



Chronicle

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

Volume 5, Number 1

Spring, 1980

AN EVENING OF MARK TWAIN is planned for the 1980 spring meeting of the Friends of the Vanderbilt University Library, according to Professor James Kilroy, Program Chairman. The entertainment, which will feature young actors reading selections from the great author's works, will be presented at the recently refurbished Neely Auditorium on the Vanderbilt campus at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April Eighth.

The program celebrates the recent gift to the Library of Dr. Marc H. Hollender's splendid Mark Twain Collection, consisting chiefly in American First Editions. The collection numbers over three hundred items from the first treasure, The Celebrated Jumping Frog; through perhaps the best known, Huckleberry Finn; to several dark works posthumously published, Letters from the Earth, and The War Prayer. There are first appearances of stories in magazines, interesting curiosities, and the important studies of Twain, all illustrating the range of his mind and wit.

The invitation to the Mark Twain Evening is especially designed to suggest the Victorian borders on many of the earlier book bindings. There will be an exhibition of items from the Hollender Collection in the Special Collections Department throughout April.

THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP of the State of Tennessee and the Republic of Texas is of considerable historical note. Recently that relationship has made itself more evident at Vanderbilt in the gift of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Britton of Houston.

The Brittons have donated a valuable collection of historic documents which, according to Britton, "were all written and signed by Sons of Tennessee who immigrated to Texas during the formative years of the Republic and were involved in the establishment of the State's present legal system and Bar Association."

The twelve various legal manuscripts of the early nineteenth century are signed by: Kenneth L. Anderson, Joseph L. Chance, Clement C. Dyer, William W. Gant, William Jones Elliot Heard, Samuel Houston, James S. Mayfield, Williamson Simpson Oldham, Henry Reed, Ephraim Roddy, Richardson A. Scurry, and George W. Terrell.

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All new monies given this year which exceed the basic student, contributing, or family membership renewal rate will be counted toward matching the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. These monies will be matched at the rate of one federal dollar for every three private dollars. New member membership rates may also be counted toward the match. The funds will be used for the purposes of the NEH grant which include building both the core humanities collection and the special collections in the areas of Art History, Fugitive/Agrarian, Latin American, and Slavic Studies.

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY HAVE ADOPTED THE NEH CHALLENGE. In a meeting November 29, the Board of Directors of Friends of the Library unanimously endorsed the Vanderbilt Library's fund-raising plan to match the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge grant.

With the endorsement, the Board pledged that any monies raised above the usual fees for membership would be applied to the NEH Challenge. Under the terms of the Challenge Grant, the National Endowment will provide one dollar for every three dollars raised by the Library. (If successful, the matching program could provide \$382,000 to the Library over the next three years.)

A major part of these monies will be used to enrich the Library's core collection in the humanities. Library Director Frank Grisham explained: "It is essential that the undergraduate students have the basic books necessary to support their academic work. Building and replacing worn or lost titles in the humanities is critical to our purpose as a library."

A smaller portion of the money generated by the Challenge grant will go to further develop the Library's collections in the areas of art history, Latin America, Slavic Studies, and the Fugitive/Agrarian Movement. A special benefit of the NEH Challenge for the Friends is that part of the money raised will also be used to support the administrative expenses of the Friends' program.

"Endorsing a single fund-raising project like this is a departure for the Friends," stated Ann Wells, President of the group, "but we felt it was important to the Library's future. We hope our participation will attract more attention to the Library's fund-raising needs, help the Library meet the important goals of the NEH Challenge, and gain more visibility for the Friends' organization."

Friends of the Library are welcome to use the new application/renewal form printed opposite or a card to be included with the membership letter later this spring.

AT A BOARD MEETING ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1979, the Directors of the Friends allocated \$7,230 in unrestricted funds to encourage three new projects, The Francis Robinson Collection in the Performing Arts, an Appraisal Fund, and the development of an increased emphasis in Southern History.

The Robinson Collection is a gift of "Live from the Met" connoisseur-host Francis Robinson in an area of great need for the Library. Two of its three major divisions, Theater and Dance, have already come to the Library. The third, undoubtedly the richest resource, is in Music. The Robinson Library contains many rare and elegant volumes, association copies, histories of theater, works of art, and irreplaceable ephemera collected over a lifetime of association with the performing arts. The Friends wish to help the Library acquire a strong foundation of reference and bibliographic material to give access to the collection and relate it to other important resources.

The Appraisal Fund is established in an effort to assist in the transfer of substantial gifts of books and manuscripts from private donors to the Library.

The anticipated Southern History development seeks to expand the core collection with materials of regional interest and growing national significance. Possibilities are under consideration by a committee including Dorothy Loomis, Robert A. McGaw, Elizabeth Walsh, and Ann Wells in consultation with Professors Dewey Grantham and T.D. Young.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FRIENDS are needed this season by the Operations Branch, that which stuffs the envelopes, types the labels, licks the stamps, and does a number of other such tasks. Meeting the NEH Challenge results in expanded numbers and sizes of Friends mailings. If you, good person, would like to give some time to this project, please call 322-2807, Special Collections at the Vanderbilt University Library.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER returned to the University Club of Nashville in October and drew the largest crowd to date, 222 persons, for a gala dinner and a fine talk by Edwin Wilson, Theater Critic for The Wall Street Journal. After an anecdotal and amusing introduction by Board Member Richard Porter, Wilson spoke of the Arts as fundamental to human existence and as essential to survival as all the other necessities. Mentioning the increased availability of grant funding for the humanities in the past decade, he hoped for an informed citizenry to make intelligent decisions about the kinds of art and literary endeavors to support. His topic was "Literature and the Arts--Luxury or Necessity."

THE WILLS FUGITIVE/AGRARIAN COLLECTION was beneficiary of the allocation of 1978-79 Friends funds. During the summer and fall of 1979 a major effort was made to contact selected antiquarian and rare book dealers in order to complete holdings of works by Fugitives and Agrarians and to obtain scholarly studies of them. Over one hundred titles have been added to the collection, which is now housed in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Among the interesting items, including anthologies, novels, and recordings, are:

Broadsides with decorative graphics of poems by Allen Tate, "All is Brillig (or ought to be)" and Robert Penn Warren, "Old Flame".

Textbooks by Donald Davidson, Twenty Lessons in Reading and Writing Prose, and John Crowe Ransom, A College Primer of Writing.

Foreign editions of internationally celebrated novels, All the King's Men in Danish, French, and Russian.

In addition, the collection owes a debt to those ever-alert "field agents" who send or bring clippings, letters, an occasional book, and who call attention to items and events which otherwise might be missed. Among them in recent months have been: Professor and Mrs. W.T. Bandy, Frances Neel Cheney, Helen Moore Cole, Professor Edgar Hill Duncan, John Egerton, Lt. Col. James Grimshaw, Professor Dillard Jacobs, Robert McGaw, Eleanor Fleming Morrissey, Mrs. Mapheus Smith, Mary Daniel Moore Whitney, J. Howard Woolmer, and Professor T.D. Young.

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