

Saundra Barrett Taylor

Associate Librarian and Curator of Manuscripts;

Adjunct Associate Professor of Library and Information Science

Saundra Taylor, curator of manuscripts at the Lilly Library, has devoted her career to the organization and study of the original source materials of history and literature. She has been active in a number of professional organizations, and through her teaching, has passed on her knowledge to generations of students who now hold important positions in libraries and archives throughout the world.

Saundra was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and moved with her family to California's San Fernando Valley in the mid-1950s. After earning her master's degree in European history from the University of California, Los Angeles, she entered the Library School at UCLA and earned her master's degree in library science. After receiving her M.L.S., Saundra began her professional career in 1968 as historical manuscripts librarian in the Department of Special Collections of the UCLA Library, and then also assumed the role of assistant university archivist in 1970. In late 1974, she accepted the position of curator of manuscripts at the Lilly Library of Indiana University Bloomington, where she began work in January 1975 and has remained ever since.

The work of a curator is multifaceted, and Saundra has embraced and fulfilled all of its aspects. She has been instrumental in a number of significant acquisitions for the Lilly Library, including many important collections of modern literary manuscripts, American historical documents, and interesting correspondence in many fields. She was actively involved in the Lilly Library's collecting of manuscripts relating to the production of motion pictures, including the papers of film directors Orson Welles, John Ford, Peter Bogdanovich, and Federico Fellini, as well as those of film critic and historian Pauline Kael.

Saundra has produced many exhibitions drawn from the Lilly's manuscript collections, including well-received exhibitions on twentieth-century literary manuscripts; the letters of prominent American, British, French, and German authors; Indiana politicians; the development of newspaper comic strips; and exhibitions focusing on the lives and works of Robert Graves, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Malcolm Bradbury, Athol Fugard, and Emily Hahn. The catalogues and handlists produced for some of these exhibitions continue to introduce readers to the variety of manuscripts held in the collections of the Lilly Library. In addition to her exhibition catalogues, Saundra has also published articles on several other areas of the Lilly's manuscripts collections, including the papers of Emmet Hoyt Scott, Civil War era manuscripts, and the S. Fischer Verlag papers.

Saundra has long been active in several professional organizations and was a founding member of the Society of California Archivists in 1970. She has also been a longtime member of the Midwest Archives Conference, the Society of Indiana Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library

Association, and the Manuscript Society. Her work in the Manuscript Society over the last decade has been particularly extensive, and Sandra continues to serve as a member of the society's board of trustees and the chair of the honors committee.

Sandra has also been a leading figure among manuscript professionals in Indiana and has served on the advisory boards of the Indiana Archives and Manuscripts Survey, the Lew Wallace Papers Project of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana State Library and Historical Board, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, to whose Indiana board she was appointed by Governor Robert D. Orr. For her important work on the preservation of the Hoosier heritage, Sandra was recognized by Governor Orr in 1988 as a "Sagamore of the Wabash," at that time the highest award that an Indiana governor could bestow.

In addition to her curatorial and professional activities, Sandra has also taught, since 1977, an annual course on the Principles of Administration of Manuscripts and Personal Papers for the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science, which has recognized her with the title of adjunct associate professor. Sandra's course has always been a popular one, and she has kept in close touch with many of her students, who have gone on to hold responsible positions at libraries and archives both large and small.

Sandra has also long been an avid traveler, and in addition to visits to Western and Eastern Europe, she has traveled to Turkey, China, Russia, Easter Island, New Zealand, and Australia. She has also been a longtime loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the Indiana Hoosiers' basketball and football teams. Retirement will give Sandra more opportunities to travel, more leisure to devote herself to several long-planned projects related to some of the historical collections at the Lilly Library, and more time to dote on her cats, at least, as she says, as much as they will allow it.

Joel Silver