

Chronicle

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Wills exhibit invokes Fugitive spirit Celebration marks Special Collections restoration



Members of Jesse Wills's family gathered in front of his portrait, from left to right on the front row: Elizabeth McNamara Wills, Irene Jackson Wills, Nathaniel Chapman II, Ellen Wills Martin, Liza Martin Chapman, and Julia Ryan Wills. Back row, left to right: Ridley Wills III, Ridley Wills II, Ellen Buckner Wills, Matthew Buckner Wills, Williams Swift Martin III, Morgan Jackson Wills, and John Wills Martin.

Approximately 130 Friends of the Library celebrated the return of Special Collections to permanent quarters in the Fugitive Room of the Central Library on Sunday, April 7. The occasion marked the gala opening of "Early and Late: an Exhibit from the Jesse E. Wills Fugitive/Agrarian Collection."

The signal event of the Friends' spring meeting was the unveiling of a commissioned portrait of Wills by Nashville artist Ann Street. Guest of honor was Wills's widow, Ellen

Wills, who was accompanied by her children, Ellen Wills Martin, W. Ridley Wills II, Matthew Buckner Wills, and several grandchildren.

Recent renovations and improvements to the heating and air conditioning systems in the General Library building disrupted many departments, including Special Collections. Although displaced for more than two years, the department continued research support and acquisition activity. Notable additions to the

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Malcolm Getz

From the Director

When I reflect on the fiscal year just ending and the one about to begin, the four A's come to mind: acquisition, activities, appreciation, anticipation.

The Heard Library has made a number of important *acquisitions* this year, many as a direct result of assistance from the Friends of the Library and the Heard Library Society. Thanks to the generosity of Arlene and Raymond Zimmerman, the Divinity Library was able to acquire the distinguished Judaica collection of Rabbi Nahum Norbert Glatzer. The Heard Society also provided funds for this important acquisition. The Friends of the Library enabled us to purchase the remaining papers of Donald Davidson, a significant addition to the Library's Davidson holdings (please see stories on pages 3 and 6). The Library acquired several other collections and materials, which add in important ways to Vanderbilt's holdings.

The Friends of the Library have been involved in a number of *activities* this year. This past November, the Friends welcomed noted North Carolina author Lee Smith to campus. She spoke to a capacity crowd at the University Club and shared with us the process of developing characters for her stories. It was a delightful evening, filled with humor and sensitivity. In April the Friends sponsored a reception that marked the reopening of the Fugitive Room in the Library's Special Collections. A marvelous exhibit featuring materials from the

Jesse E. Wills Fugitive/Agrarian Collection was on display. Mrs. Jesse Wills, her children, and numerous relatives were on hand for the unveiling of a portrait of Jesse Wills by local artist Ann Street. It was quite a day, as you can see from the story and pictures on pages 1, 4, and 5.

I take this opportunity to express *appreciation* for all of you who make these acquisitions and activities possible. Your support is essential and provides that margin of excellence that distinguishes the Heard Library from other academic libraries. I challenge you not only to continue your support but also to increase it. As the costs of acquiring collections and materials continue to increase, we are challenged not just to keep pace but to be the kind of library our students, faculty, and alumni expect.

Our momentum of the last few years causes me to look to the future with *anticipation*. I am confident that we can continue to provide the resources that make this a great library. With The Campaign for Vanderbilt underway, I call on each of you to consider what you can do for the Library. I am sure you will come through and we will experience another year of acquisitions, activities, appreciation, and anticipation.

Thank you for all you do for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

Malcolm Getz
Director

Friends membership drive underway

Many members of the Friends of the Library make their contributions on a fiscal year basis. If you are among those, we encourage you to make your gift today by completing the form on page 8.

Perhaps you are not yet a member of the Friends. We need your support. A contribution to the Friends provides vital funds to acquire special collections and unique materials that students and faculty across the University need for scholarly research. We urge you to

complete the membership form and mail it with your check today.

If you would like additional information about the Friends of the Library or other ways you can help, please contact the Director of Development, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240, or call 322-7102.

We appreciate your support.

Zimmerman gift secures Glatzer Judaica collection

The Divinity Library recently acquired the Judaica library and archives of Rabbi Nahum Norbert Glatzer, thanks to the generous support of the Raymond Zimmerman family. Their financial commitment to the expansion of the Judaica Collection — recently renamed the “Mary and Harry Zimmerman Judaica Collection” in honor of Raymond Zimmerman’s parents — enabled the Library to bid successfully for Glatzer’s distinguished collection. The Heard Library Society also supported the acquisition, assisting with the appraisal, shipping, and preliminary processing of the collection.

Glatzer’s library embodies the intellectual achievement of one of the preeminent twentieth century scholars in the field of Judaic studies. A

significant addition to the Library’s existing Judaica Collection, it consists of three parts:

- The German Judaica collection — more than 4,100 items, including writings by the great nineteenth- and twentieth-century German Jewish thinkers Leopold Zunz, Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and Gershom Scholem, as well as historians Heinrich Graetz, Simon Dubnow, and S.W. Baron.

- Approximately 1,600 Hebrew and Yiddish books, including classic Hebrew texts from ancient to modern times.

- About 100 English, German, and Hebrew periodicals from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The archive contains the correspondence and manuscripts of Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Buber. It also includes correspondence

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Eli Fisher, left, and Bill Hook, director of the Divinity Library, process the newly acquired Glatzer Collection of Judaica.

Three added to Heard Society Steering Committee

Walter Durham, chair of the Heard Library Society Steering Committee, recently appointed three new members: Dorothy Brittingham, Marc Hollender, and Harris D. (Pete) Riley, Jr.

Brittingham, of Nashville, is a longtime supporter of the Library and the wife of the late Thomas Brittingham, a member of the Medical School faculty. Hollender, also of Nashville, is professor emeritus of psychiatry in the School of Medicine. His many contributions have benefitted several libraries at Vanderbilt.

Riley resides in Oklahoma City, where he is a member of the pediatrics faculty of the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. He is currently serving on the National Committee of The Campaign for Vanderbilt.

"These three are such wonderful friends of the Vanderbilt Library," Durham says. "To have them serving in this additional capacity demonstrates their unwavering faith in the library and recognition that significant gifts are essential."

Other members of the Steering Committee include Bill Darby, Valerie Fleming, Gottlieb Friesinger, Malcolm Getz, Jean Heard, Charles Mott, John Poindexter, Bill Turner, and Mary Jane Werthan. The Steering Committee helps identify potential members of the Heard Library Society, which has grown from three to seventy members in the five years since its inception. Members of the Heard Society contribute at least \$1,000 to the Library annually.

Fugitive spirit...

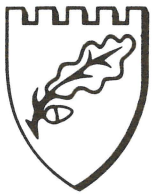
Fugitive/Agrarian Collection during this period included the papers of Peter Taylor and John Crowe Ransom, supplemental papers from Donald Davidson, and updates to the Brainard Cheney and Andrew Lytle Papers.

The relationship of the Friends of the Library and the Fugitives has been a long, stimulating, and fruitful one. Recent acquisitions contain some of the earliest writings of the individual Fugitives: correspondence with parents, teachers, and other loved ones; drafts of early poems; photographs; and records of the activities of the Fugitive group. Examples of these unique materials are contained in the exhibit, which can be viewed Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., through December 1991.

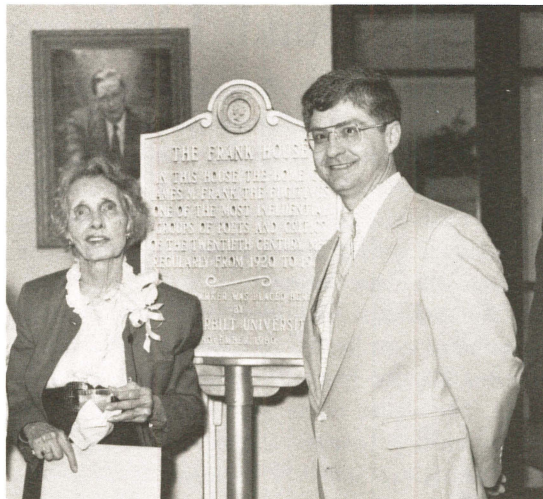
The photograph at right and those on the next page were taken during the Wills reception.



Ellen Wills and Harriet Chappell Owsley discuss the latter's new book about her late husband, a Fugitive writer: Frank Lawrence Owsley, Historian of the Old South.



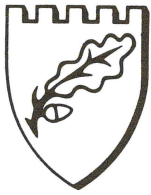
Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard and his wife, Jean, chat with Marice Wolfe, center, head of Special Collections, at the Wills reception.



Ellen Wills and Malcolm Getz stand beside the Library's facsimile of a historical sign, which marks the Fugitives' meeting place on Whitland Avenue.



Liza Martin Chapman, Phoebe Nischan, Nathaniel Chapman II, and W. Ridley Wills II.



Fleming Fund: Life's work reflects world view

The Doris and D. F. Fleming Endowment Fund for Southern History and Politics has been established in Special Collections to honor the late Denna F. and Doris Fleming. Prior to her death in 1990, Doris Fleming established a \$148,000 bequest to further the work of the department.

Denna Frank Fleming (1903-1980) was a prominent member of the Vanderbilt political science faculty from 1928 until he retired in 1961. He wrote many monographs on twentieth-century foreign affairs, including *The United States and the League of Nations, 1918-1920*, and *The Cold War and its Origins*. In 1929 he married Doris Anundson, who left a promising career in music to become his invaluable research partner.

The Fleming bequest builds upon the gift of Professor Fleming's papers, which Doris Flem-

ing donated to Special Collections in 1981. The papers comprise more than seven cubic feet of material. They document several areas of Fleming's life and work as a teacher, writer, political scientist, and concerned citizen.

From 1939 to 1947, Fleming hosted a weekly radio program, which covered events leading up to, during, and following World War II. The program was broadcast over WSM radio to much of the United States. Transcripts of the broadcasts, which were published in the book, *While America Slept*, are contained in the papers. Also included is correspondence with many of Fleming's personal and professional associates.

The Fleming Fund will help the Library acquire the papers of individuals like Fleming, whose life's work reflects their world view.

Library acquires complete Davidson papers

Donald Grady Davidson (1893-1968), a student and faculty member at Vanderbilt, was an original member of the Fugitives. Before his death in 1968, he transferred the majority of his papers to the University. Recently, the Friends of the Library purchased his remaining papers from his daughter, Mary Davidson Bell. This supplement to the original collection contains both correspondence and manuscript files, which are a significant addition to the Fugitive/Agrarian Collection.

Davidson's files contain important correspondence with fellow Fugitives John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Walter Clyde Curry, Merrill Moore, Alfred Starr, and Alec Brock Stevenson. Included are early letters from Davidson to his mother and an important series of letters written to his father during World War I. The files also contain correspondence from literary figures John Hall Wheelock, Cleanth Brooks, John Gould Fletcher, Jesse Hill Ford, Caroline Gordon, Madison Jones, Andrew Lytle, George Marion O'Donnell, Elizabeth Spencer, Jesse

Stuart, Stark Young, and others. Carbons and drafts of Davidson's letters are present, along with correspondence from Mildred Haun, the novelist and short story writer.

The manuscript files contain typescripts and holographic manuscripts of Davidson's poems, essays, articles, lectures, and book reviews. Book outlines, plays, short stories, notebooks, and course outlines are also included in the more than 200 manuscripts. A large portion of what appears to be the final typescript of Davidson's two-volume work, *The Tennessees*, along with a considerable amount of correspondence regarding this work, are included.

Having Davidson's complete papers among the manuscript holdings, accessible to scholars, forms a cornerstone for the Fugitive/Agrarian Collection. This collection has grown significantly in recent years, both in international reputation and in research use. It currently supports research on more than five books, including two biographies of Robert Penn Warren.



Glatzer Collection...

between Glatzer and the Zunz and Ehrenberg families, and material from Glatzer's tenure as director of Schocken Books.

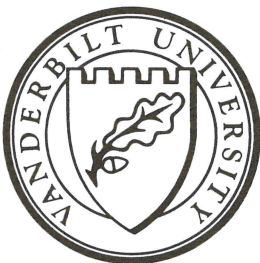
Nahum Norbert Glatzer was born in 1903 in Lemberg on the eastern frontier of the Hapsburg empire (today "Lvov" in the western Ukraine). He grew up in Frankfurt. His career as a teacher of Jewish history and thought began in 1923 when he became a lecturer at Frankfurt's legendary "Freies Judisches Lehrhaus," established in 1920 by Rosenzweig. In 1932, after obtaining his doctorate in Middle Eastern studies, philosophy, and the history of religion, Glatzer succeeded Martin Buber as lecturer in Judaic studies at the University of Frankfurt. His tenure in that position, however, proved to be brief. After Hitler's rise to power in January 1933, Glatzer seized the opportunity to emigrate — first to Palestine and a few years later to America. In 1950, he joined the faculty of the newly founded Brandeis University near Boston. In 1957, he became chairman of the university's prestigious department of Judaic and Near Eastern studies. After stepping down from that position in 1973, he held a professorship in Jewish studies at Boston University.

Glatzer wrote numerous books, beginning in Germany before his emigration. His enduring relationship with the great publishing house of Salman Schocken dates from that period. In

the early years of the Third Reich — when ghettoized Jewish cultural life was still permitted to flourish — Schocken published Glatzer's study of the Tannaim, his *History of Talmudic Times*, and his German translations of S. J. Agnon's modern Hebrew prose. Among the fruits of Glatzer's scholarly work in America are *Franz Rosenzweig: His Life and Thought* (1953); *Leopold Zunz: Jew, German, European* (1964); and a book devoted to Franz Kafka (1974).

The Judaica Collection of the Divinity Library was begun in 1945 with the acquisition of the professional library of Ismar Elbogen, noted authority on Jewish history and religion. Frederick Kuhlman, director of the Joint University Libraries, felt that Vanderbilt was the logical location for a center of Jewish studies, since there was none in the Southeast at that time. Today this collection is used by ecumenical scholars at Vanderbilt and elsewhere. The collection focuses on the historical and social aspects of Judaism and early antiquity. From the initial acquisition of 1,837 titles, it grew to more than 7,000 titles by 1980.

"The Glatzer Library and Archives is an outstanding addition to the Mary and Harry Zimmerman Judaica Collection," says Bill Hook, director of the Divinity Library. "It may never be possible for an individual scholar to assemble such a comparable collection again."



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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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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 25 annually | Benefactor | \$ 500 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 annually | Heard Society | \$1,000 annually |

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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