

# THE ACORN Chronicle

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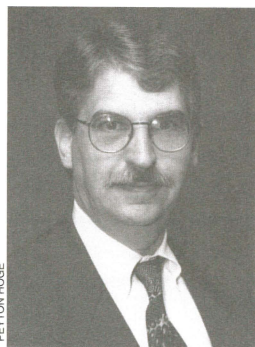


PEYTON HOGE

Translations of *Les Fleurs du Mal* among some notes and letters which belonged to Baudelaire, including a letter to someone named Pellerin, in which Baudelaire writes: "...first I am delighted to have shared with you my contempt for all people of trade and money. Then I am surprised that you have not guessed that proofreaders are not tradesmen, but comrades. Last learn that I even pay tradesmen...."

## For the Love of Books

PROFILE OF A COLLECTOR AND A COLLECTION, P. 8



Paul M. Gherman

THE ACORN CHRONICLE is published semi-annually by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, 615/343-0779, or by email to [acornchronicle@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:acornchronicle@vanderbilt.edu).

*Friends of the Library*  
President: Kathryn Smith  
*University Librarian:*  
Paul M. Gherman  
*Editor:* Bonnie Arant Ertelt  
*Contributor:* Elaine Goleski  
*Designer:* Donna Pritchett  
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Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, we are very pleased to acknowledge the generosity of Professor of History, Emeritus, J. León Helguera for his wonderful gift to the Heard Library of over 5,000 volumes on Colombian history and politics. A high percentage of these books are unique to Vanderbilt's collection (indeed, many are unique to libraries in North America) and will therefore significantly enrich our already strong holdings of Colombian and Latin American materials. Because Professor Helguera knew our collection intimately, he chose books for his personal collection that were complementary to the library's collection. The duplicates from his collection will be offered to book dealers as credit toward other materials in Latin American studies.

Book collectors of Professor Helguera's intelligence and knowledge are highly valued by libraries, for it is often through their lifelong love of books and collecting that some of the finest book collections are created. Frequently, these collectors bestow their lovingly created collections on libraries, so that they can be assured that their books will be held in one place and made available to others to appreciate. I like to think that some day, a hundred years from now, a scholar at Vanderbilt will consult one of Professor Helguera's volumes, will see his bookplate, and will understand the contribution that Professor Helguera has made to scholarship and to the University. We are most grateful to Professor Helguera and his wife Byrd, who was associate director of the Biomedical Library when she retired in 1991.

On another very positive note, I am pleased to report on two renovation projects within the General Library Building. The French Collections, currently housed on the second floor of the GLB, will move to a newly remodeled home in the eighth floor reading

room. Those of you who are familiar with this building know that each of these large reading rooms (there are a total of six of them in the old wing of the building) is splendid. This room is no exception: it is a delightful setting on the top floor of the building with windows on three sides, filled with built-in, glass-fronted wood bookcases and beautiful red gum paneling. As part of the renovation, the room will be carpeted, the woodwork will be refinished, and a new ceiling and lights will be added. A work area for French Collections staff is to be created in an adjacent area. Several private study alcoves will be provided for scholars, as well as a larger meeting space for groups to examine the collections. This room will provide an elegant home for the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies.

The space on the second floor formerly occupied by the French Collections will be turned into the library's first electronic classroom. As more and more of our information is in electronic format, we find that library staff spend considerable time introducing these new resources to students and faculty and teaching them how to make best use of these new tools. The room will have 17 computer stations and a projection screen so the images on the instructor's computer can be viewed by the entire group. We expect that our librarians and instructional staff will make effective use of this sophisticated technological facility. Projects like these are made possible by successful fundraising. Our development efforts must be grounded in a knowledge of the needs of the library and an awareness of our successes, plans, and aspirations. We seek to build long-term relationships with our library Friends and other supporters, and we strive for consistent and meaningful communication with them.

In the past three years, however, the position of library development officer has changed hands several times. This turnover has not helped our efforts to build a strong relationship with the hundreds of individuals who contribute to the success of the libraries. In August, Tres Mullis, who had most recently held the position, became development officer for Peabody College. I have asked Elaine Goleski, my assistant and a long-time library employee, to become the library's new development officer. Elaine has worked in the library for more than twenty years, is an alumna of the Graduate School, and, with her husband Howard Smith, has been a member of the Heard Library Society for the past four years. Elaine brings to her new assignment a familiarity with the Friends and the Heard Library Society, and equally importantly, an in-depth knowledge of the programs of the library. I am very pleased that Elaine has accepted this important assignment, and you can expect to hear from her in the near future. 🍷

PAUL M. GHERMAN

### Chancellor search online

As the Chancellor Search Committee continues its quest for a new Chancellor for Vanderbilt, its progress can be tracked online. The Chancellor Search Web site, [www.vanderbilt.edu/chancellorsearch](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/chancellorsearch), is the place to go for updates on the search process and announcements on upcoming meetings.

In addition to updates on the future of Vanderbilt, the site also takes a look back at the past. The site offers a brief history of the University and an interactive timeline, showcasing some of Vanderbilt's most significant milestones. A financial review, statistical highlights and an at-a-glance look at the University, as well as links to the online viewbook and campus map, are also on the site.



### ScienceDirect offers new capabilities in scientific research

When Sibel Uludag, a graduate student in environmental science and technology, recently went back to her native Turkey for a month, she did not suspend work on her doctoral dissertation.

Using her fiance's computer, she simply surfed the Internet back to Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Researching articles available through Project PEAK—a study in which Vanderbilt, the University of Michigan and several other libraries joined with Elsevier, a major publisher of science journals, to test new pricing models for accessing electronic information—Uludag lost no work time though she was over 6,000 miles away.

"I conducted my literature review for my dissertation while I

was in Turkey for job interviews," says Uludag, who received her PhD this summer. "I really didn't do anything differently than I do here. I had to use my ID and password to get into the network since I was not on campus, but otherwise it was exactly the same."

Project PEAK was replaced in August with ScienceDirect, Elsevier's Web database which, like PEAK, contains the full text of more than 1,100 Elsevier journals in the life, physical, medical, technical, and social sciences. Since Vanderbilt has print subscriptions to only about 400 of these journals, the net gain of 700 additional sources for information opens up new possibilities for doing research in the sciences. Information retrieval becomes less tedious and time consuming, but the costs for making electronic resources available are still high.

"In most cases, you pay an additional amount to receive the electronic version as well," says Sherre Harrington, director of the Sarah Shannon Stevenson Science and Engineering Library, "though we anticipate that this may change in the future."

"Because of the high cost of subscribing to journals, we try to subscribe to the ones that make the most sense in terms of research interests," says John Haar, assistant university librarian for collection development. "PEAK was very attractive because it gave the patron a greater choice of journals. We paid only for the articles read on a per article basis and not for a subscription to the entire journal regardless of its use. ScienceDirect also makes those additional 700 journals available through a premium of 10% in addition to our print subscriptions."

The journal titles receiving "hits"—computer lingo for the number of times a site, or in this case, a journal or article, are accessed—are revealing. Scholarly journals with names like *Thin Solid Films* or *Diamonds and Related Materials* have been accessed repeatedly by Vanderbilt patrons, according to usage statistics. Both titles are available only through ScienceDirect; the library does not subscribe to them.

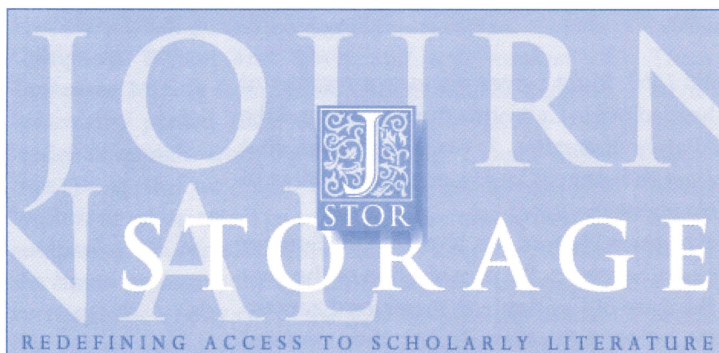
Uludag, whose dissertation researched ways of transforming the toxic industrial solvent trichloroethylene into less toxic forms, accessed a number of articles from journals not held in print by the Vanderbilt library, but available through PEAK.

"Out of 500 references, more than half were from environmental science and technology journals," she says. "I used *Chemosphere* a great deal and also the *Journal of Contaminant Hydrology*, *Water Research*, and *Water Science and Technology*."

Accessibility is a major advantage of these new resources, as they are available whenever—or wherever—the patron may be, provided a computer is handy.

"This was much more convenient. I didn't even have to pay for a copy," says Uludag, who returned to Turkey in September. "I just printed the article from the computer. I used to use interlibrary loan to get articles from *Chemosphere*, for instance, and that took longer. This is much faster and easier." 🐶

S C I E N C E @ D I R E C T ™



#### JSTOR Eases Crunch of Journal Storage

ScienceDirect is not the only new source for electronic journals now available at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. When clicking on the icon for electronic journals on the Library's home page, the titles are now so numerous that they are indexed by letter of the alphabet. Some of these titles are made available through JSTOR, short for "journal storage," a nonprofit project initially funded by the Mellon Foundation, that electronically provides back issues of over 60 academic journals in fields ranging from mathematics to humanities. Not only does JSTOR provide full-text access to older journals, some ranging as far back as before the turn of the last century, it may also provide a solution to the age-old problem of storage space.

"JSTOR offers our patrons access to the full backfiles of a number of core journals in economics, history, political science, and other humanities and social sciences while offering us the prospect of removing to storage the bound copies of these journals, which occupy valuable space on our shelves," says John Haar, assistant university librarian for collection development. "We are very stressed for stack space and anything we can do to create more space for material not duplicated online is helpful."

# VOLUNTEER FORTY-NINERS

*Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush*

BY WALTER T. DURHAM, BA'48, MA'56  
Vanderbilt University • November 9, 1997

It is a pleasure to be here this afternoon to share some thoughts about the California gold rush of 1849. Before we join the exhausted forty-niners—exhausted by the crossing and by their daily work in the mine fields, I want to express my gratitude for this event. Especially I want to say a heartfelt thank you to my publisher, Charles Backus, director of the Vanderbilt University Press; to Gary Gore, longtime University designer who designed my book with a touch of class the gold rush may not deserve; to Professor Don Doyle whose encouragement has sustained my effort, and finally to University Librarian Paul Gherman and Marice Wolfe, University archivist at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, who have arranged today's reception.

Authors are presumptuous and I am no less so than others. We produce articles, essays, narratives, books, and writings of all sorts with the confident expectation that readers will come from somewhere, or nowhere, to read our work. Now that you understand our dependence on you, we must be willing always to let you ask the appropriate question, "Why did you do it?"

So, why *did* I do it?

In the past, historians largely ignored the impact of the gold rush on Tennessee and Tennesseans. They paid even less attention to the impact of Tennesseans on the gold rush and the resultant development of the state of California. I noted that there was a great deal of unexplored Tennessee history in the California gold rush. The occasion, 1849-1854, is rarely mentioned in the published histories of this state. References to Tennesseans who participated in that great rush to California are seen infrequently in historical journals and the popular press. To most contemporary Tennesseans, the gold rush was something that happened somewhere else.

In the extensive body of gold rush literature—and it is extensive indeed—I found no examination of the impact of that event on any single state except California, of course. With my interest in Tennessee history, that emboldened me to focus on the Volunteer State and the way its people responded to the 1848 discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill.

I was further encouraged by a chance discovery during research for *Old Sumner, A History of Sumner County,*



*Tennessee, 1805-1860.* Right before my eyes a number of young men headed out to California during 1849 and the years immediately thereafter. I wondered: Was that response unique to Sumner County or representative of reactions throughout the state?

That same research showed me, also, that the Sumner gold rushers participated in the organization of the government of the state of California that occurred concurrently with the influx of the 49ers. In fact, they assumed leadership roles in the process. As a political junkie I was hooked, irresistibly attracted by the political component of the story.

My fifth and final reason for the book is that the subject was suitably obscure. It meant working with original documents, maps, manuscripts, old newspapers, and such. This I like. I enjoy using these resources to bring something new to the table. I reject the suggestion that, susceptible to the powerful attraction of gold, I was lured into the project by a late-day onset of gold fever.

As all books are *educational*, especially for authors, it is fair to ask, "What did I learn from the undertaking?"

First, Tennesseans participated in goodly numbers from all parts of the state. They were excited! The Tennessee President James K. Polk confirmed the discovery of gold in his final address in December 1848 and explained there was gold of high quality in the area and plenty of it. Many of the young men who set out saw themselves on the way to a great adventure. Many Mexican War veterans regarded the outing as an extension of their experiences in Mexico, but this time to be rewarded with gold.

Those who headed westward represented every walk of life, every profession, every socio-economic group. They were principally young white males in a near equal

mix of rural and urban. A few African-American males went out in the early years, but there were few women of either race in the transcontinental race to quick riches.

Some of the Tennessee-born had already westered to Missouri, Texas, even Oregon, and a few to California. They had already sought futures by moving westward. When the news of gold reached them, many responded by making the ultimate trip to the West, all the way to the California coast.

A few of the California-bound left home alone but the need for sharing protection and supplies usually led them to join groups of others along the way. The great majority of Tennessee 49ers left in companies organized and equipped prior to departure. Some of the larger companies were financed by the sale of stock, much of it subscribed in cash by stay-at-home investors who expected to share in the gold harvest. They usually chose a name such as The East Tennessee and California Mining Company, the Monroe County Boys, The Havilah Mining Company, The Lincoln County Company, Wilson and Love, and any number of Tennessee Mining Companies. Others banded together informally, pooled their resources, and elected their leader or captain from the membership. Chance meetings along the way and recognition of the security implicit in group travel gave rise to other hastily formed companies. On occasion, a sponsor or "angel" furnished the funds necessary for equipment and the crossing in exchange for a hefty cut of the gold his protégés mined. For many young men, loans from family members underwrote their expenses.

They followed every conceivable route to reach the gold fields. A few traveled by sea around the Horn, a long and difficult passage. An equally small number went overland across southern Texas and northern

Mexico to Mazatlan on the Pacific coast and then by ship to San Francisco. As most Tennesseans and their ancestors had come overland from the East Coast to the Volunteer State, most at first preferred overland routes to California. In 1849, many outfitted at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and crossed overland from that point. Soon, however, Tennesseans began to use the portal towns of Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri, and after the first year, virtually abandoned the Fort Smith route. By 1851 most had discovered the fastest way West and were using it. They traveled to New Orleans by riverboat and took steam or sail across the Gulf of Mexico to the Isthmus where they mounted mules for a two or three-day crossing to Panama City on the Pacific Coast. There they paused until a San Francisco-bound ship came into the harbor. At times the wait in the port city was exasperatingly long and expensive, but all in all most found this route the fastest and safest and no more expensive than the others.

Once they had arrived in California, reality set in. There was plenty of gold, but it was not easily harvested. It was not spread around on the surface of the mountain slopes as advertisements in eastern newspapers had suggested. The advertisers of "gold grease" claimed that an easy way to pick up gold was to apply this grease liberally to one's nude body and then roll down a lower Sierra Nevada slope. Gold, and nothing but gold, would adhere to the grease and it could be removed easily before repeating the process. The reality was that mining was an extremely difficult undertaking that yielded a meager living for most—sometimes not even that.

Most of the miners concluded early on that they had been mercilessly misled. They cursed the press and other promoters for raising their expectations unreasonably high. There was no infrastructure and at first no govern-



Walter T. Durham

PEYTON HOSE

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ment. Although the first letters home were cheerful enough, after a few weeks the miners were writing in anger, frustration, and disappointment.

The many who toiled in the placers found the work was cold, wet, hard, and seasonal. It yielded little. They employed every known device as they worked the gravel beds of the mountain streams. They panned loose gravel from the streams, rocked the so-called cradles to separate bits of gold from dirt and gravel dug with pick and shovel, washed the precious metal out of more dirt and gravel down the "long Tom," and tried quartz mining. The latter meant digging and pulverizing ore and reclaiming the tiny gold content by a process of amalgamation using mercury and retorts.

Mining, by whatever process, was such a failure that most came back home when they could raise enough money for the passage—usually within a year or two. Some had to wait more than two years for the folks at home to respond to letters seeking money by gift or loan. For them, the experience was not a very glorious one.

Many brought misery upon themselves by ignoring the warnings that appeared in their home press before they departed. William G. Brownlow, who elected to remain at home, wrote in his Jonesborough *Whig and Independent Journal* of January 17, 1849, that Europeans who had sought gold in Mexico and South America had been reduced in the process to "rags, starvation and beggary." He recalled, "Spain . . . was reduced to poverty by the neglect of her commerce and manufacturing in order to dig for gold." Pointing out that California was federal territory, he doubted that the United States government would permit anyone, citizen or foreigner, to pocket "the public treasure with perfect impunity." The government would most certainly put a stop to "this system of promiscuous piratical plunder," he wrote.

Although there were few successes in the mines for the Volunteer 49ers, there were other opportunities aplenty. Perhaps the most challenging opportunities were implicit in the need for a government to provide law and order in the hurly-burly male population, most of whom regarded themselves as transients. Peter Hardeman Burnett and William McKendree Gwin led other Tennesseans into the political arena as they promoted statehood for California. Gwin was the most influential leader in the Constitutional Convention that organized the state, and Burnett stepped forward to be elected the state's first governor. Gwin became the first full-term United States senator, and Maury County's William Van Voorhies was appointed secretary of state. Two of the most powerful offices in the state were the sheriffs of San Francisco and Sacramento Counties, and Tennesseans Jack Hays and Ben McCullough were elected to those positions. Nashville-born Benjamin Davis

Wilson, who had been a resident of California since before the war with Mexico, was the first mayor of Los Angeles.

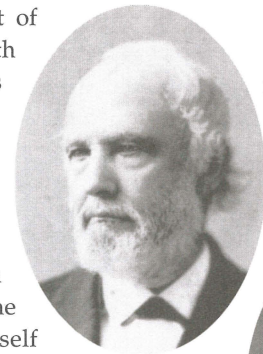
Also, opportunities abounded for Tennesseans in the fields of business, commerce, and the professions. Jack Hays resigned as sheriff of San Francisco to launch a real estate venture that became the city of Oakland, making himself wealthy in the process.

John Parrott responded to the devastating fires that periodically swept San Francisco's wooden buildings by erecting the city's first fireproof structure using granite blocks imported from China. Already a man of means when gold was discovered, Parrott founded a bank in San Francisco that proved just as durable as his granite block building. It was the only bank in the city to survive the turbulent 1850s intact.

Dr. Peter Smith operated a hospital under contract with the city of San Francisco but faced disaster when the city was unable to pay the agreed annual fee. Taking the city to court, he forced the sale of certain municipal waterfront properties. When the city discouraged prospective purchasers by circulating rumors that its title was not valid, Smith bid the land in at a tiny fraction of its worth. The courts directed the city to continue selling land until Smith's judgment was satisfied, but the government continued to sabotage the sales, and Smith continued to buy property for almost nothing. In the end he realized many times the amount of his claim.

Benjamin David Wilson acquired land, developed orchards and vineyards, and by 1875 had a world-class winery, by volume the largest producer in the United States. Two Tennessee women, operating in the shadow of their husbands' unsuccessful efforts to strike it rich in the mines, parlayed a twenty-acre cabbage patch into a very profitable truck garden. Their achievement was only a hint of what was ahead for California agriculture.

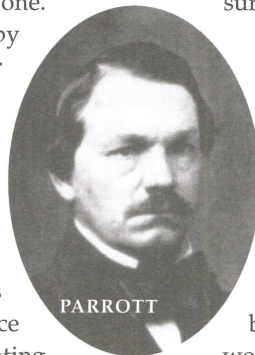
Tennesseans appeared in the professions as newspaper editors, teachers, college presidents, and ministers of the gospel. Although the editors were a fairly undistinguished lot, the teachers and college administrators were drawn heavily from the Protestant Christian ministry. Most of the preachers were Protestant, too, but the first Catholic Bishop of California had been assigned to Nashville prior to his western appointment. As most of the 1849-1850 arrivals in the gold fields expected to be there only one or two years, preachers found it difficult to interest them in church attendance and membership.



BURNETT



GWIN



PARROTT

A Cumberland Presbyterian preacher from Tennessee confided to a colleague that it was almost impossible to get a 49er to see through a lump of gold into eternity.

Two men from the Volunteer State took advantage of the popular support for Manifest Destiny and expansion of the nation's boundaries. There was public discussion throughout the states about annexing Cuba and the Sandwich Islands and acquiring the rest of Mexico by whatever means might be indicated. William Walker and Henry Crabb, both from Nashville, were the ranking filibusters of the era. Walker's exploits in Mexico and Central America continued for nearly five years. But Crabb, on his first incursion into Mexico, was captured and executed by a firing squad. Walker's filibustering also ended before a firing squad far from home.

Many Tennessee gold rushers remained in California, but most came home. For most, homecoming was an inglorious affair. Typically, they arrived penniless except for enough gold to make a piece or two of jewelry. There were explanations to be made, loans to be repaid, damaged health to be restored, relationships to be reconnected. Just enough 49ers returned with modest gleanings to prove the rule that for most it was a financial disaster.

Although their pocketbooks were empty, they brought back tales of adventure that were told, retold, and passed to succeeding generations. The whole outing had been an enlightening experience. For many it was their first time on the high seas. For others, crossing the Prairie, the Rockies, and the Sierra Nevada were experiences never to be forgotten and previously unknown.



Even though it was not obvious at the time, the western-oriented, expansionist-minded Tennesseans—those who remained in California, and those who returned—had contributed significantly to building one of the great states of the Union. Today only six countries in the world have a larger gross national product than California's.

But they had done something else equally measurable. In creating the state of California, they had dangerously disturbed the prior balance of slave and free states. And Governor Burnett and Senator Gwin had been leaders in making the product of their labors a free state.

What was it like to come home?

The gold seekers came home to a state that from all outward appearances was unchanged from the time they left it, yet divisive forces were at work within its bounds. Slavery had become a sectional issue before California sought admission to the Union and forced the Compromise of 1850 that postponed a showdown on the question. Nevertheless, border states such as Tennessee and Kentucky were not prepared for the prospective division of the United States into two separate nations.

Powerful economic forces exacerbated sectional differences. The agricultural economy of the Deep South was heavily dependent on slave labor. The states of the East and Midwest had labor aplenty supplied by successive waves of European immigration and an economy sustained by industry and a growing network of railroads. To protect their perceived interests, Southern states claimed a right to withdraw or secede from the Union, and the states of the North, where the abolitionist movement was growing daily, contended that the Union was indivisible. Many Tennesseans, in the nationalistic fervor of the 1840s, had regarded Manifest Destiny and the extension of slavery as going hand in hand. When the Republican victory in the election of 1860 threatened that relationship, they began to put nationalism aside and to turn to the option of separation.

The drift was toward the abyss of fratricidal war. In the antidisunionist tradition of Jackson and Polk, Tennesseans at first resisted the drift. Early in 1861, a statewide referendum recorded a solid majority in favor of remaining in the Union, but when the guns sounded in Charleston harbor, sentiment changed abruptly. A referendum in July declared Tennessee independent, the last state to leave the Union, and the general assembly voted at once to affiliate with the Confederacy.

Many of the Volunteer forty-niners left home again to face yet another uncertain future. Most enlisted under the flag of the Confederate States, but others marched under the Stars and Stripes. There were also divided allegiances among the Tennesseans who had remained in the West, but how many, East or West, understood that by giving rise to a new state, the gold rush had been a principal cause of splitting the Union? The admission of California to statehood was the excuse for the Compromise of 1850, but there was no excuse for permitting sectional differences to grow into irreconcilable issues during the next decade. Leadership both North and South had failed. All that was left was the crucible of war, and its bright flame would burn for four tragic years. 🐦

*Illustrations are from Durham's book, Volunteer Forty-Niners: Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush, published by Vanderbilt University Press, 1997.*

As Nicholas Basbanes says in *A Gentle Madness*, as long as people collect and as long as there are books, there will be book collectors.

Two Vanderbilt scholars have strengthened the library's holdings immeasurably through gifts of their personal collections. J. León Helguera, professor of history, emeritus, amassed a collection of depth and rare completeness on 19th- and early 20th-century Colombian history and politics. Nearly 5,000 volumes in his collection have recently been given to the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. The late William T. Bandy, who was Distinguished Professor Emeritus of French, collected works by and about the poet, translator, and critic Charles Baudelaire, the core of which became the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire Studies in 1968. Housed in the Library since 1982, the Center, known as the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, now also includes the Pascal Pia Collection of French prose and poetry since the mid-19th century and the Gilbert Sigaux Collection on 20th-century French theater.

In this issue, *Acorn Chronicle* profiles both a collector and a collection in order to understand better what people do for the love of books.

### A Collector of Colombiana



Ask J. León Helguera where he has collected, and he will tell you candidly, everywhere. "I collected wherever I found myself," he says. "I collected in Buenos Aires, Vienna, Lima, Mexico City, in the provinces of Mexico, in Spain, in New York. You name where I've been, I always look for books. I can't stop the monomania that afflicts the collector."

The place he has collected most often and the primary subject of his collection is Colombia, a country of great extremes geographically and great turmoil politically and economically. It is a place that owns Helguera's heart and fires his imagination.

"It ranges from almost alpine frigidity to the tropics. There are sections with enormous chasms, 3,000 feet down, so the people there raise crops on mountainsides. You can eat tropical fruit picked a day or two before and bring it up to the high country. It's very stimulating. And the people are extremely nice, wonderfully kind."

Helguera, a native of New York City, first began collecting while working on his dissertation in Bogotá in 1953-54. His work centered on General T.C. de Mosquera, one of the *caudillos* or "strong men" in Latin American history.

"I was working on the feel of a country," says Helguera, "just a little slice of Colombia's past, and

*Above: J. León Helguera painted in Bogotá in 1954 by his friend, the artist Sansegurdo Castañeda.*

there were almost no resources here at that time. What choice did I have? I realized there were few collections afield germane to Colombian history, so it became urgent to try to put together a library. I acquired what I could while I was there, then added to it. Then, I became bitten by it.

"I come from a family that, on both sides, was quite involved with books," he says, "so it's not surprising that I would be, too, given half the chance."

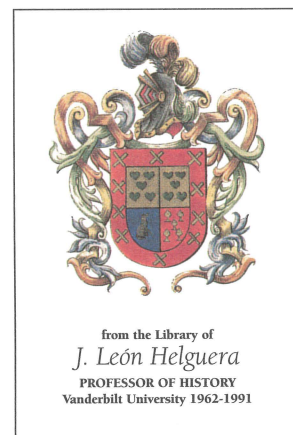
Paula Covington, Latin American bibliographer at the Heard Library and lecturer in Latin American studies, can attest to his involvement with the collection for which she is responsible. Since coming to Vanderbilt in 1973, she has met with Helguera once each week or two to discuss ways to enhance the library's holdings in Latin American history, a major strength of which is works on Colombia.

"We wouldn't have the collection we currently have without him," she states unequivocally. "He has been on the lookout for us for years, networking, putting us in touch with individuals and rare book dealers, for example, who could provide material that is now unavailable in print or even to have filmed, such as 19th-century government reports, newspapers, and official gazettes.

"For instance, we have a large collection of periodicals and newspapers from the 19th century and rare accounts of early travellers to the New World," she continues. "He has always been able to see ways of targeting areas that could make ours a first class research collection. And it is one of our biggest strengths. There are several other much larger institutions in the United States with strong Colombian collections, but which lack the depth and range that we have in certain areas of Colombian history."

University Librarian Paul Gherman concurs: "He has spent his lifetime here building our Colombian collection. Additionally, his personal collection, which he recently donated, comprises at least 5,000 volumes. Our guess is that 60% of the materials he has given us will be unique to our collection. This is by far one of the most fabulous gifts we have received."

Helguera's tales of collecting books in the Bogotá of  
*continued on page 10*



*Bookplate designed for items from the Helguera collection recently given to the Heard Library.*



## A Working Center

On any given day in the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, one can hear French spoken among the staff and scholars working there, as though the view outside includes the Eiffel Tower and not Alpine Bagels and Brews. Why is there a center dedicated to Baudelaire in Nashville? It is a question that Yvonne Boyer, bibliographer in charge of the French collections, has often fielded.

"We recently were profiled by *Bon Baisers d'Amérique*, a weekly program on Canadian television that features French subjects in the Americas," says Boyer. "And, of course, they asked the same question."

The answer lies in the legacy of W.T. Bandy, for 32 years a professor of French at the University of Wisconsin before bringing his personal collection on the French poet, critic, and translator Charles Baudelaire to Vanderbilt in September 1968. In coming to Vanderbilt, Bandy was returning to his alma mater (BA'23, MA'26, Peabody PhD'31) as Distinguished Professor of French in the department of French and Italian, but the reason for his return was to establish the core of what he referred to as "a workshop, a place for scholars to work on Baudelaire with all the tools they need." And work he did. Baudelaire once said that inspiration comes of working every day, and until Bandy's death in 1989, he and his wife Carol, worked daily in the Center from October to May before leaving the Nashville summer heat for Maine.

The inspiration of daily work continues in the *Centre W.T. Bandy d'Etudes Baudelairiennes* as it grows to encompass not just Professor Bandy's core collection, but a continual infusion of new material on Baudelaire as well as two other collections: The Pascal Pia Collection of French literary works, periodicals, and ephemera on prose and poetry since the mid-19th century; and the Gilbert Sigaux Collection, called by Associate Professor of French Dan Church, "the single most valuable resource for research on theater in France in the 20th century." In addition, two new projects inject late-20th-century technology into the Center's midst. Raymond Poggenburg, professor of French, emeritus, is collaborating with the library and Vanderbilt University Press to produce a searchable biographical database of Baudelaire on CD-ROM, while papers and miscellaneous items in the Sigaux Collection are digitized to assemble a searchable image database of full-text documents. The core of the collection, however, remains wedded to Professor Bandy's original vision—a working center on Baudelaire.



PEYTON HOGE

"The Baudelaire Center collects at a comprehensive level," says Boyer, "attempting to acquire all materials published on or about Baudelaire. For the unobtainable material, the Center keeps an extensive bibliographic record in the fiche file and the online database." The Center also houses ephemeral material such as sugar cube and candy wrappers inscribed with Baudelaire quotations. "Although we do not have the bottle itself, we do keep a notation of a perfume ad based on a Baudelaire passage—"There, all is order and beauty, luxury, calm, and volupté." It seems appropriate that the author of *Les Fleurs du Mal* is so frequently quoted on bonbons and French perfume."

It is a collection that continues to grow. Every year the Center purchases 80 or more works or items dealing with Baudelaire, who died in 1867 at the age of 46—a pivotal figure in modern poetry, despite his short life.

"One of the functions of the Center is to compile a bibliography," says Boyer. "We have translations of Baudelaire works into many languages, including several Asian languages. I find it fascinating that so many journal articles and books are published each year on such a very specific subject."

All three collections within the Center complement each other. The Pascal Pia Collection contains many autographed copies from major authors, including Albert Camus and André Malraux, who were both good friends of the French literary critic. Most interlibrary loan requests received in the French

*A sampling of miniature books from the Pascal Pia Collection, one of three collections within the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies. The books include Pensees Arabes (red), Pensees et Maximes (green), a flipbook called Apollinaire Vivant, ABC XYZ, and Musicien. The Preservation staff at the library constructed special boxes to hold these small treasures on the shelf, some of which are also pictured.*

*continued on page 10*

## A Collector of Colombiana *continued*

the early fifties involve individuals who seem almost like characters from the novels of Gabriel García Márquez or Isabel Allende. Among them: Senén del Camino, who described himself as an “ambulatory hunter of bibliographic treasures;” Mario Caicedo Posada, a man with ties to the clergy who set up shop in the corner of a cafe; and Julia Sánchez, a peasant woman with discriminating tastes in beer who specialized in collecting the *Gaceta Oficial*—the *Official Gazette* of the government.

“If you brought her a half dozen bottles of Bavaria Beer, she went from pig-headed to benevolent,” says Helguera. “You buy all kinds of things to get what you want when you’re in the business. Julia would practically give me pamphlets and ephemera as dross along with the *Gaceta*.\*”

“I came at a golden moment for collecting,” Helguera states. “Not long after I started collecting, the



Helguera, right, and Arturo Buenahora speak together after his May 30 gallery talk on book collecting in Bogotá in the early '50s.



Helguera was awarded the Order of Andrés Bello at the Venezuelan Embassy in the early '70s for his work uncovering the letters of Bolívar.

Bank of the Republic began collecting national imprints because the national library had no money—and still has no money—for collection development. The bank leadership realized that the national patrimony was being destroyed, so they became my competitors in effect, and they had far more resources with which to collect.

“There is a vast sea of material,” he continues. “You just have to find out where it is. I had good luck in that people gave me many volumes as gifts, too, knowing my interests and my dedication to Colombia’s past. People were very generous. In later years, I made good friends with notable Colombian historians and even bureaucrats in charge of libraries who gave me items.

“But the era of book sellers like Senén del Camino and Julia Sánchez, book sellers to a small elite, ended by the early '70s. It is they and their colleagues who made this Colombianist bibliophile.”

\*Helguera’s tales of book collecting in Bogotá in the early fifties were the subject of a gallery talk on May 30, the entirety of which will be printed in the spring 2000 issue of the *Acorn Chronicle*.

## A Working Center *continued*

Collections are for materials from this collection, which also contains Pia’s collection of miniature books. Sigaux, who was a professor of theater history at the *Conservatoire national d’art dramatique*, gathered nearly 6,000 volumes, including play texts and theater journals, as well as nearly 50,000 press clippings, programs, publicity releases, and articles from journals that are no longer available. It is the latter that comprises the digital preservation project.

“The Sigaux Project is on the cutting edge of digitalization,” says Boyer. “Once it is completed, documents can be searched by keyword, and the entire item can be viewed online.”

This fall the French Collections will move to the eighth level of the Central Library. It gleams with daylight, wood panels, new researcher tables, and framed historical prints from Dr. Bandy’s collection. It is a beautiful setting for the work of the W.T. Bandy



Center to continue.

“And it is a working center devoted to French studies,” stresses Boyer, “just as Dr. Bandy wished.”

Les Fleurs du Mal, one of Baudelaire’s most famous works, has been widely translated. The W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies owns editions in Polish, Dutch, Slovenian, Japanese, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Hungarian, Hebrew, and Urdu, among others.

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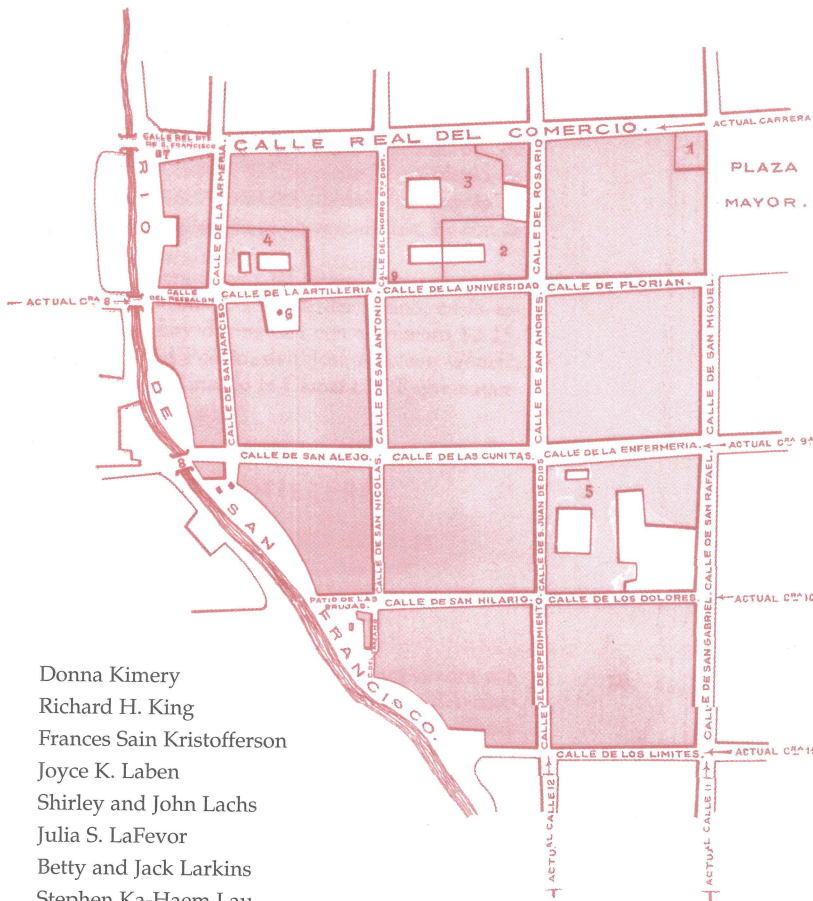
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James S. Patty, professor of French, emeritus; Ann Cook Calhoun, professor of English, emerita, and outgoing president of the Friends; and Ruth Zibart at the Library Leadership Dinner, June 17.

Kathryn Smith, incoming president of the Friends of the Heard Library, invites guests to enjoy their meal at the Library Leadership Dinner held June 17.



DAVID CRENSHAW

**“Once you lose the opportunity to buy a foreign language book, you never get it back.”**

*Jane Landers, Assistant Professor of History*

**J**ane Landers feels fortunate to be researching and teaching about Latin American and African American History at Vanderbilt. Because of the University’s strong Latin American collection, Professor Landers has access to materials that bring history to life.

Other scholars at Vanderbilt need greater access to foreign language collections. These costly books, published in limited numbers, are almost impossible to buy after the initial offering—leaving an irreparable hole in the library’s collection and making scholarly work more difficult.

Your gift to the Library will create opportunities at Vanderbilt. For more information, please contact the Office of the University Librarian at 615-343-4701.



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## Upcoming Event

**November 14** "Grantland Rice and Fred Russell: Two Gentlemen of Sport," a gallery talk by Professor William A. Harper, Purdue University, author of *How You Played the Game: A Biography of Grantland Rice*. Invitations for this event, sponsored by the library, will be mailed to all Friends members.

*Morgan Entrekin, president of Grove/Atlantic, Inc., in New York City addressed the Friends at their spring event held in April. Some of his listeners included former teachers from his school days here in Nashville (from left) Louise LeQuire, Frances Lentz, and Frances Kristofferson.*



*Alexander Heard and Frances Purdy at the Morgan Entrekin talk.*

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