



University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Reception and Unveiling
Of the Mural

The History of Medicine in Louisiana

Franklin Boggs, Artist



5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
August 23, 2002

Edith Garland Dupre Library
302 East Saint Mary Boulevard
Lafayette, Louisiana

The Mural

The History of Medicine in Louisiana, a 112' x 57" mural, has been donated to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette through the generosity of the Alliance for the Conservation of Louisiana Art and Artifacts, New Orleans. The mural, completed in 1948 by Mr. Franklin Boggs, has been restored by Mr. Robert Dafford and Mr. Wayne Ditch, and is displayed in Edith Garland Dupre Library.

Major contributors to the restoration and public display of the mural are Teche Federal Savings Bank and the Friends of Edith Garland Dupre Library. The generous support of the ULL Foundation has enhanced the acquisition of this work of art. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kramer, Franklin, are instrumental in guiding this unique mural to the University.

The mural depicts memorable events in Louisiana's medical history. It represents the great strides in medicine and public health occurring in the state. Some of the notable persons depicted in the mural include Dr. Rudolph Matas, Dr. Warren Stone and Dr. Francois Marie Prevost. Among the events marking the impressive history of medicine in Louisiana and represented in the mural panels are the first recorded caesarian operation performed in the United States and the 1853 yellow fever onslaught in New Orleans, the greatest epidemic to strike any American city. Other events show the march of medical progress beginning with habitation of the state by Native Americans and ending with the introduction of nuclear medicine.

Mr. Franklin Boggs, the artist, has enjoyed a distinguished career as an artist and as a professor. His career spans the major part of the 20th century; he has been a noted faculty member and artist in residence at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin. Boggs was fortunate to have as his mentor for the creation of the mural, Dr. Rudolph Matas, at that time over 90 years old. Dr. Matas was an integral part of Louisiana's medical history throughout the first half of the 20th century. Boggs devotes an entire panel depicting Matas in his role as a Tulane Medical School faculty member. Boggs' works have been displayed in many museums including the Metropolitan, Corcoran, Legion of Honor and Chicago Art Institute. *Life Magazine* named Boggs one of America's 1950's leading young artists. Boggs was featured in an hour long documentary on PBS, *The Drew Fire*, tracing the work of combat artists who chronicled WWII through their art. He is one of seven surviving artists commissioned to chronicle the medical corps, hospitals, and medical facilities in the Southwest Pacific theater "from the time that someone was wounded and the battalion aid went out to bring him in to get his first attention, until he got on a hospital ship and was sent back home." Boggs is Professor

Emeritus of Beloit College and resides in that area. He presently works extensively in the design of stained glass art.

Restoration and mounting of the mural was done by Mr. Robert Dafford and Mr. Wayne Ditch, Lafayette, Louisiana. The support infrastructure of the panel weighs a total of 1,000 pounds. The mural rests on a specially constructed wall supported by partial columns designed by the restorers. The support infrastructure consists of bracing and acid free, museum quality materials backed with wooden panels. Restoration consisted of canvas rejuvenation and painted surface restoration. For the week long installation, the mural arrived in six separate panels. The restoration was so successful that the entire mural has been mounted as if it were the original continuous 112' of canvas.

The History of Medicine in Louisiana may be viewed throughout the year when Edith Garland Dupre Library is opened. It is located on the first floor in the Reference Department. We hope that it will be enjoyed by all who visit our campus in the knowledge that this mural honors our faculty, staff and graduates, especially those in the past who have contributed to, and those in our future, who will become part of the rich medical heritage of Louisiana.



RUDOLPH MATAS BOOKPLATE

This is the personal bookplate of Rudolph Matas, M.D., designed by him. It represents his Spanish and American heritages, his life in medicine and his vast and varied interests. His portrait appears in the second half of the mural.



5:00 pm

Reception

6:00 pm

Mural Dedication

Welcome

Dr. Charles W. Triche III, Director,
Edith Garland Dupre Library

Introductions

Dr. Jean T. Creamer, Director
Media and Printing Services

Comments

Dr. Ray P. Authement
President

Vice President Della T. Bonnette
Information Technology

The Mural

Dr. Jean T. Creamer

The Unveiling

6:30

Reception continues

Acknowledgements

The University wishes to thank the following for making possible the acquisition, restoration and display of the mural, The History of Medicine in Louisiana.

We are especially grateful to Dr. Flora Cherry, President, Ms. Patti Gay, Mr. George Schmidt, and Mr. Gordon Wilson, Esq., the Board of Directors of the Alliance for the Conservation of Louisiana Art and Artifacts for their stewardship of the mural and their generosity. The Alliance in its work is fond of remembering Edgar Degas' words, "Louisiana must be represented by all her children."

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Frere Kramer, Franklin

Teche Federal Savings Bank,
Mr. Patrick Little, President and CEO
Mr. Ross Little, Vice President

The Friends of Edith Garland Dupre Library

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation,
Mrs. Janet Wood, President
Mrs. Julie Falgout, Executive Director

Mr. Franklin Boggs, Artist and Professor Emeritus, Beloit, Wisconsin

Mr. Ron Nief, Public Affairs, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin

Mr. Robert Dafford

Mr. Wayne Ditch

President Ray Authement

Vice President Della Bonnette

Mr. Elwood Broussard

Mr. Joey Pons

Dr. Charles W. Triche III
The Staff, Edith Garland Dupre Library

Dr. Jean T. Kreamer
Mrs. Lois Menard and Mrs. Mary Rebardi,
The Staff, Media and Printing Services

