



# Chronicle

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EDWIN WILSON, THEATER CRITIC of The Wall Street Journal, will speak at the Friends of the Library annual dinner meeting Monday, October 8, at the University Club of Nashville. His topic will be "Literature and the Arts--Luxury or Necessity." Mr. Wilson is also Professor of Theatre and Cinema at Hunter College--CUNY. A native of Nashville, he received the B.A. degree at Vanderbilt where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Further study was at the University of Edinburgh where he received a Graduate Diploma in English, and at Yale University, where he received the Master of Fine Arts and Doctor of Fine Arts degrees.

Mr. Wilson's numerous accomplishments include: The Theater Experience, an introductory theater text used by approximately 300 colleges and universities in the United States; theater directing at Hofstra, Yale, and Vanderbilt, as well as with professional companies; producing several off-Broadway shows and one Broadway play. From 1975 to 1977 he was on the nominating committee for the Tony Awards. Since 1977 he has been on the Pulitzer Prize Drama Committee. During the fall of 1978 he received a grant from the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Japan--U.S. Friendship Commission to visit Japan to report on contemporary Japanese theater.

Membership in the Friends of the Library is necessary to attend the dinner. Reservations are limited. For further information, please call the Special Collections Department, 322-2807.

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THE JESSE E. WILLS FUGITIVE/AGRARIAN COLLECTION has been enriched during the past six months through the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Allen Tate by the acquisition of nineteen out-of-print titles from the Tates' personal library.

In May Helen Moore Cole and Mary Daniel Moore Whitney attended their Quinq Reunion at Vanderbilt University. The visit and their deposit of additional unique photographs and memorabilia inspired a month-long exhibit based on the Moore Collection.

A portrait of Andrew Lytle by Avery Handly has been hung in the Special Collections Reading Room. The portrait, on indefinite loan from Mr. Lytle, joins an expanding art collection which now includes busts of Edwin Mims and Robert Penn Warren by Puryear Mims; Allen Tate by Harold Cash; and a portrait of Tate by Mary Hoover Aiken.

DONALD A. DAVIE, Andrew Mellon Professor of Humanities at Vanderbilt University, regaled the Friends of the Library on the subject, "American Poetry through British Eyes" one pleasant April evening in 1979. Following a fine critical introduction by Dorothy Bethurum Loomis, Davie gave a recitation of the opening lines of "The Song of Hiawatha," as learned at his mother's knee. His delightful anecdotal journey through American literature continued during a wine and cheese reception after the talk.

CONTINUING THE PRACTICE ESTABLISHED IN 1977, to conduct the Friends membership and renewal solicitation for the fiscal year beginning July 1 in the late spring, letters were sent to prospective members in May. Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Catherine P. Duncan reports 419 members through the end of August, with a combined contribution of \$8,148.00.

While the Friends of the Library organization has always maintained a high percentage of renewals, particularly noteworthy this year is the number of new members. Friends who wish to renew their memberships at this time may use the form printed below.

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INITIATING THE FIFTIETH YEAR CELEBRATION of I'll Take My Stand, the Alumni College on Campus hosted a symposium on the Agrarian manifesto called "The South as seen by the Agrarians: Romantic Anachronism or Vision for the Future?" Drawing alumni from a wide geographical spectrum, the symposium was held in a five-day residency at Vanderbilt University, August 1-5. Studying the document from a variety of perspectives, the participants heard lectures, saw films, took tours, and contributed their own analyses of the tension between progress and human happiness.

A special feature of the symposium was a panel discussion moderated by Lyle H. Lanier, one of the twelve Southerners who contributed essays to the 1930 publication. An important contribution to the authentic flavor of the proceedings was the presence of many of the wives and children of Agrarians.

On Friday, the group visited the Jesse E. Wills Fugitive/ Agrarian Collection at the General Library to hear of related materials there and to see an exhibition of manuscripts, correspondence, and published works on subjects of agrarian concern. Among other celebrations of the golden anniversary of I'll Take My Stand are those planned by the American Studies Association and the Modern Language Association.

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