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The Library Associates

Robert James Foose and the Artist's Book

On Friday and Saturday, 17 and 18 April, the King Library Press sponsored its 1998 Spring Seminar in the Graphic Arts in the Department of Special Collections. The program focused on the work of artist Robert James Foose. On Friday evening, Prof. Foose spoke on his experience in combining the roles of artist and publisher, treating the topic, "An Artist Addresses the Book: Limited Edition to Unique Object." He discussed his work in creating artists' books, and his talk was supported by an extensive showing of his artists' books and other works in the Peal Gallery. On Saturday, Prof. Foose conducted a workshop centered on combining texts with woodcut illustration. Using his own cuts of British sheep and working with participants at the Press, he laid out a publication which was printed by participants working with Dr. Paul E. Holbrook on a Vandercook Press, and afterwards imaginatively folded into book form.

Robert James Foose is an artist and designer with a wide spectrum of interests and achievements in the academic and artistic worlds. A past chairman of the University of Kentucky Art Department, he is perhaps best known to the community for his work as a watercolorist. His Buttonwood Press has produced a half-dozen books and over 100 pieces of hand-printed ephemera, including poetry broadsides.

The work of Robert James Foose has been exhibited in, among other sites, the University of Kentucky Art Museum, the University of Kentucky Libraries, Louisville's J. B. Speed Art Museum, the Cincinnati Art Academy, the St. Paul Art Center, the Katholische Akademie of Trier, West Germany, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, China, and is held in the collections of the Speed Museum, Humana Corporation, New York Public Library, I.B.M., Bill Blass, Central Bank of Lexington, and many other public, corporate, and private collections.

As a professional graphics consultant, he has designed many books, brochures, and posters, including the University of Kentucky Libraries' humanities journal, *The Kentucky Review*.

*Larkspur Press Authors and Friends Celebrate
Twenty-Five Years of Fine Printing*

The silver anniversary of Kentucky's Larkspur Press was celebrated by a standing-room-only crowd in the Peal Gallery on the evening of Friday, 13 November. Those paying tribute to the achievement of Gray Zeitz and his quarter-century of publishing contemporary American literature included Wendell Berry, Guy Davenport, Jonathan Greene, James Baker Hall, J. Hill Hamon, Ed McClanahan, Gurney Norman, Steve Sanfield, Frederick Smock, and Richard Taylor. An exhibition of books and broadsides printed at Larkspur Press filled the display cabinets of the Peal Gallery.

For the fall 1998 King Library Press workshop, Gray Zeitz and Cincinnati book artist Carolyn Whitesel led a printing and paper-decorating workshop at the Larkspur Press office in Monterey, Kentucky. Participants designed a title-page and printed poems by Kentucky poet Jeff Worley, binding them with papers they had decorated.

For twenty-five years, Gray Zeitz has been printing beautiful books and broadsides at Larkspur Press in Owen County, Kentucky. He began Larkspur in 1974 by editing and designing from poems by Richard Taylor, Kentucky's newly designated poet laureate. This effort culminated in 1975 in the appearance of the first Larkspur Press book, *Bluegrass*. This volume set the collaborative style of Larkspur, an exciting participation of writers, artists, bookbinders, and ultimately readers and collectors who value significant work presented in an appealing, imaginative, and beautifully finished form.

Gray Zeitz set out on his typographical adventure as an apprentice at the University of Kentucky's King Library Press. Working there with Carolyn Hammer, he learned the skills of fine hand work and typographic design. The King Library Press was pleased to join in celebrating the achievement of Gray Zeitz as a publisher, craftsman, and book artist.