



LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England
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Thinking About New Orleans? From Brando and Leigh to Abbott and Costello: Get Ready for the AALL 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference with Some of the Best (and Worst) Movies About New Orleans

by Brian Huddleston, New Orleans Association of
Law Libraries

With the AALL 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference still several months away, you may be both eager to come visit New Orleans *and* curious about what the city is like these days. The members of NOALL - the New Orleans Association of Law Libraries - on the Local Arrangements Committee are working hard to make this Annual Meeting a great one. Though the city has changed and is slowly recovering from Hurricane Katrina, everything that is fun and unique about visiting here is ready for all our fellow law librarians. In the meantime, to cure your itch for all things New Orleans, the members of NOALL have compiled this list of their favorite (and, in some cases, *least* favorite) movies about New Orleans.

We might as well start at the top with one of the best and most well known movies set in New Orleans. "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951), starring Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh, is perhaps the most successful screen translation of any Tennessee Williams play. "Streetcar" is a story of contrasts and confrontations



both violent and subtle: refinement versus earthiness, class distinctions versus social equity, and a longing for the past versus an acceptance of the present. We never see Blanche and Stella's family home, Belle Reve, but the contrast between it and the movie's main setting in the Kowalski's cramped, run-down New Orleans apartment encases the entire story in a constricting confrontation. When Blanche voices another dichotomy - "I don't want realism, I want magic" - we both sympathize with and pity her and thus realize the contrasts in ourselves.

Besides "Streetcar", two other movie versions of Tennessee Williams' plays are worth a mention. In "Suddenly Last Summer" (1959), New Orleans high society is richly evoked by Katherine Hepburn's aging matron holding court in her elaborate garden and pronouncing "daquiri" as "da-kir-REI". We suspect Hepburn to be as mad as she accuses her niece, played by Elizabeth Taylor, of

Continued on page 7.

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The LLNE News is available at: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/LLNENews/index.htm> or keep up to date on all LLNE news at the LLNE Blog, <http://llne.blogspot>.

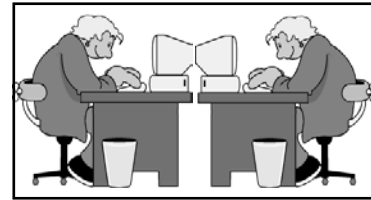
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LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England



EDITOR'S NOTE

It is my pleasure to announce a new editor for the LLNE News. I have followed in a proud LLNE newsletter tradition to man my post until I could cajole one of the younger staff into taking it up. Kyle Courtney, Electronic Services Librarian at Northeastern University Law Library has agreed to take up the reins and shepherd (ha!) the newsletter into a new era. Outgoing co-editor Susan Vaughn will continue as LLNE Blog editor. Fond farewells, Sharon

Thanks Sharon. As part of the new era we are continuing to move more content to the blog and are publishing two issues of the LLNE News per year, following the LLNE meetings. That way we can keep you up-to-date on LLNE business on a timelier basis. For this first cycle of the two issue format, we will have one smaller "Election Gazetteer," which will serve

as an introduction to the new Executive Board and Committee Members. Look for the LLNE's Election Gazetteer coming soon! - Kyle

This issue of the newsletter continues our regular columns like High Tech Hints, Miss. Nomer, and What are You Reading? We also have a guest correspondent, Brian Huddleston, from the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (NOALL). He is writing a two part series on the music and movies of New Orleans to get everyone excited for the atmosphere and culture of this year's AALL annual meeting. Enjoy!

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Dear Miss. Nomer

An Esteemed Colleague

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President's Message

Winter 2006-07

Dear LLNE Members,

In my twenty-plus years in Law Librarianship I never cease to be amazed at how much effort our colleagues put into getting our meetings together. The Fall 06 meeting sponsored by Boston College Law Library was no exception. If you didn't make it out there, it was held in the beautiful setting of BC's Connors Family Conference & Retreat Center in bucolic Dover, Massachusetts. The meeting was a class act from start to finish, with its timely theme of "Instruction and Training: Reaching out with New Technology," great food, great hospitality, and more. Hats off to all at the BC Law Library, where they are so ably led by my dear friend of many years, Filippa Anzalone, with special kudos to Mary Ann Neary and Kelley Dineen, who I know first hand worked so tirelessly to make this meeting happen. It was indeed a special setting to not only have a super Fall meeting, but also to celebrate LLNE's 60th Anniversary. Congratulations to all of our Anniversary Raffle winners!

Throughout this issue you will find all sorts of information and goings-on. I especially want to welcome our new LLNE News co-editor, Kyle Courtney of Northeastern University Law School Library on-board, who will be taking the place of Sharon Persons. Thank-you for all of your work on behalf of LLNE, Sharon, and thank-you, Kyle, for being an able and willing replacement. Also stepping down are co-editor Susan Vaughn and layout editor Kim Dulin. Many thanks to Susan and Kim too for all they have done on behalf of LLNE. We love to have people get involved with LLNE. If you would like to serve in any capacity, please email me at dturkalo@suffolk.edu with your availability and interests.

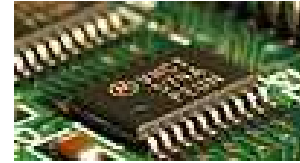
Please note that the AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans in July 2007 will be shortened by one day, ending on Tuesday instead of Wednesday. With that in mind, we have requested that our annual joint LLNE/SNELLA Luncheon be scheduled on Monday, July 16, 2007, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. (the Executive Board meeting would be held that morning, 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) As we go to press, I have not had confirmation from AALL on these requests. Also, I have some verbal and email commitments from some sponsors to help us defray joint luncheon costs. More news on this when it develops (ie, when we have the money in hand!)

In closing, our Spring 2007 LLNE meeting will be held at The Social Law Library in Boston on Friday, April 20, 2007. Save the date and watch the LLNE web site for topic and registration information. We have requested a chapter visit from an AALL Executive Board member for the Spring meeting and are waiting to hear on that as well. For further planning purposes, note that in the Fall (Wed. October 17 - Sat. Oct. 20, 2007) LLNE will be participating along with nine other chapters in the "NE 2007: Libraries Without Borders II" meeting to be held in Toronto. Our efforts and participation in what promises to be a great meeting are being headed up by Simon Canick (UConn) who will be keeping us posted as to the planning and other goings-on.

Dave Turkalo



High Tech Hints



By Kyle K. Courtney

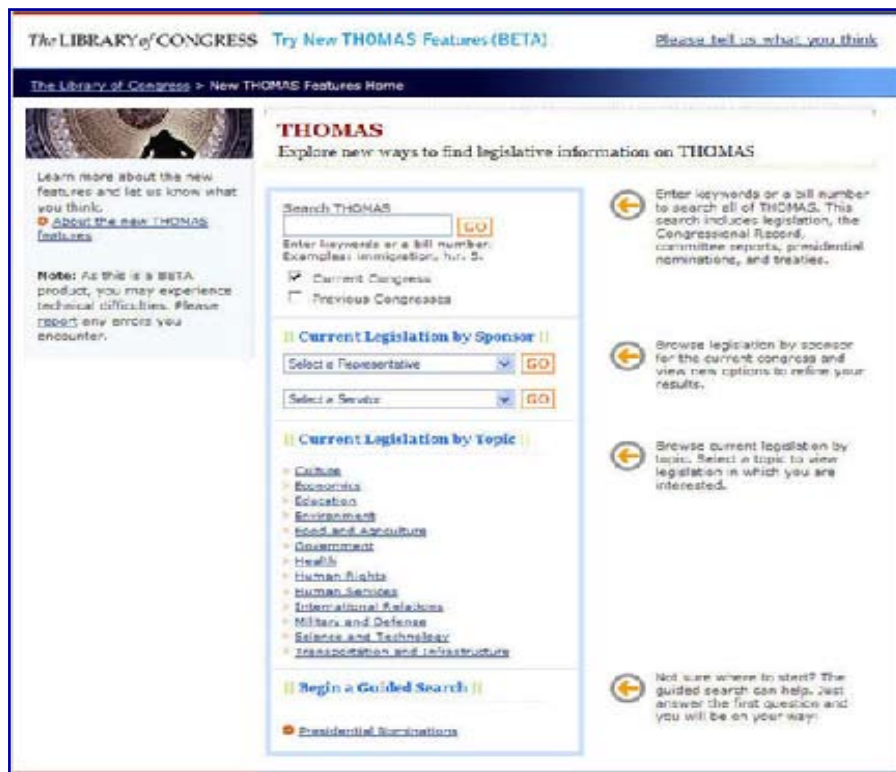
“Googling” THOMAS: The Beta Test and the Single Search Box

As many know, THOMAS (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>) is an excellent site for tracking current bills or finding recent legislative materials. Many legislative history documents are available in full text and/or PDF format through THOMAS. Although dates of coverage for different types of legislative documents vary on THOMAS, it is still one of the best sources for federal legal research. THOMAS was first launched in January of 1995. Since that time THOMAS has expanded the scope of its offerings to include more features and content. This year was no different. In January THOMAS rolled out a beta test site with exciting new features now available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/beta/>. While the content of THOMAS has not been altered, the beta test does make certain changes to searching, navigation, and display.

When a user first enters the beta site, there are four unique search options to start your research. You

can *Search all of THOMAS*, *Browse Current Legislation by Sponsor*, *Browse Current Legislation by Topic*, or use the *Guided Search*.

The most significant change is that users will now see what I am calling a “Google-like” single search box called Search THOMAS. This box searches all the THOMAS content at once, with an option to limit this search to the current Congress, all previous Congresses available, or both.



Search Results

Result displays on the THOMAS beta site are far different than the present THOMAS. Search results from a user’s single box search may be organized by content type, relevance, or date. The results defaults to content type - an organized stan-

dard that I presume will remain once the beta test is finished. This content default organizes the information into distinct document categories including bills and resolutions, the Congressional Record, committee reports, Presidential nominations, and treaties. The second available sort is relevance and the third sort option is date, in reverse chronological order.

Continued on page 10.

Dear
Miss
Nomer

Dear Miss Nomer:

At the AALL meeting in St. Louis last year, Thomson West gave us a copy of Black's Law Dictionary in celebration of AALL's 100th Anniversary. I am having a hard time trying to define a couple of concepts. Can you set me on the straight and narrow?

Lost in Translation

Definitely, Dear:

A couple? Rather than tackle your entire A - Z list, I will start with S and give you the rest at a later time.

STANDING the opposite of sitting

TARGET CORPORATION Wal-Mart competitor

UNDIGESTED OFFERING Gramma's fruitcake

VISA used when MasterCard over limit and vice versa

WAIVER OF TORT on a diet

XDIS or AXDAT, I really don't care

YELLOW DOG CONTRACT Lassie's employment agreement

ZERO-BRACKET AMOUNT law librarian salary compared to other professions; see VASSALAGE

Miss Nomer

Dear Miss Nomer:

Is there a "future" in "my studying law librarianship"? I am in college and would like to know how to go forward with my life?

A History Education Major

Dear AHEM:

Don't "quote" me but Miss Nomer does not see a "future" in "my studying law librarianship." She sees a "u" but only one "u" as in "you" and that depends on what "you" would like to do. There is a "t" but that is just a tease. There is no "f, r, or e," which could leave "you" "free" to pursue other interests. Miss Nomer added the second "e" to "ease" where you go with what you decide to do. Miss Nomer has long "past" thinking about her own "future" as Miss Nomer will always be in demand. She will never sell out to the "tipping point" of the moment. For more on Miss Nomer's thoughts on where "law librarianship" is headed, see the article on "Miss Nomer Acquired by Google for 55 Billion Dollars" in today's The New Google Times.

Dear Miss Nomer:

I heard that the library where you work has a great collection in my area of interest. May I use your facilities?

Need to Go In

Miss Issippi

Dear Needy:

Er, I suppose, I mean, if you want to, if you need to, that is, Miss Nomer is very delicate in these matters, well, um, they're right down the hall, next to the elevators, try not to miss them

Until next time, I remain fondly yours,

Miss Nomer

Thinking about New Orleans?...continued from p. 1

being; Montgomery Clift is the young doctor engaged by Hepburn to “cure” Taylor’s character with a lobotomy. A lesser known film is “This Property is Condemned” (1966). “Suggested” by a one-act Tennessee Williams’ play, this cinematic fleshing-out is a solid Southern Gothic mother-daughter drama.



New Orleans exists throughout much of the movie only in the characters’ imagination as the ultimate place to escape to and shed their small-town shackles. Starring Natalie Wood and Robert Redford, her character eventually chases after his and finds him when New Orleans finally makes its appearance in the last twenty minutes of the movie. The French Quarter looks great during a rainy night-time sequence and just when it appears that the adaptation may have steered the movie version to a happy ending, tragedy ensues in true Williams fashion. (Also stars a thirteen-year old Mary Badham, in one of her only other movie roles after playing Scout in “To Kill a Mockingbird”.)

Most movie stars have made at least one New Orleans film. John Wayne, Bette Davis, and Marlene Dietrich all made movies set here, ranging from notable to forgettable. Paul Newman reprised his “Harper” role in “The Drowning Pool” (1975), in which a routine blackmail investigation in New Orleans leads to monied oil interests and multiple homicides. One of the better star turns in a New

Orleans movie is “The Cincinnati Kid” (1965), starring Steve McQueen. During the Great Depression, McQueen is New Orleans’ top poker player and Edward G. Robinson is the big shot from up north who comes to town for a high-stakes five card stud showdown. Though the last half of the movie takes place in the hotel room where the poker game occurs, even the interior scenes throughout the entire movie are rich with New Orleans atmosphere. (Watch Robinson closely to learn the proper technique for eating oysters on the half shell.)

Another notable star vehicle is Elvis Presley’s “King Creole” (1958). Elvis’s fourth movie is considered by many fans to be his best, and he once mentioned that it was his favorite. He plays a busboy at a French Quarter nightclub trying to realize his musical dreams despite his father’s disapproval. Most of the songs spring organically from the story and it shows the direction Elvis could have developed as an actor, had he not descended into cinematic mediocrities such as “Kissin’ Cousins”.



A decade before “King Creole”, New Orleans got the full Hollywood musical treatment in the eponymous “New Orleans” (1947). A whisper-thin plot weaves together the musical numbers in this somewhat obscure movie. But the performances - and

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the performers - more than make up for it: Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Kid Ory, and others provide lessons in the tangled evolution of jazz, blues, ragtime, and dixieland in New Orleans circa 1917. The story in the second half of the movie meanders through Chicago and Birmingham - Birmingham, *England* that is (don't ask) - but luckily the music is never more than seven or eight minutes of tedious dialog away.

If you prefer supernatural thrillers instead of musicals, 1987's "Angel Heart", starring Mickey Rourke and Lisa Bonet, is one of the best. Dismissed by some critics, "Angel Heart" is a polarizing love-it or hate-it movie. This highly stylized noirish thriller set in the 1950s follows a New York private detective to New Orleans on a case that has more twists and turns than the back alleys of the French Quarter where much of the movie was filmed.

Another New Orleans movie was released the same year as "Angel Heart", but is notorious for different reasons. Opinions about "The Big Easy" (1987), starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin, are strongly divided among New Orleanians. Some think that it is one of the worst movies ever made about New Orleans, but some disagree and think, no, it is definitely *the* worst movie ever made about New Orleans. Yes, it is a decent if somewhat routine story, and the leading stars are great together, but somehow "The Big Easy" manages to combine every cheesy cliché about New Orleans and every hackneyed corrupt-police plot point into one movie.

In sharp contrast to "The Big Easy" is 1986's "Down By Law" (1986). Jim Jarmusch's black and white film is a study of three characters living on the margins of New Orleans' criminal underworld. While most of the movie occurs when the three main characters are in jail and after they escape to the countryside, the first third that takes place in the city is one

of the most accurate and atmospheric evocations of life on the down and out in the Crescent City.

Recent movies continue to try and capture the essence of New Orleans and the characters who populate it. If you can get over John Travolta playing a seedy, alcoholic, former literature professor with a bad southern accent and look beyond the somewhat tedious "search for family" plot involving Scarlett Johansson, 2004's "A Love Song for Bobby Long" offers some of the best-filmed New Orleans scenery in recent years and is a good cinematic preservation of what a lot of the city looked like prior to Hurricane Katrina. Just don't try to duplicate the walk home that Travolta's character takes over the begin-

ning credits: its about twenty miles long and would involve crossing the river a few times (hey, whatever - it *looks* beautiful.) For anyone whose favorite movies include "Barfly", stories of destitute "on the skids" characters like these always have a perverse appeal.

You can see post-Katrina New Orleans in the big-budget thriller "Deja Vu" (2006), starring Denzel Washington. This science fiction/domestic terrorist story is a great popcorn action movie, but its setting in

New Orleans can actually be a distraction. The city is grateful the producers spent their money here, but the location doesn't really add anything to the story.

Better representations of New Orleans since the hurricane can be found in two documentaries. The first is Spike Lee's "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts" (2006). A four-hour movie made for HBO films, it generated mixed reactions in New Orleans but will likely be a defining statement of the disaster and its aftermath. For a study of Katrina and the environmental concerns that foreshadowed its impact, definitely try to see the IMAX film, "Hurricane on the Bayou" (2006 and still playing at various IMAX theaters around the country as of February 2007). In production before Katrina, the film was



Thinking about New Orleans?...cont. from p. 8.

updated and expanded to include the devastation of New Orleans as a prime example of the effect that coastal erosion has had on the swampland that serves as a natural buffer against hurricane storm surge. The movie also has some good live music, as its narrative focus is on local musicians Amanda Shaw, Tab Benoit, and Allen Toussaint.

For a more, shall we say, “light-hearted” New Orleans environmental drama, look for “On Hostile Ground” (2000). Ever wonder what a cheesy, 1970s-style disaster movie set in New Orleans during Mardi Gras would be like? This made-for-TV movie (actually shot in Toronto!) concerns a giant sinkhole that threatens to swallow parades and revelers on Fat Tuesday unless the hero-geologist can pump something that looks like insulating foam underground to shore up the French Quarter. This may actually beat out “The Big Easy” as the worst movie about New Orleans. It seems to be on one of the basic cable networks every couple of weeks or so.

Besides disaster movies, there are a large number of other genre movies set in New Orleans, ranging in quality from good to forgettable. For example: “Tightrope” (1984) with Clint Eastwood (cop hunts for a serial killer in New Orleans); “Runaway Jury” (2003) with John Cusack, Gene Hackman, and Dustin Hoffman (jury consultant hunts a verdict in New Orleans); “Hard Target” (1993) with Jean-Claude Van Damme (a sadistic cabal of millionaires hunts homeless people for sport in New Orleans); and “Zandalee” (1991), with an over-acting Nicholas Cage (a husband’s best friend hunts for...well, the fact that this went straight to video and was a favorite of teenage boys with access to late night cable TV in the pre-internet era can give you a hint of this movie’s “plot”; at least the French Quarter and Erika Anderson both look beautiful in it).

If you’re a fan of “so bad its good” movies, among the truly forgettable films set in New Orleans are exploitation films such as “The Monster and the Stripper” (1968). This movie features a group of hunters out in the Louisiana bayous who capture a big-foot-like monster. And what’s the logical place for them to display a creature like that? In a strip club

on Bourbon Street, of course! Predictably violent complications ensue. Similar “drive-in” style films set in New Orleans include “Mardi Gras Massacre”, “Girl In Trouble”, “Voodoo Tailz”, and “Zombie vs Mardi Gras”, all of which feature stories as likely and believable as any you could think up in the time it takes to finish reading this sentence.

And, for everyone waiting for the second cinematic pairing in this short article’s title, yes, as unlikely as it sounds, “Abbott and Costello Go to Mars” (1953) has a New Orleans connection: en route to the red planet, our heroes’ spaceship takes an unscheduled detour to the French Quarter, conveniently at the height of Mardi Gras, where revelers costumed in giant paper mache masks are mistaken for Martians.

This is just a sample of some of the best, and more “eclectic”, movies about New Orleans. For additional New Orleans movies and reviews, find the 2007 Conference Web Page at <http://www.aallnet.org/> and follow the link for “New Orleans Movies”.



High Tech Hints .continued from p. 5.

A user also has the option to “Show or Hide Keyword Occurrences.” This aspect is very useful for any type of research, helping users identify the precise locations of their word or phrase in very long documents like bills, the Congressional Record, or committee reports.

One interesting note is that it appears that the beta site directs all searchers through its single search option before they can get directly to a single database. While users do have the option of searching initially by sponsor, subject, or guided search, you cannot

get to a specific database. While this is frustrating for expert searches, I think it plays towards the “Google search mentality.” Most Google user prefer to “single search” everything first, then specify exactly what they are looking for by sifting through the results. The THOMAS beta site uses a similar strategy.

For example, if I want to see House Report 107-85, I will have to put 107-85 in the single search box and select “Previous Congresses.” I then scroll to the Committee Reports portion of the results and click on “View all 13 Committee Report results.” Even though I used the exact number for the report, H. Rept. 107-85 does not show up in the first three results, and I have to browse through the list to find my document. Again, this may be frustrating to some

users who are used to the present THOMAS site where you can select a single database to search in.

However, once a THOMAS beta user is viewing the results of a particular document type, the sort options

The screenshot shows the THOMAS Search Results page. On the left, a search box is highlighted with a yellow border and numbered annotations 5 through 8. Annotation 5 points to the search text 'immigration in current congress'. Annotation 6 points to the search input field containing 'immigration'. Annotation 7 points to the 'Search in:' section with checkboxes for 'All Congresses', 'Congressional Record', 'Committee Reports', 'Presidential Memoranda', and 'Treaties'. Annotation 8 points to the 'Limit by Congress' dropdown menu set to '109th (2005-2006)'. A 'SEARCH' button is at the bottom of the search box. On the right, the search results are displayed under the heading 'THOMAS Search Results'. A navigation bar at the top of the results section includes 'Date', 'Relevance', 'Content Type', and 'Date'. A green arrow labeled '2' points to the 'Show Keyword Occurrences' link. A blue arrow labeled '3' points to the 'Bills and Resolutions results' section, which lists three bills related to immigration reform. A purple arrow labeled '4' points to the 'View all 2000 Bills and Resolutions results' link. Below this are sections for 'Congressional Record results' and 'Committee Report results', each with a 'View all' link.

Search Screen Results

change to selections specific to that database. For example, the **Bills and Resolutions** section has options for sorting results by relevance, date, sponsor, chamber, and bill number.

Another beta improvement is that once you find a document and select it, the site presents a very useful document view and navigation box. The navigation box has various options, depending on the document selected.

For example, when I was examining H.R. 225, the “Bill Navigation” bar gave me additional research options such as **Other Versions of this Legislation**, the **GPO’s PDF Display**, **Cosponsors**, **CRS Summaries**, **Related Bills**, **Amendments**, etc. A great option I particularly enjoyed was letting the user view **Keywords**

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NE2007: Libraries Without Borders II

Northeast Regional Law Libraries Meeting
October 17-20, 2007 Toronto, ON

CROSS THE BORDER OF YOUR LIBRARY!

From October 17-20, the city of Toronto will be hosting the much-anticipated meeting of the Northeast Regional Law Library Associations. An expected 650 delegates will come together to share ideas, challenge preconceptions and broaden the borders of their practice, their libraries and their professions. A packed program, which will offer both theoretical and practical sessions on the law, legal research, library management and our profession, will also go beyond the borders to explore questions of global importance and examine how library professionals are making a difference.

Although the conference is being organized by the

law library associations of the northeastern states and eastern Canada, you are invited to attend regardless of your geography. A block of rooms at the Marriott Eaton Centre, the conference hotel, is now available at C\$179/night. Call 1-800-905-0667 and quote NE2007 to guarantee this rate.

Registration for the conference itself is \$325 (C or US). Tickets for the closing banquet are \$60, and guests are welcome. Please note that there is no requirement to exchange currencies – if you are a Canadian, you will pay in C\$, Americans in US\$. This will simplify the process considerably for delegates who are paying their own way to the conference. Program and social details are still being developed, so watch the conference website (<http://www.library.dal.ca/law/Libswoborders/>) for further information, and for registration.

Questions may be referred to the organizing committee:

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LLNE News Items

Connecticut Award Winners

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries website, www.jud.state.ct.us/lawlib/, has won the Justice Served Top-10 Court Websites award for 2006. You may view the entire list of winners at <http://justiceserved.com/top10sites.cfm>.

Justice served is in its eighth year of judging, and we reviews over 3,500 court websites to recognize the best court online offerings in the world. They have stringent evaluation criteria including "excellent customer service and exceptional access to justice." Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries website is the first law library website to win this honor!

Although the Connecticut Judicial Branch website was a previous winner, Justice Served determined that "this law library site is worthy of separate honor as best in its class." Justice Served noted that in addition to the important legal links and research guides, the website offered a valuable "Ask a Librarian" feature, and direct links to the current cases in the court website portal.

Congratulations to all the Connecticut Judicial librarians that contribute to the award winning web site! You can find this link and more at LLNE's New England Legal Research Metasites at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/resources/nestates.htm>

Law Librarian Emeritus Honored

Professor Edward J. Bander, law librarian emeritus, has been awarded the prestigious Edgar Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Law Librarians of New England. The award will be presented at the LLNE Spring Meeting, during the luncheon. The meeting is being held at Social Law Library on April 20th.

Bander was a Suffolk Law School librarian and professor from 1978 to 1990. He had been an associate librarian and associate professor at New York University from 1960 to 1978. He is the co-author, with Frank S. Bae, of *Searching the Law* and edited

and compiled *Bardell v. Pickwick: The Most Famous Fictional Trial in the English Language*, by Charles Dickens.

New Positions and Responsibilities

Harvard Law School Library is delighted to announce that Teresa (Terri) Gallego O'Rourke re-joined the Langdell Reference staff at Harvard Law School Library as Reference Librarian/Coordinator of Instructional Services in February. Terri, who was most recently Reference and International Law Librarian at Boston University's Pappas Law Library, began her career in law librarianship at Harvard, where she served first as Reference Assistant beginning in 2003, and later as temporary Reference Librarian beginning in 2004. Terri earned her M.L.S. at Simmons, and also has a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law, and is a member of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland Bars.

Stephen M. Donweber has been transferred and promoted to the position of Senior Legal Information and Educational Technology Librarian at the Boston University Law Library. Donweber served as the Reference and Electronic Services Librarian in the law library from April 2005 to September 2006. Prior to joining the library staff, Steve was the reference librarian intern at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt Library.

Send us your news items!

Have a new staff member? A new addition to the family? Travel somewhere fun? Please send your news items to the LLNE Newsletter!



What are you Reading?

Edited by Hilary T. Frye, Connecticut Law & Legislative Reference Library
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The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

by John Boyne

When I first saw the *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne included in a list of best-selling children's books, I imagined a gently-illustrated bedtime story about a boy who likes to wear striped pajamas. I could not have been more wrong.

The book is not a picture book. Rather, it is a chapter book, written for the child somewhat older than nine-year-old Bruno, the book's main character.

As the book begins, Bruno, his parents, and his older sister Gretel are undertaking a sudden move from their comfortable home in Berlin because of Father's job. Father works for "the Fury's" ... according to Bruno. Their destination turns out to be a lonely house in a desolate area Bruno and Gretel understand to be called "Out-With's".

As the days go by, Bruno is mesmerized by watching and wondering about the people who live on the other side of the seemingly endless barbed-wire fence he can see from his bedroom window. The people all seem to him to be boys and men, and all wear "striped pyjamas".

I will say little about the plot of the book, except that as it develops, it becomes more and more gripping until it reaches its surprising end.

I found the book to be extraordinarily well written and very moving. On finishing it, I actually had to lie silently for several minutes on the bed where I had been reading before I could go on with my day. I highly recommend *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* for older children, teens and adults.

Virginia McVarish, Harvard

Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini traces the tragic tale of a proud and troubled Kabul family from the 1960's to the present. Afghanistan is described as a place where valor and honor express and uncompromising ferocity of spirit. The plotline is somewhat predictable, but the characters have a dark complexity that is intriguing.

Hilary Frye, Connecticut Law & Legislative Reference

Works by Nevil Shute

My solace last Winter was reading Nevil Shute. He is the master of the novel about "ordinary people doing extraordinary things". These novels are a celebration of the human spirit. The credo is "do no harm, be self-effacing, seek harmony". Shute is the author of *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach*. My favorite titles thus far are *Trustee of the Toolroom*, and *No Highway*. He also wrote *The Old Captivity*, part of which was set on Cape Cod. In October of 2005, the Annual Nevil Shute Conference was held on Cape Cod. Previous conferences have been held in York, England and Australia, settings for some of his other works. Shute was an aeronautical engineer and one of the pioneers of aircraft manufacturing in England.

Hilary Frye, Connecticut Law & Legislative Reference

This Issue in Massachusetts History

(We will feature other New England States every issue)

7 January 1822

Town of Boston petitions the Legislature for a city charter

11 January 1798

Opening of Bulfinch State House on Beacon Street.

31 January 1770

In protest against Parliament's tax programs, the ladies of Boston organize an Anti-Tea Drinking Society

February 4th, 1870

Museum of Fine Arts incorporated (Boston)

February 6th, 1788

Massachusetts becomes the 6th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution

February 10th, 1780

African-Americans, led by free born Paul Cuffe, petition against "taxation without representation" and refuse to pay taxes (Dartmouth)

February 21st, 1883

Copley Square named (Boston)

March 4th, 1872

First issue of Boston Globe published

March 4th, 1933

Boston-born Frances Perkins becomes secretary of labor, first woman cabinet member

March 7th, 1850

U.S. senator Daniel Webster defends Compromise of 1850

March 11th, 1895

Boston Public Library opens at Copley Square

March 15, 1820

Maine's formal separation from Massachusetts as a result of the signing of the Missouri Compromise

**LLNE Business Meeting
Minutes – April 21, 2006
University of Connecticut School of Law
Hartford, CT**

The business meeting was called to order by President Michelle Pearse at 12:40.

Michelle welcomed all members and thanked the UConn law school folks for presenting such a well-organized meeting. Michelle also thanked the vendors (LexisNexis, Thompson, and Hein) for their support for this meeting.

President's Report

LLNE Annual Meeting

Michelle reported that the annual SNELLA/LLNE luncheon is being organized this year by SNELLA and will be held on Tuesday, July 11th in St. Louis. All LLNE members who will be heading to AALL are encouraged to attend.

Nominating Committee

Michelle has put together a Nominating Committee and charged them with filling the positions that will be opening up on the Executive Board in July (Vice-President/President Elect, Education Director, and Secretary). If there is anyone who would like to volunteer for any of these offices or, if anyone would like to nominate a candidate, please contact Judy Gire, Nominating Committee Chair.

Edgar Award

The Edgar Award (awarded to a law librarian "who as a member of the Law Librarians of New England has made significant and sustained contributions to the field of law librarianship over the course of his or her career") was awarded to Karen Moss. Karen is retiring from the law library at the First Circuit Court of Appeals where she has worked since 1979.

Michelle read the criteria for receiving the Edgar aloud. Then she read a partial list of Karen Moss' career accomplishments. Karen was presented with the Edgar and with Lifetime LLNE Membership.

Karen thanked the Board, those who nominated her for the Edgar, and the people she has worked with over the years.

LLNE Blog

Michelle informed the members that the LLNE Blog received a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation from AALL. Michelle presented the certificate to Susan Vaughan, newsletter editor and blogger. Michelle and Susan both encouraged members to check out the blog.

Treasurer's Report – Anne Peters

Treasurer Anne Peters reported that LLNE currently has \$27,254 in its accounts. This figure does not include the registrations for this Spring meeting.

Education Directors' Report – Elaine Apostola

Elaine thanked Darcy Kirk and Simon Cannick for the work done putting together this meeting.

LLNE is planning the following meetings.

Fall, 2006 – Boston College (this will be a big "birthday" meeting!)

Spring, 2007 – Social Law Library

Fall, 2007 – Northeast Regional Meeting, Toronto, Ontario

Volunteers are actively encouraged for the Spring 2007 Meeting. Please speak to one of the Education Directors should you wish to host a meeting.

Elaine introduced Susan Sullivan who told us about Fall meeting. This meeting, hosted by Boston College Law School will take place in Lincoln, Mass. at the Connors Family Conference Center (owned by BC). This will be a seminar/workshop meeting on the Lifelong Learning of Legal Research.

The Boston College meeting is also a "birthday meeting," and to celebrate two folks from each lunch table were selected randomly to receive a "new logo" LLNE t-shirt.

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Minutes – April 21, 2006..cont. from p. 16.

Committee Reports

Archives – Mike Hughes

Mike Hughes asked members to check out a display he set up at the Exhibits area of this meeting. Mike also promised that there would be more displays and contests celebrating LLNE's 60th birthday at the Fall 2006 Meeting.

Government Relations – Christine Hepler

Christine reported that she now has representatives from all the New England states for her committee. However, she reminded members that they are always welcome to volunteer.

Newsletter – Susan Vaughn

The next newsletter deadline is June 1st. More news is going to the blog lately. Check out the blog at LLNE.blogspot.com.

Public Relations – Diane D'Angelo

Diane is putting together the 2006 edition of the LLNE Members Bibliography. Any member with publications or presentations is encouraged to submit them to Diane. The criteria for inclusion are on line.

Scholarships – Michelle Pearse for Margaret Cianfarini

No scholarships were awarded for this meeting. The deadline for scholarships for the AALL Annual Meeting is May 1st.

Service Committee – Jennifer Kessler

Jennifer reported that there is an LLNE team participating in the 2006 Walk for Hunger. Jennifer also reported that she is looking forward to serving as Service Committee co-chair.

Update from AALL – Darcy Kirk

Darcy Kirk, LLNE member and AALL Secretary gave us an update from the AALL Board. Darcy encouraged all members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis in July.

Darcy told us that the AALL Executive Board was working with a strategic plan which includes a specific focus for each year it covers. The focus this year has been on Education (hence the AALL Education Summit). After the AALL Education Summit, the Executive Board adopted the following positions: AALL will fund and hire an Education Manager on staff in Chicago; AALL will set up a Speakers' Bureau on line; and, AALL will spend more money on education outside of the Annual Meeting. Two educational programs have been approved for 2007. In February there will be a "Leadership Institute" for the "next generation" of law librarians. And, there will be a workshop for library managers to be held in Denver.

The focus for next year will be Advocacy (including federal advocacy as well as advocacy for libraries and library.

Gift to Michelle Pearse

Michelle Pearse will not be attending the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. To thank her for all her hard work, Dave Turkalo presented her with a gift of appreciation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:14.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Fletcher, LLNE Secretary

AGENTS FOR THE BOOKS



**LLNE Annual Business Meeting
Minutes -- July 11, 2006
St. Louis, Missouri**

David Turkalo the Vice-President/President Elect called the annual meeting of the Law Librarians of New England to order at 12:15.

President's Report – David Turkalo for Michelle Pearse

Dave reported that he was standing in for the LLNE President, Michelle Pearse, on account of the birth of Michelle's baby on June 13, 2006.

Past President's Report – Raquel Ortiz

Raquel reported that LLNE has been officially incorporated as a non-profit corporation with the Massachusetts Secretary of State. She, Raquel, is LLNE's official registered agent. LLNE has also been granted tax-exempt status by the IRS as a 501(c)(6) organization.

Treasurer's Report – Anne Peters

Anne reported that LLNE currently has bank balances of \$28,273.10. She also reminded members that dues notices have been mailed out and urged all members to return their checks promptly.

Education Directors' Report – Elaine Apostola

Elaine reported that LLNE netted \$850 from the Legal Research course offered in the Fall of 2005. The course will again be offered in Spring of 2007.

Upcoming meetings include:

Fall 2006- Hosted by Boston College Law School November 3, 2006 This meeting is themed "Technology and Training."

Spring 2007—Hosted by the Social Law Library

Fall 2007 – A Northeast Regional meeting to be held in Toronto (There is a "kick off reception" for

this meeting to be held this evening, July 11th, from 6:30-8:30)

Committee Reports

Communications – Raquel Ortiz

Raquel reports that there will be a re-design of the LLNE website. On the new website, there will be a prominent link to the LLNE blog as well as a link to our new LLNE academic scholarships.

Public Relations – Raquel Ortiz

The P.R. Committee has been hard at work in preparation for the celebration of LLNE's 60th Anniversary to be held at the Boston College meeting in the fall. Mike Hughes is putting together a book of "LLNE Rememberances." Diane D'Angelo has put together the annual LLNE Members' Bibliography. Members were reminded that if they publish anything to send a quick citation to Diane for inclusion in the bibliography. LLNE tote bags and sweatshirts with the new LLNE logo have been made and will be distributed as prizes at the LLNE fall meeting.

Newsletter – Raquel Ortiz

Raquel reported that the Executive Board had voted to change the publication of the LLNE News to twice a year. The format of the LLNE News will change from a "newsy" publication to one of more substantive content.

Archives – Michael Hughes

Mike Hughes reported that his committee was preparing for the LLNE anniversary meeting.

Government Relations – Christine Hepler

Christine reported that she has almost of full committee, but additional volunteers are always welcome.

Continued on page 19

Scholarships – Margaret Cianfarini

Margaret reported that two scholarships were awarded to attendees of this meeting. Steve Salhany of Maine and Anne McDonald of the Rhode Island AG's office were winners. She encouraged all members to apply for scholarships to attend meeting.

The LLNE Scholarships Committee will also soon be awarding academic scholarships. The applications for the scholarships and the eligibility requirements will soon be on the LLNE website.

Nominations Committee – Judy Gire

Judy Gire, chair of the Nominations Committee, offered the following slate of candidates for the open offices of LLNE:

- Vice-President/President Elect – Kathy Fletcher, Franklin Pierce Law Center
- Secretary – Christine Hepler, University of Maine
- Education Director – Simon Canick, University of Connecticut

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of candidates was moved and accepted.

Dave Turkalo presented gifts to Board members going off the Board at this meeting. And, "The Duck" was passed from Michelle Pearse (via Raquel Oritz) to Dave Turkalo.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Fletcher, LLNE Secretary

Based on Document Content, which can help users identify other crucial keywords used by the THOMAS beta system to find similar documents on point.

Guided Search

The beta also has an experimental "guided search" option, which has great potential if it survives the beat testing phase. The guided search option presently offers a guided search on Presidential Nominees, which is much like an interactive pathfinder for THOMAS documents. It begins with a series of questions such as "Do you know the name of the Nominee? Please enter it below" or "What type of nomination are you interested in?" As you select from drop-down boxes or enter information, it narrows the document results. I found this feature to be very useful, and I imagine that if THOMAS does continue to develop the guided search, they could easily expand it to other topics that may be difficult for lawyers, students, or the public at large (ex. Administrative Law guided searches, Legislative History guided searches, Government Budgets, etc.).

The THOMAS beta site is still undergoing changes. The Library of Congress has invited users to email them with questions, comments, or criticisms. Their Google-like single search box is a significant change that may lead to increased use by the general public. While I think this type of searching has its drawbacks, several other features — such as the new navigation bars and the guided searches — have potential to be very effective and useful to lawyers, students and librarians. But don't take my word for it — visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/beta> and give it a test drive!

HIGH TECH HINT:

Confused about Wiki software? Are there too many choices with too many variables? Well the problem has been solved. WikiMatrix (available at <http://www.wikimatrix.org>) describes the features of over 80 different wiki programs. Find the wikis that match your library's needs with the Wiki Choice Wizard or compare the Wikis of your choice in a side-by-side display feature!

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