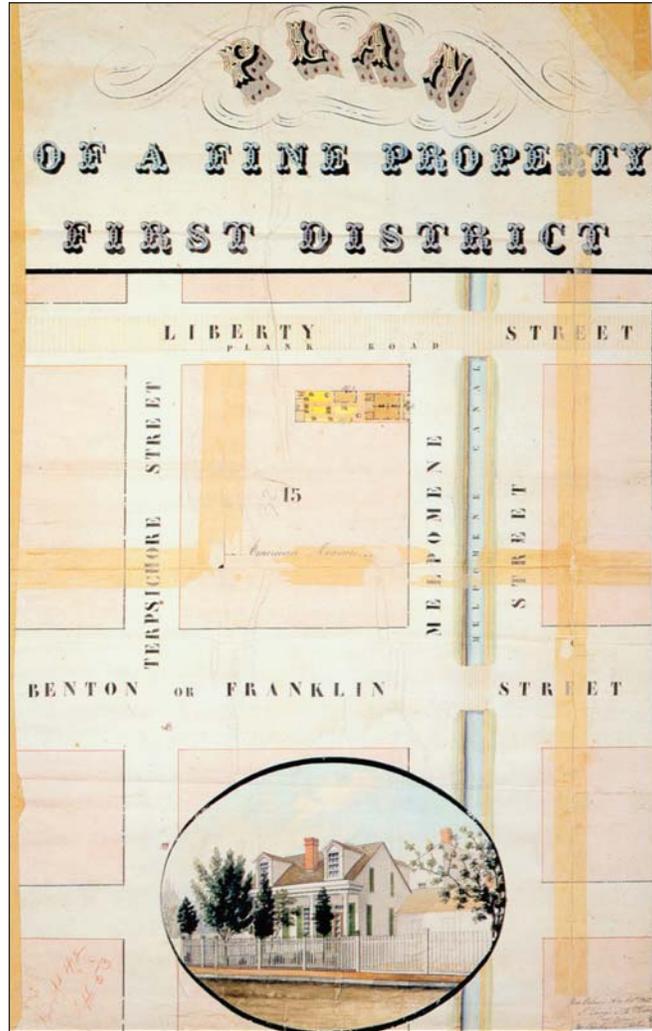
In 1867, La. Act 147 organized a Central Office of Notarial Records in Orleans Parish, and appointed a custodian, who had to be a notary public, to care for the historical notarial acts. In 1938, Louisiana Act 203 required the custodian not only to be a notary, but also an Orleans parish practicing attorney in good standing, appointed by the governor. Rudolph H. Waldo, one of the more well known custodians (1944-1948 and 1952-1956), published many indexes and guides to the Office of Notarial Records, and also continued a major rebinding project begun by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930's.

In 1988 La. Act 650 required that the New Orleans Notarial Archives employ a professional archivist in addition to the attorney-custodian. The first person to hold the position was noted New Orleans architectural historian, author and archivist Sally

K. Reeves. The current archivist is Christina Bryant.

The Office of Notarial Records was housed in City Hall in 1867, the Civil Courts Building in 1910 and the Civil District Courts building in the 1950's. In 1998 the Notarial Archives established the Research Center on the third floor of 1340 Poydras Street, and after Katrina, the

The Notarial Archives' web site features an alphabetical list of all of the notaries in Orleans Parish from 1731-1970, their years of service, and the number of volumes produced by that notary. Some of the more famous notaries included Andrés Almonester Y. Roxas, who was commissioned by the King of Spain, and worked as a notary in New Orleans from 1770 to 1782.



Eugene Surgi and Adrien Persac, April 1, 1862, Plan Book 42, folio 53, NONA in *Marie Adrien Persac: Louisiana Artist*

rest of the archives was moved to the fifth floor of that same building. In 2006, La. Act 621 consolidated the Mortgage, Conveyance and Notarial Archives offices and placed them under the authority of the Clerk of Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. The act also eliminated the custodian position, which made Stephen Bruno, who was appointed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco in 2004, the last custodian of Notarial Records in New Orleans.

This very wealthy notary owned most of Old Metairie and the land on Jackson Square, where he had St. Louis Cathedral and the Presbytère built. When he died, he was buried under St. Louis Cathedral, and when it burned, he was reinterred within the rebuilt cathedral, where he is memorialized by a large marble tablet on the front aisle floor.

Louis Martinet was another well-known New Orleans figure who

served as a notary from 1888-1917. Although Martinet was a bi-racial man in Reconstruction Louisiana, he became a state representative, educator, civil rights activist, and a medical doctor. He wrote and published in his notary office *The Crusader*, a daily newspaper chronicling the civil rights struggle. He was also a founding member of the Comité des Citoyens, which fought racial segregation in the south. He was one of the few notaries of color at this time, and many black organizations sought his help with notarial acts, including: Undertakers Cooperative Copartnership; Laboring Men Accidental Aid Association; and the Ex-Slave Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association of Louisiana. The Notarial Archives holds all eight of Martinet's historically significant notarial volumes.

In addition to the notary volumes and tens of thousands of site surveys, the Research Center houses thousands of oversize watercolor architectural drawings of 19th century properties known as Plan Book drawings. Measuring 38 inches long by 24 inches wide, these real estate ads of the 1800's hung in auction houses and featured a line drawing of a house, as well as a building and/or a street map indicating the location. All of the plans featured a title portion, a site plan and a building elevation. Lots for sale were colored yellow, streets were off-white, and the rest of the site plan was traditionally colored pink.

The Plan Book drawings were done by a few different artists with various styles. From 1859-1862, Adrien Persac, a painter known for his pastoral plantation scenes, came to be one of the most talented Plan Book artists, composing 43 plans. A master at perspective, Persac's drawings highlighted the best features of the properties to be sold by bathing them in sunlight under pale blue skies. He enhanced the properties in his illustrations by adding landscaping, fencing, people, and marketplaces, a technique known as *entourage* – in French literally “a decoration surrounding something.” Persac often framed his houses in a rondo or cartouche to draw the eye to the property. (see illustration) Even though Persac's renderings stand out, all of the Plan Book drawings

are beautifully rendered and very colorful, as they had to be eye-catching in a busy auction house.

In addition to Plan Book drawings and historical notarial volumes, the New Orleans Notarial Archives of today provides Notary Public applicants with information on the testing and application process. It also files and maintains land records and other contracts recorded in Orleans Parish. The Research Center serves historical researchers and genealogists with notarial records ranging from 1733-1970, which are organized by notary name and document date, kept in each notary's own book and in his own hand. The Research Center also maintains indexes of family records, a building-contract index from 1767-1970 and a corporate-charter index covering the years 1852-1904.

For further information, please visit the Notarial Archives web site at <http://notarialarchives.org/> or see the resources listed below which are all available at the Law Library of Louisiana.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Georgia Chadwick

The Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society held its first annual meeting of the membership and the Board of Directors in the Courtroom of the Louisiana Supreme Court on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. President Donna D. Fraiche presided and introduced Board members who were present: Vice-President Judge Marc T. Amy, Secretary Professor Paul R. Baier, Treasurer Amelia W. Koch, and Directors Judge James L. Dennis and Jimmie Thorns, Jr. President Fraiche thanked members for paying their dues and encouraged them to solicit new members.

President Fraiche noted that 2010 is the Centenary of the opening of the Court building at 400 Royal Street, and she offered thanks on behalf of the Society to Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball and the justices of the Supreme Court for allowing the Society to hold its first membership meeting in the Courtroom. President Fraiche reported that the Women in Louisiana Law Committee is planning to open its exhibit in the Supreme Court Museum in March 2011, to mark Women's History Month. She also announced that a plaque listing the names of founding members of the Society will be installed in the Court's Museum in the near future. She then spoke about the January 6, 2010, presentation of Secretary Baier's play, which was co-sponsored by the Society (see page 1 for further information on this event).

President Fraiche next announced that on April 15, the Society will co-sponsor with the Law Library of Louisiana a free CLE featuring Agustín Parise, Research Associate, Center of Civil Law Studies,

LSU Law Center presenting his talk, "Origins, Reception, and Dissemination of Legal Ideas: The Civil Law Codification Experience in Louisiana" (also see page 1 for further details). President Fraiche closed the meeting by calling on members to volunteer to serve on a committee - membership or program. After the meeting was adjourned Secretary Paul R. Baier rose to introduce Professor Olivier Moréteau, who was invited to present the first of a Society lecture series. Professor Moréteau, Russell B. Long Eminent Scholars Chair at LSU Law Center, is Director of the Center of Civil Law Studies and is a member of the Society. He delivered a

captivating lecture on the life and work of François-Xavier Martin, who served on the Louisiana Supreme Court from 1815 to 1846. From 1836-1846 he served as Presiding Judge and participated in some of the most significant legal decisions in Louisiana's history. After the lecture the group ended the evening with a reception held in the Formal Conference room, where members continued their discussion of Martin and his life.

If anyone would like information about the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society, please contact Law Library Director Georgia Chadwick at 504-310-2402 or at gchadwick@lasc.org. δ



President of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society, Donna Fraiche (top) and Professor Olivier Moréteau.

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SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Members of Board of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society, pictured March 23, 2010: (l-r) Judge Marc T. Amy, Vice-President; Professor Paul R. Baier, Secretary; guest speaker Professor Olivier Moréteau, Donna R. Fraiche, President; Judge James L. Dennis and Jimmie Thorns, Jr., Directors.