AMISTAD CELEBRATES
IT MOVE TO TULANE

The Amistad Research Center and Tulane University faculty, staff, students, and friends officially celebrated the Center's move from the Old U.S. Mint to its new home in Tilton Hall with a dedication lecture and reception on Sunday, April 5, 1987.

Professor Colin A. Palmer, chairman of the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, delivered the dedication lecture to over two-hundred guests. Among Dr. Palmer's publications are Slaves of the White God: Blacks in Mexico, 1370-1650 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976) and Human Cargoes: The British Slave Trade to Spanish America (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1981). He also has received fellowships from the Carnegie Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The move to the Tulane campus signaled the end of a long search for a permanent home for Amistad. Among the institutions that expressed an interest in Amistad were Hampton Institute, Prairie View A & M University, the University of Mississippi, Harvard University, and the University of North Carolina. Tulane's offer was attractive to Amistad for several reasons. In addition to providing another source of financial support to the Center for the purpose of expanding its programs and services, Tulane agreed that Amistad's Board of Directors would remain autonomous. Second, Tulane's graduate programs provide an opportunity for students and faculty to take advantage of the Center's holdings. Finally, Tulane promises to find larger quarters elsewhere on campus once Amistad outgrows its Tilton Hall site.

AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER
Features
OSSIE DAVIS AND RUBY DEE
PERFORMANCE

The Amistad Research Center's annual fundraising event, which will be held on Saturday, October 24, 1987, at 3:00 p.m., will feature a performance by famed television and motion picture stars, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. The husband and wife team will also receive the Amistad Fine Arts Award for 1987. The performance will be held in Dixon Hall on the Tulane University campus, and a general reception will follow.

Although general admission tickets are $25.00, the income from this annual event will come primarily from "special donors." The special donors categories include Angels, who give $1,250 or more; Benefactors, who donate $1,000; Sponsors, who contribute $500; and Patrons, who give $250.

Special donors will receive a package of benefits for their tax-deductible contributions
to the Center. All special donors are invited to a party with Ms. Dee and Mr. Davis on the evening preceding the performance, where the door prize will be a serigraph, "The Birth of Toussaint," from The Toussaint L'Ouverture Series by Jacob Lawrence (the 1986 Fine Arts Award recipient). This collector's item, which is limited to one hundred and signed by the artist, has a current retail value of $1,250. Special donors also will receive two tickets to the performance for each $250 contributed. And, of course, all special donors will have reserved seats at the performance, and their names will be printed in the program.

If you wish to be a special donor, or know of others who may be interested in contributing to the viability of the Amistad Center, please contact us as soon as possible. General admission tickets ($25.00) will go on sale after September 19, 1987.

An accompanying exhibition, "Black Theatre in Photographs: Scenes from the Twentieth Century Stage," will be on display at the Newcomb Center for Research on Women at Tulane University, October 1-31.

AMISTAD ENTERS THE COMPUTER AGE

Tulane University recently awarded a Ford Foundation grant, $45,000 of which will be used to convert data on Amistad's collections to an automated format. The advantage of entering Amistad's book, periodical, and manuscript collections into OCLC (On-Line Computer Library Center) is to make accessible Amistad's rich holdings to the 6,000 research libraries across the country that participate in this national bibliographic network. In the next two years, the Center's staff can serve its researchers more efficiently and effectively by making its collections known to a much wider public.

AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER Welcomes NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The assistant director, Denise Glover, assumed her new position at the Center on April 1, 1987. Dr. Glover came to Amistad from the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center Project of the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio, where she served as Head Librarian/Archivist for three and one-half years.

Dr. Glover earned both the master's and Ph.D. degrees in library science at the University of Michigan. She also received a Certificate in Archival Administration from the Modern Archives Institute sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C. In 1985, she was one of the recipients of the Smithsonian's Award for Minority Museum Professionals, which provides partial funding for minorities to acquire more in-depth knowledge in a field of their choice by studying at the Smithsonian for two weeks.

Dr. Glover's duties at Amistad include supervising the archival staff and coordinating a project to prepare the Center's records for input into a national bibliographic database.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

These and other recent acquisitions will be described in greater detail in our annual report: Clarie Collins Harvey Papers (1932-1985), which complement the Collins Family Papers (1889-1970) and the Martin Luther Harvey, Jr., Papers (1911-1978); and the John O'Neal Papers, which complement the Records of the Free Southern Theater (1963-1978).

Richmond Barthe Sculpture

Mr. Rex Madsen of New York donated to the Center two bronze sculptures by Richmond Barthe, renowned Afro-American sculptor. Shoe Shine Boy (1938), considered one of Barthe's finest works of art, and a bust of Kenneth MacPherson (ca. 1930s), a Scottish novelist and editor, were gifts of Madsen from the estate of Jimmy Daniels. Also included in this gift to the Center were approximately 300 nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographs, including fifty-five by the Harlem Renaissance patron, photographer, and writer, Carl Van Vechten. Some of the prominent personalities represented in the photographic collection are Pearl Bailey, Roy Wilkins, Josephine Baker, Joe Louis, Ethel Waters, Harry Belafonte, and Alberta Hunter.

Barthe, who was born in 1901 in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, attended public schools in New Orleans and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students League in New York. His works have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the 1939 New York World's Fair, the Harmon Foundation, and the Grand Central Gallery.

Jason Berry Papers

Mr. Jason Berry, journalist, writer, and press secretary, deposited with the Center his
personal papers documenting his professional activities from 1966 to 1982. Included are three linear feet of correspondence, biographical data, financial records, writings, speeches, photographs, honors and awards, and printed items. Particularly noteworthy are drafts and galley proofs from Amazing Grace, a book about the Mississippi gubernatorial campaign of Charles Evers, brother of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers. Berry also co-authored a recent book on New Orleans rhythm and blues, Up From the Cradle of Jazz, and numerous articles.

Federation of Southern Cooperatives

The Center acquired the voluminous records of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC), a service, resource, and advocacy association that was founded in 1967 to develop a regional approach to economic development among low income, rural families in the South. Measuring approximately 470 feet, the records of FSC is one of the Center's largest collections.

The records, which span the years 1967 to 1983, document the organization's founding, education and training programs, and activities in coordinating agricultural production, commercial contract sewing, and other small businesses. The organization's affiliates include over seventy state and local cooperatives in thirteen states, including Louisiana.

STAFF NEWS AND NOTES

Florence Borders Mounts Exhibit on Black Women in Louisiana

The Chicory Society, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Borders, Amstod's reference archivist, sponsored an exhibit entitled "Dishwater Images, Twentieth Century Afro-Louisiana Women: Their Legacy." The exhibit was designed by Mrs. Borders and displayed in Gaudet Hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church during the week of April 5-11.

Composed of photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and memorabilia loaned by family members, the exhibit featured twenty-five unsung black heroines whose lives and work made a significant impact on their communities or the State of Louisiana. The Chicory Society, founded by Mrs. Borders in 1983 to highlight the achievements of blacks in Louisiana, received partial funding for the exhibit from the Black Culture Commission of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

Book Reviews Focus on New Orleans Music


Smithsonian Institution Study Leader

For a second consecutive year, assistant archivist Ulysses Ricard served as study leader for the Smithsonian Institution's tour of New Orleans and Cajun Country. The responsibilities of the study leader are to lecture on the history and culture of the region visited and to select guest lecturers to speak on other aspects of the region's culture. Ulysses is especially well suited for the task as a native Louisianian who is fluent in both French (including Creole) and Spanish.

He has been asked by the United States Information Agency and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi to give a lecture on the Cajuns and Creoles of South Louisiana to a group of foreign professors who will be touring the United States. They will visit the Center on September 22.

Mr. Ricard has also been asked to serve on the Advisory Board for the Louisiana Folklife Festival, an annual event held in Baton Rouge in October. He will serve as a presenter at the Foodways area of the Festival and will lead a panel discussion on the languages spoken in Louisiana.

Executive Director to Edit Countee Cullen Correspondence

Dr. Clifton Johnson, executive director of the Center, signed a contract with the University of North Carolina Press to prepare a one-volume edition of selected correspondence of Countee Cullen (1903-1946) for publication in 1989. The Center acquired the papers of the renowned Harlem Renaissance poet and writer in 1972.
CAROL BRICE MEMORIAL CONCERT

Friends of the late Carol Brice, renowned contralto and associate professor of music at the University of Oklahoma, paid tribute to her through a memorial concert performed at Carnegie Hall on April 14, 1987. Among the distinguished musicians who performed in her honor were Betty Allen, Cab Calloway, Gerald Cook, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Theresa Merrit, George Shirley, and William Warfield.

Dr. Clifton Johnson, executive director of the Amistad Research Center, attended the concert on behalf of the Center, which houses Ms. Brice's Papers. The papers (1905-1985) document fully Ms. Brice's life and professional career as a concert artist and in opera and musical comedy. Ms. Brice, who graduated from Talladega College and attended Juilliard Graduate School of Music on a scholarship, died on February 15, 1985.

EXHIBITION IN HONOR OF PAPAL VISIT

The Amistad Research Center is cooperating with the University Archives at the University of New Orleans, Special Collections at Tulane, the Louisiana Historical Center, the Louisiana Division of the New Orleans Public Library, and the Historic New Orleans Collection in presenting an exhibition in the Earl Long Library at the University of New Orleans. The exhibit will open on Sunday, August 30, and remain open throughout the month of September. The exhibition, entitled "Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Louisiana," is under the auspices of the Cultural Committee for the Papal Visit on which Dr. Clifton Johnson serves.

LECTURE ON THE AMISTAD INCIDENT

Dr. Howard Jones, Professor of History, University of Alabama, and author of Mutiny on the Amistad: The Saga of a Slave Revolt and Its Impact on American Abolition, Law, and Diplomacy (Oxford University Press, 1987), will lecture on Thursday, September 24 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 305, Tilton Hall, Tulane University. A reception and book signing session in the Center will immediately follow the lecture. All Friends of Amistad are invited to attend.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS BASED, IN PART, ON THE CENTER'S HOLDINGS


