

Chronicle

A Register of this work, the book of chronicles with figures and images from the beginning of the world.

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MISS EUDORA WELTY, short story writer and novelist, was born and lives in Jackson, Mississippi. Among her well-known works are <u>Delta Wedding</u>, A Curtain of Green, The Ponder Heart, One Time, One Place, and Losing Battles.

A Southerner, Miss Welty derives her material and inspiration from the land and people of the South, although anyone who has read her work knows that her artistry transcends all regional boundaries. She has received an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Howells Medal twice, and the O. Henry Memorial Prize. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1974. Miss Welty's reading at a recent Writers' Festival drew high praise: "Her timing honed to match her colorful prose, she rivalled any comedienne currently performing."

Eudora Welty is one of the most distinguished writers in America in a long tradition of distinguished Southern writers and her scheduled appearance before the Friends is an occasion for pride and anticipation. It is our good fortune to have Eudora Welty as our speaker for the Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday evening, November 2, 1977.

WINIFRED BREAST CHARMED THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY on April 12th, not only with her beautiful performance of "Songs of the Middle South," but also with her poise in withstanding the competition of the Kirkland Carillon, a circling helicopter, and a marching band in the field near Alumni Hall. Our compliments on her composure and her wit, as well as on the sweetness of her voice and dulcimer. The recital was followed by a reception in the Memorial Room.

A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND BIBLIOPHILES spent an evening in early March with Dr. and Mrs. Crawford Adams savoring their library with its distinguished medical collection. Among the volumes of special interest were first editions of medical incunabula written by Michel Giovanni Savonarola (1384-1476) with beautifully preserved fore-edge decorations painted by Cesare Vecellio. There were also editions of medical fore-edge paintings which are extremely rare. The painting can be seen only when the book is opened at a slant. There is one double fore-edge painting on a book titled "Poems, Chiefly Scottish" by Robert Burns published in 1813. One of the paintings is titled "The Chantry Cottage, Berkeley, where Edward Jenner lived and practiced." The title of the second fore-edge painting of the Burns volume is "Summer House at Berkeley, known as the Temple of Vaccinia in which Jenner gave many vaccinations." There was an exotic edition of The Compleat Angler of Isaak Walton (1593-1683) with ivory panels of hand painted fish inset in the morocco binding. The Adamses were generous enough to entertain a second group of Friends on May 22, 1977.

The Friends wish to express deep appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Adams for their hospitality and for launching what we hope will be the first of many "Collector's Evenings." If you have a collection that you would be willing to invite a few Friends to enjoy, please call JUL 322-2807 and we will be happy to put you in touch with other collectors and to send invitations at your request.

Jean Heard

ENGRAVINGS FROM DESCRIPTION DE L'EGYPTE, the magnificent gift of Friends
Life Member Dr. William J. Darby, are featured on the 1977-78
Calendar of Vanderbilt University. The introduction to the
Calendar calls the <u>Description</u> "a tribute to scholarship and
the human spirit." Of its place in the library: "As part
of an active, useful collection, it demonstrates the University's
unique role in the discovery, dissemination and preservation of
knowledge." The <u>Vanderbilt Gazette</u>, March 29, 1977, carries a
fascinating study of the work.

Friends of the Library 1976-77

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THE JOINT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, established in 1939, is 39 years old this year. It has had only three Directors in its history: A.F. Kuhlman from 1938 to 1960, David Kaser from 1960 to 1968, and our current Director Frank P. Grisham who has held the position for the past nine years.

The Friends of the JUL dates back to an exploratory meeting held on January 28, 1974, by a group of seven persons. This was followed by a much expanded group discussion on July 20, 1974. The outcome of these two gatherings was the drafting of a constitution, a membership drive and the first Annual Dinner Meeting November 25, 1974.

Fred Friendly, former President of CBS News and Edward R. Murrow Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, spoke to 193 Charter Members of Friends at the University Club. In the summer of 1975, Volume 1, Number 1, of the Friends publication Chronicle appeared. In September of 1975 Friends presented a Shakespearean evening with Robert G. Hunter, Vanderbilt's Kenan Professor of English, speaking on "The Songs of Twelfth Night" with Elizabethan music for guitar and flute performed by John and Trisha Johns. This evening ended in a "light repast" of Claret and Stilton cheese. On November 3, 1975, Cleanth Brooks, teacher, author, and critic, addressed the Second Annual Membership Dinner speaking on the "Poetry of Robert Frost."

On March 29, 1976, Francis Robinson, Assistant Manager of the Metropolitan Opera, spoke at Underwood Auditorium on the life of Enrico Caruso illustrated with recordings. October 11th and 12th marked the book sale on the lawn, which netted the Library over \$2900. In the winter of 1976 the second issue of Chronicle made its appearance followed by a third issue in September. Peter Hillsman Taylor, Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia, was the guest speaker for the Third Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends on November 1st. The Friends presented Winifred Breast in a recital of folk songs on April 12, 1977.

This is an abbreviated history and chronology of the Friends of the Library. Now a word about two of the people who helped make it possible. We shall always be grateful for Jesse Wills' legacy to the Friends of the Library. As a result of his inspiration and direction as President pro-tem throughout the formative stages the Friends of JUL flourished from the outset. We shall miss his gentle counsel and his belief that a great library is the matrix of great educational institutions. Leah Rose Werthan, the first elected President, gave energy and her inimitable leadership the two years of her incumbency.

It is a privilege to serve as President of Friends of JUL. With the assistance of Director Frank Grisham and his fine staff and with the excellent Board that you have elected it will be a happy and exhilarating experience for which I am grateful.

AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER on Wednesday, 2 November, Friends of the Library will experience a change of scene. This year the banquet will take place at Nashville's MetroCenter.

MetroCenter may be reached via Eighth Avenue or Exit 1 off Interstate 265. From the Interstate one proceeds north on Route 41A to the second intersection, Vantage Way, then right to Nashville House. Dinner is at seven p.m. following a reception at six o'clock in the atrium.

The new location has been chosen in an effort to accommodate members who wish to attend the increasingly popular event. In 1976, unfortunately, there were not enough places at the University Club for all of those members who wished to hear author Peter Taylor. The tradition of superb speakers continues this year with the appearance of Eudora Welty who will read from her works.

Membership is required in order to attend the Annual Meeting.

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