



Chronicle

A Register of this work, the book of chronicles with figures and images from the beginning of the world. Nuremberg Chronicle, 1493

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GENIAL COMPANY AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS joined to make the Fourth Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Library a richly satisfying evening. Two hundred and twenty Friends enjoyed an excellent dinner at Nashville House in MetroCenter. Jean Heard presided over the meeting with grace and wit, delighting the group with her refreshing introductions. Reading from Losing Battles, Eudora Welty charmed the audience. All were moved by the introductory tribute of Allen Tate, Miss Welty's good friend and colleague in the world of letters.

Tate wrote: Our guest this evening is a great wit and a master of southern vernacular. But you will not find in any of her stories and novels distorted spelling to convey dialect or illiteracy. Her mastery of the common speech goes deeper; it is a subtle expression of character such as we find in "Why I Live at the PO". Throughout her work there is an appearance of ease, almost of facility, but there is nothing facile about her style. Genius, which by a gift of God she has, achieves its triumphs through her infinite capacity for taking pains. She is nevertheless a prolific writer. From her first book A Curtain of Green (1941) to The Optimist's Daughter she was busy every year. Another mark of genius is industry.

I like to remember that brilliant fiction like The Golden Apples, The Robber Bridegroom, The Ponder Heart and Delta Wedding were written in the South. Let us base a portion of our patriotism on our distinguished artists and writers of whom our guest is a leading example.

THE JESSE E. WILLS FUGITIVE/AGRARIAN COLLECTION will be the focus of a major collections emphasis this year with a renewed effort to seek manuscript materials and memorabilia related to the group. A special committee of advisors has been named to assist in the location and acquisition of papers still in private hands. Mrs. Joseph L. Walsh chairs the committee which also includes Mrs. Allen Tate and Mrs. Charles Wells. A corollary to the program will be the microfilming of papers of Fugitives and Agrarians in other repositories.

Continuing publication and research in the work of the twenty-four figures represented in the Fugitive/Agrarian Collection requires an updating of the bibliography of primary and secondary sources. Current publications will be purchased and out-of-print works sought so the Wills Collection will continue to meet its aim of including everything available by and about the Fugitives and Agrarians.

If you know the whereabouts of unpublished materials relating to any of the figures listed below, please call Special Collections, 322-2807. Fugitives and Agrarians: Walter Clyde Curry, Donald Davidson, William Yandell Elliott, John Gould Fletcher, James M. Frank, William Frierson, Sidney Mtron Hirsch, Stanley Johnson, Henry Blue Kline, Lyle H. Lanier, Andrew Lytle, Merrill Moore, Herman Clarence Nixon, Frank Lawrence Owsley, John Crowe Ransom, Laura Riding, Alfred Starr, Alec Brock Stevenson, Allen Tate, John Donald Wade, Robert Penn Warren, Jesse Ely Wills, Ridley Wills, Stark Young.

LE SURNATURALISME FRANÇAIS : DE BAUDELAIRE AU SURREALISME is the subject of an international colloquium sponsored by the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire Studies and the Vanderbilt University Department of French and Italian to be held in Nashville on March 31 and April 1.

A notable occasion for Baudelaire scholarship, the event also celebrates the unique collection of the Center, built over a fifty year period by Professor Emeritus William T. Bandy, an account of which appeared in the Vanderbilt Gazette of March 1.

Choice items including first printings of Baudelaire's works, autographs, and photographs will be displayed in the Special Collections gallery at JUL from March 20 through April 14. Friends of the Library will commemorate the occasion and encourage future scholarship in the field of Baudelaire studies by acquiring for the Joint University Libraries a rare copy of Baudelaire's first work, the Salon de 1845. Paris: Jules Labitte, 1845.

BRITISH WRITING IN THE SETTLED SEVENTIES will be the topic of James F. Kilroy's talk at the Spring gathering of the Friends of the Library on Monday evening, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Underwood Auditorium. WDCN watchers will remember Professor Kilroy's fine commentary on the dramatic series based on the short stories of novelist Thomas Hardy.

Kilroy recently returned from a six-month leave in England "to study the depiction of the family in English literature from 1850 to 1950, in preparation for a book on the subject." according to the Vanderbilt Gazette. He is a member of the Department of English at Vanderbilt University and is First Vice-President of the Friends.

AN ENTICEMENT TO AN INTERESTING EVENING is James Kilroy's summary of recent developments in British fiction:

Recognizing the hazards in using literature as an indicator of popular social attitudes, I see in the best literary works coming from Britain in the past several years a dominant tone --one of caution and skepticism. The "Angry Fifties" and the "Swinging Sixties" seem to have been followed by the "Settled Seventies." The best novelists and playwrights of the current decade are attempting to assess Britain's place in a more unified Europe, and to evaluate the social experiments of the post-war period. Instead of experimental drama and protest fiction, there is a revival of interest in the classics, and in traditional forms of literature. The repertory of the handsome new National Theatre in London gives greatest weight to recognized classics of the stage. The new plays in the West End have old forms; and the best of the novelists, such as Margaret Drabble, John Fowles and Paul Scott are traditional in subject and technique when compared with their predecessors. Yet if the tone of the seventies is settled, it is not dead. Although they are not loudly experimental, recent British writers have produced some of the most lively, challenging and amusing works of this century.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES OFFERS ASSISTANCE to programs designed to increase public understanding and use of the humanities through Challenge Grants from funds made available each year by Congress. The Congressional intent is to stimulate philanthropic giving and enlist a larger constituency in support of the humanities by providing an incentive to new and increased donations, thus broadening the base of an institution's support.

Challenge Grant funds may be used to strengthen institutions' management and administration, particularly in the area of long-range planning, and in their development and fund-raising apparatus, according to Endowment guidelines. It is toward this end that Friends of the Library has been included as a component of a three-year proposal recently submitted by the College of Arts and Science of Vanderbilt University and now under consideration by the National Endowment.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY 1978-79 will find their year extended by several months as the annual membership renewal mailing is planned for May rather than August this year. Memberships will continue to extend formally from July 1 through June 30. It is hoped that members will not object to the realignment of the solicitation schedule with the JUL fiscal year since increased efficiency should be the result. Invitations to the two annual events, which usually take place in mid-fall and early spring, will be little affected by the change.

Friends of the Library 1977-78 now number 488 and have made a total contribution of \$13,403.00, according to George de Roulhac Hill, Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman.

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