

Chronicle

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Ridley Wills gives Library two-millionth volume

Trustee and Heard Society member Ridley Wills II presented Library Director Malcolm Getz with the Jean and Alexander Heard Library's two-millionth volume at the University Board of Trust luncheon on April 24.

The Journal of the Proceedings of the Congress of 1774, a rare volume, reflects Wills's interest in American history. The gift also reflects what Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt referred to as a "family's legacy of generosity." Wills's father, Jesse Wills, one of Vanderbilt's illustrious Fugitive

poets, gave the Library its one-millionth volume, *The Nuremberg Chronicle*, in 1966.

In making the presentation, Wills noted that when he was approached by Getz and others about making the gift, his response was, "I'd love to do that!"

"Obviously, you feel good about following in your father's footsteps in some meaningful way," he continued, "so to have an opportunity to present this gift is special to me, and I'm

(Please turn to page 2)



Ridley Wills II, right, shows the Library's two-millionth volume to Walter Durham, left, Provost Charles Kiesler, and Library Director Malcolm Getz at the spring meeting of the Board of Trust.



Two-millionth volume . . .

(Continued from page 1)

pleased to do it.”

As a historian who has done research in numerous libraries and other locations, Wills said he appreciated the importance of libraries and “the value of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library to Vanderbilt.”

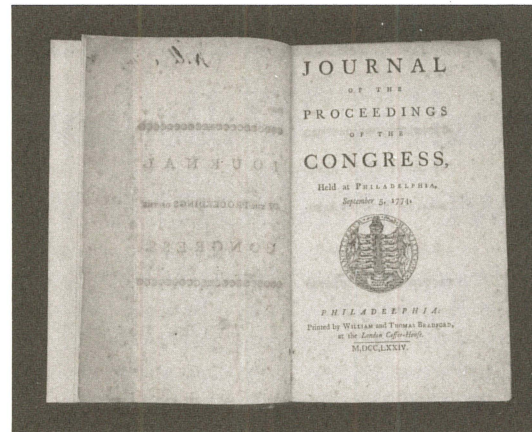
In accepting the *Journal*, Getz expressed the University’s gratitude and noted that the volume will be cherished by scholars for generations. Both Getz and Chancellor Wyatt called the two-millionth volume a milestone for the Library in its collection efforts and a valuable addition to the University’s special collections of rare books and manuscripts.

The *Journal* was printed in 1774 in Philadelphia by William and Thomas Bradford. The small quarto, bound in the 1800s with leather and purple muslin, is in excellent condition. It was recently placed in a custom-made, black-linen “clamshell” box for increased protection.

The Brick Row Book Shop of San Francisco, California, from which the *Journal* was acquired, provided the following comments:

This first session of the Continental Congress sat at Carpenter’s Hall, Philadelphia, from September 5 through October 26, 1774. The principal achievements of the first Congress—all printed in this first *Journal*—included the adoption of a Declaration of Rights, the forming of an Association, the drafting of an Address to the People of Great Britain, and Address to the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec, and the resolution to reassemble on May 10, 1775, if colonial rights and liberties had not been restored. This first issue is very rare.

In June of 1966, Jesse Ely Wills, a long-time member of the Joint University Library (JUL) Board of Trustees, presented the JUL with its one-millionth volume, the incunabulum *Liber Chronicarum*, or as it is better known, *The Nuremberg Chronicle*. A history of the world to



The Library’s two-millionth volume continues the Wills family tradition of giving.

1493, the book provided purchasers with six blank pages upon which they might complete the history of the world. *The Nuremberg Chronicle* has been called the most remarkable illustrated book of the fifteenth century, and the copy presented by Wills was in excellent condition.

A precursor to the Heard Library, the JUL pooled the library resources of Peabody College, Scarritt College, and Vanderbilt University. After the merger of Vanderbilt and Peabody in 1979, and Scarritt’s subsequent change in mission during the 1980s, the Library was renamed the Jean and Alexander Heard Library in 1984 in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Heard and his wife, who have taken a keen interest in the Library and its collections.

The Nuremberg Chronicle recorded “old world” history to the date of its publication. The *Journal* records the beginnings of events shaping what would become an important “new world” government. As the world stands on the threshold of a new century, Vanderbilt—one of America’s leading institutions of higher learning—is proud of its traditions of excellence in Library collections and services. And, it is very grateful to the Wills family and like-minded individuals whose generosity and spirit enable those traditions to continue.

Shelby Foote to speak at Friends fall dinner

Noted novelist, historian, and playwright Shelby Foote will speak at the annual Friends of the Library dinner on Wednesday, November 4, 1992. Foote is the author of several novels; the much-praised *The Civil War, A Narrative*; and other writings. He received national acclaim for his commentary on the Public Broadcasting System series, *The Civil War*. The Greenville, Mississippi, native resides and works in Memphis, Tennessee.

In the fall, members of the Friends of the Library will receive a mailing with more information about the dinner.

Librarians receive Eliot Prize

Frances Lynch, associate director of the Medical Center Library, and Mary Charles Lasater, authorities coordinator in General Technical Services of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, received the Ida and George Eliot Prize at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association held in Washington, D.C., in May.

Their prize-winning article, "Government Documents and the On-line Catalog," appeared in the January 1990 issue of the *Bulletin* of the Medical Library Association. It describes the treatment of government publications in the on-line catalog so that these important works can be located through multiple access points in the same way that the public accesses other materials in the Library.

Established by the former owners of Eliot Health Sciences Books, the Eliot Prize is given annually for a work judged most effective in furthering medical librarianship. Previous recipients, in addition to a roster of distinguished individuals, include the Association of American Medical Colleges and the National Library of Medicine.

Vanderbilt students across the years

An exhibit of photographs documenting student life at Vanderbilt over the past 100 years is now on permanent display in the Overcup Oak, located on the sixth floor of the Sarratt Student Center. The exhibit, "100 years of Student Life: A Retrospective," is a collection of thirty-nine photographs reproduced from pictures in Special Collections' Photographic Archives. The photos were selected by Michael Bouson, manager of the Overcup Oak, with the help of Strawberry Luck, the Library's photographic archivist, and Denny Adcock, Archives photographer.



Photographs of the 1902 junior class in the College of Arts and Science, top, and students in the Bookstore in 1941, bottom, are on permanent display in the Overcup Oak at the Sarratt Student Center.



Vanderbilt Television News Archive seeks \$5 million endowment

Vanderbilt University hopes to raise \$5 million to endow the Television News Archive (TVNA). Such an endowment would produce an annual income to cover the Archive's current annual deficit. In addition, the University hopes to establish a collecting consortium with other libraries and journalism schools, whereby member institutions would share in the operating expenses of the Archive. Another level of membership could be made available to local colleges and universities; individual users from those institutions could take advantage of Archive services at reduced rates.

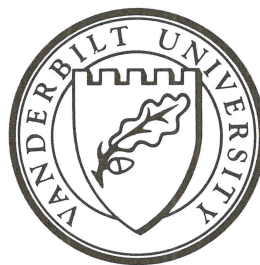
Since 1968, the Archive has taped the nightly news broadcasts of the three major networks. Its collection now includes over 27,000 videotapes of news broadcasts, news specials, and coverage of special events such as the Persian Gulf War and presidential nominating conventions. What makes the Vanderbilt Television News Archive unique is that it produces the Index and Abstracts, which enables researchers to find the video material they seek. The Archive also loans users compilation tapes of requested topics.

Since television is the dominant news medium for most Americans, and the only one for some, television news not only reflects social standards and public policy but also shapes them. The Archive is an unbiased repository of the video record of our time, indebted to no government agency, advocating no particular point of view. It provides access to that repository through the publication of the *Index and Abstracts* and the loaning of tapes. Also, it is a means by which networks can be held accountable for the content and quality of their broadcasts, as indicated in the November 1991 issue of *Texas Monthly* (p. 197):

When [Dan] Rather is reading the news, two distinct burdens bear down on him—and at times pull him in different directions. One is the building down at Vanderbilt University where

every news broadcast is stored. (The other is ratings.) "I'm almost constantly thinking to myself, 'What's going on in that Vanderbilt Archive?'" he says. "I always say about anchoring that there's no place to hide. And from Vanderbilt, there's no escape."

Vanderbilt's Television News Archive may prove to be the single most important resource to historians and social scientists for the study of the latter third of the twentieth century, and beyond. Recognizing this, the University seeks to raise the needed endowment and to establish the institutional relationships that will enable the TVNA to continue its unique and indispensable services.



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Finn on books

A nationally recognized authority on education, Chester F. Finn, Jr., spoke to a gathering of the Friends of the Library on April 12. Finn discussed current educational reform initiatives and three books on education: *Smart Schools*, *Smart Kids: Why Do Some Schools Work?* by Edward Fiske; *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*, by Jonathan Kozol; and *The Learning Gap*, by Howard W. Stevenson and James W. Stigler.

Finn founded and directed the Washington D.C.-based Educational Excellence Network, an information exchange and clearinghouse, which originally was part of the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies. Last spring Finn announced that he was taking a leave of absence to join Whittle Communications' Edison Project, a for-profit venture to establish new methods of education. The network will continue under the sponsorship of the Hudson Institute.

In his remarks, Finn addressed the need for major changes in the U.S. educational system. He outlined the success of Asian school systems as described in *The Learning Gap*. He gave a mixed review of *Smart Kids*, *Smart Schools*, noting that many of the suggestions were too slow

or inconsistent in their results. Finn expressed no confidence in Kozol's thesis in *Savage Inequalities* that equity in school funding would improve education results, and stated that Kozol "demonizes" Finn in his book by stressing that Finn's children "went to private school."



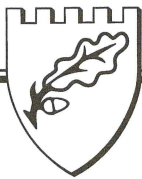
Professor Chester Finn, nationally recognized education expert, addresses the spring meeting of the Friends of the Library.



Charles Delzell, left, Marice Wolfe, Mark Hodges, Elaine Goleski, and Scarlett Graham with Finn, right.



Chancellors Emeriti Harvie Branscomb and Alexander Heard discuss Finn's presentation.



Make a difference, be a Friend

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"/> Sustaining | \$ 100 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> 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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