



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2010

CONTACT:
Joy Testa Cinquino,
716- 858-7182 testaj@buffalolib.org

VALUABLE BOOK COLLECTION DONATED TO BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

1st edition Arabian Nights set from philanthropists Dr. & Mrs. Richard Lee

A rare first edition of *The Book of the Thousand Nights and A Night, a Plain and Literal Translation of the Arabian Nights Entertainments* was donated to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System today. Rare book collectors Dr. Richard and Susan Lee of Orchard Park presented the Library with the ten volume set during a special reception at the downtown Central Library at Lafayette Square.

Translated and annotated by Sir Richard Francis Burton in 1885, the ten volume collection is based on centuries-old Middle Eastern and South Asian stories and folk tales originally compiled in Arabic.

“Sir Richard Francis Burton was a Victorian explorer who wrote in his forward that this translation was a ‘labor of love and an unfailing source of solace and satisfaction,’ ” said Dr. Lee, adding that “this inspiring collection of old tales, myths, and magic of past story telling resides within our collective memory and engages and entertains present day readers.”

The *Arabian Nights* compilation will join the Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections. Special Collections include unique, rare, priceless and/or locally significant materials in **genealogy, local history, and music**. The **Rare Book** collection is comprised of over 40,000 books and thousands of non-book items such as artwork, photographs, newspapers, maps and posters. Notable holdings include the first four Shakespeare folios and Mark Twain’s original *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* manuscript.

“The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System is one of the premier libraries in the United States,” said Victor A. Rice, Chairman of the Library Foundation Board. “It was supported and built by ambitious community businessmen, academics, and others nearly 175 years ago and holds a rich collection of science, history and philosophy, thanks to the generosity, then and now, of people like Richard and Susan Lee, who are passionate about books, old and new, and are active in literary societies.”

Earlier this year, the Lees’ donated a significant collection of Charles Darwin’s first editions to the UB Libraries which were then featured in the *Darwin: The Origin of Influence* exhibit here at Central Library. The Library System gratefully accepts tax-deductible financial gifts to support initiatives to protect, expand, and make our collection accessible for generations to come. To learn more call, 716-858-7182 or visit the Library System website at www.buffalolib.org.

