

ACORN | Chronicle

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WINDOWS
TO THE MAYA WORLD



Paul M. Gherman

Research libraries enjoy milestones that mark key events in their history, and the addition of a millionth volume is an exceptionally rare event. It took the Library 93 years—from the founding of the University until 1966—to reach its first millionth volume; the second was achieved in only 26 short years; and our third millionth volume will be added in 2004, after just 12 years. The ever more rapid succession of millionth volumes is a clear indication of both the growth of new information and the University's commitment to supporting our students and faculty with the most up-to-date and complete information possible.

We are deeply indebted to the Wills family for each of our millionth volumes. Each generation of the Wills family, beginning with Jessie Ely Wills, has come forward to commemorate our milestones with a very special book that would be beyond our reach under normal circumstances. This most recent gift of *Monuments Anciens du Mexique* given by Betsy and Ridley Wills III is no exception to the family's generosity and dedication to the excellence of the Vanderbilt Library.

This latest milestone is an indication of the expansion of our paper-based collection but gives no indication of the even more explosive growth of electronic

Poindexter Gift Provides Valuable Historical Source

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Poindexter the library has been able to acquire another valuable historical source that is both rare and is also related to the three millionth volume being given by Ridley III and Betsy Wills.

Description of the Ruins of an Ancient City Discovered near Palenque in the Kingdom of Guatemala (London: 1822) by Antonio del Rio has been described as the first book devoted to Maya archaeology.

Captain del Rio was sent by the Spanish Crown in 1787 on an expedition to Mexico to investigate rumors of treasure in the region of Chiapas. He was the first European to devote serious attention to the ruins at Palenque and employed local Indians to clear it. Because of the wars in Europe and Spain the report was not given attention until after the final defeat of Napoleon. The manuscript resurfaced—having been lost in the archives of Guatemala—and was published in England with the initial drawings by Count Jean Frédéric de Waldeck.

This work is a classic source in the field of Maya archaeology and ethnohistorical research. It relates both to the College of Arts and Sciences' curricular focus and to the Library's special collections on Latin American travel.

information brought about by the World Wide Web. Just eight years ago, we had 25 electronic journals; now we have more than 16,000. We have 100,000 electronic books readily available to all our faculty and students, a mouse click away from their homes, offices, and dorm rooms. And there is no need to check the electronic book out or ever return it.

Students in art history can review art slides from individual lectures via their computers in their dorm rooms, or students studying music can listen to course-required composers without ever entering the Potter Music Library. Librarians can be asked reference questions almost any time of the day or night via our Ask Us service. Each of these quiet milestones are indeed steps toward providing access to the world's knowledge to our students and faculty in an almost transparent fashion that frequently goes unnoticed. In today's world there is often a casual acceptance of the extraordinary.

But the acquisition of a very rare and beautiful three millionth volume is a landmark in the life of a great library that should not go unnoticed, and so we celebrate the Wills family gifts with pride, accomplishment, and a deep thankfulness.

—PAUL M. GHERMAN

"It is a happy coincidence that this first account of Maya exploration includes the early sketches by Waldeck, and our three millionth volume chronicles the second exploration with the full-blown illustrations by Waldeck," said Paula Covington, Latin American and Iberian bibliographer "These two works will serve as a cornerstone to our Mesoamerican collection and we are deeply grateful to the Poindexters both for this significant book and for enriching our collections by establishing and supporting this Humanities fund."



Where There's a Wills,

BY LEW HARRIS

Where there's a Wills, there's a way when it comes to supporting the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

Ridley Wills III and his wife Betsy, immediate past president of the Friends of the Library, are giving the three millionth volume to the library, keeping alive a family tradition. Ridley's father, Ridley Wills II of Franklin, contributed the two millionth book to the library and his grandfather, the late Jesse Ely Wills, gave the one millionth volume.

"With this donation, the Wills family continues their long and generous tradition of helping to strengthen the Vanderbilt Library," says Marshall Eakin, president of the Friends of the Library and professor and chair of the Department of History. "The Vanderbilt community owes the family a great debt of gratitude for all they have done to help make Vanderbilt one of the premier universities in the United States and the world."

Jesse Ely Wills, BA'22, was a member of the famed Fugitives literary group centered at Vanderbilt, as was his cousin Ridley. Jesse was a Phi Beta Kappa student at Vanderbilt and a fine poet. He was invited to join the Fugitives



Ridley Wills III and his wife Betsy at their home, Meade Haven.

There's a Way

tives in 1922. Wills went on to become chairman of the board of the National Life and Accident Insurance Co.

He helped establish the Fugitive Room as a depository for Fugitive papers and manuscripts as part of the H. Fort Flowers wing of Central Library. Wills also continued to write poetry and prose until late in his life. *Nashville and Other Poems*, for example, was published in 1973, just four years before his death.

The Wills Collection

The Wills Collection gathers together the published works of the Fugitive and Agrarian groups. The collection now numbers more than 1,300 volumes and includes all monographs of the 24 figures, secondary scholarly material and the writings of their disciples and associates.

Little did Betsy (McNamara) Wills, BA'89, MEd'02, realize while writing a paper on the Fugitives as a Vanderbilt undergraduate that she would one day marry into a family that included a prominent member of that group. An English major with a strong love of poetry, she felt an immediate kindred spirit with the family.

"Some of my favorite classes at Vanderbilt were poetry," she says. "I wrote the paper on the Fugitives before I met Ridley. Being an English major at Vanderbilt, there was no escaping studying the Fugitives."

Betsy and Ridley met her junior year at Vanderbilt. Her parents were friends of Ridley's parents, but the two children had never met.

When her parents' home burned, they moved in next door to Ridley's parents while their home was being rebuilt. That was when she and Ridley were first introduced. "It's a good thing that came out of a bad thing," she said.

Jesse Ely Wills' home, Meade Haven, is now the residence of Ridley III, Betsy and their two children, Meade and Ridley IV. They bought and restored the home after it was damaged by a fire. The home has a major literary heritage because it was the site of a reunion of the Fugitives in 1956.

"The photograph that's often associated with that reunion was taken in our back yard in some rough-hewn wooden outside chairs," says Ridley II. "I was a senior at Vanderbilt that year and I was here and saw the event. I gave that photograph of the Fugitives to Betsy and Ridley as a housewarming gift."

Fugitive Donald Tate was an especially close friend of Jesse Wills and often dropped by Meade Haven. Both Ridley II and Ridley III remember his visits. Fugitives Merrill Moore and Alec Stephenson would also come by. All were colleagues of famed Fugitive writer Robert Penn Warren, who was called "Red" by his friends. Ridley II recalls a story that involved both his father and Warren.

A Chance Meeting with "Red" Warren

"One winter day back in the mid-Twenties, daddy was driving near the campus and saw Red Warren. Daddy rolled down the window of his automobile and signaled for Red to stop. Red stopped his car

and daddy recited from memory a poem that Red had read at the most recent meeting of the Fugitives. Decades later, Red wrote my father and said how touched he was that daddy had thought enough of his poem to memorize it and recite it a week after he had delivered it."

Warren won a Pulitzer Prize in 1947 for his novel, *All the King's Men*. He also won two Pulitzer Prizes for poetry and became the poet laureate of the United States in 1986.

"One winter day back in the mid-Twenties, daddy was driving near the campus and saw Red Warren...Red stopped his car and daddy recited from memory a poem that Red had read at the most recent meeting of the Fugitives."

Ridley II, BA'56, inherited Jesse Wills' business acumen and writing ability. He retired as senior vice president of American General Life and Accident Insurance Company in 1983. For the next 15 years he wrote books and taught Nashville history at Belmont University. He also taught the Nashville history course for a number of years as part of an adult education program at Montgomery Bell Academy.

Ridley II has authored seven books. Perhaps the best known is *The History of Belle Meade Mansion, Plantation and Stud*, a portrait of "The Queen of Tennessee Plantations." The book was

published by the Vanderbilt Press in 1991 and is still in print and sold at the mansion.

"Mr. Wills exemplifies a true southern historian in his pursuit of knowledge for the history of the Middle Tennessee region," said Elizabeth Gerlach, former archivist at Belle Meade Plantation. "He has thoroughly addressed important issues in the lives of the rich and poor, old and young, urban and rural, and has gone to great lengths to use this information for the education of

citizens and schoolchildren."

Wills is the great-great grandson of William Giles Harding, who was the owner of Belle Meade Plantation. He is the great grandson of Judge Howell E. Jackson, who was elected a U.S. Senator from Tennessee in 1881. Jackson was appointed by President Harrison in 1893 as a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Will there be another Wills to give the four millionth volume? "If the library keeps accumulating a million volumes this quickly, my grandchildren may not be old enough to give the four millionth," quips Ridley II, a member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.

Rare Book *Monuments Anciens du Mexique* Contains Magnificent Illustrations Drawn by Count Waldeck, Who Lived to Age 109... And Died While Eyeing a Beautiful Woman near the Champs-Elysees in Paris

Ridley Wills III and wife Betsy are donating the three millionth volume to the Vanderbilt Library and the book is a fitting reflection of Ridley's interests and avocation.

Ridley's major at the University of Virginia was architectural preservation and he has collected more than one thousand books on American domestic architecture. He is a founder and co-owner of the Wills Company. He started out in business in the preservation of homes and the company now provides high quality renovation and handyman services to Nashville area homeowners.

Ridley and Betsy are happy to provide the rare book. "We feel very privileged to be asked to give the book," says Betsy. "We're very excited to do it."

Monuments Anciens du Mexique by Count Jean Frédéric de Waldeck is a classic early source on Maya archaeology, produced just as European and North American

audiences began to appreciate the magnificence of the great building programs of the Mayan rulers. The work remains a key resource for archaeological and historical research today.

"A Waldeck has not been on the market for a number of years," says Paula Covington, Latin American and Iberian bibliographer at the library and a senior lecturer in Latin American studies. "I am delighted that this book was chosen to be our three millionth volume since it highlights Maya archaeology, a key area of Vanderbilt's programs and one of the unique strengths of our Latin American collection. Further, it is a work that will be studied and used by students and researchers from the varied disciplines of colonial history, pre-Columbian art, archaeology, and anthropology."

The Maya site of Palenque was first partly excavated by Captain Antonio del Rio in 1787, while on an expedition of the Spanish Crown searching for treasure. The first illustrations were those breathtaking ones in the donated volume, drawn in 1832 by Count Waldeck, an Austrian archaeologist and artist. The Count might well merit a book himself. He was active until his death at the alleged age of 109 years and 45 days. He supposedly died of a heart attack while eyeing a beautiful woman near the Champs-Elysees in Paris.

Count Waldeck lived in a palm-thatched hut near the Pyramid of the Temple of the Cross at Palenque for two years (1832-34) while exploring and drawing his magnificent illustrations. Although he returned to Paris three years later, the public had to wait 32 years before the publication of the book, the rarest and most valuable of his work. The Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg, a French priest who traveled to Guatemala, wrote the text

and was responsible for finding the sources that have led to the partial decipherment of Maya hieroglyphs.

Published in Paris in 1866, the valuable acquisition encompasses the complete set of the seven original parts bound in one volume, and 54 lithographic plates of Waldeck's brilliant drawings, a few in color and the others tinted.

"This volume is one of the great treasures in the field of Mesoamerican archaeology," says Marshall Eakin, president of the Friends of the Library and professor and chair of the Department of History. "The illustrations of Maya ruins, drawn from one of the first archaeological expeditions to the region in the early 19th century, are priceless windows into the world of the Mayas. They provide us with a glimpse of that world before the onslaught of modern development and treasure hunters. This beautiful book will provide a wonderful addition to our internationally renowned program and collections in Mesoamerican and Latin American Studies."

-LEW HARRIS



Riley Donates Rare, Valuable Civil War Book Collection to Library



Dr. Harris "Pete" Riley Jr. in front of historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin. His great grandfather, Ira Allen, died in the Battle of Franklin and is buried in the Confederate Cemetery adjacent to Carnton.

Dr. Harris D. Riley Jr. didn't play cowboys and Indians while growing up. He and his boyhood friends in Tupelo, Miss., played Confederate soldiers against Union troops.

"I grew up on a Civil War battlefield," Riley says, referring to the Battle of Harrisburg, also known as the Battle of Tupelo. "We would find Civil War miniballs (round bullets) now and then. I became interested in the Civil War back then." He said it was not unusual to see aging Confederate veterans around town, and wishes he had listened closer when his grandfather invited veterans to his home to reminisce about the war.

Riley, an internationally-renowned pediatrician, began collecting Civil War books in his 20's and, has recently donated his valuable collection to Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library. He earned both his undergraduate and medical degrees at Vanderbilt.

"Dr. Riley was a collector over many years and therefore had the opportunity to acquire items which, toward the later years of his life, have become so rare as to be almost totally unobtainable," noted John R. Elder of Elder's Bookstore in Nashville. Elder's specializes in Southern, Civil War, and Tennessee history volumes. "The strong point of the (Riley) collection is the many first or early editions, which in recent years are available on the market only in reprint. The overall condition of the books is good for their age and, equally advantageous, most are still in their original bindings."

According to Elder, some of the more valuable items include an 1868 copy of *The Campaigns of Lt. Gen. N.B. Forrest and Forrest's Cavalry*. Also, there is a signed copy of John Wyeth's *Life of Forrest*, a fine copy of *Reminiscences of Winfield Scott Hancock* by Hancock's wife, and J.B. Jones' *Rebel War Clerk's Diary*. Another valuable piece is the 71-volume *Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies and Navies*. Many of the books have publication dates before 1900. There is also a full 40-year run of *Confederate Veteran* magazine, published in Nashville beginning in 1893.

Riley's son Steven, a Nashville attorney, recalls how his father acquired many of his Civil War books. "The way I remember it is that we had books all over everywhere because he might go to a pediatric convention in New York, for exam-

ple, and then a week later there would be this shipment of boxes where he had gone into some bookstore, found some books, bought them, and had them sent home. Fortunately, we had a big house. As each of us (three children) would go off to college, our rooms would become libraries or at least storage rooms."

During the summers, Steve recalls, the Rileys would return to Mississippi to visit relatives and his father would take his family to visit various Civil War battlefields.

Riley Volumes Complement Other Library Collections

The Riley volumes will complement two other major collections at the library—the Stanley Horn Collection and the Sam Fleming Southern Civilization Collection. The Horn material includes several extremely valuable letters written by Andrew Jackson as well as more than 4,000 books, most of them focusing on the Civil War and reconstruction.

The Fleming Southern Civilization Collection consists of published materials on the social, intellectual, and educational history of the South since the Civil War. Also contained in the collections are first editions of Southern literacy by authors not closely associated with the Fugitives, including those of George Washington Cable, Thomas Dixon, Eudora Welty, Elizabeth Spence, Tennessee Williams, Walker Percy and others. An important component is a collection of pamphlets covering such topics as civil rights, tenant farming, labor, women's history, industry, social reform, public health, and education.

"We feel the Riley Collection will give us another avenue to explore in Southern history and culture," said Kathleen Smith, associate University archivist.

Riley has combined his medical and Civil War history knowledge to write a number of articles in such periodicals as *The Quarterly of Military History*, *Confederate Veteran*, *Civil War Illustrated*, *Journal of Mississippi History*, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, and *Military Order of the Stars and Bars*.

He wrote a fascinating article in *Civil War Illustrated* about the significant medical problems that plagued Gen. Robert E. Lee during the course of the Civil War. Riley says Lee apparently suffered at various times during the war from a broken bone in his hand, a sprained wrist, angina pectoris (a temporary decrease in the supply of blood to the heart muscle), atherosclerosis (a generalized circulatory disease due to the hardening of the arteries), high blood pressure (although instruments to measure blood pressure had not yet been invented), hypertension, rheumatism, malaria, and diarrhea.

Riley is recognized as the authority on the health of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. His two-part article on Davis that appeared in the *Journal of Mississippi History* is the standard reference for scholars and authors researching Davis, many of whom have phoned Riley for information or cited his work in their books.

"Jefferson Davis developed some type of eye infection during the Civil War," Riley says. "One doctor called it malaria and another called it dysentery. The eye problem was almost certainly due

to herpes simplex—not the herpes that causes a venereal disease, but a viral agent. It's interesting to read what the various doctors thought about the cause of the condition. It seems very clear that Jefferson Davis was in such pain all the time from this eye infection that it had to account for some of his difficult days."

Combining Medicine with Civil War

Riley always managed to combine his interest in the Civil War with an unwavering commitment to medicine. He walked the battlefields at Gettysburg and the battlegrounds in Virginia during the time he was interning in Baltimore. After residency training at Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, he returned to Vanderbilt to complete his residency training under his mentor, Dr. Amos Christie. He and Christie even collaborated on a Civil War article that was published in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. During that time, Riley walked the Battle of Franklin fields and located the grave of his great grandfather, Ira Allen Sr., who had been killed in that battle and is buried in the Confederate Cemetery at Carnton Plantation. Another great grandfather was wounded in the same battle and underwent amputation at the hip but survived. (The mortality rate for amputations at the hip during the Civil War was approximately 90 percent, according to Riley.)

Pediatric honors far beyond the norm have been bestowed on Riley, who has published more than 800 medical articles during his career. Riley said his interest in pediatrics grew because of the profound impact a physician can have on an ill child.

"If a physician sees me with a problem, there's relatively little he can do except maybe make me comfortable," Riley explains. "If I have a seven-year-old that I can do something for, I can give that child 70 years. That's one reason why I chose pediatrics. Another was because Dr. Christie was such an inspirational leader."

He was named as professor of pediatrics and head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1958 and was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics there in 1976. The Riley Infectious Disease Unit at the Children's Hospital of Oklahoma was named in his honor. The Harris D. Riley Jr. Pediatric Society at the University of Oklahoma was founded by many of the appreciative physicians who studied under him over the years. The Harris D. Riley Jr. Endowed Chair in Pediatric Graduate Education at the University of Oklahoma was also established in his honor.

During his years in Oklahoma, Riley became involved in Indian health issues and also interested in the history of Indians who had fought in the Civil War. He returned to Vanderbilt in 1991 as a professor of pediatrics and chairman of the Amos Christie Society Summer Scholars program. He was named a professor of pediatrics emeritus in 2002.

Riley, who served with the Navy during World War II and with the Air Force during the Korean War, says his wife Peg "is delighted I'm giving away my books," but admits that parting with his Civil War collection is "almost like losing one of my children."

—LEW HARRIS

The Thrill of the Next Page

BY MICHAEL SIMS

Michael Sims has been on the Vanderbilt University staff twice, first as a researcher in the Special Collections and Archives and second as Assistant Curator of Fine Art. He is the author of two books and hundreds of articles and reviews. His most recent book, *Adam's Navel*, was selected as a New York Times Notable Book and a Library Journal Best Science Book of 2003. The following essay is adapted from his talk to the Friends of the Library dinner in November 2003.



My mother introduced me to books by holding me on her lap and reading to me. I remember watching the odd black marks on the page as she translated them for us night after night. Eventually the letters and their groupings were no longer like animal tracks in the mud around a pond, those Babylonian indentations that mean nothing until they're deciphered. They finally matched up with the comforting drone of my mother's voice in my ear.

I could feel her voice through my back and side. Her body was a part of the story and she made me a part of the story. When my mother paused to take a deep breath, my body rose up a little with hers. One way that reading to a child invites participation in a book is this physical manner of channeling excitement through the body of the reader. Is this experience why I have never lost a visceral sense of the talismanic magic of a book? I believe with pagan zeal in a book's ability to hoard another's experience and voice, and its willingness to sit with mythological patience on a shelf until you come along and touch it and it speaks to you—to you, specifically, because it was waiting for you.

It's like that beautiful moment in *Swann's Way*, shortly after Proust's narrator famously talks about how the taste of the madeleine reclaimed his lost memories of childhood: "I find the Celtic belief very reasonable, that the souls of those we have lost are held captive in some inferior creature, in an animal, in a plant, in some inanimate thing, effectively lost to us until the day, which for many never comes, when we happen to pass close to the tree, come into possession of the

object that is their prison. Then they quiver, they call out to us, and as soon as we have recognized them, the spell is broken."

So let's imagine that the talisman that holds the captured soul is a book. Let's imagine that the soul in question is that of the person most difficult to find again in your life: your lost self as a child. I had been a writer for years when I rediscovered the tree in which was held captive the child who had wanted to grow up to be a writer.

My mother is in her late seventies and she doesn't drive. Almost every time I visit my home town of Crossville, Tennessee, I take her to a used bookstore called the Book Cellar. It amuses me that of all the dozens of used bookstores I have browsed in several countries, I found my talisman in the Book Cellar. That the discovery occurred in my home town, while I was with the person who introduced me to books—these details are, I admit, too gaudy to be artistic. If you want sophisticated symbolism, go to literature. Real life provides only cheap and flashy symbolism.

A couple of years ago I was in the Book Cellar with my mother when I saw a matched set of tall hardbacks in the front window. They looked familiar. Perhaps they quivered and called out to me. I walked over and knelt down—and I realized that I was looking at most of the set of *The Golden Treasury of Knowledge*. This series of children's encyclopedias was published in the late 1950s by Golden Press, who also created those wonderful little pocket-size field guides that introduced many of us to the world outside the window.

The series' very *title* still moves me: it promises the cosmos, assures you that learning is the greatest wealth. I am not ashamed to still believe that. Finding those books again was like finding my favorite childhood toy after more than three decades. No, it was like finding the key to the Secret Garden and discovering that, although I am an adult outside the walls, inside it I am still a child. From an early age I felt safe in the garden of books, where I could quietly discover everything at my own pace.

I bought those volumes and revisited the series that I sat on the floor and paged through countless times during my childhood. My hands remember the texture of the slightly stiff pages. My nose remembers their scent. The books aren't arranged alphabetically or by subject. They seem to have been structured to emphasize for the young reader not the order that we try to impose on the universe, but its infinite variety. To me this is where the sciences and the arts meet, in celebrating the splendor of creation. This kind of all-embracing curiosity is poetry, communion, acceptance: a way of facing the universe with humility and joy. It's an attitude present in many of the great scientists—Charles Darwin, Jane Goodall, Albert Einstein.

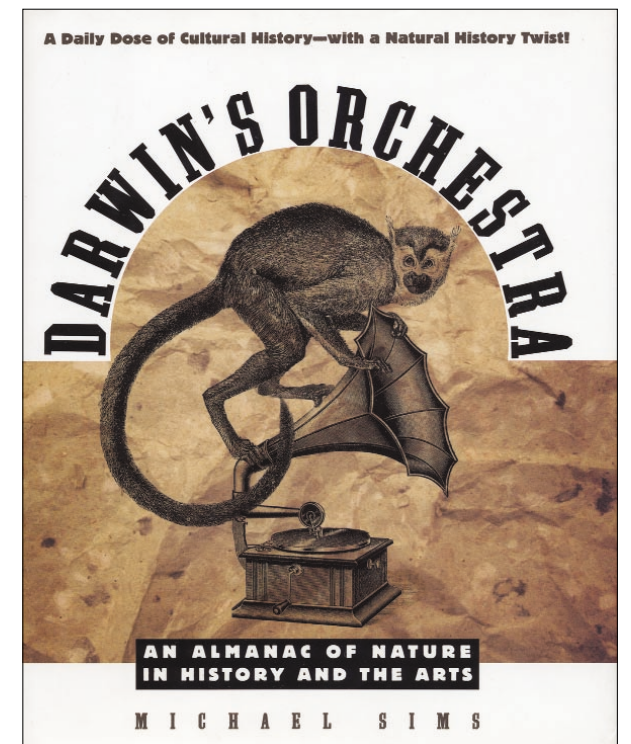
The entries in these books are usually two or three pages long. The illustrations are quaint, their color reproduction primitive. The first entry in volume one establishes a Big Picture approach. It's titled "The Universe." Childhood is not a time for specialists; everybody on the playground is interdisciplinary. Then the book proceeds to On Earth Millions of Years Ago, The Study of Insects, Lightning, Domestic Cats, Marie and Pierre Curie, Hares and Rabbits, Petroleum and Its Uses, Weather Stations, The First Vaccination, Fireflies....

As I looked through these books again after many years, I realized that my oldest memories of certain topics—images in my mind that are so old they seem primordial—came from this source. Consider some of the topics in my own books. The first, *Darwin's Orchestra: An Almanac of Nature in History and the Arts*, which Henry Holt published in 1997, is a book of days—366 of them, one for every day of the year and an extra for Leap Day. I wanted to write brief analyses of and tributes to many different aspects of the way that culture intersects with and responds to nature. I also wanted to write thank-you notes to the topics and artists and scientists who contributed so much to my enjoyment of life.

But I hadn't realized that my interest in these topics dates so far back. In *Darwin's Orchestra* you will find endless variations on the size of the universe and the age of the earth, lots of things about the study of insects, essays on lightning and domestic cats, on how we use water, on hares and rabbits and petroleum and its uses and weather forecasting. You will even find pieces about the first vaccination and, yes, Marie and Pierre Curie.

In other volumes of the *Golden Treasury* you can find such topics as, for example, the way the eye works, the physics of sound, our ability to stand upright, and the similarities between our bones and hair and muscles and those of other creatures. Just as these encyclopedists couldn't squeeze every topic into one book, neither can I. My second book, *Adam's Navel: A Natural and Cultural History of the Human Form*, which Viking and Penguin U.K. published in summer 2003, is more focused and organized, but it also ranges widely. By now you will not be surprised to learn that in this book I examine such topics as, for example, the way the eye works, the physics of sound, our ability to stand upright, and the similarities between our bones and hair and muscles and those of other creatures.

Rereading that modest encyclopedia series began a process that I'm still undergoing: recognizing the connections between childhood play and adult work, acknowledging the emotional importance of some of these longstanding interests. I write because I've never been able to specialize in any field; I can't even choose between the sciences and the arts. I want to play in all of it. Every dance honors the laws of physics. How convenient that a single life can experience poetry, rain, jazz, love, math, sculpture, and pinot grigio. Every day as I sit down at the computer I discover again the emotion that I first knew as a small child, while reading *The Golden Treasury of Knowledge*: the thrill of not knowing what you may find on the next page.



Michael Sims' childhood interest in literature and reading helped spark his career as an author. His first book was *Darwin's Orchestra: An Almanac of Nature In History and the Arts*.

Celebrating the Bard

Several years ago when Vanderbilt was in the midst of a capital fundraising campaign, Professor of English Ann Jennalie Cook made a pledge.

"They asked, 'Well, how do you want this (pledge) to go?'" Cook recalls. "I said, 'I want it to go to the library and I want it to go to purchase Shakespeare material.' It was the library's idea to name the fund after me. That was not my intent at all. In fact, I would have been perfectly comfortable just to know that they were using that money and the income it produces to buy Shakespeare material."

Thus was born the Ann Jennalie Cook Library Acquisition Fund for Shakespeare Studies. It is a perfect complement to Cook's lifelong interest in the Bard. She has been a Life Trustee of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust since 1996, an honor rarely granted an American.

Cook is also a major supporter of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library and currently serves as president of the Heard Society for major benefactors of \$1,000 or more per year. She served a term as president of the Friends of the Library and two terms as vice president of the Friends.

"If you don't have a library, in my judgment, you don't have a university," Cook says.

Cook earned her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt on a Danforth Fellowship in 1972. By 1975, she had become executive secretary of the Shakespeare Association of America, a role in which she served until 1987. In 1988, she was elected chair of the International Shakespeare Association and in 1996 the vice president. She also served a term on the board of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., the major library devoted to the Bard and his period and subsequent performances of his plays around the world.

Cook was the first woman to earn tenure in the English department and she was the first woman to earn promotion to full professor up through the ranks. She was director of undergraduate studies for



DANIEL DUBOIS

Ann Jennalie Cook and her prize painting of Shakespeare by noted artist Paul Harmon.

the department and director of the honors program at the same time. Cook has been the recipient of two Folger Shakespeare Library Fellowships, a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study Grant and a Guggenheim. She was awarded the title of professor of English, emerita, in June of 1998.

Bookplate Commemorates Cook's Lifelong Interest in Shakespeare



It would be difficult to find a more attractive bookplate than the one created for the Ann Jennalie Cook Library Acquisition Fund for Shakespeare Studies. The bookplate, designed by Vanderbilt University designer Mike Smeltzer, features a line drawing of Shakespeare done by noted artist Paul Harmon.

Harmon is represented in 22 galleries in the United States and six in Europe. He was the official artist selected to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day and attended those ceremonies in Normandy. Ironically, Cook also attended those ceremonies, along with

her brother and sister, because their father had landed on Omaha Beach during the first hour of the invasion. He was killed six days later clearing a mine field on the site where the American Cemetery is now located.

Cook first saw Harmon's art on an invitation she received to a local charitable event. Cook was so struck by the art that she immediately called Harmon's studio and asked if it would be possible to purchase the original.

"I want it," Cook told the lady who answered the phone. "I know Paul Harmon's work, and I've always wanted to own one of his paintings." The lady was a bit surprised that Cook would buy the painting sight unseen, but they agreed on a price and the lady delivered the painting to Cook's house.

"When I saw it, I just loved it and he's (the Bard) been living with me ever since," says the noted Shakespearean authority. Despite the fact that Cook owns the painting, she and the library had to obtain Harmon's permission to use the line drawing on the bookplate. "He very graciously agreed to let us use the art," Cook says.

NEWS from the Divisional Libraries

Television News Archive Receives Major Grant

More than 30,000 videotaped hours of television news programming will be preserved digitally through a grant awarded to the Vanderbilt Television News Archive by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Vanderbilt officials announced in late March that they had been notified that the grant for \$281,154 had been approved. "This grant is going to save the material from extinction," Vanderbilt University Librarian Paul M. Gherman said. "If we did nothing, this collection would be unusable in three to five years."

Peabody Library Begins Refurbishing

In January, work began to renovate the lower level and third floor of the Peabody Library. The refurbishing will result in a large, comfortable reading room on the lower level, a small café, an outdoor terrace, a computer lab/information commons, two group study rooms, a curriculum design studio, and new shelving for the Curriculum Materials Center. The improvements are a result of needs expressed by faculty and students. The project will be completed by the early summer.

Music Library Receives Outstanding Review

The Anne Potter Wilson Music Library received high praise from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) in late December, according to University Librarian Paul Gherman. The library was described as "exceptional" and "likely one of the finest music libraries servicing an exclusively undergraduate student body in the nation," while the staff "all have significant experience in music (and) show an obvious commitment to serving the needs of both faculty and students."

Information Alliance 2003 A Big Success

The 2003 Information Alliance hosted by Vanderbilt was a major success, according to University Librarian Paul Gherman. The Information Alliance is an annual conference organized by the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt. The 2003 conference examined the topic of institutional repositories. Featured speakers were Linda Phillips, head of collection development at the University of Tennessee; Mary Molinaro, director of the University of Kentucky's Young Library; and Dennis Hall, associate provost for research and graduate education at Vanderbilt. Roberta Winjum, assistant University librarian at the Heard Library, moderated the panel discussion. The program was organized by Dennis Clark, director of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library, Margaret Casado of the University of Tennessee, and Ann Doyle of the University of Kentucky, with help from Celia Walker of the office of the University Librarian.

Census Information Center at Peabody Library

Peabody Library Director Sharon Gray Weiner says that Vanderbilt is one of 52 Census Information Centers (CIC) across the country designated by the U.S. Census Bureau to assist in the dissemination of census data and reports to traditionally underserved communities. The Vanderbilt CIC is located in the Peabody Library and provides census and other local data to researchers, educators, non-profit organizations, community leaders, and state and local government. The CIC was previously housed at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. For more information, email c.taylor@vanderbilt.edu.

State of the Library Report Available Online

The Library will place its *State of the Library Report* online next month. Please visit <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/heard/annualreport.shtml> in July to learn more about current issues and opportunities affecting the Heard Library.



Eakin Serves as President of Friends of Library

Vanderbilt Professor of History Marshall Eakin, who has earned numerous honors for his innovative teaching methods over the years, serves as president of the Friends of the Library, an organization currently celebrating its 30th birthday.

Eakin has served on the Friends board for a number of years. "I am honored to serve as the president of the Friends for the next two years," Eakin said recently. "As a historian, I have long been a strong supporter of the library and one of its staunchest advocates. My colleagues in the humanities, I know, share my feelings. I hope to facilitate the work of the Friends of the Library, an organization that has done so much to raise funds for special acquisitions."

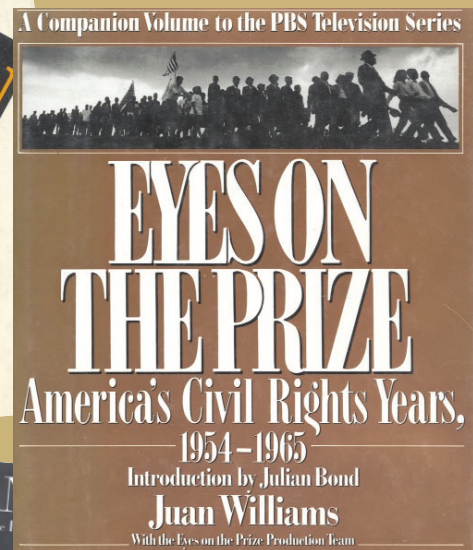
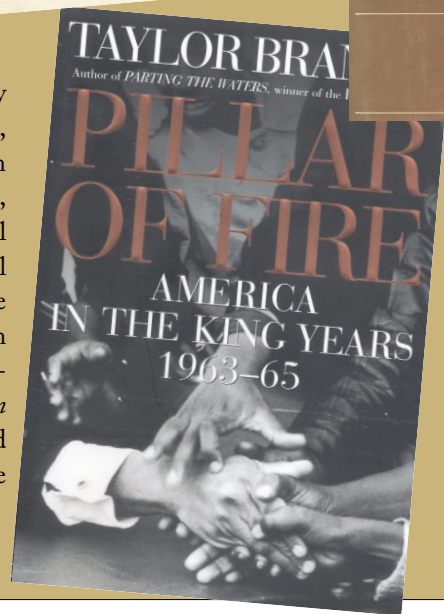
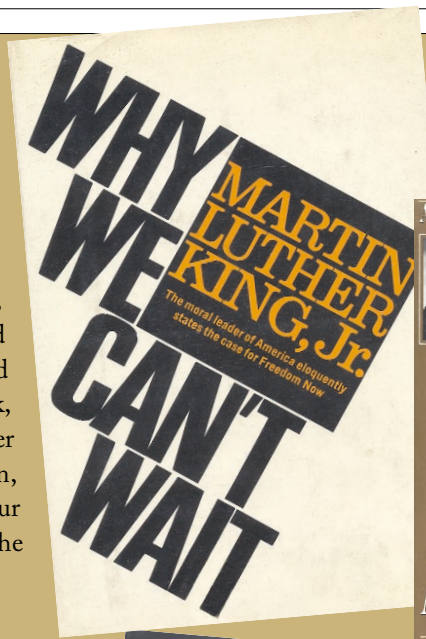
Eakin was named the 1999 Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The chairman of the History Department, he has received numerous Vanderbilt teaching awards—the College of Arts and Science Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching in 1991 and the University-wide Madison Sarratt Prize for excellence in undergraduate teaching in 1994. He also received the Ernest A. Jones Faculty Adviser Award in 1996; the 1994 Chancellor's Cup; and a Chair of Teaching Excellence (1998 through 2001).

**CIVIL RIGHTS EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY
IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The civil rights exhibit now installed in Special Collections contains several books from the Sam Fleming Southern Civilization Collection. Items include early civil rights pamphlets, photographs, autobiographies, and in-depth works by such noted writers as Taylor Branch, David Halberstam, and Diane McWhorter. Of particular interest is a book, *Why We Can't Wait*, autographed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Vanderbilt alumnus Francis Robinson, BA'32, MA'33, who for three decades served as tour director, assistant manager and press director of the New York Metropolitan Opera.

**EXHIBIT COMMEMORATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Three exhibit cases on the fourth floor of the Central Library Building highlight the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this past spring. In *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, issued on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court declared "separate educational facilities inherently unequal," and effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in Kansas and 20 other states. One exhibit case is dedicated to Bishop Joseph A. Johnson Jr., an African American who was admitted to the Vanderbilt Divinity School in the spring of 1953, one year before the *Brown* decision. He earned his Master's at Vanderbilt in 1954 and his Ph.D. in 1958. His doctoral dissertation is among the items in the case.



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