

# Chronicle

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## Recent Friends Acquisitions

The primary, essential and expressed purpose of The Friends of the Library is to enrich the resources of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library by acquisitions beyond the basic budgets established by the university. Crowning a decade's selection of valuable additions to the Arts, Baudelaire, Jesse Wills, Southern History, Music and other collections was the purchase in 1983 of a first edition, limited, numbered, signed copy of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. This unique copy of the most renowned publication of the twentieth century marks the tenth anniversary of the Friends and stands as a noble watermark for future efforts.

In the grand tradition, the major acquisition of 1984 was William Turner's *A New Herball*, the first work of English botanical science. Because of Turner's involvement in sixteenth century religious controversies, the first part of his herbal, published in 1551, suffered the same interdiction as his political works and copies are rarely seen. His uneasy circumstance also dictated the Cologne imprint of the second part of the herbal in 1562. Part three, dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, was published in 1568 and bound together with revised and enlarged parts one and two. The copy now placed in the History of Medicine Collection is the first edition of parts one and two, the first scientific herbal written by an Englishman in the English language.

Continuing an interest in the collection of Latin American materials, the Friends provided funds for the purchase of ten meso-american codices, the pictorial manuscripts drawn by the Mixtecs, Aztecs, Mayans and other peoples of pre-Columbian times. In an earlier allocation, funds were provided to strengthen the collection of Latin American



*A portion of the title page of Turner's A New Herball, second edition printed in Cologne in 1562.*

travel literature. The bibliographic search revealed a number of rare items already in the Library's general holdings. They have been transferred to protective custody in the rare book collection.

In its most recent report, the acquisitions committee recommended a challenge grant toward the purchase of a fine Judaica collection; funds to acquire the Music Collection of Werner Zepernick, a microfilm of the Thomas A. Edison Papers, and twenty-two available volumes of the Catalog Raisonne of Pablo Picasso. A catalog raisonne consists of illustrations of every known work by an artist and includes full documentation of every work: title, date, inscriptions, medium, size of work, along with records of provenance, exhibitions, and publication of the work as well as analytical and critical comments by scholars. These latest acquisitions sustain the high standard of remarkable quality and research value which the Friends desire for the Library's collections.



Malcolm Getz, Director of the  
Jean and Alexander Heard  
Library

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## From the Director

How does the Heard Library lend sparkle to the intellectual life of the University? The Library heightens the sense of adventure faculty and students feel as they engage in the intellectual hunt, the quest for deeper insight and thorough understanding. By acquiring the unexpected but welcome volume and by making certain that investigators can come upon it in many different ways, the Library makes a substantial difference in the success of the intellectual enterprise at Vanderbilt.

The surprising find, however, is usually more than luck. The chance that an investigator will find just the right materials here results from the systematic development of collections. The larger is our collection in a given discipline, the better the chance that an investigator will find the books; the more complete the collection, the better will be the catalog, the browsing, and the staff in bringing investigators and books together.

In the coming years, we will identify particular subjects where we will concentrate extra efforts to build collections of extraordinary depth and quality. Already, we can identify several special arenas of major importance to us. Beginning in the 1940s with a major gift from the Teitelbaum family, we have built in the Divinity Library the largest collection of Judaica materials in the Southeast. With gifts to the Lou Silberman book fund and by searching for the acquisition of major collections, we hope to expand the collection to one of the finest in North America.

The Jesse E. Wills Fugitive and Agrarian collection includes books, manuscripts, and other material from a major literary movement at Vanderbilt. We aspire to hold the richest collection of material relating to this movement. Our collection in French literature is becoming among the strongest in the United States, reflecting Professor W. T. Bandy's efforts in creating the Baudelaire Center as well as the 15,000 volumes of the Pascal Pia collection, a collection acquired with very sig-

nificant contributions from alumni. In these areas, we are building on strength.

At present, we are actively discussing what role the Heard Library should play in acquiring, organizing, and preserving primary source materials for the study of Southern History. We want to develop a specialization that will allow us to collect materials not available elsewhere and valuable to historians in the future.

In providing a thumbnail sketch of some of our efforts to build collections, I am indicating the emphasis we place on building to strength, of making investments that go well beyond what other universities do in particular areas, and of contributions to the Library to build collections. In my short list, I have not mentioned our efforts to add to Francis Robinson's wonderful collection dealing with opera and vocal music, the Massey Law Library's effort in medical ethics, the Medical Center Library's success in building a collection on the history of nutrition, our strengths in materials dealing with the child, and with Latin America, and the Goldberg collection of British art materials. We hope the number of collections worthy of mention will grow. Great collections are created with persistent and extraordinary effort and, when cared for, endure for many generations. I hope we can continue to invest in these significant areas and raise others to the same high level. These outstanding collections are the diamonds that will continue to lend sparkle to Vanderbilt well beyond this century.

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*Team Captain, Lynne Siesser, prepares pre-verification forms for the West collection on demonology*

## Volunteer Program Active

In addition to direct financial support for purchase of materials, the Friends of the Library has discovered a more targeted and tangible means of helping the Library: volunteers.

When the Friends helped acquire the collection of Joseph Mersand several years ago, library staff realized the immense task of checking the books in that collection against the holdings of the Library. At that point, Virginia Holladay was asked to spearhead a project to train willing volunteers in the process of verification, checking Mersand titles against the public card catalog. At the same time, the Pia Library had arrived, and volunteers skilled in French were needed to conduct preliminary verification of those works. Some fifty volunteers were recruited in those early months to work on these collections and on the collection of Francis Robinson.

The importance of the Volunteer program was recognized by the creation last year of a constitutional vice-presidency in charge of volunteers. Catherine Duncan was elected and she has taken to the task with vigor.

Under Catherine's direction, volunteers have been organized into five teams, each led by an experienced captain. Each team takes on a discrete project in one of the Libraries, working one day a week or every other week until the task is completed. Presently, one team is verifying a unique and intriguing collection of books on demonology; another is creating a comprehensive list of all faculty of the University, past and present; yet another team is helping microfilm records of the graduates of Vanderbilt; and one team is preserving the Pia books by encasing the covers in mylar.

The Library offers many attractive and unusual opportunities for volunteer service, and library staff are appreciative of the help they are receiving. If you are interested in volunteer work, contact Catherine Duncan or the Library Administration.

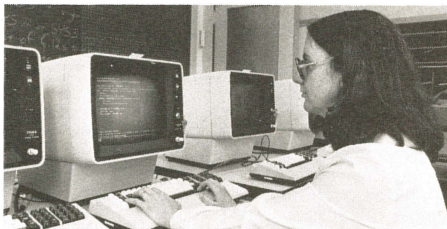
## Heard Library Society

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library has approved a new venture in fundraising.

The Heard Library Society will play a key role in the advance of the University by supporting the enrichment of the collections, programs, facilities, and services of the Heard Library. The Society is a special group within the Friends of the Library, extending the mission of the Friends. By providing a substantial source of continuing, unrestricted funds from generous annual giving by its members, the Society will help shape the Heard Library. An annual gift of one thousand dollars or more qualifies an individual to become a member of the Society. A foundation or corporation that makes an unrestricted gift of that amount may designate a member. The funds will be used to build collections and enhance services. In this way, the Society makes a significant mark on the future of the Heard Library and of the University.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is at the center of the University's plan for excellence. Continued enhancement of the Library is essential to the success of all the schools of the University. The Library must ever grow by acquiring the newly published, by seeking out historical material in depth, by taking advantage of new media as they become important. Growth in collections must be balanced with growth of staff, space, and services to make the collections useful. At the heart of the great university is a dynamic, resourceful, irreplaceable treasure, the great library.

Please address inquiries about the Heard Library Society to Malcolm Getz, Director, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Box 155, Peabody Station, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-5601.



*Flo Wilson, Assistant Director for Systems*

## Membership Campaign Begins

The membership campaign for 1985-86 will begin this summer, Louise McCoy, Membership Chair announced. All Friends who contribute after March 1, 1985 will be enrolled for the 1985-86 membership year. Please respond positively and promptly when Mrs. McCoy asks for your help.

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## “Acorn” – An Online Catalog to the Libraries’ Collections

This year, through a special expenditure of funds, the Jean and Alexander Heard Library has invested in an online integrated library system. The implementation here at Vanderbilt, named “Acorn”, is based on the NOTIS software from Northwestern University; it will run on an IBM 4361 dedicated to the library’s system and located in the Computer Center.

By this fall, the most dramatic change brought about by “Acorn” will be the online public access catalog. From any of almost forty public terminals in the various libraries, library users will be able to search the holdings of all of the eight libraries in the system—a union catalog not possible before. While not everything will be in the electronic catalog initially (about 60%), up to 90% of the titles may be online by summer of 1986. Access points will include the standard approaches of author, title, subject and series. In the near future, keyword and Boolean search capabilities will be

added. In January 1986 when the circulation function is implemented (no more cards to fill out!), the shelf status or due date of an item will be displayed in the catalog. Since acquisitions is another function provided by “Acorn”, on order and receipt information will be presented in the public catalog too.

The Library has significant plans for the enhancement of the online system as it will first be installed. An interface with existing campus computer resources is envisioned; campus wide access to the system through future network development is planned; dial-up access will be available. Longer-range experimentation with offering access to specialized databases and article level material will be undertaken. It is the library’s commitment to offer sophisticated access to information resources in whatever form to the university community. “Acorn” is the seed of that commitment.

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## Friends of the Library

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