

Chronicle

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Friends annual dinner features North Carolina writer, Lee Smith

Ivy Rowe spent years writing letters—almost 100 of them—to her children, friends, teachers, and most often to her sister, Silvaney. Although she knows her sister is dead, she continues to write Silvaney and stores each letter in a cedar chest. Through Ivy's lifetime of letters, readers come to know this Appalachian woman, her feelings and struggles. Late in life, when asked by her daughter why she continued writing Silvaney, Ivy responds:

The letters didn't mean anything.

Not to the dead girl Silvaney, of course—
nor to me.

Nor had they ever.

It was the *writing* of them, that signified.

(Lee Smith, *Fair and Tender Ladies*)

Author Lee Smith, creator of Ivy Rowe, will visit Vanderbilt on Tuesday, November 13, for the seventeenth annual Friends of the Library dinner meeting at the University Club. She will read from several of her works and address the topic "Peopling the Page," in which she will discuss some of the problems writers face in finding characters for their novels and short stories. Following her address, Smith will be available to sign her books at sales tables set up by the University Bookstore in the University Club lobby.

Smith is the author of nine novels and numerous short stories. Her most recent book, *Me and My Baby View the Eclipse*, is a collection of short stories published in 1990. Her novels include *Fair and Tender Ladies* (1988), for which she received the Sir Walter Raleigh Prize in 1989; *Family Linen* (1985); and *Oral History* (1983). She is professor of English at North Carolina State University and lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with her husband and children.



Lee Smith

A graduate of Hollins College in Virginia and a resident of North Carolina for more than ten years, Smith is no stranger to Nashville and Vanderbilt. She lived in Nashville for several years and taught English at Harpeth Hall during the early seventies. Two of her novels, *Something in the Wind* and *Fancy Strut*, were published during her Nashville residency. In 1981, Smith was a lecturer in fiction writing at the Cumberland Valley Writers' Conference in Nashville. She has also been a lecturer in fiction writing at both the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

To make dinner reservations, renew membership in the Friends, or join for the first time, please call the Library Development office at 322-7102.

The President's Corner

I hope that all of you had as pleasant a vacation as Gena and I did, and that you are ready for a new round of interesting activities with the Friends of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

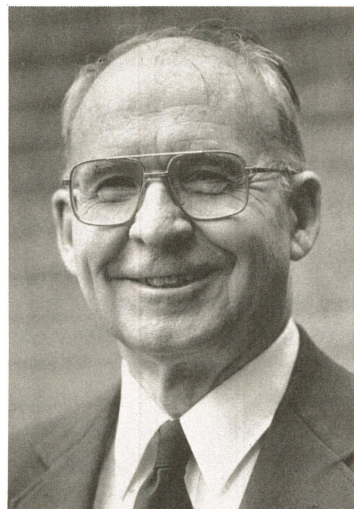
Please mark your calendars for our annual dinner meeting, which will take place at the University Club of Nashville on Tuesday evening, November 13. Our program committee, headed by Dr. Eric Chazen, has secured an excellent speaker for this occasion: the well-known novelist Lee Smith of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. We look forward to seeing all of you that evening.

Speaking of dinners, those of us who also belong to the Heard Library Society were honored at a delightful and memorable gathering on June 12 at the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library, hosted by Malcolm Getz and Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Durham. We hope that more of the Friends will wish to increase their annual contributions and thereby become eligible for membership in this society as well.

Our own membership campaign this year has been very successful, thanks to the dedicated work of Clare Loventhal and Lynn Siesser and the volunteers they recruited for the phonathon. Congratulations!

Upon the recommendation of our Acquisitions Committee, headed by Morris Wachs, the Friends have authorized the purchase this year of significant additions to our Special Collections on the Fugitives and Agrarians in particular and to our Special Collections on Southern History and Culture in general. In addition, we are purchasing the collected works of the German composer, Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787), for the Wilson Music Library of the Blair School. Students of German Expressionism in literature and the arts will be grateful for our purchase of the important Berlin periodical, *Der Sturm* (1910-32). Additional acquisitions are under consideration by the committee.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the



Charles F. Delzell

splendid services that have been rendered by the officers and board members, especially by those whose terms come to an end this November. We are all greatly indebted to Bill Darby, Eric Chazen, Lynne Siesser, Clare Loventhal, Kay Beasley, Paul Freedman, Dewey Grantham, Douglas Lee, Walter Sullivan, Ann Cook Whalley, and Ruth Zibart, and we hope that they will continue to give the Friends their generous support. Let me say that for me, personally, it has been a delight to work with all the members of the board during the past two years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Delzell".

Charles F. Delzell, President

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Leadership in the Information Age: Vanderbilt Television News Archive

(This is the fourth in a series of articles taken from the Library's new publication, Leadership in the Information Age, written by Malcolm Getz, director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.)

The Vanderbilt Television News Archive has taped, stored, abstracted, indexed, and provided access to television news broadcasts for the last twenty years. Our collection is the most extensive in the world and includes all network coverage of the political party conventions and an impressive array of network news special broadcasts. We deposit our backup tapes with the Library of Congress. *The Television News Index and Abstracts* is published monthly and is known worldwide for its accurate description of the content of the evening news broadcasts on three networks.

A special provision of the Copyright Act, sometimes called the Vanderbilt Amendment, recognizes the important role of libraries in recording and providing retrospective access to video news for study and research.

We aspire to extend the services of the Television News Archive in four ways. First, we want to move the *Index and Abstracts* to the electronic medium so that it can be more current and useful. Second, we want to archive and index more domestic television news such as *Cable News Network*, *MacNeil-Lehrer*, *Nightline*, and *Monitor World News*. Third, we have the technical ability to archive and index Soviet, European, British, Latin American, Japanese, and other Asian television news, allowing scholars to compare how a given news story is handled in several different countries.

Our fourth objective is to support intellectual inquiry concerning television news in the form of symposia, journalist in residence, and dissertation fellowships for the student of television news.

The powerful video images that shape consciousness and define public events have a whole new context and meaning when studied systematically in the archive. If we are to command the information age as well as live it, we must make its principal artifacts the subject of study.

TV News Archive receives grant

When the Vanderbilt Television News Archive began recording news broadcasts in 1968 using the latest in video technology, it couldn't foresee that the "latest" technology would be obsolete in less than twenty years or that the video film would deteriorate as well. In the late 1980s, the Archive found itself not only recording the evening news and special news shows from ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN each evening, but also confronting the deteriorating condition of its collection of older tapes. A generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in 1989 funded the reformatting of 800 hours of evening news broadcasts from 1977 to 1979. This project took twelve months, with a completion date of September 1990.

In June 1990, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives awarded a grant of \$77,266 to the Television News Archive for a project which began in September 1990. The NHPRC's purpose is to support the preservation, publication, and use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. In accordance with this purpose, the grant will fund the transfer of 1,500 hours of special television news broadcasts covering the period from 1968 to 1979.

According to Scarlett Graham, director of the TV News Archive, "many of these materials do not exist anywhere else except here." Because the archive predates network preservation activities, many taped broadcasts would be lost permanently if not reformatted. "The NHPRC funds will enable the Archive to reformat the last of its endangered videotapes," Graham says, "guaranteeing that these materials will be available for study and investigation by researchers, students, and the general public for many years to come."

Heard Library Society members enjoy annual dinner

Heard Library Society members learned about "Progress in the Library" at the Society's annual dinner, which took place in June at the Law School. Walter Durham presided over the event and presented bookends to new Heard Society members.

Malcolm Getz, director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, reported on the renovation of the Central Library Building, which was recently completed, and current landscaping of the Library Lawn. He thanked Heard Society members for helping the Library add several important items during the past year.

"We will continue to acquire materials of significant interest to scholars at Vanderbilt," Getz said. "Often these will be unique collections that attract attention from around the world."

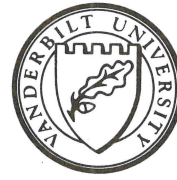
"But we will also provide tools to the much larger world of information beyond Mrs. Branscomb's lovely magnolias. We are delighted that the Heard Library Society shares our enthusiasm for the quest and that you are helping us fulfill Vanderbilt's vision of a distinguished library."



Walter Durham, Anne Cook and John Whalley enjoy talking



Jean Heard and Madison Wigginton converse at the Heard Society Dinner.



to Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard.



Malcolm Getz, center, congratulates Elva and Bill Darby, who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary that night.



Annette Eskind, left, exchanges views with Kay Russell and Mary Jane Werthan.



Dorothy Ruth Parks, left, acting director of the Divinity library, chats with Adena Smith Wright and Kelly Miller Smith, Jr., daughter and son of the late Kelly Miller Smith.

Family reunion honors Kelly Miller Smith

About 105 members of the Smith Family attending their family reunion visited the Jean and Alexander Heard Library this past July. Relatives of the late Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, they came to see two exhibits. One was a Special Collection exhibit of the Smith papers. The other was mounted by the Divinity Library to recognize the thirtieth anniversary of the Nashville Sit-Ins, in which Smith was a major participant. A videotaped profile of Smith was shown, and family members helped to identify individuals in the collection's many photographs.

Smith was the former pastor of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, and the first Black administrator at Vanderbilt University. His papers were deposited with the Library in 1985. The manuscripts collection has been fully catalogued, with a Register to the papers published in 1989. The Smith papers have become a magnet, attracting other valuable materials related to the Black Church and the Civil Rights Movement.

Friends, Indeed!

I/we wish to become a member of the Friends of the Library as indicated below:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 25 annually |
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Contributions of \$100 or more may be restricted to the collection of your choice. All contributions are tax deductible.

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