



# Chronicle

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REYNOLDS PRICE, James B. Duke Professor of English at Duke University, will address the seventh annual dinner meeting of the Friends of the Library on Tuesday, 7 October 1980, at the University Club of Nashville. Mr. Price has distinguished himself in both the educational and literary fields. He attended Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1964, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and now holds one of Duke's most prestigious professorships. Hailed as one of the finest contemporary Southern writers, Mr. Price received the William Faulkner Foundation Award for his first novel, A Long and Happy Life, in 1962. His other works include: The Names and Faces of Heroes, A Generous Man, Love and Work, Permanent Errors, Things Themselves: Essays and Scenes, The Surface of Earth, Early Dark: A Play, Lessons Learned: Seven Poems, and A Palpable God.

This year's dinner meeting will feature Mr. Price reading from his work. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30 and dinner will follow at 7:00. During a brief business session, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and Board members for approval by the Friends. The following persons have agreed to serve for two years if elected: Rob Roy Purdy (as President), Walter Durham (First Vice-President), Miriam Cowden (Second Vice-President), and Andrew Benedict (Treasurer). In addition, the following will be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors: Charles Delzell, Annette Eskind, Jean Heard, Robert McGaw, Margaret Warner, and Richard Weesner.

Only current members of Friends of the Library are entitled to attend this special event. Invitations will be mailed to current members, and membership applications to non-renewed members, in the coming weeks. For further information, please call the Special Collections Department of the Vanderbilt University Library, 322-2807.

THE JAMES G. STAHLMAN HISTORICAL COLLECTION, a fascinating and unique addition to the holdings of the Vanderbilt University Library, has engaged the processing efforts of the Special Collections Department for the past two years. Mr. Stahlman, a senior trustee and benefactor of Vanderbilt and Life Member of the Friends of the Library, gave his extensive collection to the University in 1974 and continued to add to it until his death in 1976. Marice Wolfe, Head of Special Collections, announces that the indexing of the papers and artifacts has now been completed, and a guide-book to the autographs in the collection will be published this fall.

The Stahlman Collection contains about 2,000 items representing signatures or memorabilia of some 1,500 persons. The autographs are on cards, photographs, drawings, and even on scraps of paper, as well as on official documents and letters. The signatures range from those of Ferdinand and Isabella to contemporary public figures; the "Book of the Presidents" features signatures of all the Presidents of the United States from Washington through Carter. The historical collection also contains such unusual objects as the seal of Elizabeth I, a Mesopotamian signature seal, a pistol, and part of a battle flag. The diversity of the collection makes it a treasure for students and lovers of history. It seems certain to stir the "sense of history" which so moved Mr. Stahlman. Selected portions of the collection are on exhibit and may be seen between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays in the Special Collections Department.

THE 1980 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN has been a splendid success thus far, thanks largely to the stimulation of the NEH Challenge Grant, the untiring labor of Second Vice-President/Membership Chairman Catherine Duncan, and the generous response of the Friends. The 1980 campaign has yielded an appreciable growth both in the number of Friends and the amount of their gifts. With 486 memberships, of whom 224 are new, Friends now claims 815 members--more than in any previous year. Mrs. Duncan reports the following breakdown of membership categories:

Student Memberships	11
Contributing Memberships	146
Family Memberships	246
Sustaining Memberships	51
Patron	9
Benefactor	4
Life Memberships	19

Receipts of \$24,169 exceed last year's contributions by more than \$8,000 and make 1980 the third most financially successful campaign in the history of Friends of the Library.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, I have been in an ideal position to observe the benefits of the relationship between the Vanderbilt University Library and its Friends. My involvement with these two organizations has convinced me that our membership is composed of those people who are most concerned about the quality of Vanderbilt education and its relevance on a national scale. By their commitment to enhancing the Library program within the Vanderbilt community, Friends are also acknowledging the Library's role as a major resource center in this region and, on a broader scale, expanding our capacity to help meet the challenges now being confronted by higher education.

The development of the Library's collections and services provides resounding evidence of the effectiveness of the Friends program. This achievement has been greatly facilitated by a fine organizational staff. The efforts of our President, Ann Wells, and her able officers and Board render a great service to the larger interests of the Vanderbilt community. Marice Wolfe, Head of Special Collections, has made major contributions; her adept and gracious approach to our projects has provided an important link between the Friends and the University.

This "year of the merger" will be remembered as a significant milestone in our already unique history, as it has seen the establishment of a vital union between the Library and the total University. This year we mark the transition to a strengthened identity within the University and a more meaningful involvement in its program. In its Reassessment program Vanderbilt has announced its intention to give higher priority to the Library needs. The Director of the Library now attends the meetings of the Dean's Council and has been made an ex officio member of the VU Senate. Our salary scales and benefits are now consistent with those afforded Vanderbilt personnel. The University continues to examine ways in which it may more fully integrate the Library into the mainstream of the educational process, and the community is gradually discovering the benefits which result from this complementary relationship.

The University, the Library, and especially the Director's Office owe a debt of appreciation to the Friends of the Library for their help, guidance, and unfailing advocacy in this as in past years. The redirection of the Library provides crucial challenges and opportunities for us. Together, we can achieve the kind of distinguished Library which is commensurate with the stature and vision of Vanderbilt University.

Frank P. Grisham  
Director,  
Vanderbilt University Library



IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE for me to serve as President of Friends of the Library for the past two years. During this time, our organization has continued to develop a broad base of members and of support, as envisioned by the founders just six years ago. Each year new members are added, while the high percentage of renewals (73% last year) indicates the lasting interest of all our Friends. Much of this success is the result of the hard work of Catherine (Mrs. Starkey) Duncan, our Second Vice-President.

Each year since its inception, Friends of the Library has sponsored superb programs for its members. In April 1979, Donald Davie, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities at Vanderbilt, entertained us with a talk on "American Poetry Through British Eyes." On October 8, 1979, Edwin Wilson, a Vanderbilt alumnus who is theater critic of the Wall Street Journal, drew a record crowd to our annual dinner meeting at the University Club. Just this spring, Friends met for the first time in Neely Auditorium, where three student actors presented "An Evening of Mark Twain." For our 1980 dinner meeting this October, we will be fortunate indeed to hear the distinguished novelist, Reynolds Price. We appreciate the work of Professor James Kilroy, First Vice-President, in arranging these outstanding programs.

While members of Friends of the Library have benefited greatly from the opportunity to participate in such exciting programs, the Library has benefited from the generosity and support of our members. Since its beginning in 1974, Friends of the Library has contributed \$106,724 to the Library. The excellent response to the NEH challenge during our current membership solicitation will raise our gifts to well over \$130,000. In addition to monetary gifts, Friends have assisted in the attraction of several outstanding collections and individual items which have filled crucial gaps in our holdings. All of us can be proud of the way in which Friends of the Library has fulfilled its constitutional directive to enrich the Library resources and facilities and to attract bequests and gifts which exceed the regular resources of the Library.

The Board members and officers of Friends are busy individuals with commitments in many areas. We appreciate their support and participation in our programs over the past two years. It has been a delight to work with Frank Grisham, Director of the Vanderbilt University Library, whose enthusiasm for and dedication to the Library is evident to all. Special thanks go to Marice Wolfe, who has edited CHRONICLE as well as supervised the daily operations of Friends. She and the Library staff have been cheerful, efficient, and helpful.

With the firm foundation established in 1974 and continued through 1980, the future of Friends is bright. We can all look forward to useful years ahead for this strong and vital organization, and to the continuing growth and enrichment of that for which we are all working, the Vanderbilt University Library.

Ann Wells  
President,  
Friends of the Library

THE GENIUS OF MARK TWAIN and the generosity of Dr. Marc Hollender provided the center of festivity for the spring meeting of the Friends of the Library on the evening of April 8. In recognition of Dr. Hollender's giving his American first editions of Mark Twain to the Vanderbilt University Library, the evening featured dramatic readings from Twain's work, delightfully presented by three Vanderbilt students under the direction of Gary Cohen.

At the close of the program, Mrs. Charles Wells presented to Dr. Hollender a calligraphic certificate bearing Twain's statement, "Every man is in his own person the whole human race, with not a detail lacking," and the citation, "Presented in Appreciation to Dr. Marc Hollender for his generosity in permitting scholars to share insight into human nature through the writings of Mark Twain."

The Friends then moved to the lounge of Vanderbilt Hall for a convivial reception. Wine, cheese, and a variety of fresh fruits were served from beautifully prepared tables; and the air was soon filled with praise for the evening's program and expressions of renewed delight in Twain's wit.

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*Friends of the Library*

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