



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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EDWARD INMAN FOX, President of Knox College, a private co-educational institution in Galesburg, Illinois, proud of its liberal tradition as a center of abolitionism and of its present commitment to liberal education, will address the eighth Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Library on Monday, November 9th, at the University Club of Nashville. Mr. Fox received his B.A. in 1954 from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After receiving his Ph.D. from Princeton in Romance Languages, he returned to Vanderbilt as Acting Director of Admissions and Associate Professor of Spanish. He served as Director of the Vanderbilt University Alumni Association from 1974 to 1979. Fox also held teaching and administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts and Vassar College prior to becoming President of Knox College in 1974.

Fox has earned distinction as an educator, administrator, and a scholar of Spanish letters. He has received grants from the American Philosophical Society, the Fulbright Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation. He has been a leader in a number of educational associations, and is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, and the Director of the Federation of Illinois Independent Colleges and Universities. His list of lectures and publications spans America and Europe, Spanish letters and contemporary issues in education.

This year's dinner meeting will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30 in the lobby of the University Club, and dinner will follow at 7:00. During a brief business session, the Friends will hear reports from some of the officers of the Friends of the Library. The program will feature Mr. Fox's address on "The Library as Cultural Metaphor."

Members of Friends of the Library are entitled to attend this event. A list of members (as of 1 October 1981) appears on pages 3 and 4 of CHRONICLE. For further information, please call the Special Collections Department of the Vanderbilt University Library, 322-2807.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT has been reorganized this summer to accommodate its expanded holdings. Three major collections are now housed on the Terrace Level of the General Library Building: the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire Studies, the Vanderbilt University Photographic Archive, and the Jesse E. Wills Fugitive/Agrarian Collection.

The Baudelaire Center was established by Professor William T. Bandy and is believed to be the most extensive collection in the world of materials by and about Charles Baudelaire. The Center moved to the VUL Special Collections Department in March to insure better security and greater access for scholars. Among the books is every first edition of Baudelaire's work, including one of five extant copies of the Salon de 1845, a rare book presented to Bandy by the Friends in 1978.

The Photographic Archive has joined the general University Archives in Special Collections. This unit is charged with compiling, preserving, and providing access to photographs which document the history of the University. Kay Russell Beasley, Photographic Archivist, reports that the unit has over 25,000 prints, slides, and negatives dating from 1873 which are available for research, exhibit, and publication.

The Fugitive/Agrarian Collection has been moved to its appropriate milieu--in the Fugitive Room of Special Collections. Some 700 books by and about the Fugitives and Agrarians are in six glass-enclosed book-cases along two walls. On another wall of the room is an expanded display of photographic portraits of the Fugitives and Agrarians. Those depicted are: Walter Clyde Curry, Donald Davidson, William Yandell Elliott, James Frank, William Frierson, Sidney Mtron Hirsch, Stanley Johnson, Lyle Lanier, Andrew Lytle, Merrill Moore, Frank Owsley, John Crowe Ransom, Laura Riding, Alfred Starr, Alec B. Stevenson, Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Jesse E. Wills, and Ridley Wills. In addition to this display, a number of busts have been acquired or loaned, and these are exhibited in the room: Puryear Mims' busts of Davidson and Warren; a bust of Tate by Harold Cash; and Maria Kirby-Smith's bust of Lytle, recently given to Vanderbilt by the University of the South.

These additions and rearrangements on the Terrace Level highlight the diversity and quality of the materials available in Special Collections and make it a most attractive area in which to conduct research or to visit.

AS THE 1981 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN draws to a close, Membership Chairman Miriam Cowden reports that the drive has been fruitful. The firm base of support which was laid last year has resulted in a number of renewals and loyal contributors who maintained their increased level of giving. With 424 memberships, of whom 74 are new, Friends now claims 696 members. Mrs. Cowden reports the following breakdown of membership categories: 3 student memberships, 144 contributing memberships, 190 family memberships, 51 sustaining memberships, 9 patrons, 5 benefactors, and 22 life memberships. Unrestricted contributions have reached a total of \$14,157, and \$20,068 in restricted gifts have been received. In addition, the Friends have attracted a number of books and manuscripts to the Library. The efforts of Mrs. Cowden and all the Friends is heartily appreciated by the library community.

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THE 1981 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING in April provided a delightful evening for the Friends of the Library in Underwood Auditorium. The program featured an address by John Egerton, a free-lance writer whose works include the popular Nashville: The Faces of Two Centuries, on the topic, "Words as an Endangered Species." Egerton's lecture was both theoretical and practical. Beginning with the observation that there exists an over-abundance of words--both printed and spoken, especially through the publishing industry and the news media--he suggested that man has lost contact with and control of his language. A symptom of this disjunction is the loss of the art of handwriting or calligraphy. Writers almost universally prefer the faster and less personal typewriter. The logical outcome of that tendency is that the writer is becoming more a word processor than an artist.

Egerton demonstrated the practical effects of the deluge of words by reading for the Friends a logbook he compiled during an eighteen-hour "television siege." Having heard television vaguely decried by many people, he determined to watch it from sign-on to sign-off one day and to analyze what that medium is actually doing to our consciousness. His logbook provided the Friends with several serious and many amusing "shocks of recognition." His conclusion was a surprise to many in the audience. Egerton contends that, contrary to the claim of many television critics, the most dangerous threat that medium poses is not its effect on specific moral issues by displaying tasteless situations in programs. As these are depicted during the programs, they can be easily identified and refuted by the viewer. Rather, Egerton finds the commercials the most pernicious aspect of television programming, for they have convinced Americans that happiness, success, and fulfillment can be found by acquiring more, better, or bigger "goods." It is materialism, not immorality, that television chiefly promotes. As the writer is divorced from words, so are words growing apart from human values.

At the conclusion of this incisive and entertaining address, the Friends adjourned to the foyer of Underwood Auditorium for a reception which provided an enjoyable time for renewing acquaintances among the membership and for further discussion of the lively issues Egerton had raised.

Friends of the Library VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LIBRARY • NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

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FOURTEEN OF REYNOLDS PRICE'S WORKS have arrived in the Special Collections Department of the VUL in the past six months. At their spring meeting, the Friends Board of Directors voted to acquire special editions of Price's works for the Southern History and Literature Collection in tribute to outgoing President Ann Wells. This honor was deemed appropriate, as Mrs. Wells had invited Price to be the speaker for the Annual Dinner Meeting in October 1980, and she was instrumental in implementing the Friends' interest in the Southern History and Literature Collection. Working with Palaemon Press, the primary source for rare editions of Price's work, the Library acquired the following additions to the collection this summer: signed first editions of Early Dark, A Generous Man, A Long and Happy Life, Love and Work, The Names and Faces of Heroes, A Palpable God, Permanent Errors, The Surface of Earth, Things Themselves, and a number of limited edition broadsides and pamphlets. The Friends have again made it possible for the Library to purchase a fine collection in this outstanding writer's works.

MORE MARK TWAIN EDITIONS arrived in the Special Collections Department in late September. Dr. Marc Hollender, who donated his collection of American first editions of Twain to the Library last year, has added to it a number of British imprints, pirated editions, and translations in languages as diverse as Chinese, Russian, Hebrew, Swedish, and the romance languages. These volumes are a valuable supplement to the already outstanding collection.

CHRONICLE, the biannual newsletter of the Friends of the Library is produced in the Special Collections Department of VUL and edited by Marice Wolfe.

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