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Accessing a Major Run of Haiti Gazette

One of the most important and useful law-and-governance titles for a Civil Law jurisdiction like Haiti is its official gazette or journal. The official gazette for a civil law country is the principal vehicle for promulgating its laws, subsidiary legislation, and other governmental enactments. Therefore, from the onset of its special, post-earthquake, collection building project for Haiti, LLMC has been chipping away at aggregating a full online run of this essential title.

It has not been easy. As our colleagues who specialize in foreign and comparative law know well, few libraries have access to the official gazettes of any of the civil law countries. Moreover, those few that do have some of these titles often hold only partial runs. So we knew from the start that assembling a full, online run of the gazette for a poor country like Haiti would be a challenge. The formal title for Haiti's official gazette is *Le Moniteur; Journal Officiel de la Republique D'Haiti*. It started publication in 1844. This means that our target run spans 169 years.

Over the past four years LLMC has acquired access to portions of the title from four law libraries: Columbia, LC, Michigan, and Tulane. By merging their incomplete runs we were able to assemble full volumes for 34 years and partial volumes for another 9. This is a worthy start to be sure. But, at only 22% of goal, it's woefully short of a full run. It was starting to look like this project was going to involve a very long and tedious trek.

Then, in late August of last year, things took a remarkable turn for the better when a wonderful opportunity surfaced. It was then that we got our first inkling that the U.S. Embassy in

Port au Prince was downsizing its library and was prepared to donate a very substantial run of *Le Moniteur* to a "responsible public repository." We could hardly believe our good luck. The embassy's run is complete from 1 Jan. 1900 to 31 Dec. 1999; 100 years covering close to half of Haiti's history as an independent nation.

Of course, actually making the donation happen took a tad of bureaucratic maneuvering.¹ The U.S. State Department had its own idea of what constituted a "responsible public repository." It passed on several early institutional candidates. The scheme that eventually passed muster will work out as follows. The full 100-year run of *Le Moniteur* will be donated via a property grant from the State Department Office of Public Diplomacy to the Tulane University's Law Library.² Tulane

¹ The hero in these negotiations was Jeremy Lambeth, then a ICT Specialist working in Haiti for ICATT Consulting Inc, of Wash., D.C.. Jeremy has since moved on to become a candidate for a Master's Degree in Sustainable Development at the Univ. of Florida's Center for African and Latin American Studies. He was the essential mediator between Michael Macy, Counselor for Public Affairs at the Port-au-Prince embassy; Brooke Wooldridge, Program Dir., Digital Library of the Caribbean, Florida International Univ. Libraries; and LLMC.

² The footwork at Tulane was deftly executed by James Duggan, Law Lib. Dir.; who got his dean, David D. Meyer, to write a compelling letter formally making the requisite commitments. Tulane proved an especially attractive candidate for State Department consideration because of the geographic, historic, and economic links between New Orleans and the Caribbean region; and uniquely with Haiti's predecessor, the French Colony of St.-Domingue. Having these materials available at the Law Library will also be of significance to faculty and researchers at Tulane's distinguished Stone Center for Latin American Studies. The latter institution will find the *Le Moniteur* run to be a valuable supplement to its existing store of Haitian and Kreyòl materials, which is housed in Tulane's main University Library, less than a block away from the Law School.

has committed to guaranteeing the paper's permanent preservation, its perpetual access to scholars, and the loan of all needed volumes to LLMC for scanning purposes. This latter will ensure that the full run can be offered to the world online via *LLMC-Digital* and the *Digital Library of the Caribbean*.

It is anticipated that the embassy books will be shipped directly to Tulane Law Library in the next few months. After receipt and processing, the necessary gap-filler volumes will be shipped to LLMC in Hawaii for careful step-and-repeat scanning. Judging from the quality of the paper in the volumes that we received from the four libraries that helped us assemble our current partial run, we anticipate that the full scanning project will go slowly and will last at least through 2014, and perhaps into the following year.

In conclusion, and on behalf of all the LLMC member libraries, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the many people, only some of whom we could mention above, who made this wonderful opportunity materialize and come to fruition.

Acquiring a Unique Part of Cuba Gazette

One of the major donors of print materials to LLMC for scanning purposes is the New York Law Institute (NYLI). That great library is prudently preparing for an impending future under much less favorable lease terms in the high-rent Wall Street district. Their principal strategy is to seriously downsize their print holdings in deference to digital. Naturally, LLMC has been a willing partner in the NYLI conversion efforts. To date this partnership has resulted in over 32,000 vols. of high-value law and governance content being made available to the patrons of *LLMC-Digital*.³ Quite apart from the quantity of books involved, the NYLI gifts have been of

³ The bulk of the book donations have been bread-and-butter U.S. federal and state primary materials. In addition, however, LLMC's foreign and comparative law holdings have been significantly enhanced through the gift of many volumes of primary law for other countries and the full NYLI collection of the *Foreign Relations Papers of the United States*.

especially high value to the *LLMC-Digital* project because all of them were eligible for disbinding and economical high-speed scanning. Thus, through this partnership, LLMC has been able to provide its members with much greater return for their dues than it would have been able to had these thousands of books been loans.⁴

Recently, while an LLMC staff member was touring the NYLI library premises to negotiate the next tranche of donations for scanning, he came across a title that had never been cataloged. Apparently misshelved in the Polish collection were nine folio volumes of the *Gazeta de la Habana* covering the years 1899-1902. The *Gazeta* is the official gazette for Cuba. The span 1899-1902 exactly covers the period of U.S. occupation of Cuba subsequent to Spanish colonial rule; from the end of the Spanish-American War to Cuban independence. These valuable journals chronicle the birth of Cuba as a nation. Due to NYLI's generosity, they will soon be offered as one of the crown jewels in the emerging *LLMC-Digital* Cuba Collection.

Mastering the Fraktur Problem

Germanophiles will be aware that, until quite recent times, most German print works (and some Danish and Norwegian) were set in a Gothic font (styled *Fraktur*), rather than the Latin font with which most of us are familiar.⁵ While the use of Fraktur is only

⁴ Of course, all of the NYLI books go to LLMC's dark-archive storage facilities in the Hutchinson, KS, salt mines. Some potential donors may find it useful to know that, for all of these NYLI volumes, LLMC is legally only a bailee. NYLI retains formal ownership in their print materials, with the explicit legal right to reclaim them at will. While that option is not likely to be acted upon anytime soon, it did solve some internal political problems for NYLI. Other potential donors should know that LLMC willingly and routinely enters into this sort of arrangement whenever it may be useful for the donating library.

⁵ This was not done to be perverse. The advocates of Fraktur had arguable grounds for believing that theirs was the superior format. Among various advantages listed in a 1910 textbook for the use of Fraktur were: (footnote concludes on p. 3, Col.A)

mildly confusing to Latin script readers, it plays havoc with modern digital optical-character-recognition (OCR) systems. Texts printed in Fraktur subjected to ordinary OCRing come out as close to garbage.

To date LLMC-Digital offers only a score or so of older German, Danish and Norwegian titles. But now, given our recent expansion of

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- German script is more readable; i.e. the word images are clearer than Latin script.
 - German script is more compact in printing; an advantage for fast recognition of word images.
 - German script more suitably expresses the German language, and is more adapted to its characteristics than Latin script.
 - German script makes it easier for foreigners to understand the German language.
 - German script does not cause nearsightedness and is healthier for the eyes than Latin script.
 - German script is still prone to development, while Latin script is set in stone.
 - German script is understood all over the world, where it is often used as ornamental script.
 - Latin script will gradually lose its position as the international script through the progress of the Anglo-Saxon (i.e., Germanic) world.
 - The use of Latin script for German language would promote its infestation with foreign words.
 - German script does not impede the spread of German language and culture in other countries.

In their time, these arguments were convincing enough for the likes of Otto von Bismark. He even refused to accept gifts of books printed in Latin script. Fatally, however, they did not convince one Adolph Hitler, who took an intense dislike to Fraktur and championed Germany's conversion to the Latin font. In a 1934 speech to the Reichstag, he predicted: *"In a hundred years, our language will be THE European language. The nations of the east, the north and the west will, to communicate with us, learn OUR language. The prerequisite for this is that the script called Gothic be replaced by the script called Latin."* At least with regard to the demise of Fraktur, Herr Hitler was prophetic. In his *Normalschriftenlass* of 3 Jan. 1941, Martin Bormann, Nazi Party Chancellor, decreed it *wrong to describe the so-called Gothic script as a German script. In reality, the so-called Gothic script consists of Schwabacher Jew letters. Just as they later took control of the newspapers...the Jews residing in Germany took control of the printing presses; and thus in Germany the Schwabacher Jew letters were forcefully introduced.* That threw down the gauntlet, and by 1945 Fraktur had been completely suppressed in German publishing.

our foreign language handling capacity, we can see many more such titles coming through the pipeline. So it was time to resolve the Fraktur problem. As we attempted this there were some initial complexities involved in making the available OCR Fraktur components work with the *LLMC-Digital* interface. However, we can now report that those difficulties have been resolved, and that a very serviceable system for OCRing Fraktur is now in place.

Given that, LLMC has gone back and re-OCR'd the score or so titles that were already online. We are happy to report that the OCRing came out as "near perfect"; which is the highest standard for OCRing, even for Latin script. In future, of course, all new titles in Fraktur will be flagged during processing and routed through the enhanced OCRing system.

Expanding the Native American Collection

In LLMC's microfiche years, its Native American Collection (NAC) was one of its most widely adopted offerings. The collection was ground-breaking in its time for both scope and depth. It was also, of course, the most economical means possible for a library to acquire wide research capacity in this high-interest field. The fiche NAC's popularity has been echoed by our digital subscribers. Requests to digitize the complete fiche holdings of the NAC is one of the most common user suggestions that we receive.

In response, for the past decade we have been chipping away at that goal by scanning every hardcopy NAC title that we could lay our hands on. In result, a large number of the fiche NAC titles are now online. However, the bulk of the fiche titles still need migration. So we have decided that it's time to speed up this project. Given that the processes for digitization from film have now been so much improved, and that the great bulk of the images derived from those processes are now thoroughly acceptable, we have decided that we need no longer wait for the fortuitous accessibility of print copies of the remaining titles. Instead, we have begun to methodically work our way through digitizing all remaining portions of the fiche collection.

A copy of the Table of Contents for the catalog describing the fiche NAC is accessible at http://www.llmc.com/Historical_NatAmer.asp

In this gap-filling project we are proceeding directly through that TOC. To date we have filled in all gaps among the titles described in the following sections: *Basic Legal Documents*, pp. 1-134; *Secondary Documents*, pp. 13-14; *Treaties with Federal and State Governments*, pp. 15-19, and *Congress Generally*, p. 20. At current rates of production, we hope to wind up this gap-filling process late in 2014 or early in 2015.

In addition to filling gaps relative to the LLMC fiche NAC, we are also working with the Library of Congress to supplement our online NAC with a substantial number of new titles from the LC print and microform collections. During 2014 we expect to add more than 400 titles being digitized from their print collections. In addition, we are now viewing lists of LC's microform holdings to identify relevant law-and-governance titles that also would constitute worthwhile additions to the online NAC corpus.

All of this work complements, and is being closely coordinated with LC's ongoing efforts toward the reclassification of their Native American holdings. Both through that effort, and also by means of LC's constantly improving online Native American classification portal, all of these materials will be given improved visibility and accessibility. To quote Dr. Jolande Goldberg, Chief Specialist in the Policy & Standards Division, Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access Directorate of LC (and, incidentally, a valued LLMC Advisory Council member): *As American Indian law gains tracking, we will need schedules that, finally, serve reference and research better. At LC we are finalizing the draft revision of the Native American KF schedules for review by the Law Library's reference specialists and the CRS Native American law specialists. After that we will be posting it on our PSD public site for community comment. I will let you know when it goes up and send you a link.* For our part, at LLMC, we will publicize that link in a future issue of this newsletter.

The Inner Temple Library Slide Show

In January we added a second slide show to the pictorial backstories illustrating Special Featured Collections on the *LLMC-Digital* interface. Our first pictorial backstory was focused on our emerging Cuba Collection. It will soon be followed in its series by a similar pictorial presentation for Haiti.

However, the show unveiled in January, featuring The Inner Temple Library, launches a new series, which we are calling "The Great Legacy Law Libraries". In this new series we plan to celebrate several of the major law libraries whose collection-building and preservation efforts over the past centuries have assembled and shaped the legal bibliographic patrimony that we are currently migrating into a contemporary searchable format. Our law library world wouldn't exist in its present enriched form had it not been for the sustained, and sometimes heroic, efforts of these formative institutions. We would like to illuminate their accomplishments and celebrate their contributions for the benefit of new generations of law librarians and law library users who may otherwise never know where all these treasures have come from.

We are privileged to start this series by featuring the Inner Temple Library, through whose generous cooperation we are steadily building our Inner Temple Library Manuscripts Collection on *LLMC-Digital*.⁶ Viewers should be aware that the 95 images that we offer on our site are only a sampling from the hundreds of images illustrating various story lines that appear on Inner Temple Library's own web site.⁷

The next library to be featured in our Great Legacy Library Series will be the New York Law Institute, which, as described on p.2 above, has been one of the major donors of hardcopy materials for *LLMC-Digital*.

Internship Program with our Host Campus

As longtime readers know, LLMC's headquarters building in Hawaii, where the bulk of

⁶ See LLMC Title Numbers 09109, 09191, 09192, 09193, 09194 & 09195.

⁷ See <<http://www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/>>

our scanning activities take place, enjoys a nominal lease on one of the community college campuses of the University of Hawaii. This longtime and happy relationship contributes massively to the success of our project, by enabling us to devote all of our revenues to our primary mission. We therefore are delighted to take any opportunity to prove ourselves good neighbors to our local host, the University of Hawaii's Windward Community College.

In that spirit we were pleased to be able to enter into an internship program with the college. In this partnership some of their students will be able to earn academic credit for doing unpaid work at LLMC related to their career goals, while LLMC will contribute the training. The first such student under this program, Hope Rayman, started her internship with us this past week. She will be working four hours a week during this semester as a scanner in our rare book, step-and-repeat operations. Hope's career ambition is to become an archivist. For our part we hope that her time spent with us will prove to be a real contribution toward that goal.