

# THE ACORN Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY THE JEAN AND ALEXANDER HEARD LIBRARY • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY • WINTER 1997-98

## Library celebrates 75th anniversary of *The Fugitive*

In April 1922, a group of Vanderbilt faculty and students published a small poetry magazine that was to spark a renaissance in Southern literature. This year, Vanderbilt is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Fugitive* with a variety of events.

The celebration began last April when the Jean and Alexander Heard Library hosted members of its donor societies at a gala dinner featuring an original dramatization of Fugitive voices written by Marice Wolfe, University archivist. Photos from the dinner may be seen on page 6.

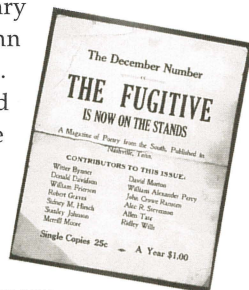
Also in April, a bronze plaque honoring Rose and James Marshall Frank for their contributions to the Fugitive group was dedicated in Special Collections. The plaque was commissioned through the estate of Helen Frank in memory of her parents.



The celebration continued in October when Joseph Blotner, author of *Robert Penn Warren, A Biography*, addressed the 24th annual dinner of the Friends of the Library. Please see page 2 for photographs of the Friends dinner.

During his visit to Vanderbilt, Blotner also took part in the 10th anniversary celebration of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities.

In addition, an exhibit titled "Seventy-five Years of Fugitive Influence" is on display in Special Collections from now through January. It features recently acquired collections of literary papers that bear on the Fugitive movement, along with manuscripts and artifacts connected with the original group.



### Experiencing a noble life

Thirty years ago, when Joseph Blotner began research for his impressive biography of William Faulkner, their common editor, Albert Erskine, MA'39, said, "You ought



to talk with Red Warren." Blotner wrote to Warren to ask for his help, thus beginning a friendship that would culminate in *Robert Penn Warren: A Biography*, published by Random House in 1997.

"Writing this book was fun," Blotner told the ACORN CHRONICLE during a recent interview. "I enjoyed the process very much because I knew Warren, and liked him, and admired his work greatly. I felt very fortunate to be doing it. Red had an intriguing, heroic life, and he was one of the most agreeable, charming, and amusing of men in my experience.

"I also got to meet so many other people whom I liked and admired: Walter and Jane Sullivan, for instance, Lon and Fannie Cheney, and Andrew Lytle."

Blotner read everything that Warren wrote. This was no small feat, for the nation's first poet laureate penned 16 volumes of poetry, ten novels, a book of short stories, two selections of critical essays, a biography, three his-

Above: At the 1956 Fugitive Reunion were, left to right, Allen Tate, Merrill Moore, Robert Penn Warren, John Crowe Ransom, Donald Davidson

Left: A newspaper feature and a handbill from 1923

continued on page 2



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DINNER

torical essays, a critical book on Dreiser, a study of Melville, and two studies of race relations in America.

Blotner also consulted books on Tennessee and Kentucky history, politics, and even an edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy* printed in medieval Italian and English, "because Red knew it well."

"It was a continual learning experience," he says, "This was a process I welcomed of enhancing and enlarging my education."

One of the more surprising things that his research uncovered was "the vicissitudes of Warren's undergraduate and graduate careers."

"He had a tough time sticking to the rules," Blotner says, "and was something of a disciplinary problem. I knew of his suicide attempt (while a Vanderbilt undergraduate)...and I was distressed and moved to read about his first marriage (to Cinina Brescia), the anguish it caused him, and the nobility that he showed in putting up with it."

Born and educated in the North, Blotner taught for 15 years at the Universities of Virginia and North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1993, he retired as professor of English,

emeritus, from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and returned to Charlottesville, Virginia, with his wife, Marnie. There he continues to write about the two giants of Southern and American literature. "Faulkner," he opines, "is our greatest 20th century novelist, and Warren, our greatest man of letters."

Blotner also sings the praises of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

"It was extremely helpful (in writing Warren's biography), both the Fugitive collection and Bill Bandy's Baudelaire library. It was interesting just to walk into the Fugitive Room and see those busts."

Overall, Blotner views Warren as both an outstanding writer and a fine human being. At the end of his preface to *Robert Penn Warren*, he pays tribute to Warren's art and his character:

America's preeminent man of letters, master of genres, prodigiously creative, heavy with awards and prizes honoring his genius, Robert Penn Warren was also that rare being, a genuinely good man. I am fortunate not only to be able to offer the tribute of a book to his memory, but also to have experienced something of his noble life. 🍷



Joseph Blotner



Alexander and Jean Heard talk with Joseph Blotner, right, who was the guest speaker for the Friends of the Library annual dinner.

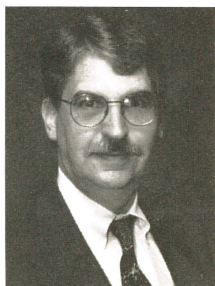


Marice Wolfe, left, Ann Hartree, Anne Lowe, and Paul Gherman chat before dinner. Hartree and Lowe are both new members of the Friends of the Library board of directors.



Glenn Hammonds, left, Landis Gullett, Louise McCoy, and Martha Hammonds





Paul M. Gherman

I hope you enjoy the new design, masthead, and name for the library's publication. We changed the name to the ACORN CHRONICLE to signal a new direction for what was the CHRONICLE. The new masthead combines the color and typeface of the CHRONICLE with the logo for ACORN, our on-line catalog. We believe that joining the two names

and typefaces is emblematic of the duality of modern libraries, which use the new media of light and silicon as well as the age-old media of ink and paper to store the record of human achievement. In addition to making these design changes, we are also expanding the distribution of this publication. Beginning with this issue, the library's newsletter will report on the activities of the Friends of the Library, the Heard Library Society, and the Heard Library system to a wider audience, including faculty and students.

The "Gallery Talk" inserts are another new feature that will bring you the text of the Sunday afternoon talks we have hosted in Special Collections. We realize that not all of our supporters are able to attend these wonderful events. We hope you will enjoy reading the texts of these lectures. In this issue, Carol Fitzgerald's "Gallery Talk" imparts her keen interest and excitement in collecting the Rivers of America series. Our next issue will feature the talk given in May by Robert Drake, BA'52, MA'53, an author and educator who has donated his papers to our collections. On page 7, you will find a photograph of Drake at a reception honoring him during Reunion '97 in May.

Since I last wrote to you, the libraries have experienced many exciting developments. We have successfully implemented new software that replaced our ten-year-old library system. While the new catalog still uses the name ACORN, the new system is based on the latest Web technology and allows users to access electronically the full text of selected journals and other information sources by simply clicking on the citation in the catalog. You can read more about it on page 5.

Another recent development is the Nashville Area Library Alliance (NALA), of which we are a founding member. The goal of NALA is to increase access to information resources and library materials for all Nashvillians. Project Athena, the first effort of NALA, will link the catalogs of several Nashville-area academic libraries and the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County. Please turn to page 4 for more information about the Athena Project.

A development of particular interest to the Vanderbilt campus is a new outreach program for faculty. The library cosponsored a faculty workshop in May on using new technology in the classroom. Based on evaluations received from the participants, the provost has authorized the library to present additional workshops during this academic year. One of the library's new roles must be to help faculty understand and utilize the new information technology which we bring to campus. Given the rapid pace of change in technological areas, it is impossible for any individual to keep up with all of the new developments. Through these workshops, library staff can help faculty maintain an awareness of the latest technological advances.

Technology is also altering the production of theses and dissertations. In coordination with the Graduate School, we have begun an initiative to offer graduate students the option of writing their dissertations in electronic format. These dissertations will be stored on a library server and will be available over the World Wide Web. Technology now empowers authors to incorporate text, sound, moving images, computer modeling, and data manipulation into their work. The electronic dissertation format allows graduate students new outlets for the creative presentation of their research.

We are energized by all these new projects and directions, but we remain focused as well on core library values of collections, service, and access. As the Heard Library grows and changes, we will depend on the commitment of our staff and our supporters to enable us to keep pace with the needs of our users. I appreciate all of your efforts and encourage you, if you are not already a member, to join the Friends or the Heard Society. 🍷

PAUL M. GHERMAN

### FOOTNOTES

#### Durham pens history of Tennessee 'Forty-niners'

Walter T. Durham presented a gallery talk on November 9 on his latest historical study, *Volunteer Forty-Niners: Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush*, recently published by Vanderbilt University Press. Following his talk, a reception took place in Special Collections. According to the Press, Durham's book provides the first comprehensive examination of the role Tennessee and Tennesseans played in creating a new state and a new society on the West Coast. 🍷

#### Library gains new development director

Holly McCall was named director of development for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library in October. Her responsibilities also include raising funds for the Vanderbilt Press, the Graduate School, and the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.

Prior to joining the Vanderbilt staff, McCall worked in both the local and national offices of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She has experience in political fundraising, having run several campaigns, and has also worked as a fund-raising consultant. 🍷



# THE ELECTRONIC AGE OF THE LIBRARY

## *Athena, goddess of wisdom*

Project Athena, a new electronic program linking the Heard Library's catalog with those of other Nashville-area academic and public libraries, is now available for Heard Library patrons and other members of the Nashville community.

"This advance should enable Vanderbilt students, faculty, and other library users to locate needed books quickly and to access them through interlibrary loan," said University Librarian Paul Gherman. It will also enable members of the Nashville community and students in the public schools to take advantage of the research capabilities of the area's academic libraries.

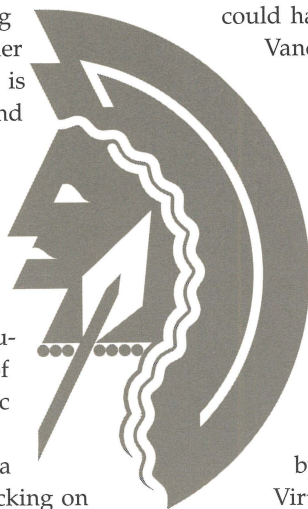
Vanderbilt users can access the Project Athena catalog through the library's home page by clicking on the Athena icons, then choosing "Virtual Catalog," and searching the database following the on-line instructions. A single search of the Athena catalog will tell the user which library holds the item.

Project Athena was officially launched in September by Vanderbilt Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt, Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen, and Donna Nicely, director of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County. The event took place at the Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel during the National Library Power Conference.



"We now have a technology that makes the walls between our electronic catalogs transparent," Chancellor Wyatt said, "so that every student, from preschool to postgraduate, can tap into the awesome arsenal of information in Nashville's libraries."

Project Athena (Accessing Technological Horizons to Educate the Nashville Area) is the first in a series of projects launched by the new Nashville Area Library Alliance (NALA) to support learning through shared library resources. Mayor Bredesen called it "a major step forward for the Nashville library systems and public schools." NALA president Nicely noted, "None of this



could have happened without the leadership of Vanderbilt University."

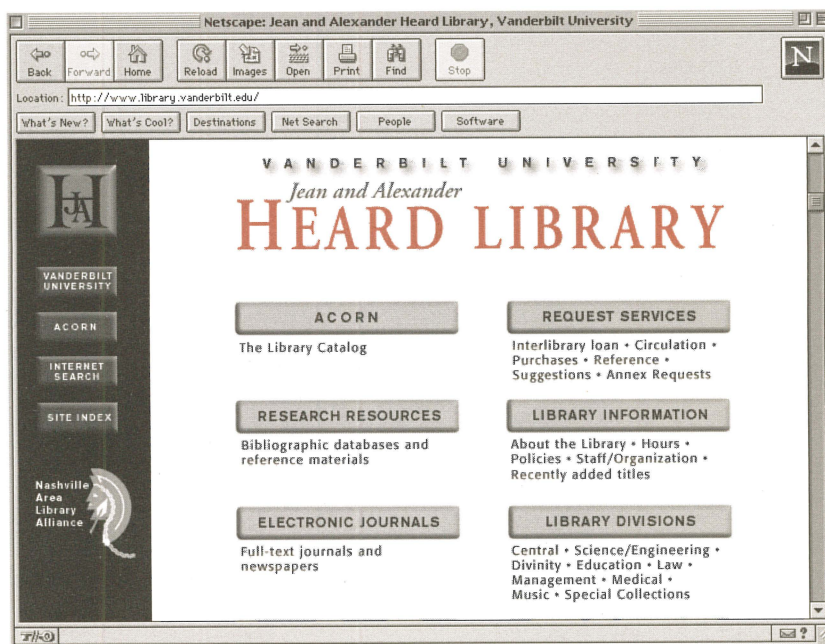
The Heard Library has agreed to host the server to run the SiteSearch software, which allows the search of a number of catalogs simultaneously. "The Virtual Catalog of Project Athena is one of the first applications in the nation of this new software to link various libraries in a community," Gherman said.

Currently, only books can be borrowed through Project Athena. However, Nicely indicated that on-line publications might also be shared by the libraries in the future. The Athena Virtual Catalog eventually will represent more than 5 million volumes held by NALA members. With 2.3 million volumes, the Heard Library possesses almost 50 percent of the holdings.

All not-for-profit libraries within a 50-mile radius of Nashville are eligible to join NALA. In order to be part of Project Athena, a library must have an electronic catalog that uses a particular software communications standard. In addition to Vanderbilt and the public library, other participants in Project Athena are Belmont, Fisk, Trevecca, Austin Peay State, Middle Tennessee State, and Tennessee State universities.

*Left: Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt, left, talks with Donna Nicely and Mayor Phil Bredesen at the official launch of Project Athena during the National Library Power Conference.*

*Below: The Jean and Alexander Heard Library home page.*





# FRIENDS OF THE JEAN AND ALEXANDER HEARD LIBRARY

JULY 1996 – JUNE 1997

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is grateful for the generosity of its Friends and other benefactors who provided gifts in the 1997 fiscal year (July 1996–June 1997).

Contributions included unrestricted gifts, donations for specific areas of the library, memorial and commemorative gifts, documented bequests, and gifts-in-kind.

## HEARD LIBRARY SOCIETY

### \$1000 and up

Mr. John M. Alden  
Mr. William Arnold  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Auer  
Mr. David A. Balthrop  
Mrs. Mandy S. Barbara  
Mrs. Marianne Beare  
Mr. David E. Blum  
Mr. John Robert Bright Jr.  
Brown Foundation Incorporated  
Professor Ann J. Cook Calhoun  
Dr. Richard O. Cannon II  
Mr. Jeff Carr  
Ms. Jean R. Cassel  
Ms. Nena Louise Couch  
and Mr. Peter Coccia  
Mr. Kurt H. Decker  
Dr. Thomas S. Dina  
Mr. Robert Y. Drake Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Durham  
Mrs. Emalie Egan  
Mr. Sam M. Fleming  
Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Foster  
Dr. Robert H. Franklin  
Dr. and Mrs. Gottlieb C. Friesinger  
The Freedom Forum  
Mr. Martin S. Geisel  
General Motors Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Gherman  
Ms. Mary Elaine Goleski and  
Mr. Howard Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Goodpasture  
Mr. James P. Gray  
Dr. and Mrs. John P. Greer  
Mrs. Landis B. Gullett  
Mr. Gus G. Halliburton  
Bequest of Dashiell B. Harris  
Dr. Elaine Harriss and  
Dr. Ernest Harriss  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Rodes Hart  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Heard  
Mr. Frank Muir Heard  
Dr. and Mrs. Marc H. Hollender  
Dr. Sarah McCanness Howell  
Mr. J. Hicks Lanier  
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Virgil S. LeQuire  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Little  
Mr. John R. Loomis  
Mrs. Alyne Queener Massey  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. May  
Mrs. Louise H. McCoy  
Bequest of Ina Beth McGavock  
Dr. Alexander C. McLeod  
Mr. Holland N. McTyeire IV  
Dr. Steven G. Meranze  
Dr. Stephanie Mouton  
Mrs. Nancy Perot Mulford

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bond Payne  
Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Phipps  
Mr. John W. Poindexter  
Dr. Tommy J. Poirier  
Justin and Valere Potter Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Harris D. Riley Jr.  
Mr. Martin S. Roberts  
Mr. William Robnett  
Dr. Richard E. Romm  
Ms. Marilyn M. Shields-Wiltsie  
and Dr. Theodore Wiltsie  
Mrs. Lisa Welch Silbar  
Mrs. Kathryn W. Smith  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gay Teoman  
Mr. William E. Turner Jr.  
Miss Heidi Jane Ueberroth  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Vaughan Jr.  
Mr. William Waller Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Wattles  
Mr. Fred M. Wells  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Werthan  
Mrs. Leah Rose Werthan  
Mrs. Ellen B. Wills  
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills II  
Mr. David K. Wilson  
Ms. Florence J. Wilson and  
Mr. William S. Longwell  
Mr. Richard H. Winningham

## BENEFACTOR

### \$500-\$999

Mr. Lee Richard Adler  
Ms. Tia S. Barancik  
Mr. and Mrs. Matt M. Callihan  
Bequest of Christine Sadler Coe  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Collins Sr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Frederic E. Cowden  
Mr. Jay Thomas Dawson  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Gareri  
Mrs. Frances Hardie  
Dr. Elwood J. Headley  
Dr. Mary Sara Hoffschwelle  
Dr. Gerald B. Hogsette Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Katahn  
Mrs. Martha J. Kumar  
Dr. Michael A. Lojek  
Mr. Geoffrey Paul Mavar  
Mr. Robert N. Moore Jr.  
Mr. Louis Nicholas  
Mr. Bradley K. Sabel  
Mr. Kenneth Schermerhorn  
Dr. Stephen A. Schultz  
Mr. C. Boone Schwartzel  
Mrs. Elizabeth Anglin Simmonds  
Street Dixon Rick Architects  
Ms. Ann Ward Talcott  
Mrs. Attollee B. Viall  
Ms. Attollee Marie Viall  
Mrs. Faurot T. Weller

## PATRON

### \$200-\$499

Mr. Robert C. Arnett  
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph I. Barr  
Dr. William O. Batts Jr.  
Mrs. Melanie Clemmons Becker  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Binkley  
Mr. William Robert Black  
Blackwell North America  
Ms. Margaret Lawrence Blank  
Dr. Eric M. Chazen  
Dr. William J. Courtenay  
Mrs. Eileen S. Crawford  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Delzell  
Mr. William Edward Fitzgibbon IV  
Dr. Milton Frank III  
Mr. Clifford Fuller  
Mrs. Malcolm S. Glass  
Mrs. Edna Little Green  
Ms. Sara J. Harwell  
Ms. Jean Slates Hawk  
Mrs. Byrd S. Helguera  
Miss Marilyn Y. Henry  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Earl Hinton  
Mr. and Mrs. T. Mark Hodges  
Ms. Nancy Jackson and  
Mr. Eberhard Ramm  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Michael Kirchner  
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Madewell  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Marney  
Dr. Samuel R. Marney Jr.  
Dr. George W. McLean  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Nitchie  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Leslie Perry  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Plant  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Price  
Dr. R. Kirby Primm  
Mrs. Valerie Hinkley Ranney  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Roos  
Dr. Lewis H. Rosenbaum  
Dr. S. Lane Rutledge  
Mr. John F. Schultz  
Dr. John S. Sergeant  
Dr. Mildred T. Stahlman  
Mrs. Elise Levy Steiner  
Mr. Harry B. Stewart  
Dr. Patricia B. Swan  
Mrs. Blanche V. Tipton  
Dr. Thomas H. Whitley Jr.  
Dr. Sadye Tune Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. William Ridley Wills III  
Ms. Marice Wolfe  
Mrs. Jean Acker Wright  
Zell Partners Limited

## SUSTAINING

### \$100-\$199

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Adams Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William Jolly Amonette  
Mr. Timothy Edward Amsbary  
Mr. Nelson Alexander C. Andrews  
Mrs. Katherine R. Barnes  
Dr. and Mrs. Allan D. Bass  
Dr. Robert Earl Bays  
Mr. Gary Dean Beasley  
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm E. Beauchamp  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Thomas Beckham  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew B. Benedict Jr.  
Dr. Bruce Wayne Bennett  
Mr. Edwin W. Benson Jr.  
Dr. Perry H. Biddle Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. F. Tremaine Billings Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Reber F. Boulton  
Dr. Walter L. Bourland  
Mr. Cawthon A. Bowen Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Breast Jr.  
Mr. Joseph Brenner Jr.  
Dr. Kristina C. Brockmeier  
Mrs. Elizabeth Bryan Brown  
Mrs. Margaret B. Burns  
Dr. and Mrs. Boyd L. Burris  
Dr. Philip Burton  
Mr. Frank Chiu-Yao Chang  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Cook Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Cooper  
Mrs. Margaret R. Coughlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Covington  
Dr. George B. Crafton  
Ms. Margaret B. Culp  
Mrs. Kay T. Davenport  
Miss Lucille G. David  
Ms. Betty Ann DeBerg  
Miss Clarise A. DeQuasie  
Mr. Thomas Webb Dickson  
Mrs. Ruth Robinson Dietrich  
Mr. Louis Peter Digennaro  
Miss Ann Dillon  
Ms. Karen L. Doolittle  
Mr. Don H. Doyle  
Dr. David J. Drutz  
Dr. John Robert Duke  
Mr. Keith Randall Dull  
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall C. Eakin  
Dr. Philip S. Engel  
Dr. J. Merton England  
Dr. and Mrs. Irwin B. Eskind  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Eskind  
Dr. and Mrs. Leland Lloyd Estes  
Miss Rachael Farris  
Dr. and Mrs. Willard Faulkner  
Ms. Kelley Walton Fenelon  
Dr. Jimmy G. Finley  
Fish Dimension Supply  
Dr. and Mrs. Oscar P. Fitzgerald IV  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Ford  
Mr. David Samuel Fott  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Fyfe  
Mr. Russell C. Gallagher  
The Geon Company  
Mr. Norman W. Ginsberg  
Mrs. Wylene B. Graham  
Mr. and Mrs. Dewey W. Grantham Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Laurence A. Grossman  
Mr. Walter Northcott Grounsell IV  
Mr. John M. Haar III  
Mr. Charles E. Haines  
Mr. David J. Hale  
Mr. W. Lee Hall III  
Mrs. Ruth Clawson Harpool  
Dr. Jerry Thomas Haynie  
Dr. and Mrs. F. Hamilton Hazlehurst  
Mrs. Emmaline R. Henry  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Hough Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton B. Howell Jr.  
Ms. Barbara Huff-Beville  
Mrs. Dorothy Withrow Iano  
Dr. Randall Stephen Jotte  
Mrs. Noel Bassi Joyce  
Mr. Michael N. Keathley  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Kelly Jr.  
Mrs. Margaret D. Lamons  
Mrs. Kay Templeton Lang  
Mr. Sterling S. Lanier III



Professor and Mrs. Douglas Leach  
 Mrs. Maureen Ahern Leahigh  
 Dr. Douglas A. Lee  
 Mr. John Emmett Legg  
 Mr. Ralph Z. Levy Jr.  
 Mr. Stratton Lindenmeyer  
 Mr. Rufus A. Long  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Loventhal  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin MacKethan  
 Mr. Jack H. McCall Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. McGaw  
 Ms. Lisa K. McClelland  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. McCoy  
 Mr. John H. McMinn III  
 Mrs. Lynne Douglas Miller  
 Miss Kathryn G. Millsbaugh  
 Miss Dolores Jane Milmine  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Lynn Moench  
 Ms. Shokoufeh Moghtassed  
 Mr. J. Scott Moore  
 Mrs. Dudley Brown Morgan  
 Mrs. Daphne M. Nicari  
 Dr. Steven H. Nichols  
 Mrs. Stacy A. Owens  
 Ms. Wendill Haggin Parrish  
 Mr. John Porter Patterson  
 Mr. Dewayne Arnold Pigg  
 Mr. Daniel Eugene Pratt  
 Dr. and Mrs. William C. Pratt Jr.  
 Ms. Ann Allison Price  
 Mrs. Frances E. Purdy  
 Dr. and Mrs. Judson G. Randolph  
 Red's Safe and Lock Service  
 Mr. John W. Rich  
 Mrs. Norma Ann Tate Rich  
 Mr. Joseph M. Riddick  
 Mrs. Margaret Barry Riley  
 Mrs. Deborah Davis Roberts  
 Mrs. Patricia Quinn Robertson  
 Mr. Paul T. Rohling  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Rothacker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Val Sanford Jr.  
 Ms. Carlin Sappenfield  
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Schillig Jr.  
 Mrs. Josephine Tate Seeligson  
 Mr. Marshall Milner Seifert  
 Dr. D. R. W. Shupe  
 Dr. Steven H. Smartt  
 Mrs. H. Laird Smith  
 Mr. John Theodore Sprague  
 Mr. Robert A. Taylor  
 Mr. William R. Taylor  
 Dr. and Mrs. Edward Thackston  
 Dr. Joseph B. Trahern Jr.  
 Vanderbilt Woman's Club  
 Mrs. Diane S. Vanette  
 Dr. and Mrs. Felix H. Vann  
 Mrs. John W. Wade Sr.  
 Mr. Talmage Mims Watts  
 Mrs. Joyce Cattanach Wead  
 Mrs. Ann Harwell Wells  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wiesmeyer  
 Mr. Steven Bruce Willets  
 Mr. F. Clark Williams Jr.  
 Mrs. Marcia Meriwether Williams  
 Mr. William C. Wilson  
 Miss Charlotte Ann Wolfe  
 Dr. Beulah Marie Woodfin  
 Mr. William J. Yost  
 Dr. James L. Young Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alan Zibart

## CONTRIBUTING

### \$25-\$99

Mrs. Pamela B. Adelman  
 Mrs. Margaret Dean R. Akin  
 Miss Linda Alexander  
 Mr. and Mrs. Antonio J. Almeida Jr.  
 Mr. C. Guyton Anderson III  
 Dr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Anderson  
 Ms. Michael Larsen Anderson  
 Mr. Paul David Andress  
 Ms. Alice O. Andrews  
 Mr. J. Richard Andrews  
 Anonymous Friends  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jon R. Armstrong Sr.  
 Ms. Sandra Lynn Arons  
 The Rev. and Mrs. Beverly A. Asbury  
 Mr. John Rankin Ates  
 Dr. Lawrence A. Averbuch  
 Mr. David James Bachtell  
 Mr. Charles Backus  
 Mrs. Jane Geistman Bailey  
 Mrs. Lindsley R. Baird  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Ball  
 Dr. Amanda Carson Banks  
 Dr. Mary T. Barker  
 Mr. Wayne Ford Barnette  
 Mr. David Lee Bates  
 Mrs. Carole Barrett Batson  
 Col. and Mrs. Russell E. Baugh  
 Bay Area Christian Church  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Beckham  
 Dr. Bruce J. Beeber  
 Ms. Michelle Dodrill Bell  
 Mr. Ray R. Bell  
 Ms. Mariana Cecilia Belvedere  
 Ms. Shelley Bender  
 Mrs. Jo Ann W. Bennett  
 Mrs. Elaine C. Berkenstock  
 Ms. Julie D. Blagojevich  
 Ms. Wilhelmina P. Blitz  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Boozer  
 Ms. Peggy Bow  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry K. Bowman  
 Ms. Yvonne Denise Boyer and  
 Mr. Leonard Folgarait  
 Ms. Amy Melissa Bradley  
 Mrs. Carol Philpot Bradley  
 Mrs. Betty Anderson Bridgewater  
 Mr. and Mrs. Elbert D. Brooks  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Bruckhart  
 Dr. and Mrs. Billy F. Bryant  
 Ms. Jamie Bryant  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Buchanan Jr.  
 Lt. Col. and Mrs. William J. Buchanan  
 Mrs. Varina Frazer Buntin  
 Mrs. Allene Smith Burbank  
 Mrs. Anne Axton Burnett  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Burr  
 Ms. Betty C. Burton  
 Mr. George Bushulen  
 Ms. Jay Marie Buttross  
 Mrs. Melanie M. Byers  
 Mrs. Bettye Phillips Byron  
 Mrs. Sue Stewart Caldwell  
 Mrs. Helen B. Callahan  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Campbell  
 Mr. David L. Carlton  
 Mrs. Nellrena Jewell Carr  
 Ms. Caryn Lisa Carson  
 Mrs. Judy A. Carter  
 Mrs. Angeline Case

## Library Mission Statement

The library's unique and vital role is to further the University's mission of generating and disseminating knowledge through teaching, learning, research, and service. The library is an essential academic center that serves as a place of discovery, exchange, and advancement of ideas through its commitment to accessing new scholarship and archiving accumulated knowledge.

Staff are dedicated to offering the highest level of service in responding to the information needs of its diverse users and in helping users understand and effectively use new and traditional forms of information delivery.

The first priority of the library is to provide these services to Vanderbilt faculty and students through active outreach across the campus. Secondly, the library is a resource for the larger academic and scholarly community through its participation in cooperative and collaborative local, regional, and national partnerships.

### Statement of Goals

- To support the teaching, research, and service missions of the University by developing strong information resources in book, manuscript, archival, electronic, and other formats.
- To select, organize, and provide broad and timely access to information resources wherever and whenever they are needed.
- To promote the use of Vanderbilt library collections and other information resources by creating an environment that encourages learning through effective teaching strategies and excellent service.
- To preserve library materials and ensure their availability to current and future scholars.
- To develop and maintain appropriate physical and technological infrastructures conducive to learning.
- To recruit, hire, and retain qualified staff who are committed to service, innovation, and communication. Additionally, to foster a supportive staff community that rewards innovation, encourages risk-taking, and accepts failure as a part of growth and exploration.
- To initiate and participate in creative partnerships with local, state, and national agencies that will make accessible to the larger community the unique resources of this library and enhance access by Vanderbilt faculty and students to other information resources.

Dr. and Mrs. Norman M. Cassell  
 Dr. and Mrs. Pietro Castelnovo-Tedesco  
 Mr. Perry M. Chaffin Jr.  
 Ms. Katherine S. Cizmar  
 Mrs. Martha J. Clift  
 Ms. Mary E. Colosia

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Matt Colson  
 Dr. and Mrs. John G. Coniglio  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene B. Corker  
 The Hon. and Mrs. Allen R. Cornelius Jr.  
 Ms. Beverly Covington  
 Miss Marilynn F. Craig  
 Mrs. Jean Bass Crawford



## GALLERY TALK

---

# THE RIVERS OF AMERICA

BY CAROL FITZGERALD

Vanderbilt University • September 15, 1996

*An exhibit showcasing all 65 volumes of the Rivers of America series took place from August to October 1996. A reception and gallery talk was held in September 1996 for Carol Fitzgerald, collector and bibliographer of the series, who also served as guest curator of the exhibit.*

Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here today in this beautiful room, and to look around at these wonderful books and papers. I must say I have never seen them so gracefully displayed.

This year, as Tennessee celebrates her 200th birthday, we may pause for a moment and think of a then middle-aged lady—a lady of Canadian birth; a journalist, playwright, poet, writer of children's adventure books; a dreamer—who thought that the history of her adopted homeland, the United States, which she called "America," ought to be told as a folk saga.

It was the time of the Great Depression—the early 1930s—when millions of Americans were struggling to survive. The lady was Constance Lindsay Skinner, born in 1877 or 1879 (the year is not certain), and she dreamt that the history of America would be told, not as an epic poem, not as a prose chronicle, but through stories of America's rivers.

She said, "The natural rhythm moving the pioneer life of America forward was the rhythm of flowing water."

She said, "It is as the story of American rivers that the folk sagas will be told."

And, she said, these stories would be literary works, to be written by novelists and poets, not historians.

With this elegant idea, Constance Lindsay Skinner set the stage for what is one of America's most interesting, successful, and enduring literary endeavors, The Rivers of America.



---

In 1934 Skinner found a publisher for her series, Farrar & Rinehart. With its bright, young, energetic staff, this was the right place—with the right spirit—for a new literary venture. Skinner was named general editor of the series. She had announced that it would encompass 24 volumes.

*Kennebec: Cradle of Americans* was the first. Written by Robert P. Tristram Coffin, a native of Maine, *Kennebec* was published on June 14, 1937. And Coffin—a poet, novelist, biographer, historian, essayist, critic, and university professor—was a perfect example of the talent, really the genius, Skinner wanted for the series.

From the beginning, Farrar & Rinehart—then a very young publishing firm—was fully committed to Skinner's ideas and the high standards she set. They promoted the series with skill and enthusiasm—and so effectively that their promotional campaign itself was the subject of a symposium at a national booksellers convention.

Skinner's poetic essay "Rivers and American Folk" was put to good use in this campaign. Farrar & Rinehart reprinted it at least twice in pamphlet form, linking it to descriptions of the Rivers titles they were planning. And the essay is included in many of the early Rivers books.

*Kennebec* sold extremely well, going into a second printing in its first year, and very nearly made it onto the best-seller lists in New England.

Skinner had signed some of the nation's best writers and illustrators, but, sadly, she lived to see only five of the books published. She died in 1939, less than five years after she had begun the series. She was perhaps 60.

In 1940, Stephen Vincent Benét and Carl Carmer—both established and respected literary figures in America—were named series editors. *The Wabash*, by William E. Wilson, published that year, was the first Benét-Carmer Rivers book. Benét and Carmer maintained Skinner's literary standards, signing for the series some of the nation's most accomplished authors and journalists—Hodding Carter (the father, not the son), James Branch Cabell, Edgar Lee Masters, Henry Seidel Canby, and Henry Beston, for example.

Rivers books sold well from the beginning. With the publication of *The Kentucky* in 1942, Farrar & Rinehart wisely decided to promote the series as a whole, rather than the individual books, urging its readers to collect them all. I'm sure some book-lovers did just that. It was at this time that the publishers issued the Ernest Clegg map of the U.S. as a key part of the series promotion.

Thirteen Rivers books were issued in special signed limited editions. Many of these were promoted regionally. *The Brandywine*, published in 1941, was written by Henry Seidel Canby and illustrated by the 23-year-old Andrew Wyeth. Canby and Wyeth signed 650 copies for the Greenwood Bookshop in Wilmington, Delaware. (I found mine after a nine-year search.)



Other distinguished illustrators of Rivers books include John Steuart Curry (*The Wisconsin*, by August Derleth); Ross Santee, author and artist, who illustrated two books in the series: *The Gila*, by Edwin Corle, and *Powder River*, by Struthers Burt; A.Y. Jackson, one of Canada's revered "Group of Seven," (*The St. Lawrence*, by Henry Beston); Nicolai Fechin, often described as America's Old Master, who illustrated Frank Waters's *Colorado*; and Lynd Ward, famous for his novels in woodcut, who illustrated Edgar Lee Masters's *Sangamon*.

Tennessee rivers were well represented early in the development of the series. Donald Davidson was selected to write *The Tennessee*, the only two-volume work in the series, in 1940, only three years after publication of *Kennebec*. Davidson's wife, Theresa Sherrer Davidson, illustrated both volumes of *The Tennessee*. J.S. Sanders & Company of Nashville has recently issued both volumes in its "Southern Classics Series," with a new introduction by Thomas Daniel Young and a new preface to the second volume by Russell Kirk.

The 1940s were especially important for Rivers books linked to the Tennessee region. *The Ohio, Lower Mississippi*, Hodding Carter's first book; *The Kentucky*, by the noted Kentucky historian Thomas D. Clark; and both volumes of *The Tennessee* were all products of the 1940s.

*The Ohio*, by Richard E. Banta, was heavily promoted throughout the Ohio River valley. The governors of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana proclaimed October 13, 1949, the day the book was published, "Ohio River Day." Even the president of the United States, Harry Truman, got into the act, signing a copy of the book which was later co-signed by some 250 others: governors, mayors, city councilmen, and other notables along the way. I would love to know where that copy is!

*The French Broad*, by Tennessee treasure Wilma Dykeman, was published in 1955. It has been reprinted at least eight times—certainly a tribute to its quality—and is currently available in paperback. One of the last books in the series, *The Cumberland*, Nashville's own river, by James P. McCague, was published in 1973, just a year before the series ended.

But the publishers had been thinking about a book on the Cumberland for a long time. Nearly 30 years earlier, in May 1945, John Selby, a Rinehart editor, had written to Hervey Allen, reporting that he had been in Nashville and had met with Judge Byrd Douglas and his wife, Mary Stahlman Douglas. Selby wrote: "Judge Douglas is completely mad on the subject of the Cumberland. His wife is the sister of Jimmy Stahlman who owns the *Nashville Banner*, and she is literary editor of the paper. She is just as much a Cumberland River fan as her husband and writes very well..."

Later, Selby and Allen agreed that Mrs. Douglas was the right person for the Cumberland book, noting that she might "be able to make up for some of Donald Davidson's sins of omission around Nashville and other



Theresa Sherrer Davidson, the wife of Donald Davidson, created original woodcuts to illustrate her husband's book, *THE TENNESSEE*, which is part of the *Rivers of America* series.

southern towns."

The first volume of Davidson's *Tennessee* had been published some three months earlier. Evidently the publishers were smarting from criticism and poor reviews of Southern origin. But Hervey Allen, who knew good writing when he saw it, after reading Davidson's manuscript had written that *The Tennessee* was "not only a Rivers book, but a profoundly impressive job as a contribution to American history." Why Mrs. Douglas never wrote the book on the Cumberland, I do not know.

I am indebted to the University of Pittsburgh Libraries' Hervey Allen Collection for this fascinating material on *The Cumberland*.

When Stephen Vincent Benét died in 1943, he was only 44. The publishers recruited Hervey Allen as general editor. Allen's enormously successful novel, *Anthony Adverse*, had made him a literary star, but—star or not—he took his editorial duties seriously.

A man of prodigious talent and energy, Allen continued to write his successful novels, while editing Rivers manuscripts and creatively promoting the series. He had homes in New York and Florida, travelled between them by train, and managed to care for a very ill wife in the process.

In 1945—with the war over—Rivers authors, illustrators, and editors began to return to civilian life. Wartime paper shortages were eased, and production and publication of Rivers books picked up speed.

When John Farrar returned from overseas service in 1944, he began to distance himself from Farrar & Rinehart—the firm he had cofounded—apparently over personal differences with Stanley and Frederick Rinehart. Before the year's end, he had left the firm. Late the next year, 1945, he joined with Roger Straus to form the publishing firm Farrar & Straus.

With the creation of Farrar & Straus, the Rineharts finally had a plausible reason to drop John Farrar's name from their imprint. In December of 1945, ostensibly to avoid a confusion of names in the publishing industry, but probably also with relief, they renamed



their firm Rinehart and Company and Farrar and Rinehart ceased to exist.

The first Rivers books to bear the new Rinehart imprint and colophon were published in 1946. *The Tennessee: The Old River* was one of the 1946 Rinehart printings.

As I was preparing these remarks, I realized that 1946 was Tennessee's sesquicentennial year. Fifty years later, Davidson's two volumes on the Tennessee continue to be read and appreciated.

Rivers books were printed under the Rinehart imprint from 1946 until 1960, when Rinehart, Henry Holt and Company, and the John C. Winston Company merged, forming Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The first Rivers title published under their imprint was *The Minnesota: Forgotten River*, by Evan Jones, the 53rd book in the series, which appeared in 1962. Holt, Rinehart and Winston would see the series through to its completion in 1974.

In the 1940s, four Rivers books were published in Armed Services Editions: *The St. Lawrence*, *Powder River*, *The Hudson*, and *The Colorado*. These books are included in this exhibit.

In December 1949, Hervey Allen unexpectedly died at his Florida home. He was 60. Following Allen's death, Carl Carmer continued as editor. Carmer and Jean Crawford, who had been named associate editor in 1946, would work together until the series ended with the publication of *The American: River of El Dorado*, by Margaret Sanborn, in 1974.

From 1937 to 1974, 65 titles were published, and, over those years, all were kept in print. Two books in the series, *The James* and *Upper Mississippi: A Wilderness Saga*, were issued in revised editions and are counted as separate volumes. In 1951, four Rivers books were reprinted by the British publisher William Hodge and Company for distribution and sale in Great Britain.

Today, more than one-third of the 65 Rivers books are still in print, mostly through the efforts of university and regional presses. But The Rivers of America series will always be seen as the product of Farrar & Rinehart, Rinehart & Company, and Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Now, a few words about my collection and my book. I began to collect Rivers books about ten years ago. It wasn't long before I realized that there was no bibliography of the series, and no history. In 1991, I began writing to any series author, illustrator, or editor I could find, outlining the bibliography I hoped to write, and asking for relevant information.

I was simply astounded at the responses I received. Some were scholarly, some were funny, all were valuable. I decided that there was a story to tell and history

to preserve. Now, five years later, I have finished the bibliographical description of more than 350 editions and printings of Rivers books, written a publishing history of the series, and completed biographical sketches of its 60 authors, 55 illustrators, and perhaps a dozen editors and publishers. My Rivers collection now stands at more than 300 volumes, including nearly every printing of every edition.

Of course, there are still a few gaps. I am hoping soon to have detailed information on the printing runs for each of the books—at least for the first editions—and, with luck, to get some detailed information on sales.

The handful of Rivers authors, illustrators, and editors who are still with us have been incredibly kind and helpful and, in fact, my husband Jean and I have formed some good new friendships among them.

I must recognize as well the kindness of Henry Holt and Company in New York. They have been especially generous and helpful with contract and copyright information, opening their files to me without restriction.

My book will be a descriptive bibliography, not a literary analysis of the series or a sociologist's account of the times. But I believe that the publishing history and the biographies of the authors, illustrators, and editors I have included will carry the book well beyond the limits of conventional, technical bibliography. I hope so, because my principal objective has been to record the stories of the men and women who created the series.

My journey to Nashville began nearly ten years ago when I discovered that Dr. Alexander McLeod and I were both collecting Rivers of America books. Soon we began exchanging letters and information, and, as my work on the bibliography progressed, we met and became friends.

It was Alex who suggested an exhibition of my Rivers books. If you have had the good fortune to work with Alex, you know that his "suggestions" have a way of becoming realities. Alex had the vision and Marice Wolfe had the artistic and scholarly talent and ability to bring that vision to life. I hope you will agree: Rivers of America authors, illustrators, editors, and collectors—past and present—would all be proud of this superb exhibit!

From *Kennebec: Cradle of Americans* to *The American: River of El Dorado*, from Maine to California, and from 1937 to 1974, Constance Lindsay Skinner's dream has been realized. The Rivers of America series stands as a monument of literary excellence and an enduring story of America, her peoples, and her folkways. It is fitting, I think, that the first and last books in the series, the series shoulders—its bookends—should both have *American* in their titles, for the series itself is surely *American* in every possible way. 🐦



Ms. Dawn Marie Criste  
 Dr. Philip S. Crooke  
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Ronald Croone  
 Mr. Andrew R. Cross  
 Mr. Dennis W. Cross  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Crouch  
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Culbreth Jr.  
 Mrs. Linda M. Oyer Dabrowski  
 Mr. Robert S. Dalton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael K. Davis  
 Dr. Royce E. Dawson  
 Mr. William Ray Deaton  
 Mrs. Whitney K. DeJardin  
 Ms. Carol L. Dickerson  
 Mr. Anthony J. DiMilo  
 Mrs. Gretchen Dodge  
 Mr. Joseph C. Donaldson  
 Mr. R. Blair Downing  
 Ms. Alisa Marie Driscoll  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Duschl  
 The Rev. Kimberlee Maphis Early  
 and The Rev. Robert L. Early  
 Ms. Lynn Mahoney Easterling  
 Mr. Hendrik Edelman  
 Mr. Scott Mitchell Edwards  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eisenstein  
 Dr. and Mrs. Luke L. Ellenburg  
 Mrs. Jennifer Suzanne Ellis  
 Mr. Roy T. Englert  
 Mrs. Virginia Ann Ercelawn  
 The Rev. Pamela Jean Estes  
 Ms. Cynthia Estill  
 Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ey  
 Mr. Roger F. Fenner  
 Mr. Benjamin James Ferron  
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Finch  
 Mr. T. Aldrich Finegan  
 Ms. Alice Rogers Fitzgibbon  
 Ms. Martha Mihaly Fitzmier  
 and Mr. John R. Fitzmier  
 Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Jefferson Flowers  
 Miss E. Virginia Fones  
 Mrs. Rose Holland Force  
 Col. and Mrs. Francis M. Ford  
 Dr. and Mrs. Solie Fott  
 Dr. Howard H. Frankel  
 Dr. Arthur M. Freeman Jr.  
 Ms. Jacklyn C. Freeman  
 Ms. Abigail M. Frossard  
 Mrs. Bobby Jean Steele Frost  
 Mr. Clarke Brannen Futch  
 Mr. James M. Galbreath  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon R. Galloway  
 Mrs. Nancy H. Garver  
 Mr. Michael Allen Gatje  
 Dr. and Mrs. Dwight Dean Gatwood Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Taylor S. Gault  
 Dr. Glenn A. Gentry  
 Mr. Malcolm Getz  
 Ms. Mary Peyton Gill  
 Ms. Helene S. Glass  
 Ms. Lucie Anne Glass  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Gleaves  
 Dr. Nancy Sloan Goldberg  
 Dr. Lela Gooding and  
 Dr. Earl N. Gooding  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Goodman  
 Mr. Gary G. Gore  
 Dr. Charles J. Graffeo  
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Green  
 Dr. Brenda W. Griffin and  
 Dr. James R. Griffin  
 Mr. Emmett Lee Griggs  
 Ms. Betty M. Grimes and  
 Mr. D. Andrew Grimes  
 Mr. Frank P. Grisham  
 Mr. Thomas A. Groover  
 Mr. Edward Ashley Hadley  
 Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hall  
 Mr. Christopher William Hamlin  
 Mrs. Pamela J. Hanna  
 Dr. Charlene Harb  
 Ms. Jacqueline N. Harris  
 Mr. R. Jeffrey Harris  
 Mr. Robert E. Harrison  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Hart  
 Mrs. Anne Stockell Hartree  
 Mr. Alan E. Harzman  
 Dr. R. Chris Hassel Jr.  
 Mr. Michael W. Hastings  
 Mr. Dolph Hatcher  
 Dr. and Mrs. Chris E. Hauer Jr.  
 Mr. Christopher A. Haynes  
 Mr. Christopher Heard  
 Ms. Cornelia Lord Heard  
 Mr. Thomas Michael Heine  
 Mrs. Linda B. Hendricks  
 Mr. Clay Arden Hipke  
 Ms. Jennifer Judy Hoepner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Oscar B. Hofstetter Jr.  
 Dr. R. Gordon Holcombe Jr.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Wendell G. Holladay  
 Mrs. Alice I. Hooker  
 Mr. and Mrs. John K. Howie  
 Mr. Michael G. Hron  
 Mrs. Tamelia Faulkner Hughes  
 Ms. Kathryn A. Hull  
 Impak Marketing  
 Dr. Joseph McK. Ivie  
 Ms. Mary Ann Jackson  
 Mr. Jay Dewey James  
 Mr. Mark F. Jarman  
 Ms. Amy K. Jarvis  
 Dr. W. Clint Johnson  
 Mr. Gary Lynwood Johnston  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Hunter Jones  
 Mr. Donald Wayne Jones  
 Miss Dorothy Jones  
 Miss Malinda Jones  
 Mr. Stuart B. Jones  
 Prof. and Mrs. Bjarni Jonsson  
 Mrs. Blanche D. Kampmeier  
 Mrs. Nora H. Kellerhals  
 Miss Mary Anne Kernan  
 Mrs. Betty R. Kilmer  
 Mr. Richard H. King  
 Mrs. Jean Kollmansperger  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kassian A. Kovalcheck Jr.  
 Ms. Sharon Marie Kozy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kraus  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Kreyling  
 Mrs. Frances Sain Kristofferson  
 Ms. Sherry R. Kubena  
 Mrs. Letha Kays Kuhnert  
 Mrs. Julia S. LaFevor  
 Mr. Michael Kirk LaMotte  
 Ms. Christine Jo Lamphier  
 Mrs. Gail M. Lance  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sovern Larkins  
 Ms. Mary Charles Lasater  
 Mrs. Anna Belle Leiserson  
 Mrs. Debra Fried Levin  
 Mrs. Ruth Levitt  
 Mrs. Charlotte Lew  
 Dr. Thomas C. Lewis  
 Mr. John Stanley Lindgren  
 Miss Sylvia Lipscomb  
 Ms. Kathy L. London  
 Mr. Jeffrey LeGrande Long  
 Mrs. Kim Harvey Looney  
 Mr. Alvin F. Loving  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Landon Lowrie  
 Mr. John M. Lyda  
 Ms. Lyssa Carole Lyles  
 Mrs. Frances H. Lynch  
 Miss Martha Jo Lyne  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Sholl Lyst  
 Dr. T. Cameron MacCaughely  
 Mrs. Constance Marsh MacDonald  
 Mr. Jerome P. Magdovitz  
 Mrs. Pazetta Ann Mallette  
 Prof. and Mrs. Andrea Maneschi  
 Mr. and Mrs. William R. Manier III  
 Mrs. Virginia McKinnon Mann  
 Dr. Dale Manning  
 Mr. Henry E. Martin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O. Martin Jr.  
 Mrs. Sylvia Osbon Martin  
 Mr. and Mrs. James David Mason  
 Dr. and Mrs. Julian D. Mason Jr.  
 Mr. Walt Reginald Massey Jr.  
 Dr. Adam P. Matheny Jr.  
 Mrs. Annie D. Matthews  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. McAndrews  
 Miss Izella D. McCain  
 Ms. Cheryl Annette McClure  
 Mr. Bobby T. McFarland  
 Dr. L. Clifford McKee Jr.  
 Mrs. M. Charles McMurray  
 Mr. David Ellis McNeel  
 Miss Paula Marie McNutt  
 Mrs. Patricia Shelton McPherson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. McSeveney  
 Ms. Amy McTyeire  
 Mr. Holland Nimmons McTyeire V  
 Mrs. Joan K. Medwedeff  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hiram R. Metcalfe  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Miles  
 Mrs. Rosella F. Miller  
 Mr. Liston O. Mills  
 Miss Andrea Drum Montague  
 Mr. Robert H. Montgomery Jr.  
 Mrs. Margaret F. Moody  
 Dr. Charles Brown Moore  
 Ms. Hollis Hardymon Moore  
 Dr. Mary Courtney Moore  
 Dr. and Mrs. Rayburn S. Moore  
 Mrs. Donald W. Morford  
 Mrs. Eleanor F. Morrissey  
 Mr. J. William Benton Morrow  
 Mrs. Nancy W. Murr  
 Mrs. Lucille C. Nabors  
 Mr. Norman W. Nash  
 Nashville Christian Towers  
 Mr. Roy S. Newsom Jr.  
 Mr. Rosser C. Newton  
 Miss Sarah Winn Nichols  
 Mrs. Janet McGinnis Noble  
 Mrs. Andromedia B. Noel  
 Mr. John H. Noel Jr.  
 Mr. John E. Nonn  
 Mr. Terry L. Oaks  
 Ms. Deborah Claire O'Donnell  
 Ms. Mary Lou Oldfield  
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Oldfield Jr.  
 Ms. Elizabeth Lynne Pagano  
 Mrs. Grace B. Paine  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rupert E. Palmer Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher S. Park  
 Dr. Russell L. Parker  
 Ms. Catherine Marie Parnell  
 Mr. and Mrs. John L. Parish Jr.  
 Ms. Beverly Parrish  
 Mr. Manish Ramesh Patel  
 The Rev. Howard H. Patrick  
 The Rev. Beth Ann Pattillo and  
 The Rev. Randall W. Smith  
 Dr. James S. Patty  
 Mr. William C. B. Payne Jr.  
 Dr. David W. H. Pender  
 Ms. Robbie Lou Pendergraph  
 Mr. Felix Allen Perry  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. Carter Philips  
 Mr. Philip Edward Phillips  
 Dr. and Mrs. James M. Phythyon  
 Mr. Nicholas Henry Piccirillo  
 Mrs. Kathryn S. Pilcher  
 Ms. Marilyn Pilley  
 Dr. Stephen Louis Pinals  
 Dr. Jean Maurice Poitras Jr.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard N. Porter  
 Mrs. Terry W. Prewitt  
 Mrs. Viola M. Prosser  
 Mrs. Caroline Keller Pruden  
 Ms. Bernice Pursley  
 Ms. Maija Kristina Raattama  
 Dr. William H. Race  
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Ramey  
 Mr. Matthew Ramsey  
 Miss Sandra Lee Randleman  
 Dr. Nancy Alderman Ransom  
 and Dr. Harry H. Ransom  
 Mr. William Waits Raulerson  
 Ms. Becky Ray  
 Dr. Brenda Gail Cox Ray  
 Mrs. Suzanne S. Reeves  
 Dr. and Mrs. David M. Regen  
 Mr. Chuanlu Ren  
 Col. and Mrs. Vincent C. Rethman  
 Ms. Anne Christine Reuland  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Richardson  
 Ms. Joyce Po-wen Chang Riley  
 Miss Elizabeth F. Ritter  
 Ms. Ruth G. Robbins  
 Mrs. Susan Cramer Rock  
 Mrs. Stephanie Hrkel Rogers  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Q. Rooker  
 Mr. John J. Ross Jr.  
 Mr. Robert F. Ross  
 Mrs. Victoria O. Ross  
 Mr. T. Bernard Rowan III  
 Mrs. Ann Walker Rowe



Mr. Samuel D. Sapp  
 Mrs. Virginia L. Saunders  
 Ms. Emelda Sawyer  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Friedel Sawyer  
 Dr. John L. Sawyers  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Owen Scales  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Scott  
 Mrs. Julian C. Scruggs Jr.  
 Miss Ava F. Sellers  
 Dr. and Mrs. Dieter H. Sevin  
 Ms. Pamela J. Sevy  
 Mrs. Elizabeth A. Shapiro  
 Mrs. Laura W. Sharp  
 Mrs. Robert K. Sharp  
 Dr. Jo Anne Sigman Sherman  
 Dr. Daniel Silber  
 Mrs. Paige Highfield Silence  
 Dr. Reid B. Sinclair  
 The Rev. Robert Boak Slocum  
 Dr. Margaret Murrey Smith  
 Ms. Suzanne W. Smith  
 Miss Stella M. Smock  
 Ms. Laura K. Spining  
 Mr. John Paul Spiridakis  
 Dr. Bertram E. Sproffkin  
 Miss Helen Marie Sprouse  
 Ms. Deidra E. Stavely  
 Dr. Richard G. Stearns  
 Mrs. Allen Steele  
 Mr. Marc Kermit Stengel  
 Mrs. Dorothea Cole Stephenson  
 Mr. Paul Bush Stevenson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hans R. Stoll  
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Stone  
 Mr. David Clayton Stotler  
 Mr. H. Lloyd Stow

Mr. Eric John Strucko  
 Dr. and Mrs. Hans H. Strupp  
 Mrs. Virginia Wolfe Stuart  
 Dr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Stumpf  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Sullivan  
 Miss Jane Sutherland  
 Mrs. Lillian Ashley Swain  
 Mr. and Mrs. George H. Sweeney  
 Mr. Robert Barrow Sweeney  
 Mrs. Katherine R. Sweeney  
 Ms. Loulie Eugenia Tarbutton  
 Mrs. Mary McClure Taylor  
 Dr. Philip R. Taylor  
 Mr. Charles Preston Thomas II  
 Ms. Susan R. Thomas  
 Ms. Janet L. Thomason  
 Ms. Cecile Michele Thompson  
 Mr. D. Hugh Thompson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Overton Thompson Jr.  
 Ms. Melissa Thurmond  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tod Waylen Tillman  
 Mrs. Martha W. Timberlake  
 Mr. James Rodman Todd  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Estes Toplon  
 Mrs. Lillian Dale Trabue  
 Ms. Lisa Diana Trimble  
 Ms. Reba Trollinger  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Trost  
 Dr. Thomas Ricker Vandever  
 Ms. Patricia Vaughan  
 Mr. Nicholas Vazsonyi  
 Ms. Nyla Villager  
 Dr. and Mrs. V. Jacque Voegeli III  
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wachs  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Wade  
 Dr. and Mrs. Conrad Wagner

Mr. Steven Michael Walder  
 Mr. Phil N. Walker  
 Mrs. Patricia W. Wallace  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Lee Ward  
 Mrs. La Homa M. Wardrep  
 Mr. and Mrs. Chester Warner  
 Ms. Shirley Marie Watts  
 Mr. Harold L. Weatherby Jr.  
 Mr. Jimmy N. Webb  
 Ms. Joan C. Wells  
 Mr. Wyatt Clinton Wells II  
 Mrs. Anna Lee Werner  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Wheeler  
 Mr. and Mrs. James B. White  
 Mrs. Daisy Whitten  
 Dr. Sara W. Whitten  
 Ms. Karen Susan Whittier  
 Ms. Carolyn C. Wiley-Laumeyer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Williams  
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wayne Williams  
 Mrs. Katherine B. Wilson  
 Ms. Virginia H. Wolf  
 Mrs. Anne Richardson Womack  
 Ms. Catherine Carnes Woolley  
 Mrs. Gail Workman  
 Miss Eva Jean Wrathner  
 The Rev. L. Winston Wright Jr.  
 Mr. Robert Wright  
 Mr. David R. Yates  
 Mrs. Holly Register Yates  
 Ms. Martha J. Young  
 Mrs. Nancy A. Young  
 Dr. Thomas D. Young  
 Mrs. Clara F. Zepernick  
 Zion Christian Church  
 Mrs. Florence B. Eskind Zucker

**W**e are grateful to the following individuals who have contributed their personal papers or libraries or have documented bequests benefiting the Library.

#### LEGACY—BEQUESTS

Mr. Walter Scofield Blair  
 Mr. and Mrs. George M. Britton  
 Mr. and Mrs. James L. Britton  
 Mr. Thomas B. Brumbaugh  
 Mrs. Eleanor Burt  
 Mrs. Enrico Caruso  
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Darby  
 Mr. Robert Y. Drake  
 Mr. Walter T. Durham  
 Mr. William David Eppes  
 Mrs. Dorothy Ruth Parks Evins  
 Miss Kathleen Harris  
 Dr. Harold Roger King  
 Dr. Charles William Lewis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Mann  
 Mr. Louis Nicholas  
 Dr. Franklin Parker  
 Mr. Robert J. Sudderth  
 Mr. David K. Wilson  
 Mrs. Jean Acker Wright

*Make a Difference*

 **BE A FRIEND**

**T**he 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 the Heard Library mission by sending your gift to the address below. Annual membership fees range from \$25 for contributing members to \$1,000 for Heard Society membership.

Contributions can be designated to support specific areas of interest:

- Central Library & the Sara Shannon Stevenson Science and Engineering Library
- Divinity Library
- Education Library
- Alyne Queener Massey Law Library
- Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library
- Special Collections & University Archives
- Anne Marie and Thomas B. Walker Jr. Management Library
- Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to Friends of the Library, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 1207 18th Avenue South, Room 134, Nashville, Tennessee 37212, or call Holly McCall, director of development, at 615/322-8508 for more information on how you can support the library.



## Library embarks on new electronic odyssey with Sirsi

**S**irsi. The name conjures up magic in Greek mythology and ancient text. Circe was the enchantress who turned Odysseus's men to swine.

At Vanderbilt, Sirsi now resides on campus; and while magic is involved, it is not the type Odysseus had to face. Sirsi is the name of the Heard Library's new automation system. Actually, the name of the company is Sirsi; the product carries the equally magical name Unicorn Library Management System. "But we never really use that," says Flo Wilson, associate university librarian in charge of systems. "We just refer to it as ACORN, the name of the library's on-line catalog."

By any name, it is a system which, for patrons, works with the simple click of a button. The staff, however, knows just how much effort is behind the ease with which patrons find the information they need.

"We had to convert several million records of all kinds," Wilson says. "While we have some clean-up projects under way to fix problems that occurred, it is pretty incredible to think of translating so many records from one system to another."

The implementation did not take place without problems, but the company's response to early difficulties has earned praise from Library administration and systems staff.

"The relatively small number of problems we ran into is good news," comments Wilson, "but I think it also speaks well of Sirsi's ability to take the data and do appropriate things with all the information that we had stored over the years in non-standard ways."

Library patrons now can access that information from any computer anywhere that is connected to the World Wide Web—not just from computers located within the library. After accessing ACORN's home page (at <http://acorn.library.vanderbilt.edu>), one merely has to click on the appropriate screen icon to begin a search by author, title, keyword, or call number. If the patron needs a different kind of database, such as an index to legal periodicals or government documents, that too can be accessed from the library Web page.

"We hope that having ACORN accessible on the World Wide Web will make it simpler to use because it will be easier to get to in terms of remote access to the system," Wilson says. "People can use whatever Web browser they have and be able to get to the library catalog in the same way as everything else. Also, at some point we will have all the databases available and probably a larger array of databases through that same environment."

Wilson notes further perks: "Users also can access their own check-out records with the library and renew their books themselves." 🐣

BONNIE ARANT ERTELT

## Electronic journals augment library's holdings

**H**ead Library patrons who have been unable to get to the library to read their favorite journal lately are in luck. More than 200 journals are now accessible electronically through the library's Internet Web site. Miss the latest issue of *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*? No problem. Get that modem humming and access it on-line.

"We subscribe to a number of on-line journals," says Flo Wilson, associate university librarian. "Many have come into being during the past academic year."

There are several ways to gain access to the electronic journals, whether on campus, in the library, or off campus via modem. Patrons can go directly to the electronic journals page from the Heard Library home page and obtain a list of available journals either alphabetically or by subject. The subject lists include both full-text electronic journals and home pages for print journals that may feature only tables of contents and, in some cases, abstracts of articles. Or, if you are searching the library's holdings through ACORN and find a journal reference, that journal may have an electronic version available through a link at the top of the entry.

Not all journals are accessible from off-campus sites, except through University dial-up services. Because of some licensing agreements, certain journals are restricted to Vanderbilt users. In addition to accessing the library's electronic-journal holdings, the user may also tap into other collections of electronic journals and current news sources through links on the electronic journals Web page. 🐣

NELSON BRYAN

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *CHRONICLE*, we reported that none of the following newspapers was available on-line, when in fact, they have been available on-line for some time, according to William R. Taylor, assistant director for information services at the Walker Management Library. They include the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Chattanooga Times*, *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, *Commercial Appeal* (Memphis), *Dallas Morning News*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, *Miami Herald*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The *Birmingham News* is not currently available on-line, but its competitor, the *Birmingham Herald*, is.

By the end of the academic year, Taylor says these newspapers and other publications will be accessible electronically both on and off campus through the Heard Library's subscription to the *Dow Jones News/Retrieval* service. 🐣



# Meade Haven hosts historic gathering once more

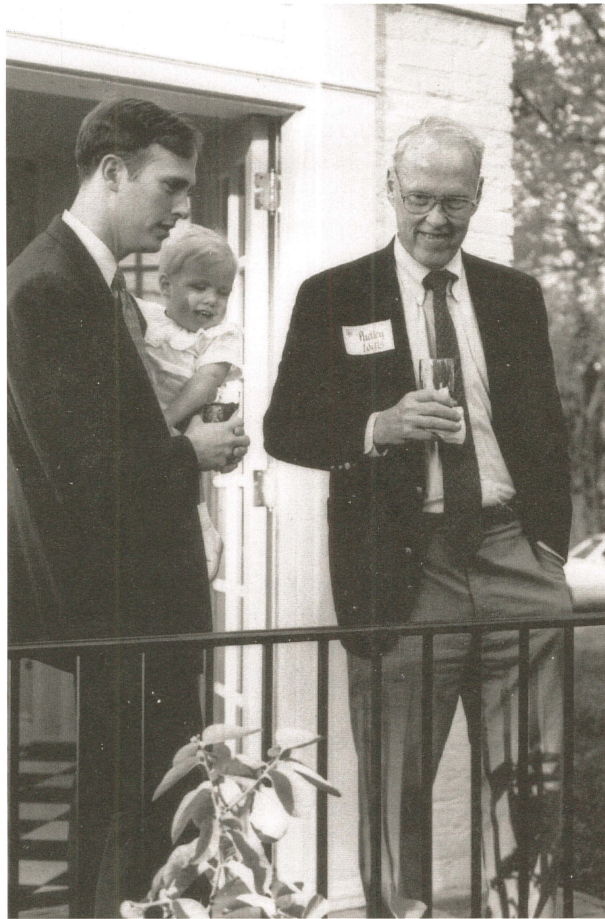
**B**enefactors of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library celebrated the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Fugitive* on April 29 at a festive dinner held at Meade Haven, the former home of Fugitive Jesse E. Wills and scene of the 1956 Fugitive Reunion. The present owners, Ridley and Elizabeth McNamara Wills, Jesse Wills's grandson and his wife, invited the library group to celebrate the historical connection.

About 130 library supporters dined in a tent on the grounds and were entertained by a dramatization of Fugitive voices, circa 1922, selected and given context by Marice Wolfe.

Chancellor James Hampton Kirkland (in the person of John Poindexter) narrated the appearances of all 16 Fugitives, played by members of the English Department faculty, Medical Center faculty, officers of the Heard Library Society and Friends of the Library, and descendants of the Fugitives.

Ellen Wills, the widow of Jesse E. Wills, attended, as did several others who had known the poets in their youth. 🍷

MARICE WOLFE, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST



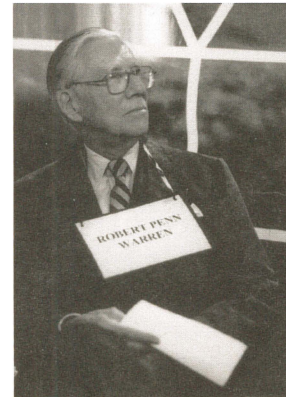
*Fugitive generations: William Ridley Wills III holds his son, Ridley IV, while conferring with his father, Ridley II. The elder Ridley's father, Jesse, was a member of the Fugitives.*



*Above: Harvie Branscomb, chancellor emeritus and host of the 1956 Fugitive reunion, is greeted by Jean Heard and Anne Backus. During the dramatization, Heard took the role of Laura Riding, the only female Fugitive.*

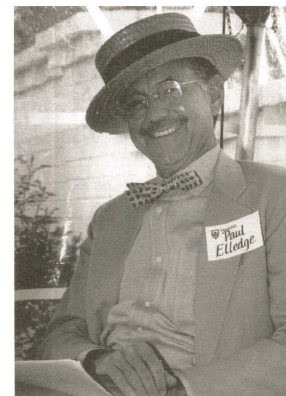


*Left: Molly Kirkpatrick enjoys the words of her grandfather, Donald Davidson.*



*Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt, left, read the part of former Fugitive and Harvard political scientist William Yandell Elliott, while Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard spoke for Robert Penn Warren.*

*Right: Dapper Paul Elledge, professor of English, played John Crowe Ransom.*





## Special Collections expands holdings of regional folk songs

The library has received a collection of more than 1,200 folk songs and variants gathered in the Middle Tennessee region by George Worley Boswell, BA'39, MA'40, Peabody PhD'51. The papers were a gift of his family.

Boswell's scholarly searching was most intensive during the 1948-52 period, when many Tennesseans with rural backgrounds migrated to Nashville and brought with them the oral tradition of their musical heritage. He transcribed both words and musical notations from the performances of these sources.

This splendid gift was celebrated in June with a reception in Special Collections featuring a gallery talk by folklore scholar Charles K. Wolfe, professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University, who edited *Folk Songs of Middle Tennessee: The George Boswell Collection* for the University of Tennessee Press in 1997. Wolfe's book comprises the first major collection of Southern folk songs in many years, the first ever of the songs of Middle Tennessee. His talk will be printed as a "Gallery Talk" in an upcoming issue of the ACORN CHRONICLE.

The Boswell materials enlarge and complement valuable holdings in the study of regional folk music already in Special Collections, as contained in the papers of Donald Davidson, Mildred Haun, and George Pullen Jackson. 🍷

MARICE WOLFE



### Friends of the Library Board of Directors 1997-98

President: Ann Cook Calhoun  
Vice President for programs: Alexander McLeod  
Vice President for membership: Michael Zibart  
Vice President for acquisitions: Frances Hardie  
Secretary: Frank Grisham  
Treasurer: Elizabeth McNamara Wills  
Past President: James Auer  
Founder: Jean Heard  
Board Members: Robert Arnett, Clay Bailey, Carol Dickerson, Ann Hartree, T. Mark Hodges, Mary Hoffschwelle, Michael Kreyling, Anne Lowe, Ann Parish, Howard Smith, Marc Stengel  
Ex Officio: Paul M. Gherman



Above: Charles K. Wolfe, left, and the late George Worley Boswell work on Boswell's collection of Middle Tennessee folk songs at the latter's home before his death in the mid-1990s. Wolfe gave a "Gallery Talk" on Boswell's work in June. It will be published in a future issue of the ACORN CHRONICLE.

Left: Robert Drake, BA'52, MA'53, addresses a special reception during Reunion '97, which took place on Memorial Day weekend. The gathering marked Drake's contribution of his papers to the Heard Library. His remarks will be published as a "Gallery Talk" in a future issue of the ACORN CHRONICLE.

THE ACORN CHRONICLE is published by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, or call (615) 322-7102.

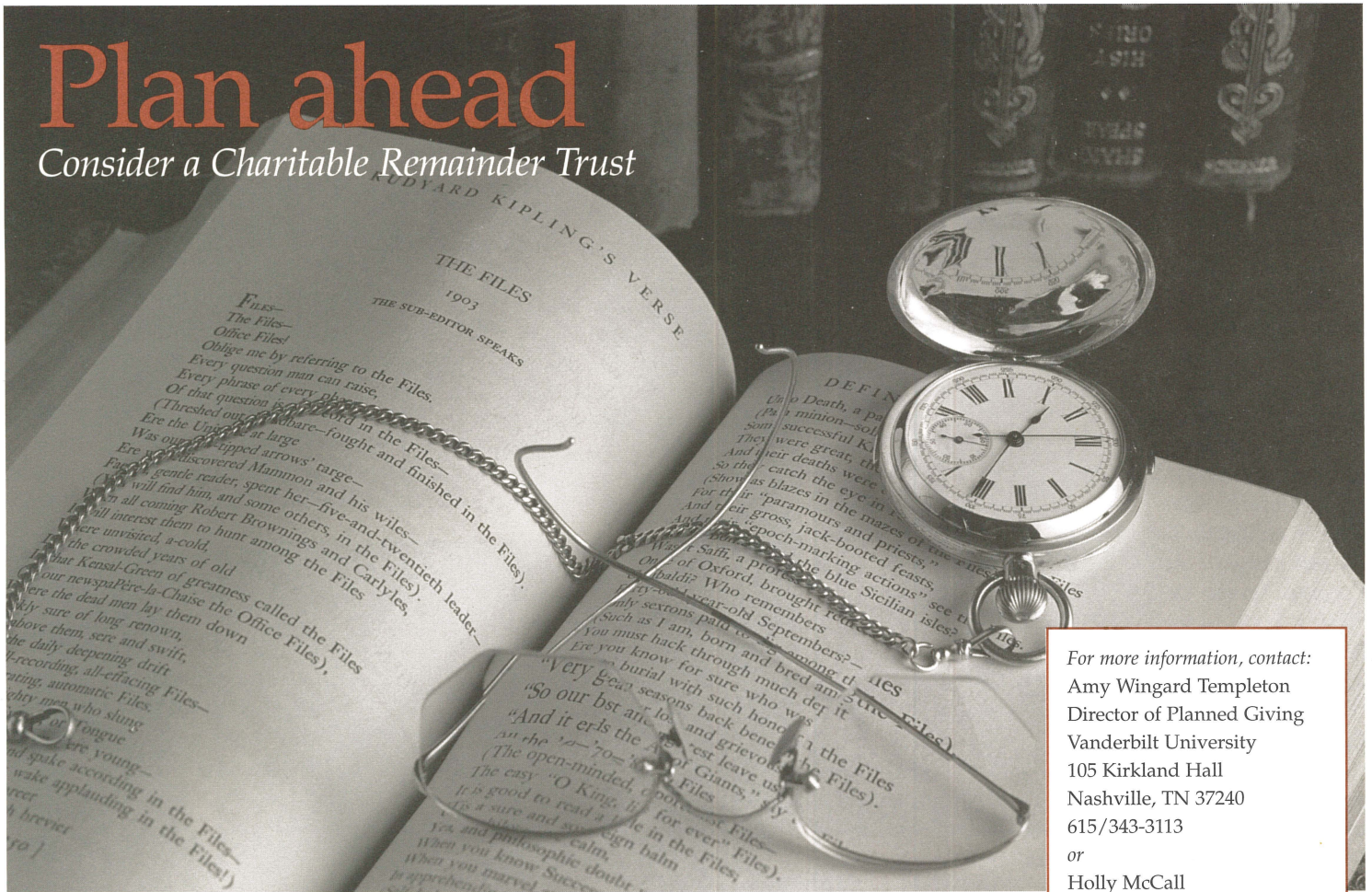
Friends of the Library President: Ann Cook Calhoun  
University Librarian: Paul M. Gherman  
Editor: Joanne Lamphere Beckham  
Contributors: Nelson Bryan, Bonnie Arant Ertelt, Elaine Goleski, Marice Wolfe  
Photographs: David Crenshaw, Peyton Hoge, Joe Rudis, Vanderbilt Photographic Archives  
Designer: Donna DeVore Pritchett

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.



# Plan ahead

Consider a Charitable Remainder Trust



Charitable remainder trusts are an excellent way to strengthen the Jean and Alexander Heard Library while enhancing financial security for you and your loved ones.

This type of planned gift can help you:

- Provide for your retirement or your children's education
- Save on your current income taxes
- Avoid capital gain tax
- Make a gift to the library
- Reduce estate taxes.

For more information, contact:

Amy Wingard Templeton  
Director of Planned Giving  
Vanderbilt University  
105 Kirkland Hall  
Nashville, TN 37240  
615/343-3113  
or  
Holly McCall  
Director of Development  
The Jean and Alexander  
Heard Library  
1207 18th Ave. S., Room 134  
Nashville, TN 37212  
(615) 322-8508

THE **ACORN** Chronicle

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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No. 1460