

Chronicle

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Fiftieth anniversary party celebrates Kuhlman's vision

On December 5, 1991, librarians, architects, special guests, and sundry others gathered in the Divinity School Refectory to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Central Library Building of the then, newly-formed Joint University Libraries (JUL).

Malcolm Getz, associate provost and director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, welcomed and introduced the speakers. Robert A. McGaw, secretary of the University emeritus, narrated a slide presentation, which included photographs depicting JUL's remarkably rapid construction. Eleanor Morrissey spoke about the many changes she observed during her tenure as a library administrator from 1935 to 1980. Management Professor J. P. Foster recounted his experiences during the summer of 1941 as a student on the work crew which took seven days to move books from Kirkland Hall to the JUL.

A common theme in their remarks was the distinctive character of A. Frederick Kuhlman, a consultant on JUL's development and its first director. Then associate director of libraries at the University of Chicago, Kuhlman was sent by the American Library Association to study the needs of the institutions involved in the development of the JUL.

McGaw referred to him as a very "meticulous" person, taking it upon himself to turn out lights on occasion. Morrissey good-naturedly confirmed this trait in her account of the elaborate system of furniture tagging, which took place prior to the move to the JUL. Foster read a letter from another student worker, who described how Kuhlman had peered over his shoulder as the student arranged books on the new shelves of the



Library Director Malcolm Getz, right, listens as J. P. Foster fondly recalls moving the Library to the new JUL building fifty years ago.

JUL. Kuhlman must have been satisfied with his work, since he encouraged the young man to consider a career in library science.

McGaw noted that Kuhlman "knew what a real university library ought to be." He "insisted on cooperation" among institutions for whom it was not always easy. Getz spoke of Kuhlman's vision and how the JUL provided the region's first support for Ph.D. programs in many areas, enabling Vanderbilt to become a full-fledged research university. In an introduction to papers published to mark the building's dedication, Kuhlman called the event "a first step toward what we hope and expect to be a bright future."

(Please see additional photos on pages 2 and 3)



Eleanor Morrissey recalled highlights of the past half-century at the Library's anniversary celebration.

Librarian-activist Fancher heads Kelly Miller Smith Research Collection

Following a distinguished career as director of the Tennessee State University Library, Evelyn Fancher left her comfortable retirement a year ago to become librarian for Vanderbilt's Kelly Miller Smith Research Collection. Built upon the 1985 deposit of Smith's papers in Special Collections of the Heard Library, the Smith Research Collection includes correspondence, photographs, and other memorabilia associated with the civil rights movement.

Pastor of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, for more than thirty years, Smith was a leader in Nashville's civil rights movement. He also served as assistant dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School from 1968 until his death in 1984. In his honor, the Divinity School established the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on African American Church Studies. The Institute sponsors colloquy among church representatives who study issues important to the practice of faith and ministry in the African American church.

Arrangement and description of Smith's papers in Special Collections provided access to more than seventy-five cubic feet of manuscript research material. Publication of a register to the collection revealed a considerable volume of additional related material waiting to be collected.

In 1990, the publication of C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya's *The Black Church in the African American Experience* dramatically illustrated the lack of historical documentation of the African American church and stimulated efforts toward its preservation. The moment was timely for Fancher to join Dorothy Parks of the Divinity Library and Marice Wolfe of Special Collections in an effort to stimulate the preservation of Nashville's African American religious heritage. A national survey by the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture—which targeted ten cities including Nashville and Memphis—provided further impetus for this effort.

In 1991 Fancher organized several meetings and workshops, including one on "Discovering

and Interpreting African American Church History," held in September at the Baptist World Center. Attracting more than 200 ministers, church historians, and other interested persons, it was funded in part by the Tennessee Humanities Council. For the workshop, Fancher developed two publications: *A Study Guide for Discovering and Preserving African American Church History Documents* and *A Preliminary Directory of African American Churches, Their Ministers and Historians in Nashville, Tennessee*.

As a result of this conference, a number of Nashville's African American congregations appointed church historians who will meet in Nashville this month to form a statewide organization. Each historian will be encouraged to collect the evidence necessary to write a history for his or her church. Through this process, Fancher hopes to locate documents and artifacts for a proposed exhibit on the history of Tennessee African American churches at the Tennessee State Museum.

Fancher's work is made possible through grants to the Kelly Miller Smith Institute from the Lilly Endowment and the Pew Charitable Trusts.



Evelyn Fancher, librarian for the Kelly Miller Smith Research Collection, is spearheading plans for an exhibit on African American churches at the Tennessee State Museum.



Mark Hodges, left, director of the Medical Center Library, confers with Bob McGaw at the Central Library building's fiftieth birthday party.

John Loomis: A Friend, indeed!

(From time to time, the Chronicle profiles people who provide significant support for the activities of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Here are excerpts from an article that originally appeared in the Campaign Courier.)

John Loomis has a knack for making money for his clients and raising money for Vanderbilt. A 1951 graduate of the College of Arts and Science, Loomis is a partner with First Manhattan company, an investment management firm which manages assets of more than \$5 billion.

For many years, Loomis has helped to raise funds for the University. A member of The Campaign for Vanderbilt National Committee, he also filled a leadership role during the Centennial Campaign. As a member of the Chancellor's Council, the College Cabinet, and the Director's Circle of the Heard Library Society, he supports many different programs within the University.

Through The Campaign for Vanderbilt, Loomis has made generous gifts to benefit, among others, the Jean and Alexander Heard Library and the College of Arts and Science.

"The Library is very important to me for a lot of reasons," Loomis says. "I am persuaded that you can't have a great university if you don't have a great library. Besides," he adds, "I'm a great fan of Alex Heard, and I wanted to honor him."

After graduation in 1951 from Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science, Loomis began his banking career with a short stint at Nashville's Third National Bank. The Korean War called him to active duty as an officer in the United States Navy, and he spent thirty-eight months as a security investigator with naval intelligence, which provided "excellent training for being a salesman." Discharged in 1955 with rank of lieutenant (jg), Loomis joined the New York financial community. He has been with First Manhattan Company since 1974.



John and Carol Loomis

His business requires an "enormous amount of reading," which, one suspects, includes articles written by his wife Carol, an award-winning editor for *Fortune* magazine. He notes with pride that Carol, a graduate of the University of Missouri, recently received an honorary doctorate from Drury College, where she delivered last summer's commencement address. The Loomises have two children: Mark, A'89, who works for ABC Sports; and Barbara, a Tufts University graduate employed by Home Box Office.

Loomis speaks fondly of his years at Vanderbilt. "I'll always appreciate what Vanderbilt did for me," he says. "It was an incredible learning experience, and I made many friends whom I'll always cherish.

"But if I had to name one person who stands out, it would be Dean Madison Sarratt. His statement about the Honor Code is legendary: "Today you will have two examinations—one in trigonometry and the other in integrity. I hope you pass them both. But if you must fail one, let it be trigonometry."

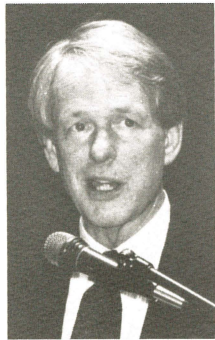
"I almost never repeat that," he says, "without a few tears coming to my eyes."



(Left) Massie's mother, political activist Molly Todd, second from right, visits with Maryda Colowick, left, Laird Foster, and Winifred Leiserson.

(Right) Susan Russell, left, Pat and Bob McNeilly, and Provost Charles Kiesler socialize before dinner. (Far right) Virginia and Oscar Hofstetter enjoy the eighteenth annual Friends dinner.

Pulitzer Prize-winner addresses Friends dinner



Robert K. Massie

Pulitzer Prize-winner Robert K. Massie addressed the eighteenth annual Friends of the Library dinner meeting at the Stadium Club, November 5. More than 240 guests set an attendance record for the event.

Jack May, a member of the Heard Library Society, introduced Massie, a former classmate at the University School of Nashville and Yale University. May praised the author for his ability to reach into the "dusty bins of history" to produce narratives that are fascinating and "readable." He said Massie's latest work, *Dreadnought: Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War*, is evidence of the principle, "Easy reading is hard writing." May is among those to whom the book is dedicated.

In his talk, Massie attempted to explain "what I try to do and why it takes so long to write my books." *Dreadnought*, his fifth book, was published more than ten years after his Pulitzer Prize-winner *Peter the Great*. In *Dreadnought*, he examines the "approach of doom," the impending first World War. Massie wanted to show how the "personalities and behaviors of rulers can influence the lives of many" by interweaving the biographies of leaders, politicians, and others to "help the reader feel they are living at that time." He included sketches of Winston Churchill, Lord Salisbury, Chancellor Bismarck, and Kaiser William II because of their obvious importance, but confessed that some personalities are in the book because of "how interesting they seemed to me." Admitting that it is not possible for him to write objectively, he read descriptions of two "favorites," Churchill and Sir Edward Gray, and termed Prince Bernhard von Bulow one of his "least favorites."

President Walter Sullivan presided over the dinner's business portion, which included election of officers. Martha Donnelly was named a new board member, while Jacque Voegeli and



Massie was introduced by boyhood friend Jack May, right, here with Eric Chazen.

Reba Wilcoxon were elected to second terms.

Treasurer Walter Durham spoke briefly about two milestones in the Library's history: the fiftieth anniversary of the General Library Building (please see article on page one) and the founding of the Friends of the Library in 1974. Durham said that Friends organizers Jean Heard, Marice Wolfe, and Frank Grisham "knew then what many of us are all too aware of now—that to support the Library is to nurture the very heart of a great university."





Massie, left, autographed nearly 100 copies of his new book during the evening, including two for Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard and Trustee Rodes Hart.

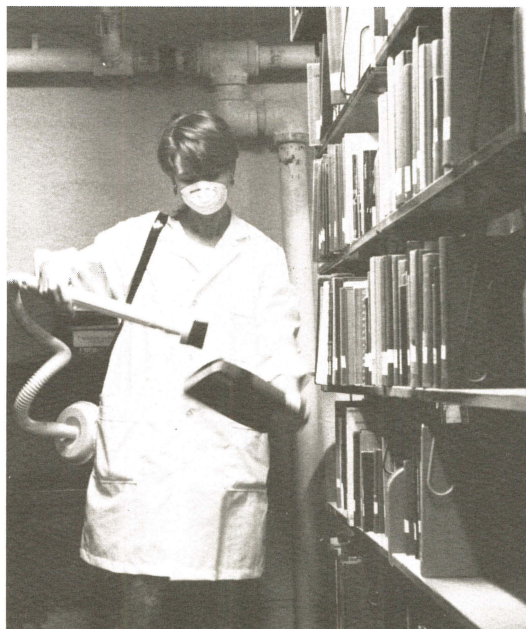


Edward Arnold, center, and Bill and Cathy Turner, right, purchase copies of Dreadnought.

Suspected arson damages collection

Arson investigators from the Metropolitan Nashville Fire Marshall's office are investigating a small fire that occurred in October on the seventh floor of the Central Library Building. The fire destroyed 35 books and damaged 250 others, mostly works on English literature, literary criticism, and language. The library was evacuated, one employee sustained minor injuries, and smoke damaged part of the building. The greatest amount of damage to the books, however, came from a type of oil poured on them to encourage combustion. An estimate of the cost of the damage has not yet been determined.

Linnea Wilkins, right, attempts to salvage books damaged by suspected arson at the Central Library Building recently. News of the fire provoked shock and dismay among members of the Vanderbilt community.



Wills addresses author's luncheon

Members of the Heard Society gathered for the society's inaugural author's luncheon at the University Club, February 3, to hear fellow member Ridley Wills II discuss his new book, *The History of Belle Meade Mansion, Plantation, and Stud*. Reading from his book, Wills outlined the difficulties of eighteenth-century life and the educational background of Belle Meade owner John Harding and his better-educated son, William Giles Harding. Wills described the Hardings' relationship with their slaves, William Harding's association with Andrew Jackson, the resiliency of Middle Tennessee farms after the Civil War, and the famous horses of Belle Meade. Following his remarks, Wills answered questions about the character of the Hardings and the role of women in Belle Meade's history.

A number of Heard Society members took advantage of the occasion to purchase autographed copies of the book, which is available at the Vanderbilt Bookstore and other booksellers.



Ridley Wills autographs his new book for Professor Ann Cook Whalley.



Library eagerly awaits two-millionth volume

This spring the Jean and Alexander Heard Library will acquire its two-millionth volume. Plans are underway to celebrate this major milestone, which places Vanderbilt among the premier academic research libraries in the nation, according to Malcolm Getz, director of the Heard Library.

"We are very grateful to our supporters," Getz says. "Over the years they have enabled us to

acquire many fine volumes that have enhanced our collection."

In 1966, the Library obtained its one-millionth volume, *The Nuremberg Chronicle*. A history of the world until 1493, the *Chronicle* was presented to then Library Director David Kaser by the late Jesse E. Wills, a member of Vanderbilt's Fugitive Poets.

Clipper project receives recognition

Clipper—the Heard Library's system of storing scanned images of newspaper clippings, photographs, working papers, and pamphlets—has received accolades recently. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured the innovative system in its November 13, 1991, edition. Library Director Malcolm Getz also evoked a great deal of positive attention through his presentation on Clipper at the October meeting of EDUCOM in San Diego. EDUCOM is a non-profit consortium of institutions interested in the use of computers in higher education.


Clipper allows library users to search for items and retrieve the scanned images over Caravan, the campus computer network. The first application of Clipper has been in the reference area of the Education Library. Librarians Jean Reese and

Connie Donley have stored electronically-scanned materials, which formerly would have been clipped and filed in folders at the reference desk. These items are used to respond to inquiries the library receives, such as "What is the drop-out rate in Nashville's high schools?" With Clipper, a few search terms are indexed as each document is scanned. Later, the librarian or library user can search the Clipper database and retrieve the scanned image of the previously stored page.

Clipper is also being used to catalog annual reports of the nation's county school superintendents over several years. By entering a few search terms and a scan of the title page, Clipper provides an effective directory to these materials.

Getz publishes book

Malcolm Getz and fellow economics professor John Siegfried recently published *Economic Challenges in Higher Education* with co-authors Charles T. Clotfelter of Duke University and Ronald G. Ehrenberg of Cornell. Published by the University of Chicago Press, the book examines the harsh realities of a shrinking pool of prospective students and rising costs, which face colleges and universities today.



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Friends, Indeed!

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is proud of its Friends. Members of this important organization have contributed greatly to the accomplishments of the Library. You can help the Heard Library continue its momentum by filling out the membership card below and becoming a member of Friends of the Library. If you are already a member, please share this membership form with someone else or consider giving membership in Friends as a gift.

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

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Contributions of \$100 or more may be restricted to the collection of your choice. All contributions are tax deductible. Send to: Friends of the Library, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240.

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