

# ACORN Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY THE JEAN AND ALEXANDER HEARD LIBRARY • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY • WINTER 2010

*Wish you were here!*

Postcards from the past



# TOURING TENNESSEE VIA POSTCARD



**Editor's note:** Pictured here and on the cover are just a few of Ridley Wills II's collection of about 26,000 Tennessee postcards. Wills recently donated his collection of Vanderbilt and Peabody postcards, including those featured here, to the library. He also used many postcards from his extensive collection in his book *Touring Tennessee: A Postcard Panorama, 1898–1955*. The Wills family has supported the Vanderbilt library for three generations.



The old gym still stands proudly on the Vanderbilt campus.



The statue of Vanderbilt founder Cornelius Vanderbilt looms with the Kirkland Hall tower in the background.



(on the front cover) Clockwise from top left: The woman pictured on this postcard, mailed in November 1907, holds a Vanderbilt pennant. A Vanderbilt football cheer is printed along the bottom. Next, Furman Hall, home to the Chemistry Library in 1907 after the 1905 College Hall (now Kirkland) fire destroyed most of the library, also included classrooms and faculty offices—much as it does today. Then, during a 1907 visit to Peabody, President Teddy Roosevelt (standing in the automobile) is surrounded by students, supporters and the general public.



A close-up look at the Social Religious Building at Peabody (now known as the Wyatt Center).

## NASHVILLE PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARK TWAIN WITH CITYWIDE CELEBRATION

*Twain & Twang, September 2009 to June 2010*

Vanderbilt's libraries are part of a citywide, months-long artistic exploration of the lively, provoking and distinctly American writer Mark Twain.

The "Twain & Twang" celebration kicked off downtown in the fall and continues through June. A baker's dozen of Nashville institutions joined together to focus on the works of Mark Twain in a variety of ways, crossing all artistic lines and attracting all ages. At Vanderbilt, the Twain celebration will be marked with the "Mark Twain: An American Enigma" exhibit of the library's Marc H. Hollender Mark Twain Collection.

"It's exciting to be a part of this citywide event," Dean of Libraries Connie Vinita Dowell said. "Vanderbilt is a key part of the Nashville community, and I'm delighted to be celebrating Mark Twain and sharing such an amazing collection."

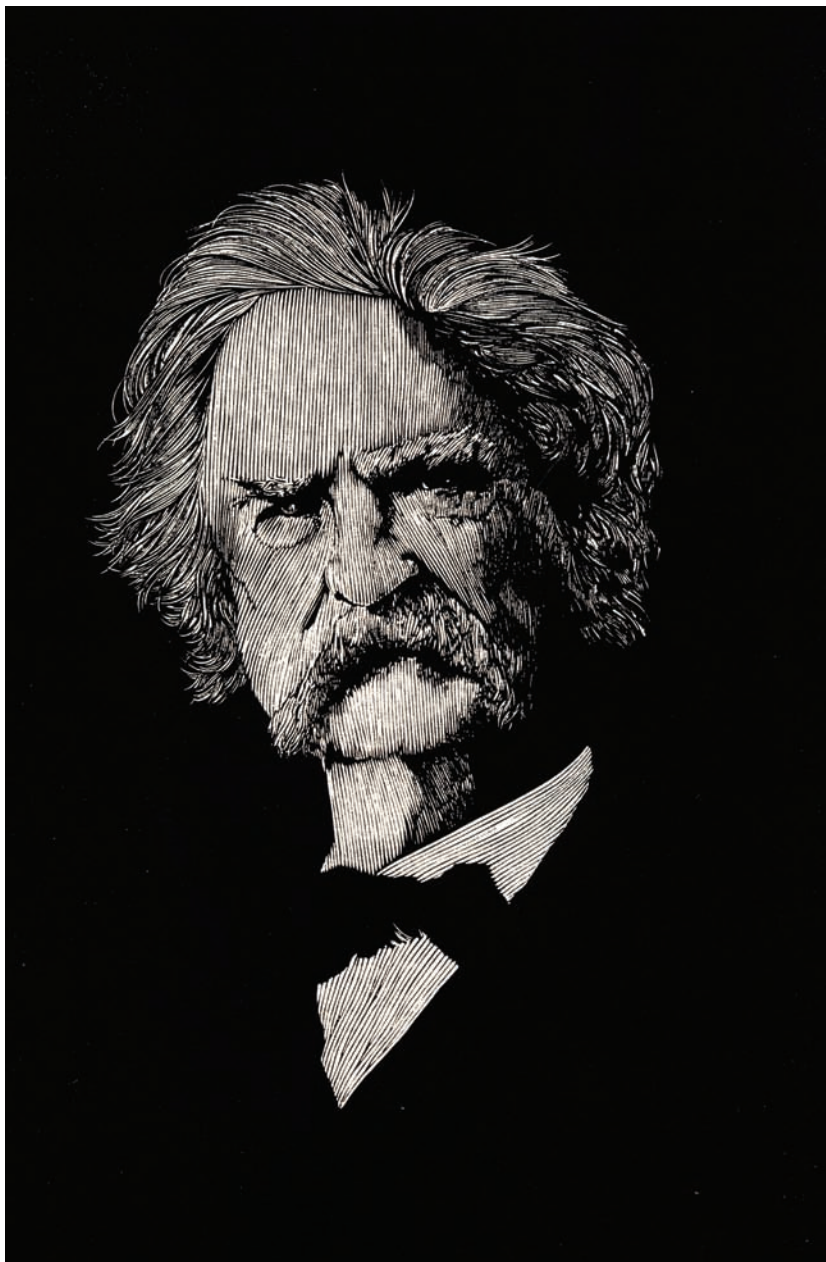
Partnering with Vanderbilt in the Twain & Twang celebration are Cheekwood Botanical Garden, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Metro Parks, Nashville Children's Theatre, Nashville Public Library, NPT, Metro Parks, People's Branch Theatre, Tennessee Repertory Theatre, TPAC and YMCA artEMBRACE.

The Twain exhibit in Special Collections will run from January 31 through June 30. "We are fortunate to have such a strong collection in Twain materials—both first editions and original materials," Dowell said. "The signature image of the exhibit is Barry Moser's portrait of Twain. This image comes from one of our newest collections with permission from the acclaimed Tennessee-born artist. We are looking forward to sharing this exhibit with Nashville and beyond."

After the Nashville show, the exhibit will move to San Diego State University for a 19-week run from August through December. Before joining Vanderbilt in 2008, Dowell was the head of that university's libraries. She led the charge to partner with the California university to develop the Twain exhibit that will feature holdings from both Vanderbilt and San Diego State.

Vanderbilt's Mark Twain collection will be on display during Twain & Twang. It was donated by the late Dr. Marc H. Hollender, a longtime Twain aficionado who traced his love of the author to reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a boy.

Hollender's gift to the library contains about 350 items. It includes first editions of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. Hollender, a former chairman of the Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry, once said that his profession had nothing to do with his avocation. "I want to enjoy Mark Twain, not analyze him," he said.



*Barry Moser's woodcut of Mark Twain*

## Library survey early step in planning process

The library recently asked students, faculty and staff to evaluate the library and share their input on the library's services and collections as an early step in planning the expansion and renovation of the library.

About 2,300 people completed the survey, with graduate students making up nearly a third of the respondents. The survey, used at libraries across the country, was also given in 2002 and 2006.

Early analysis of the results showed that the library's customer service rated well. The library improved its ratings with expanded business hours and better electronic access to its holdings. The results also show that the libraries' facilities are a concern to users, especially in the "comfortable and inviting location" category. Some improvements were noted due to completed renovation projects in the Divinity, Peabody, Management, and Science and Engineering libraries.

"These survey results are an important first step in planning a destination library," Dean Connie V. Dowell said. "We know our students and faculty are looking for comfortable, inviting places to meet and study and that's important to us, too. We're committed to meeting the fast-changing needs and demands of our students and faculty and look forward to the next steps in our planning process."



## Library partnership integrates iTunes U with Blackboard

Vanderbilt University Libraries championed the creation of a tool that allows easy integration of the course management program Blackboard and Apple's iTunes. Thanks to a partnership between Vanderbilt and Blackboard, the new tool is now available to all universities using Blackboard.

The partnership was announced July 15 at the annual meeting of Blackboard's user and developer communities, in Washington, D.C.

## Library Events



Dean of Libraries Connie V. Dowell and her husband, Stephen Miller, hosted the San Diego alumni chapter at their home there in May. Chapter President Ted Wilson (BA'81) and Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, welcomed the crowd and introduced the newly appointed dean.



The Metro New York Vanderbilt Alumni Chapter hosted a reception in July at New York City's Grolier Club. Guests enjoyed hearing from Dean Connie V. Dowell and touring the Grolier Club New Member Exhibit that included some of Dean Dowell's rare books. Pictured are current parent Dr. Florence Milch, Harry Lewis (JD'77), Dean Dowell (MLS'79), Martin Valk (BA'85) and Chapter President Kendall Morrison (BA'04).



Joanne Fleming Hayes opens a carton of the Barry Moser collection at the box opening party hosted by Dean Dowell and Provost Richard McCarty. Funds from the Sam M. Fleming Southern Civilization Collection, a gift from Hayes' father, were used to make the Moser purchase.

iTunes U is an application that allows faculty and students to access specific audio, video and other multimedia presentations. The content can be downloaded to personal computers and iPhones, iPods and MP3 players.

"We found that an increasing number of faculty members wanted to use multimedia in their classes—everything from capturing lectures to developing and sharing multimedia presentations for students," said Cindy

Franco, manager of OAK (Online Access to Knowledge), Vanderbilt's technology-related learning tools. "We looked at a number of solutions but they all had limitations. Working with iTunes U gave us an efficient way to share content within our existing system and to tie it to our courses so faculty and students can use it easily."

Vanderbilt's iTunes U presence can be accessed at <http://itunesu.vanderbilt.edu> or through the iTunes Music Store.

## Library purchases Moser collection at auction

Special Collections recently purchased at auction a collection of Barry Moser's works with funds from the Sam M. Fleming Southern Civilization Collection. Chattanooga-born Moser is best known for his award-winning work as an artist and illustrator, but he is also a printer, painter, printmaker, designer, author, essayist and

teacher. Moser's work is included in the upcoming Twain & Twang exhibit and his portrait of Mark Twain is the exhibit's signature poster. He has more than 300 design and illustration works to his credit, most notably the Arion Press *Moby-Dick* and the University of California Press' *The Divine Comedy*. His Pennyroyal Press published the *Pennyroyal Caxton Bible*,



the only fully illustrated Bible of the 20th century. "This beautiful collection includes several original drawings and a wide array of prints as well as the extraordinary books from the Pennyroyal Press," says Connie V. Dowell, library dean. "We are so fortunate to have these works by one of America's finest book artists. The Pennyroyal Press is more and more often being compared to the William Morris's Kelmscott Press and Leonard Baskin's Gehenna Press. These books and prints will enrich exhibits and inspire students for generations to come."

*The flower images "Chrysanthemums" and "Iris Pseudacorus" by Barry Moser are from 50 Woodcut Engravings published in 1978 by Pennyroyal Press.*

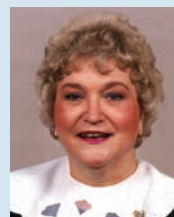


### Beloved library personnel officer dies

Gail Ridgway Workman of Old Hickory, a much beloved library personnel officer for nearly three decades, passed away October 5. Mrs. Workman, who was 72, worked at the library from 1971 to 1999. "For 28 years, Gail Workman served the library through her work as personnel officer," said Associate Dean Flo Wilson. "She knew everyone who worked in the library, back to when it was still the Joint University Library. Beyond

that official role, she touched so many of our lives through her humor, enthusiasm, grace and thoughtful deeds."

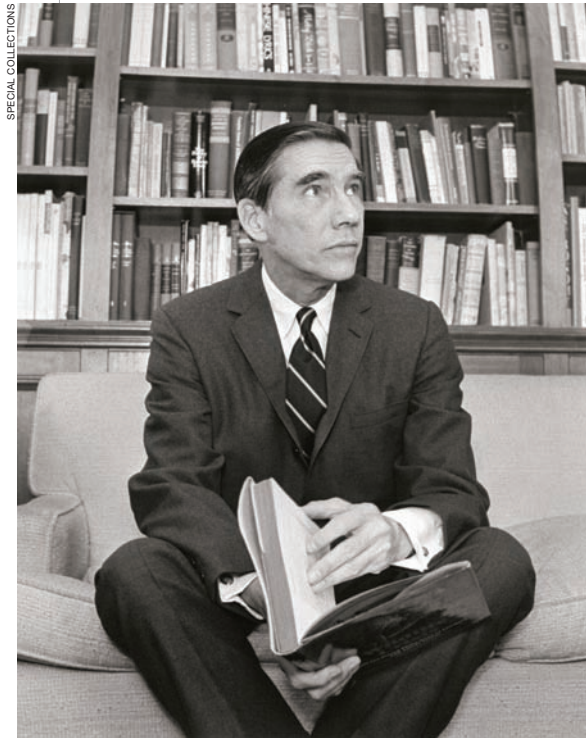
When Mrs. Workman retired in 1999, more than 130 library colleagues and friends joined her and her family at a celebration in her honor. University librarian Paul Gherman and former university librarians Malcolm Getz and Frank Grisham



spoke about her outstanding service and wished her happiness during her retirement.

Workman is survived by her husband of 36 years, Wallace Workman; daughter, Beth Farmer; and numerous nephews, nieces and friends. Several library colleagues have made donations to the staff development library fund in her memory.

## LIBRARY LOSES ONE OF ITS FOREMOST FRIENDS



*Chancellor Alexander Heard is surrounded by books in this photograph taken at his Vanderbilt office.*

When Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard passed away in July at age 92, the library lost one of its foremost friends.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, which bears both his name and that of his wife, benefited immensely during his tenure as chancellor through his fundraising and leadership efforts. Jean Heard pitched in by founding the Friends of the Library fundraising organization and serving as its first president, often hosting board meetings in her home. The highest library donation level is

aply titled the Heard Library Society. The Heards were the focus of a large exhibit in Special Collections in the fall of 2009.

Heard retired in June 1982, and the decision to name the library in honor of the chancellor emeritus and his wife came about a year later.

“Jean and I are deeply grateful for the university’s generous and wholly unexpected action in naming the library,” he said at the time. “Every part of Vanderbilt is important, but we feel especially honored that a part of it that serves all the university faculty and students should bear our names.”

Heard, an adviser to three U.S. presidents, served as Vanderbilt’s fifth chancellor. He guided the university through the stormy period of the 1960s and 1970s without the unrest and violence that afflicted many college campuses.

“Alex Heard used to say that the library really is the heart of the university, and I believe that,” Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos said in 2008. “For Vanderbilt, with its strong tradition of discovery and research and its aspirations to continue to be a leader, it is essential that our library continue to be world-class.”

*“A library is a place of interaction, where the minds of students and faculty collide with other minds removed in time and place.”*

—Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard

Frank Grisham served as the director of what was then called the Joint University Libraries and worked with Heard for 17 years. He said it was a rewarding experience.

“He was a modest and extremely intelligent man,” Grisham recalls. “Chancellor Heard knew the value of a library as a learning center—that’s the way he promoted it. The library was key to him. He was always an ardent and forceful supporter of the library.”

A student group of seven campus leaders that Heard admiringly named “The Wild Bunch” chose to honor the chancellor and his wife by creating an endowment in 1997 to purchase books for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Phil Walker, BA’77, was a member of the group and he elegantly summed up the chancellor’s powerful legacy.



*Vanderbilt Chancellor Alexander Heard, an adviser to three U.S. presidents, presents a report to President John F. Kennedy.*

“Chancellor Heard embodied everything for which Vanderbilt stands: Strength, courage, charm, civility, respect for all others regardless of their opinions, being the best, and an undying commitment to the freedom of ideas and discussion,” Walker said. “In many ways, Vanderbilt and Chancellor Heard became one. His spirit will live on each and every time a student or alum says to himself, ‘I am who I am because of Vanderbilt.’ In reality, all of us are who we are because of who Chancellor Heard was, and what that has let Vanderbilt become for each of us.”

—Lew Harris

## SUMMER IN OXFORD

### *Vanderbilt expert consults on Bodleian's Hispanic collection*

**Editor's note:** *Latin American bibliographer and senior lecturer Paula Covington is considered an international expert in her field. Chancellor's Professor of Spanish William Luis describes her as an "indispensable cornerstone of our departments and programs." Dean of Libraries Connie V. Dowell said, "The bridges that Paula has built to our faculty and students serves as a model for librarians everywhere. At the same time, she has been the driving force behind an internationally acclaimed collection. It is no surprise that Oxford and other universities recognize her remarkable talents that have served Vanderbilt so well."*

When the Oxford rail station loudspeaker boomed out "Mind the gap, please," I knew I was really back in England. The heads of two groups of Oxford's University Libraries had invited me for a consultancy for the Bodleian and other libraries that make up the university's library system. My project was to help review their Hispanic collections and the steps they might take to better serve their readers.

Over the summer, I met with more than 40 faculty, staff and students while working primarily in the Taylor Institution, the Latin American Centre and the Social Sciences libraries. Key Latin American and Iberian academics shared their research needs, particularly in the areas of the social sciences and humanities. I reviewed the libraries' recent collections, their approval plans for Latin American, Iberian and Caribbean countries, and their journals and electronic resources. They also asked me to prepare an extensive set of recommendations to share with the new subject specialists they expect to appoint.

It was not always hardship duty. Most academics wanted to meet at their college over lunch, which often meant a dining room with silver napkin rings and a high table, or even a private oak-paneled dining room.

The experience has left me with many fond memories, from tea in the garden of a knight and his lady, to a garden party at the famous Encaenia ceremony, where hundreds of academics arrayed like peacocks paraded in their colorful academic

robes, to biking daily to work where I found welcoming colleagues specializing in Italian, Middle Eastern Studies, or Frisian linguistics! Although I'm back at Vanderbilt, I will miss being part of that other world.

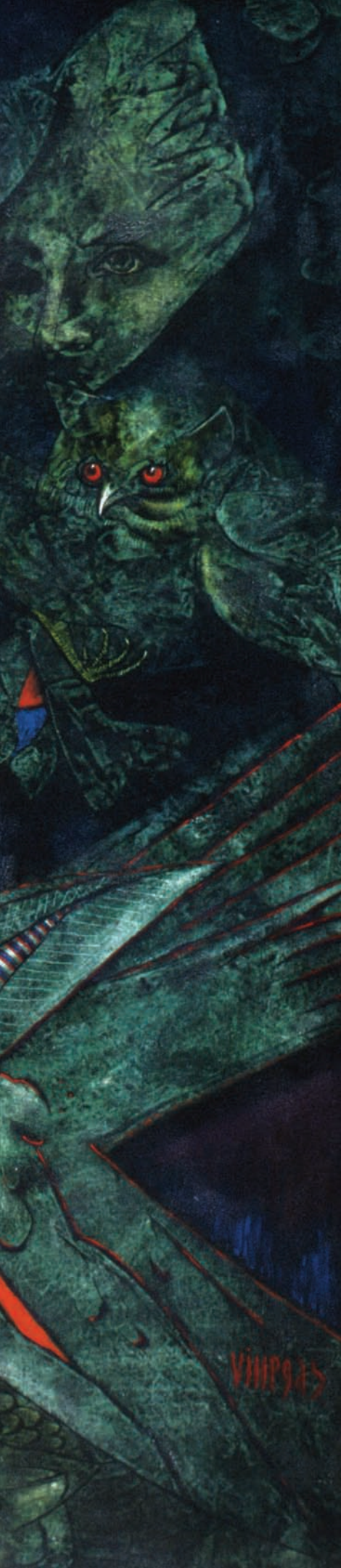
—By Paula Covington



*Paula Covington reaches out to the statue of William Herbert, the third Earl of Pembroke and a major benefactor of the Bodleian Library. A Latin inscription with the statue (not shown) reads, "Academicians at Oxford! Thomas Bodley (the library's key benefactor who also gave it his name) has built this library for you and the Republic of the Learned. May the gift turn out well."*







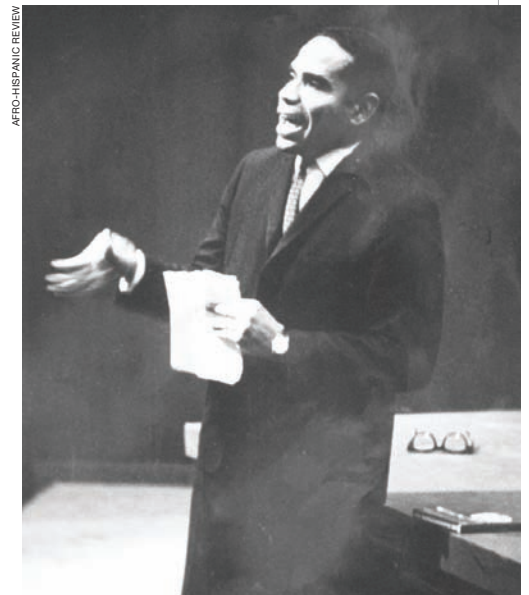
# OLIVELLA ACQUISITION

BOOSTS LIBRARY'S LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library has one of the best Latin American collections of Colombiana of any library in the world—and it just got even better.

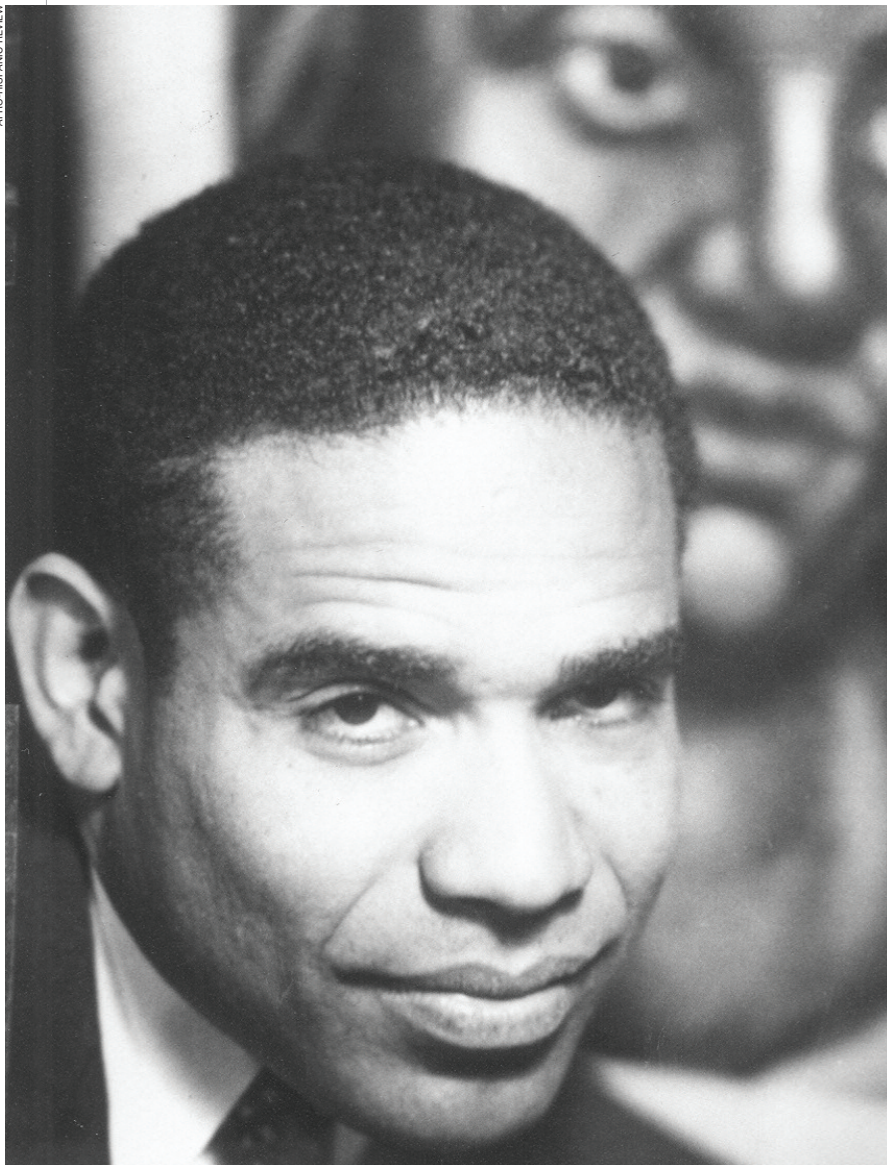
The library has acquired the papers of Manuel Zapata Olivella, the 20th century's most important Afro-Hispanic narrator, according to William Luis, Chancellor's Professor of Spanish. Olivella was a doctor, anthropologist, folklorist, diplomat and writer and is one of the most distinguished figures in contemporary Colombian literature. More than any other person, Olivella has been recognized for his focus on the people of African descent, not only to the history and society of Colombia, but also to the Americas as a whole.

The new acquisition, funded by the Heard Library Society, complements Vanderbilt's J. León Helguera Collection of Colombiana. Eminent historian Malcolm Deas, a fellow at St. Antony's College in Oxford and former director of the Latin American Centre at Oxford University, says Helguera "was able to put together what is without the slightest doubt the finest collection of Colombiana outside the country. If I may offer a comparison, the Helguera collec-



*Vanderbilt Professor William Luis unearthed the bold image at left from the Olivella collection. He believes it may have been used as a cover on an early edition of Manuel Zapata Olivella's famous novel, Chango, el gran putas. In the photo above, Olivella is shown making a presentation.*

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



*Manuel Zapata Olivella (above) was a doctor, anthropologist, folklorist, diplomat and gifted writer. One of the most distinguished figures in contemporary Colombian literature, Olivella, shown at upper right with a Colombian musical group, was dedicated to preserving the oral traditions of Afro-Colombians.*

tion is in the United States for Columbia the equivalent of the University of Texas's collections of materials on Mexico. It is the leading collection, with no close rival anywhere, in certain respects not even the Library of Congress."

Paula Covington, Vanderbilt's Latin American and Iberian bibliographer and an internationally recognized scholar, says the Olivella collection will have major impact. "This collection is significant because it represents the output of an author who pioneered the Afro-Latin American novel," she said. "Prior to this, we have not owned any personal collections or manuscripts of a major Latin American writer."

Covington and former University Librarian Paul Gherman worked for more than three years with Olivella's daughter and the Colombian government



*This collection is significant because it represents the output of an author who pioneered the Afro-Latin American novel.*

—Paula Covington

(notably the Colombian Ministry of Culture) to purchase the collection. Vanderbilt doctoral student Pablo Gómez, a Colombian native, played a vital role by meeting with Olivella's daughter, inspecting the collection and overseeing the crating of 150 boxes and shepherding them through the Colombian customs.

Luis has examined a few of the boxes and has already found a rare gem in the form of the manuscript of an unpublished novel, *Itxao, el immortal*. The collection also includes other manuscripts, letters, interviews, newspaper and scholarly articles, audio-cassettes, slides and photos. The interviews and tapes of slave descendents illustrate Olivella's dedication to preserving the passing oral traditions of Afro-Colombians.

Covington expects that a significant number of scholars—those interested in literature, Latin American culture and history—will want to make use of the collection. Luis made a brief mention of the Olivella acquisition in a recent issue of the *Afro-Hispanic Review*, which he edits, and has since received numerous requests from scholars wanting to consult these important resources. After the collection is cataloged, it will be available for outside research.

# 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library thanks and recognizes the many supporters who gave generously to the library during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009). To learn more about supporting the library or to let us know about any omissions or errors on this donor list, please contact Beth Boord at (615) 343-4717 or [beth.boord@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:beth.boord@vanderbilt.edu).



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VANDERBILT  
THE FUND

*continued on next page*



## Working poet Luther bequeaths papers to Heard Library

By Cindy Thomsen

Award-winning poet Susan Miltzer Luther, PhD'86, laughs at the stereotypical view of poets sitting in meadows all day, gathering flowers.

Luther is very much a working poet. Her work has appeared in many anthologies and journals, and she has published two books, *Breathing in the Dark* and *Greatest Hits: 1975-2000*. She has also taught in university settings and served on the editorial board of *POEM* magazine.

To support the Jean and Alexander Heard library, Luther has made a bequest to the library as well as leaving it her personal papers and books. The collection includes her own books, books inscribed to her by their authors and journals, many of which are no longer in print.

"Giving is important," she says. "It's important to preserve the history that we have and to preserve it in a place that will be accessible to those who might want to study what our literature was all about."

Vanderbilt's reputation is extremely important to Luther and she considers its library as one of the South's finest. She knows that her books and papers will be well cared for there.

"Creativity can so easily be lost if it's not housed where it will be respected and treated well," Luther adds.

"As we draft and sign the agreement for a gift of personal papers, it is among the most careful acts we execute, because we know that it is a permanent bond going forward through the generations," Dean of Libraries Connie V. Dowell says. "We also know it is one of the greatest honors bestowed on any library by its donor."

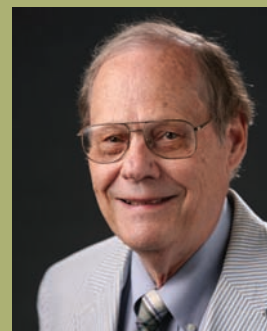
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## Donating late wife's Southern literature collection was easy decision

*By Cindy Thomsen*

Readers of Southern literature know that it is a very special genre, and no one was a bigger fan of it than the late Frances Newman Thomson. During her life, she collected more than 400 books by Southern authors. A portion of her collection has been donated to the Jean and Alexander Heard Library by her husband, Robert Polk Thomson, BA'48, a history professor at Peabody for 23 years.

"About 100 of the volumes are first editions, and 29 or 30 of them are inscribed," Thomson says of the books going to Special Collections. The collection will be known as the Frances Newman Thomson Southern Writers Collection.

Walker Percy, Anne Tyler, Reynolds Price and Gail Godwin were among Mrs. Thomson's favorites. As they were building the collection, the couple would get to bookstores early enough to find first editions.

Giving his wife's books to the Heard Library was an easy decision for Thomson, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1956.

"The library was a very important part of my life," he says. "I spent about half of my life in that building, starting from the time I was an undergraduate student in 1945. It pleases me to be able to give the Special Collections something that will strengthen it."

"Delightfully understated and remarkably well-read, Professor Thomson has been such a pleasure to get to know," Dean of Libraries Connie V. Dowell says. "He has taken such joy in sharing his wife's love of these authors with others that he makes us feel as if we are giving him a gift. His generosity is very much appreciated."



## Zaw-Mon liked finding her own place in the library

By *Cindy Thomsen*

When she was an undergraduate studying history at Vanderbilt, Caroline Hunt Zaw-Mon, BS'01, spent a lot of time at the library. It made quite an impression on her.

“I loved that there are all these places that are just tucked away,” Zaw-Mon says. “You can find your own place.”

When she graduated, Zaw-Mon's family created the Hunt Family Book Fund to support the purchase of history books for the library. The Roy A. Hunt Foundation, named for her great-uncle, also contributes.

“I think it's nice to find a specific area of need to support,” Zaw-Mon says. “It's a great way to be involved, and you can really see the change and results coming from your gift.”

Since leaving Vanderbilt, Zaw-Mon has earned two master's degrees and has spent a lot of time in other libraries.

“One of the greatest aspects of any university is the library, and I think that Vanderbilt's is a wonderful resource for students and researchers,” she said.

The Hunt Family Book Fund enabled the Heard Library to purchase a treasure trove of 499 titles in the six years since the fund began.

“The Hunt Family Book Fund has been a huge help ensuring we maintain a strong collection in American military history, with emphasis on the Civil War, World War II and the Cold War,” says Peter Brush, history and Asian studies librarian. “Our patrons have a strong interest in these areas. I am especially grateful for Caroline Hunt Zaw-Mon's generosity and support, given the pressure on library acquisition budgets due to the economic situation.”

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