Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 23, 2015 • 2:00 p.m. Going off on tangents: Maps, Railroads and the Shortest Distances between Two Points with Nick Fry, Curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library.

For colloquia tickets contact Amanda Schneider at 314.516.7248.

June 14, 2015 • 2:00 p.m. The Opening of the Dr. Allen B. and Helen S. Shopmaker Political Print Gallery. Through the ongoing generosity of Helen Shopmaker, the Mercantile Library will have on continual view a selection of visual arts addressing pressing political issues through time. The reception will take place in the gallery, where visitors can view the inaugural exhibition A Mirror of National Growth and Change: George Caleb Bingham and his Prints of American Frontier Life. For tickets please contact Amanda Schneider at 314-516-7248.

July 10, 2015 • 2:00 p.m. - St. Louis Mercantile Library Annual Meeting Join us for the annual membership meeting with a special speaker and light refreshments. This event is limited to Library members only; watch for your mailing in June.

St. Louis Fine Print, Rare Book & Paper Arts Fair May 1, 2, 3, 2015

Now in its ninth successful year, the Fair will bring together thirty local and national dealers in one convenient location for the Library’s signature annual event. The Fair opens on Friday night with a preview party and silent auction. Saturday and Sunday hours will include an appraisal event and lots of opportunities to chat with and purchase from friendly dealers who are experts in their field. Proceeds from the Fair support the Library’s collections acquisition and conservation funds. For more information check our website: printfair.umsl.edu.

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

A Gala Evening Celebrating the Completion of the John Neal Hoover Endowed Mercantile Library Executive Directorship & Honoring John Hoover’s Thirty Years of Dedication to the St. Louis Mercantile Library

On November 14, 2014, some two hundred members and guests gathered at the Mercantile Library to celebrate the completion of the campaign to permanently endow the Library’s leadership position, titled to honor John Hoover’s thirtieth anniversary with the Library. The John Neal Hoover Endowed Mercantile Library Executive Directorship is now a fully funded position, thanks to the exceptional generosity of Library members, its boards, and area supporters both individual and corporate. This endowed position insures the Library will always be able to attract the highest caliber of director and contributes to the stability of Library operations in perpetuity.

The Gala celebration featured a special “behind the scenes” red-carpet entrance into the exhibition gallery where guests enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres while viewing the exhibition Mapping St. Louis History. The evening continued with dinner and a program that featured sparkling commentary honoring John’s achievements in all areas of his career provided by his friends who are esteemed leaders in their respective fields. Speakers included Terry Belanger, Founder and Director of Rare Book School at UVA, and winner of the MacArthur Prize; Kimmy Brauer, St. Louis Community Leader; Ellen S. Dunlap, President of the American Antiquarian Society and former Director of the Rosenbach Museum; Selby Kiffer, Senior Vice President, International Senior Book Specialist, Sotheby’s New York; Dr. Ron Tyler, former Director of the Amon Carter Museum; and the Honorable Ann Wagner, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg. The program was kept apace by our stellar master of ceremonies, Steve Jones.

The Library is very grateful to the many generous individuals who gave of their time and talents to organize this exemplary event. Honorary Chairs Tom George & Barbara Harbach; Honorary Co-Chairs Mary Randolph Ballinger, Ruth Bryant, Ellen Jones, and Mary Langen; Committee Members Spencer Burke, Patricia Hannum, Jody Clark Jones, and Richard & Elizabeth Nix.

A Memorable Fall at the Mercantile Library

St. Louis Fine Print, Rare Book & Paper Arts Fair May 1, 2, 3, 2015

Now in its ninth successful year, the Fair will bring together thirty local and national dealers in one convenient location for the Library’s signature annual event. The Fair opens on Friday night with a preview party and silent auction. Saturday and Sunday hours will include an appraisal event and lots of opportunities to chat with and purchase from friendly dealers who are experts in their field. Proceeds from the Fair support the Library’s collections acquisition and conservation funds. For more information check our website: printfair.umsl.edu.

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Exceptional Collection Building in Honor of John Hoover

At the suggestion of our members, the Library offered an adoption program in conjunction with the gala celebration that provided an opportunity to adopt an object for acquisition in John’s honor. This successful program resulted in the purchase of four important prints by George Caleb Bingham (see related story on page three), a rare 19th century river navigation book, and a donation toward general collections acquisition support from the AKG Museum of the Dog.

Other members were inspired to donate artwork from their own collections in John’s honor, including a western river scene oil painting by Henry Lewis, pictured here, as well as an early Massachusetts harbor scene by Frederick Oakes Sylvester.

New Acquisitions of Rare Books and Manuscripts: Press Books to Steamboats

The Mercantile has been adding rapidly to its Pott river history and Barriger rail history collections over the past months with photographs, prints, books and papers coming from sources across America. As evidenced in the programs for “Mapping St. Louis History”, rare maps have been added to join the large holdings of similar material at the Library as well. Books on fine print and illustration have also been added to augment the Mercantile’s three year program now coming to a close in partnership with the Missouri Center for the Book and the National Endowment for the Arts which travelled the large holdings of similar material at the Library as well. Books on fine printing and illustration have also been added to augment the Mercantile’s three year program now coming to a close in partnership with the Missouri Center for the Book and the National Endowment for the Arts which travelled

For the St. Louis collection of historic views and images the Mercantile collection has a proof plate of the rare 1854 view of St. Louis executed by George Hofmann, probably a copy engraved in Germany at that time shortly after the print was engraved in New York and published in St. Louis. This is a great document for steamboat history, with identifiable steamboats in the riverfront foreground of this striking birds eye view, which was itself based on a daguerreotype created by famed St. Louis early photographer, Thomas Easterly. This stirring and lively view shows the excitement of the city at this time and what must have seemed to the visitor an extraordinary vision of urban progress.

New Board Members

Mercantile Board of Direction
Ryan Earley
Dan Burkhardt
Marshall Bier
Stephen Jones
Caroline Schimmel
Barriger Board
George T. Duggan
Pott Board
Keith Lay
Mercantile Art Museum Board
Mrs. Edna Mae James
Mr. Josy Price
Dr. Tom Rob
Nancy Ylvisaker
Dr. William D. Merwin

Do you Love to talk about History, Art, Railroads, and Riverboats? Consider becoming a docent!

The Mercantile Library is looking for volunteers for its next class of docents. Docents are trained to provide public and private tours of the Library’s collections and special exhibitions and to assist at Library educational events. If you enjoy learning and talking you could be a docent! To learn more or to schedule an interview, contact Julie Dunn-Morton at 314-516-6740 or dummorton@umsl.edu.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ron Goldfeder

Ron Goldfeder has volunteered for the Barriger Library for two years, but he has been interested in railroads for nearly his entire life and has extensive knowledge and experience with railroad history. After serving in the Air Force Ron earned a Master’s in Museum Studies at UMSL. As a volunteer at the National Museum of Transportation he helped restore the “Black Diamond,” an inspection locomotive used by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. At the Barriger Library, Ron is creating finding aids for several recent acquisitions, including the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Collection, the Robert Breese Collection and most recently the Bill Burk Collection.

New Members

Ms. Caroline M.C. Bean
Chevin Beckmann
Terry Belanger
Mr. John Bennett
Andrew S. Berg
Amanda Borodin
Michael Garamanna
Mary A. Garnody
David T. Cofel
Ms. Ellen S. Dunlap
Ryan C. Easley
Dr. William D. Merwin
Mr. Ralph Michel
Kathleen Buescher Milligan
Charles W. Moorman
Edward and Susan Moorman
Bart Nadeau
Kathleen R. Negro
Michael F. Nolan
Ann Marie Padberg
Marcia Reed, Chief Curator
Dr. Robert Schenk
James R. Hobelman
Michael Holley
Stephen R. Hughes
Andrew Jennings
Sally Kieller
Ms. Judy Koppel
Keith Lay

Staff Spotlight: Lee Brall

Lee Brall comes to the Mercantile Library by way of the Waterways Journal, where she worked as the managing editor of Heartland Boating Magazine. She brings her knowledge of the inland waterways to the Pott Library's Waterways Journal indexing project, which is a project that has been made possible in conjunction with the Waterways Journal, J Mack Gamble Fund, and the National Waterways Foundation.

Lee’s work entails capturing the essence of articles and then describing them in concise language entered into our Waterways Journal database, taking into account the people, places, organizations, vessels and subject matter appearing in each article. So far she has indexed over 1900 articles of this seminal inland rivers journal – a resource which is used by authors, students, genealogists and scholars.

Board Spotlight: Spencer Burke

Spencer Burke first served on the Mercantile Library Board of Direction in 2005, serving two terms and returning to the Board in 2012. In 2011, when the Mercantile Library Art Museum advisory board was formed, Spencer generously agreed to serve there as well. With his early career experience in corporate and securities law and his current position at St. Louis Trust dealing with the investment banking business, Spencer brings to the Library and its boards a broad range of knowledge and expertise. Even more importantly, Spencer’s boundless enthusiasm for the Library and its collections, from transportation models to 19th century sculpture to rare Indian captivity narratives, and his generous support of the Library and its programs make him an ideal board member.
## Choose the Gift Plan that Matches Your Goal

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<th>How You Make the Gift</th>
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| Bequest in Will            | Defer a gift until after your lifetime.                                   | Name the St. Louis Mercantile Library in your will (designate a specific amount, a percentage, or a share of the residue). | - Control of asset for your lifetime.  
- Donation exempt from future federal estate tax. |
| Revocable Living Trust     | Make a revocable gift during your lifetime.                              | Name the St. Louis Mercantile Library the beneficiary of assets in a living trust.    | - Control of asset for your lifetime.  
- Gift in trust exempt from future federal estate tax. |
| Outright Gift of Securities| Eliminate tax on capital gains.                                          | Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities.                          | - Immediate charitable deduction of full fair market value.  
- Elimination of capital gains taxes. |
| Gift of Life Insurance     | Make a large gift with little cost to yourself.                         | Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need.                               | - Current income tax deduction.  
- Possible future deductions through gifts to pay policy premiums. |
| Gift of Retirement Assets  | Eliminate the twofold taxation on IRAs or other qualified retirement plans.| Name the St. Louis Mercantile Library as the beneficiary of the balance left after your lifetime using the plan’s beneficiary form. | - Make the gift from the most highly taxed assets, leaving more for your family.  
- Eliminate income and state taxes. |
| Gift of Real Estate        | Make a gift of an asset no longer needed and generate an income tax deduction. | Donate the property to the St. Louis Mercantile Library, or sell it to us at a bargain price. | - Immediate income tax deduction.  
- Reduction or elimination of capital gains tax. |
| Charitable Remainder Unitrust| Create a hedge against inflation over the long term and supplement your retirement income. | Create a trust that pays a fixed percentage of trust’s assets as revalued annually. | - Variable income for life.  
- Immediate income tax charitable deduction. |
| Charitable Gift Annuity    | Supplement income with steady payments that are partially tax-free.       | Enter a charitable gift annuity contract with the St. Louis Mercantile Library that pays a set amount for one or two lives. | - Current and future savings on income taxes.  
- Tax-favored fixed payments for estimated life expectancy of income beneficiary. |
| Charitable Lead Trust      | Reduce gift and estate taxes on assets you pass to children or grandchildren. | Create a charitable trust that pays fixed or variable income to us for a specific term of years; thereafter the balance is given to loved ones. | - Reduce your taxable estate.  
- Property kept by your family, often with reduced gift taxes. |

If you have any questions about planning a future gift, please contact Lyle Brizendine, Director of Planned Giving at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, by phone at (314)516-6988 or by e-mail at brizendinel@umsl.edu. We would be happy to work with you and your financial advisors to help you find the gift option that best fits your needs and ours.

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

The St. Louis Mercantile Library continued its celebration of our city’s 250th birthday with a landmark exhibition tracing St. Louis history through maps. *Mapping St. Louis History* brings together over two hundred maps, rare books and images that tell the story of the city’s founding, development and growth. The exhibition drew almost exclusively from Mercantile collections, with only four items borrowed from regional institutions including Bellefontaine Cemetery, the Missouri History Museum, the St. Louis Public Library, and SIUE Edwardsville’s Lowrey Library.

Among the early treasures included in the exhibition are Thomas Gage’s *New Survey of the West-Indias…* published in 1655, Guillaume De l’Isle’s *Carte de la Louisiana…* dated 1718, and Thomas Hutchins’ *Plan des Villages de la Contree des Illinois…* of 1781 that includes the first known printing of the words “St Louis” on a map. The exhibition continues with important Missouri maps that reflect the role St. Louis played in regional development as well as maps reflecting significant infrastructure growth and planning such as streets, sewers, electrical and railway lines. The role of the river in the city’s founding and design is represented by significant pieces such as Robert E. Lee’s map of the river and Zadok Cramer’s *Map of the Mississippi from St. Louis to the Marmion (sic) River of 1811.* Similarly, railroad development is documented by important maps of the Wiggins Ferry Company of 1928 and an early Metrolink station map among others.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is the installation of the complete Compton & Dry’s *Pictorial St. Louis of 1875* that includes all 110 plates framed and hung according to the key to plates provided in the atlas. This amazing birds-eye view of St. Louis in 1875 spans a wall 12 feet high and 30 feet wide. A computer kiosk in the gallery provides an interactive experience of the plates with old and new photos of area landmarks plus all of the explanatory text from the publication. This interactive is also available on the Library website.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full color catalogue and a complementary handlist. Special exhibition tours are available on Saturdays at 11 and Sundays at 2 or by appointment by phoning Amanda Schneider at 314-516-7248. The exhibition is on view through June 30, 2015 on Level 1 of the Library.

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### Mapping St. Louis History Programs

**Saturday, May 23rd, 1:00 p.m.**  
Curator’s Colloquium, Going Off on Tangents: Maps, Railroads and the Shortest Distance Between Two Points with Nick Fry, Barriger Railroad Library Curator. Tickets required: please phone 314-516-7248.

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Installation of the Compton & Dry Pictorial St. Louis, 1875

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Thomas Hutchins, *Plan des Villages de la Contree des Illinois et Partie de la Riviere de Missouri,* 1781.
The Dr. Allen B. & Helen S. Shopmaker Political Print Gallery

In 2008 Helen Shopmaker gifted her collection of political campaign memorabilia to the Mercantile Library. This exemplary collection features a broad range of materials including buttons, bumper stickers, sheet music, textiles, portraits, political cartoons and commodities such as playing cards, matchbooks and more. Since 2008 the Library has continued to build the collection with rare political cartoons, early campaign buttons and politically charged sculptures by John Rodgers. In addition, the Shopmaker collection has been featured in two election-year exhibitions, 2008’s Tools of the Campaign Trail and 2012’s Presidents & Politics, which also served to launch the dedicated gallery space for this collection.

The Shopmaker Political Campaign Collection gallery features important artifacts such as an 1824 St. Louis ballot register and a 2000 Florida voting booth with the infamous hanging chads. The current special exhibition is Whistle Stops: Campaigning by Train (see story on page five).

Helen Shopmaker continued her generous support of the Library’s educational mission with a significant donation in 2014 that enabled the acquisition of three important political prints by Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham: In a Quandary (Mississippi River Raftsmen Playing Cards), Jolly Flat Boat Men (uncolored version), and Emigration of Daniel Boone with His Family. These works bring the Library’s collection of Bingham prints as near to completion as possible, since one of his prints is known in only two copies: one in a private collection (on loan for the exhibition) and one in an art museum collection. In honor of this substantial donation, the Library has dedicated one wall of the atrium as the Dr. Allen B. & Helen S. Shopmaker Political Print Gallery. This space will now coordinate with and complement the permanent installation of political materials in the nearby political collection gallery. The Prints gallery will feature changing exhibitions of portraits, political cartoons and other politically themed visual materials and will feature a Bingham exhibition once each year.

The inaugural exhibition for the Political Print Gallery is A Mirror of National Growth and Change: George Caleb Bingham and his Prints of American Frontier Life. This focused installation brings together, perhaps for the first time, examples of each of the Missouri artist’s prints, most in both uncolored and colored versions, and includes the secondary prints — those only issued as illustrations in publications. These prints cover the artist’s entire career, from the secondary portrait prints to the river boatmen scenes imbued with issues of river infrastructure at the heart of the Whig political platform on to the more obviously political election scenes and culminating in Bingham’s strongest political statement, Martial Law or Order No. 11. Also on view is the pamphlet issued by Bingham to further explain the context and meaning of this powerful scene of Civil War atrocities. The exhibition will remain on view through June 30, 2015.

We are grateful for the ongoing support provided by Helen Shopmaker and look forward to introducing our members and visitors to this new aspect of the political collection.

Make The St. Louis Mercantile Library Part of Your Legacy

Be Part of the Mercantile Library Mission

The St. Louis Mercantile Library, founded in 1846 and now located on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is the oldest general library in continuous existence west of the Mississippi River. Established by civic leaders and philanthropists wishing the citizens of frontier St. Louis to have a fine library even in the city’s earliest days, the Mercantile, as it has now been known by generations of Missourians, exists today as a vibrant, active community asset, celebrating its heritage while making great collections accessible to new scholars.

The Mercantile Library continues to build collections that concentrate on Westward Expansion, American rail and river transportation history as well as the history, development, and growth of the St. Louis region, and broadly developed subjects related to the humanities, with a core collection numbering over 250,000 books. The special collections of the library consist of over 400 individual collections with archival materials numbering in the millions, including over 100 historic newspaper titles, presidential letters, early travel diaries and civil war era letters, fur trade records and the newspaper and printing morgue of the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

As a research library, our mission is to make these book, manuscript, and art collections available to the widest number of local, national, and international users through physical and online opportunities. The library’s location in the heart of the campus and the University of Missouri-St. Louis makes it readily accessible to thousands of students, faculty, and researchers who benefit enormously from the richness of its remarkable collections.

Your Support Matters

There are many ways to contribute to our mission of preserving our collections for future generations. Please consider whether one of the giving strategies on the reverse side will help make it possible for you to leave a wonderful legacy by making a gift to the St. Louis Mercantile Library that will touch the lives of our community for generations to come.
Pott Library Notes

Pott Library volunteers Jim and Annie Blum headed down to Baton Rouge to pick up a very special archival collection — the New Orleans records of the Streckfus Steamers Company, which ran steamboat excursion trips out of St. Louis and New Orleans. The collection was donated to the Library by Louisiana locals Guerarr and Susy Streckfus, and it will make a fine companion to the William E. and Betty Streckfus Carroll Collection, already in the possession of the Library. The Streckfus Collection picked up in Baton Rouge contains, among other things, photographs, news clippings, operational records, broadsides, books, scrapbooks, and artifacts, including whistle from the Steamer ADMIRAL.

On Friday, March 27th the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library will be holding the Wright and Swift Awards Dinner, from 6 – 9 pm. Three authors will be honored: Ann Amanita Blum and Thomas Dunn will be co-recipients of the James V. Swift Medal, for their respective histories of the Steamer Admiral, The Steamer Admiral and Streckfus Steamers and Admiral: Glorious Mississippi Excursions, A History. John H. White, the recipient of the Captain Donald T. Wright Award, is a former curator and Senior Historian for the Division of Transportation at the Smithsonian Institution, and author of Wet Britches and Muddy Boots: A History of Travel in Victorian America, for which he will be receiving the Wright Award.

The Donald T. Wright Award and the James V. Swift Medal are presented to those who have created important works in the field of maritime literature, journalism or art. Past recipients have included National Book Award Nominee Earl Swift; Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Powers; and Pulitzer Prize winner David Grunfeld. For more information about the literature, journalism or art. Past recipients have included National Book Award Nominee Earl Swift; Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Powers; and Pulitzer Prize winner David Grunfeld. For more information about the

Barriger Library Notes

The newest acquisition to the Barriger Library expands our holdings relating to the railroads of Mexico. The map, titled Northern Mexico With adjoining portions of the United States Sheet Revised to June 1912 was commissioned by the Southern Pacific Railway Company to map their holdings in Mexico and the other railroad lines in that country. The Southern Pacific of Mexico Company was the American company’s Mexican subsidiary and was a part of the corporation until 1951 when it was sold to the Mexican government.

In 1951, the Library will be holding the Wright and Swift Awards Dinner, from 6 – 9 pm. Three authors will be honored: Ann Amanita Blum and Thomas Dunn will be co-recipients of the James V. Swift Medal, for their respective histories of the Steamer Admiral, The Steamer Admiral and Streckfus Steamers and Admiral: Glorious Mississippi Excursions, A History. John H. White, the recipient of the Captain Donald T. Wright Award, is a former curator and Senior Historian for the Division of Transportation at the Smithsonian Institution, and author of Wet Britches and Muddy Boots: A History of Travel in Victorian America, for which he will be receiving the Wright Award.

The line was part of railroad baron Collis P. Huntington’s drive to have the dominant railroad in Northern Mexico With adjoining portions of the United States Sheet Revised to June 1912 was commissioned by the Southern Pacific Railway Company to map their holdings in Mexico and the other railroad lines in that country. The Southern Pacific of Mexico Company was the American company’s Mexican subsidiary and was a part of the corporation until 1951 when it was sold to the Mexican government.

The line was part of railroad baron Collis P. Huntington’s drive to have the dominant railroad in the Southwest and he saw great potential in accessing the raw materials of Mexico. If you would like to learn more about this line and its tumultuous history, the Barriger Collection has a resource available to you. Iron Horse Imperialism: The Southern Pacific of Mexico, 1860-1951 by Daniel Lewis provides a comprehensive history of the line and the factors that led to the SP ultimately leaving the Mexican market in 1951.

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The St. Louis Mercantile Library spent 2014 in full celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis with its participation in the city-wide “Gateway to the West” program. The Library’s STL 250 Cake was one of two on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, and was adorned with objects and images related to significant individuals and events from St. Louis history. These representations of the Library’s rich collections of art, history, and transportation-related items truly communicated the essence of the Mercantile to the hundreds of new visitors on the quest to photograph each of the 256 cakes scattered at various landmarks throughout the city. This new addition to the Library’s rich history, which proved invaluable in acquainting a multitude of St. Louisians with the Mercantile, will remain permanently on view on Level 1.

Art Museum Notes:

It has been an exciting time for the Art Museum over the past year, with important acquisitions, dramatic reinstallations and wonderful programming, and we are looking forward to an equally engaging year in 2015! An important change to the Library’s overall space allocation involved the switching of two major spaces on Level 1: the Bates Gallery, formerly used for special exhibitions, will become the home for the fine art collection; the large open gallery on the west side of the building is now the special exhibition space. The inaugural exhibition for this new arrangement is Mapping St. Louis History which encompasses most of the first floor with dramatic and fascinating maps. This installation also incorporates paintings, prints and photographs that complement the maps and give a glimpse into the city’s past. Additional pieces from the core collection, iconic works that exemplify the Library’s history as an art-collecting institution, are currently on view on the East side of the first floor.

In October, 2015, the Library will open a new installation of the Fine Art collection that expands upon those iconic masterworks to tell the story of the art collections past, present and future, as well as its deep connections to other Library collections. This extensive re-investigation of the collection will present familiar works in a fascinating new context and will introduce recent additions to the collection that will quickly become new favorites.

Also opening in October will be our next major exhibition, Audubon & Beyond: Natural History Treasures from the Collections of the St. Louis Mercantile Library. This innovative exhibition will highlight John James Audubon’s Birds of America double-elephant folios and his equally important Viviparous Quadrupeds — a project he completed with considerable assistance from his sons. These works will be given a broad and comprehensive context by a wide variety of works by other naturalists who documented America’s flora and fauna before and after Audubon’s seminal works.

Among the important acquisitions that will highlight these new installations are Henry Lewis’ Indians Along the Upper Missouri, a significant work donated in honor of John Hoover’s 30th anniversary with the Library; three works by Frederick Oakes Sylvester including an early river bluff scene; paintings by Virginia Terpening, an important Missouri artist who fell into obscurity in the 1980s and whose works were rediscovered after her death; and still life paintings by Miriam McKinnie, Gustave Goetsch, and others, plus works by Thomas Hart Benton and his student Jackson Lee Nesbitt, and many others.

Watch your mail for the opening event announcements this fall, and plan to join us for these exciting new exhibitions!
Whistle Stops: Campaigning by Train

Presidential Campaign season is just a few months away and the St. Louis Mercantile Library is running an exhibition of memorabilia and imagery associated with Presidential Campaigning by train, also known as Whistle Stops. Barriger Library Curator Nick Fry has pulled material from the Shopmaker Political Memorabilia Collection, the Mercantile Library and the Barriger Library together to showcase six Presidents and their use of trains in their campaigns.

On April 18th the library will be hosting a colloquium on Whistle Stop campaigning, with a special focus on Missouri native Harry Truman’s 1948 Whistle Stop Campaign in the Midwest. This campaign was one of the last great Presidential Whistle Stop campaigns before the widespread use of aircraft to move the President around the country. It also is considered to have been instrumental in helping Truman defeat New York Governor Thomas Dewey in the general election.

Proud Pastures, Country Chronicles & Rural Rhapsodies: America’s 19th Century Illustrated Farm Atlases & Viewbooks

For a ten year period, roughly from the late 1860’s through the late 1870’s a publishing phenomenon occurred in America starting in New England, spreading across New York and Pennsylvania, through the heartland of Ohio and Illinois and stretching out across the Mississippi into Missouri, Iowa into the newly settled states of the wheat belt. This flurry of book production, the creation of large, celebratory county atlases, focused on the preservation of the local history of these regions and created bedrock town and county histories for much of the new nation in the process. Wonderfully preserved examples of these important publications are exhibited for the first time in the Library’s entrance gallery. On view through July 2015.