Belgian Artist Has Honored American Liberators

May 23, 2011

We are now preparing for Memorial Day, honoring those who gave their lives in service to this nation. Belgian artist Christine Kermaire has been moved by the American cemeteries located in her native country, final resting places of Americans who died in the liberation of Europe. Like the late Art Professor Bernard Solomon here, Ms. Kermaire is well-known for her artists' books, a number of which she has donated to the Library. All of these works are avant-garde, often employing highly unconventional features. Her 2007 work, *World Libraries of Artists' Books*, for example, contains an edible micro-card (so far unconsumed) inside stiff black bifold paper. In 2008 she donated *The Silent Host*, a book giving the fullest possible information on the Ardennes American Cemetery, one of 14 in Europe, and listing the names, death dates, locations of graves, serial numbers and decorations of the 5,328 dead and missing memorialized there. One of these was pilot Rufus Stewart, who before entering service had worked at the Agricultural Adjustment Administration office in downtown Statesboro. Two years later came *I Listen to the Snow Shrouding Me Forever*, which gave similarly exhaustive information about those buried at Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery and Memorial. One of these was PFC James Alvin Lanier of Nevils, of the 2nd Armored Division, who was killed while manning his tank during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Henderson Library is highly grateful to Ms. Kermaire for her generous donations.

Marvin Goss

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Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium

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