REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESS COMMITTEE

April 29, 2003

During the past year the Committee met three times and approved for publication thirty-five book manuscripts and proposals. The Committee will hold its final meeting on May 22 and anticipates an agenda of approximately eight manuscript proposals. Margaret Parker, Foreign Languages and Literatures, served as chair for the 2002-03 academic year. L. E. Phillabaum, Director of the Press since 1975, retired in January 2003. William Bossier, Interim Director and Business Manager, will continue to be the acting Interim Director until June 30. On July 1, MaryKatherine Callaway will become the new Director.

Books written by Louisiana affiliated authors and published during the past year include

*Being-in-Christ and Putting Death in Its Place: An Anthropologist’s Account of Christian Performance in Spanish America and the American South* by Miles Richardson, Doris Z. Stone Professor in Latin American Studies at LSU; *Becoming Free, Remaining Free: Manumission and Enslavement in New Orleans, 1846-1862* by Judith Kelleher Schafer, Associate Director of Murphy Institute of Political Economy at Tulane University; *A Perfect War of Politics: Parties, Politicians, and Democracy in Louisiana, 1824-1861* by John Sacher, LSU PhD-history; *Girocho: A GI’s Story of Bataan and Beyond* by Louisiana native John Henry Poncio and his niece Marlin Young; *Falling Up: How a Redneck Helped Invent Political Consulting* by Raymond D. Strother, a member of the LSU Journalism Hall of Fame; *Let the Bastards Go: From Cuba to Freedom on God’s Mercy* by Joe Morris Doss, rector of Grace Episcopal Church in New Orleans from 1971
to 1985 and Mandeville resident; *Natchitoches and Louisiana’s Timeless Cane River* by Baton Rouge photographer Phillip Gould and Richard Seale, manager of Fort St. Jean Babtist State Historic Site, and others; and *The Alligator Book*, photographs and text by C. C. Lockwood, renowned photographer and resident of Baton Rouge.

Two books stemming from the Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures series, sponsored by the LSU History Department, were published during the past year: *Hearts of Darkness: Wellsprings of a Southern Literary Tradition* by Bertram Wyatt-Brown and *A Sphinx on the American Land: The Nineteenth-Century South in Comparative Perspective* by Peter Kolchin.

Other books of special interest published during the past year include *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War* by DeAnne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook; *Locales: Poems From the Fellowship of Southern Writers* edited by Fred Chappell; *Southern Excursions: Views on Southern Letters in My Time* by George Garrett and edited by James Conrad McKinley; *Autumn Grasses: Poems* by Margaret Gibson; *Do I Owe You Something?: A Memoir of the Literary Life* by Michael Mewshaw; *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock* by Francis Augustín O’Reilly; *Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864* by Gordon Rhea; and *My Father’s People: A Family of Southern Jews* by Louis D. Rubin Jr.

The 2001 winner of the Kemper and Leila Williams Prize from the Historic New Orleans Collection--announced in 2003--was *Reconstruction in the Cane Fields: From Slavery to Free Labor in Louisiana’s Sugar Parishes, 1862-1880* by John C. Rodrigue, associate
professor of history at LSU. Some of the other prizes and awards received by Press titles and authors during the past year include the 2002 Anisfield-Wolf Lifetime Achievement Award to Jay Wright for the body of his work; the Laney Prize to Richard B. McCaslin for *Lee in the Shadow of Washington*; the Willie Lee Rose Prize to Elizabeth Urban Alexander for *Notorious Woman: The Celebrated Case of Myra Clark Gaines*; the Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award to Gordon C. Rhea for *Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864*; the C. Hugh Holman Award to Charlotte Beck for *The Fugitive Legacy: A Critical History*; the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to T. R. Hummer for the body of his work; the Best Book of Poetry Award to Reginald Gibbons for *It’s Time: Poems*; the Capital District Civil War Round Table Book Award to Francis Augustín O’Reilly for *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock*; the Southeast Booksellers Association Book Award for Poetry to Kathryn Stripling Byer for *Catching Light: Poems*; the Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award to Vincent Fitzpatrick for *Gerald W. Johnson: From Southern Liberal to National Conscience; The Companion to Southern Literature: Themes, Genres, Places, People, Movements, and Motifs* edited by Joseph M. Flora and Lucinda H. MacKethan was named as Outstanding Reference Source by the Reference and User Services Association of the American Library Association. Michael W. Fitzgerald received the Lincoln Prize Honorable Mention, sponsored by the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College, for *Urban Emancipation: Popular Politics in Reconstruction Mobile, 1860-1890*. The Co-Winner of the 2003 Poet’s Prize, sponsored by the Nicholas Roerich Museum, was Betty Adcock for *Intervale: New and Selected Poems*. The 2003 Humanities Book of the Year, sponsored by the Louisiana
Endowment for the Humanities, was *Plantations by the River: Watercolor Paintings from St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, By Father Joseph M. Paret, 1859* by Marcel Boyer and edited by Jay D. Edwards, Kniffen Professor of Anthropology at LSU.

**Committee:**

Margaret R. Parker (Chair)
Nicholas G. Apostolou
Sue G. Bartlett
Gaines M. Foster
Ronald G. Garay
Cecile E. Guin
John W. Lowe
Mark J. Zucker