

Chronicle

Published by The Friends of the Library
The Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Volume 18, Number 1
Fall 1992

Writer George Garrett to speak at Friends dinner



Novelist, poet, and screenwriter George Garrett will speak at the Friends of the Library dinner on Wednesday, November 4, in the Vanderbilt Stadium Club. Probably best known for his

Elizabethan historical novels — *Death of the Fox*, *The Succession*, and *Entered from the Sun* — Garrett will discuss “Living with Elizabethans.”

Born in 1929 in Orlando, Florida, Garrett attended Sewanee Military Academy and the Hill School. He earned a B.A. at Princeton in 1952, served in Europe with the U.S. Army for two years, then returned to Princeton where he received his M.A. in 1958. He also completed course work for his doctorate but did not receive the Ph.D. until 1985, when Princeton accepted *Death of the Fox* and *The Succession* as his dissertation.

As prolific as any writer of his generation, Garrett has written poetry, short stories, novels, screenplays, and criticism. He has used such a variety of distinct styles in his novels and short stories that his fiction defies categorization. Some of his early writing drew on his experiences in the military, and he has been called a “Southern” writer, perhaps principally for two novels: *The Finished Man*, about Florida politics, and *Do, Lord, Remember Me* about a tent revivalist. His style and approach in various works have been compared to

Hemingway, Faulkner, and Joyce. It is said a publisher once accused him of submitting a friend’s manuscript under his own name because the style was so different from Garrett’s previous work. Garrett appears unconcerned by any discomfort he might cause those requiring “neatness” in literary criticism, insisting on using the most appropriate style for the purpose of the work at hand.

In his Elizabethan historical novels, he has apparently overcome his earlier lack of recognition by the sheer power and artistry of the works themselves. Commentators note that *Death of the Fox* and *The Succession* move the historical novel into a new dimension. The former, published in 1971, is about Sir Walter Raleigh. The latter, a 1983 novel, concerns events occurring at the time of the ascension of James I to the throne of England after the death of Elizabeth I. Garrett’s most recent novel about the death of Christopher Marlowe, *Entered from the Sun* (1990), also includes elements of a murder mystery.

Garrett has taught at several universities and is currently Henry Hoynes Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Virginia. His awards and honors include the *Sewanee Review* fellowship, the Rome Prize of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the T. S. Eliot Award, the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction, and the Hollins College Medal. He is married to Susan Parrish Jackson and they have three children.

(Sources for this article include Contemporary Authors, Dictionary of Literary Biography, and Understanding George Garrett by R.W.H. Dillard.)



Frank and Louise McCoy visit with Edith Mott, center.

Heard Society members enjoy gala dinner

Members of the Heard Library Society toured the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library and enjoyed a gala dinner at Blair School of Music in June. Pianist Bzur Haun ('93), a Blair student, entertained members with musical selections, while Shirley Watts, director of the Music Library, demonstrated the library's electronic equipment which enables students and faculty to use records, tapes, and compact discs (CDs) in the Music Library's collection.

Chair Walter Durham introduced fifteen new members of the Heard Society and presented them with a set of wooden bookends. Durham then turned the program over to Malcolm Getz, director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Getz recognized nine five-year members of the society with commemorative bookplates, duplicates of which have been placed in selected volumes in the Heard Library collections. Members of the steering committee received framed copies of the cover of *Vanderbilt Magazine's* Fall 1991 edition, which featured the General Library Building's golden anniversary.

Getz also narrated a slide presentation called "The Jean and Alexander Heard Library: A Decade of Progress," which highlighted physical improvements over the past ten years. Included were the expansion of the Alyne Queener Massey

Law Library in 1982, construction of the new Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library, and the acquisition of the Library Annex, where movable shelving accommodates more books per square-foot than conventional library space. Also featured were the Library's electronic tools, such as Acorn, the on-line catalog; Acorn-Plus data bases for catalog searches of other collections; compact disc-read only memory (CD-ROM) data bases; and Clipper, the newspaper clipping scan-and-search program in the Education Library.

Several slides documented the growth of collections in important areas, including the Zimmerman Judaica Collection and the Jesse Wills Fugitive-Agrarian Room. The presentation concluded with a photo of the title page of the Library's two-millionth volume, *Journal of the Proceedings of the Congress, Held at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774*, given by Board of Trust and Heard Society member Ridley Wills II at the Board's April meeting. Getz presented Wills with a framed photo of the *Journal's* title page, noting the book's significance to library collections. He also pointed out that the gift continues a family tradition of generosity established by Wills's father, Jesse Wills, who gave the Library its one-millionth volume.



Bill and Elva Darby take turns at one of the Music Library's listening stations.



Trustee Ridley Wills, right, with Dot and Martin Roberts.



Bill and Kathy Turner with Charles Mott, center.



Library Director Malcolm Getz, right, presents Ridley Wills with a framed photo of the title page to the Library's two-millionth volume.



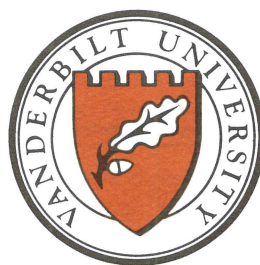
Librarian Jean Wright, center, demonstrates Acorn for Joe and Sarah Little.

Schedule conflict prevents Foote address

Because of a schedule conflict, Shelby Foote will be unable to attend the Friends of the Library dinner, as announced in the summer issue of the *Chronicle*. In early November, Foote will receive the National Endowment for the Humanities prestigious Frankel Award, along with Eudora Welty, Allan Bloom, Richard Rodriguez, and Harold Skramstad. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to increasing public understanding of the humanities.

Injured Getz on the mend

Library Director Malcolm Getz is pictured wearing a neck brace in this issue of the *Chronicle*. On March 8, Getz was struck by a car while cycling. The morning after the Heard Society dinner, Getz underwent surgery for a damaged disc in his neck. Today, he is feeling much better and was able to rid himself of the brace in September.



Chronicle is published by the Friends of the Library under the auspices of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, or call 322-7102.

President: Walter Sullivan
 Director of the Library: Malcolm Getz
 Director of Development: William R. Mott
 Editor: Joanne Lamphere Beckham
 Writer: F. Clark Williams
 Designer: Randy Zachary, University Design
 Photographs: Denny Adcock and the University of Virginia



Make a Difference, be a Friend

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is at the heart of Vanderbilt University's academic mission. Excellence in teaching and research can be sustained only when excellence in libraries is maintained. Because of ever-increasing pressures on University resources, the continued generosity of Friends of the Library is critical to ensure superior Library collections and services. You can support Vanderbilt's mission by sending your gift with the completed form below. If you are already a member of the Friends, you can help further by passing along this copy of the *Chronicle* to someone else who might find it of interest.

I/we wish to become a member of the Friends of the Library as indicated below:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students | \$ 5 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 200 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 25 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$ 500 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$ 100 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Heard Society | \$1,000 annually |

Contributions can be designated to support specific areas of interest. The Jean and Alexander Heard Library comprises the following collections:

- The Central Library & the Sara Shannon Stevenson Science Library
- The Divinity Library
- The Education Library
- The Alyne Queener Massey Law Library & Legal Information Center
- The Medical Center Library
- Special Collections & University Archives
- The Television News Archive
- The Walker Management Library
- The Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

Contributions are tax deductible. Send to Friends of the Library, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-0007.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

My/our check for _____, payable to the Friends of the Library, is enclosed.

Friends of the Library

Vanderbilt University
The Jean and Alexander Heard Library
419 Twenty-first Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37240

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 1460