

## Ken and Thelma: The Story of A Confederacy of Dunces

### *Contents:*

74 items (memorabilia, original book drafts, articles and text) in clear sleeves  
5 framed photographs by Jackie Brenner, National Endowment for the Arts Fellow  
5 text panels 40"x30"  
Images, individual labels and text material are available on disk

### *Space:*

50 linear feet and 300 square feet

### *Standards*

77LUX (7 foot-candles)  
Constant 68-73 degrees F.  
Constant 50-55% humidity

### *Security:*

Moderate  
unframed items must be presented in secure cases

### *Description:*

*A Confederacy of Dunces* is the remarkable story of how a celebrated and much-loved novel was nearly lost, but then miraculously saved. It combines two stories, one of a gifted writer, John Kennedy Toole, who penned the novel and died at a young age thinking his life had been a failure. The second story focuses on his mother, Thelma Toole, an indomitable force who overcame enormous grief, illness, and profound disappointment with her own life, to persevere until she saw her son's work go on to publication. Thelma lived long enough to savor the great success that the novel finally realized. Her son's *A Confederacy of Dunces* went on to earn a Pulitzer Prize, staking its claim among other American literary classics. The exhibit contains first editions, original manuscripts, historical photographs and personal effects. Jackie Brenner's photographs were commissioned specifically for the exhibition and illustrate scenes taken from the novel. The text panels follow Toole's career and the history of his Mother's efforts. Objects are loaned to the Museum of Arts and Sciences from the collection Joel Fletcher, author of *Ken and Thelma* and from the Tulane University Library. Mr. Fletcher may also be retained for presentations. His book is available from The University of Louisiana Press. Internet address: <http://kenandthelma.com>.



Jackie Brenner 2003

Bartenders at the Sazerac  
*silverprint*

from the collection of John Copenhaver and Joel Fletcher

**PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD LUSSKY  
CURATOR OF TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS  
MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA  
386.255.0285 x313 [cur8or@moas.org](mailto:cur8or@moas.org)**



Schoen Funeral Home  
 Jackie Brenner 2003  
*silverprint*  
 from the collection of John Copenhaver and  
 Joel Fletcher



Gravestone of John Kennedy Toole  
 Jackie Brenner 2003  
*silverprint*  
 from the collection of John Copenhaver and  
 Joel Fletcher



Toole-Hecker House  
 Jackie Brenner 2003  
*Silverprint*  
 from the collection of John Copenhaver and Joel Fletcher



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