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Challenge for the '90s Campaign Begins

The University of Kentucky Libraries inaugurated a campaign on 20 September 1990 to meet a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. This initiative is directed to establishing a Humanities Book Endowment Fund with a principal of $3,000,000. The campaign began with a press conference at 10:00 a.m. in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery of Margaret I. King Library—North. President Charles T. Wethington, Jr., and Challenge for the '90s Campaign Chairman C. M. Newton spoke to a large group of the university's friends on the importance of the libraries' collections to the quality of the institution's academic life and its role of service to the Commonwealth. Both speakers also emphasized the need to be successful in this important fund-raising effort.

The libraries must raise $2.25 million by June of 1992 in order to qualify for a $750,000 match from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The University of Kentucky was awarded this grant in December 1989; it was among only fourteen such grants awarded nationally, and the university received the second largest amount of funds disbursed by the NEH last year. Each $3 contributed to the Humanities Book Endowment Fund will be matched with $1 from NEH. The $1 million gift from Toyota Motor Manufacturing USA has qualified for matching funds, and this major gift, along with other contributions, has helped the libraries reach the halfway mark in the fund-raising goal.

A dinner was held on the evening of 20 September at Margaret I. King Library to initiate the NEH grant effort. Hosting the occasion were John and Joan Gaines of Lexington. A campaign video was premiered, and the remarks of Mr. Gaines on the importance of supporting the study of the humanities highlighted the evening. Mr. Gaines's ideas for endowing the libraries have taken root since that night, with students in the forefront of organizing a Student Endowment Fund and devising plans to assure the endowment's growth.

The Associates began a Library Endowment Fund in 1986, and
support of the fund is encouraged by appeals to the membership and the community. All contributions qualify for the NEH match; for each $50 contribution, a bookplate honoring the donor (or a person designated by the donor) will be inserted in a new acquisition. Contributors thus help to build the libraries’ collections and to insure the collections’ future growth.

REMARKS OF JOHN R. GAINES IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES CHALLENGE GRANT

Nearly two millennia ago the great library of Alexandria was consumed in flames and the memory of an entire civilization up to this time seemed lost forever. There in that hallowed place which housed thought was to be found, to be seen, to be read, and to be examined all that had inspired, provoked, and puzzled those who came there to ask and to attempt to discover what the contemporary theologian Bernard Lonegran has called the great “horizon questions”—Who are we? Why are we here? What do we know? And whither are we going? These horizon questions can only be asked and answered by the humanities.

Several years ago there was a wonderful exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., called “The Eye of Thomas Jefferson.” In this exhibition were displayed Jefferson’s original drawings for the campus at the University of Virginia (which many people believe is one of the great architectural treasures of the republic). These drawings very clearly show that the library was to be placed directly and squarely in the center of the campus, and that is where it is today.

Even in this age of communications networks, of mainframes, laptops, and fax machines, nothing is so well managed by mind, eye, and hand as a book. The library will always remain the core of the university and is both the focal point and the source of our intellectual and spiritual vision.

There are many visible things that are happening at this university which are relatively easy to see, to identify, and to comprehend. However, on a different, not so obvious level, there are occurring simultaneously, not very far under the surface, many invisible encounters that are full of mystery, full of hope and full of meaning. These myriad and multifaceted activities, these interactions, these uplifting rendezvous, if you will, have to do
with the education of man through the humanities and identify and confirm the pivotal relationship of the entire university community to the books in our library.

When Jefferson placed the library at the center of the university and, in effect, at the epicenter of the civilized world, he was profoundly aware of what the humanities mean in helping our young people to become men and women of civilization. Perhaps Jefferson might even have been aware of the ancient legend of the temple bells—bells big and small, fashioned by the finest craftsmen in the world. When the wind blew or a storm raged, all of the bells would peal out, ceaselessly, and could be heard by anyone who would listen. Inspired by this legend, a young man traveled thousands of miles, determined to hear those bells. He sat for days on the shore, facing the vanished island, and listened with all his might. But all he could hear was the sound of the sea. He made every effort to block it out, but to no avail. The sound of the sea seemed to flood the world.

He kept at his task for weeks. Each time he got disheartened, he would listen to the village pundits, who spoke with unction of the mysterious legend. Then his heart would be aflame, only to become discouraged again when weeks of further effort yielded no results. Finally, he decided to give up the attempt. Perhaps the legend was not true.

It was his final day, and he went to the shore to say good-bye to the sea and the sky and the wind and the coconut trees. He lay on the sand, and for the first time, listened to the sound of the sea. Soon he was so lost in the sound that he was barely conscious of himself, so deep was the silence the sound produced.

In the depth of that silence, he heard it!—the tinkle of a tiny bell followed by another, and another, and another. And, soon, every one of the thousand temple bells was pealing out in harmony, and his heart was rapt in joyous ecstasy.

If we want the young people who are entrusted to our care to hear the temple bells, then the library must be central to the thought and consideration of all of us who take pride in being part of this academic community, the University of Kentucky.

T. S. Eliot, a transcendent poet and powerful critic of contemporary civilization, anguishes, "Where is the wisdom that we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge that we have lost in information? Where is the life that we have lost in living?" Eliot ponders what future generations will think of us and of our
times. These are concerns that we might very well address at the University of Kentucky, where only four out of every ten undergraduate students receive a four-year degree—a most expensive education indeed! To paraphrase Eliot’s famous lines concerning our civilization, “Will our only monument be the asphalt road and a thousand lost golf balls?” We at the University of Kentucky might well ask ourselves: “Will our only monument be Wildcat Lodge and a thousand swished jump shots?” And, again, Eliot asks, and we should ask with him, “Where are the roots that clutch?”

In a special way, we are all stewards responsible for gathering, maintaining, and promulgating the wisdom of the past. All of us must, therefore, assume stewardship for the library. On this important occasion, when we gather here to extend the power and authority and the meaning of this university, I propose that the trustees of this institution join me and others of like mind in assuming the responsibility for personally initiating and ensuring the financial success of this campaign so that we may all affirm, with some degree of confidence, the words of another great poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, “There still lives the dearest freshness of deep down things.”

I think it is appropriate, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, and Mr. Chancellor, that you urge the establishment of a Trustee Endowment Fund which will serve as both model and incentive to all other contributors. Perhaps, once this begins, we will see an Alumni Library Endowment Fund, a Faculty Library Endowment Fund, and a Student Library Endowment Fund as part of a cluster of constituencies who, in their own enlightened self-interest, join together in providing this university with the opportunity and the means to educate, in these perilous times, men and women of civilization.

It is not easy to educate a man. Benjamin Disraeli once remarked that whenever he wanted to read a good book, he wrote one. Such a conceit is not shared by most of us, but I believe all of us, students, faculty, and friends, deserve to have a good book available to us whenever we desire to read one.

Without a well-endowed library, the entire educational mission of this institution will become seriously and rapidly compromised. Speaking for myself and, I am sure, for all of us gathered here this evening, it is our fondest hope and most fervent wish that the age-old act of opening a book will animate our search for truth, for
beauty, and for wisdom. Perhaps, just perhaps, if our desire is passionate enough, we may even be fortunate enough to hear the temple bells.

A Special Book and Art Auction Benefit and the Annual Library Associates Book Sale

The University of Kentucky Libraries conducted its first Preferred Book and Art Auction on Sunday, 7 October 1990. Proceeds from the auction exceeded $6,000 and will be applied to the needs of the libraries and the NEH Challenge Grant. Library Associates and other friends were key to the success of this event. Mr. E. I. Thompson, a Life Member of the Associates, along with his colleagues Mr. James Riley and Mr. Jamie Bates, all of whom are auctioneers associated with the well-known Lexington firm of Thompson & Riley, donated their time for the benefit of the University Libraries. Twenty-four Kentucky authors, publishers, collectors, and artists donated their works to the auction, including Mr. Wendell Berry, Ms. Linda Butler, the Lexington Cemetery Company, Prof. Thomas D. Clark, Dr. Carl Cone, Prof. Guy M. Davenport, Ms. Sandra Davis, Mr. Richard S. DeCamp, Prof. James Foose, Dr. C. R. Hammer, Prof. Loyal Jones, Dr. James C. Klotter, Mr. Clay Lancaster, Ms. Bobbie Ann Mason, Mr. Boynton Merrill, Jr., Mr. Burton Milward, Prof. Humbert Nelli, Mrs. Rena Niles, Mr. Thomas Parrish, Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, Prof. Arturo Sandoval, Mrs. Martha Stiles, and Mr. E. I. Thompson.

The sum of $10,000 was raised over the two days of the Annual Library Associates Book Sale, held at the Buell Armory on Thursday and Friday, 11 and 12 October. This year’s was the largest stock of materials ever offered by the Associates, and hundreds of University of Kentucky students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the local book trade and others in the community, attended the sale. The Associates’ 1990 Book Sale proceeds nearly doubled any other in the history of this popular activity.

It is not too soon for Library Associates to begin sorting through their collections of books, maps, prints, or records to determine what can be donated to the libraries for a future year’s Auction or Book Sale. Please contact Mrs. Karen T. Ellenberg, Gifts & Exchange Librarian, at (606) 257-8408 if you have questions or contributions relating to these projects.
Special thanks are offered to the following who assisted with the 1990 Auction and Book Sale: Ms. Barbara Anderson, Mr. Karl-Heinz Boewe, Ms. Delisa Boone, Ms. Amy Boucher, Ms. Carla Cantagallo, Mr. Bradley D. Carrington, Ms. Paula Coney, Mr. J. Michael Courtney, Mrs. Karen T. Ellenberg, Mrs. Cheri Estes, Mr. Michael Ford, Ms. Judy Fugate, Mr. Rick Gay, Ms. Norma Jean Gibson, Mr. Scott Graham, Ms. Faith Harders, Prof. George Herring, Mrs. Genevieve Hirsch, Mr. Thomas House, Mr. Vincel Jenkins, Mr. B. J. Jimenez, Ms. Roxana Jones, Ms. Bit Lacazette, Mr. Terry Layman, Ms. Emily Lihani, Mrs. Patricia Lloyd, Ms. Mary McLaren, Mr. William J. Marshall, Jr., Mrs. Betty Matulionis, Ms. Jennifer Morgan, Ms. Loree Pennock, Ms. Barbara Pfeifle, Ms. Rebecca Powell, Ms. Linda Raines, Ms. Judy Sackett, Mr. Stephen Savage, Ms. Catherine Seago, Ms. Rose Shrimpton, Mr. Raymond Smith, Ms. Laura Taylor, Ms. Mary Kathryn Tri, Ms. Beulah Turner, Ms. Mary Vass, Ms. Sarah Vaughn, and Ms. Gladys Wonderly.

The Combs Collection: Dedication of the Appalachian Regional Commission Archives

The archives of the Appalachian Regional Commission were dedicated on Friday, 11 October in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery. The materials placed in the libraries represent some 350 cubic feet of archival matter associated with the federal agency established in 1965 by the Appalachian Regional Development Act. The function of the commission is to promote economic development and growth in the thirteen states that embrace the Appalachian region. Mr. Paul Willis, Director of Libraries, welcomed the large crowd attending the dedication ceremony at the university, and Mr. Albert P. Smith of Lexington, former Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission introduced Ms. Jacqueline L. Phillips, the current Federal Co-Chair, who outlined the development of the agency and recognized those who had contributed to its success. Prof. Ronald Eller, Director of the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center, spoke on “The ARC and Appalachia: The Value of the Archives.” Mr. Kevin Hable, an attorney from the firm of Wyatt Tarrant & Combs and former budget director in the administration of Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson, announced that the ARC Collection would be named in honor of former Kentucky governor Bert T. Combs. Governor Combs, one of the original members of the Appalachian Regional
Commission, has been a public figure especially dedicated to the enhancement of life in the Appalachian region through public improvements, particularly through better highways. Gov. Combs then rose to respond to Mr. Hable’s announcement, recalling with wit and sentiment his experiences in the early days of the forming of the commission. In closing the program, Dr. Charles Wethington, president of the University of Kentucky, expressed the institution’s commitment to making the Combs Collection a valuable resource for research on the history and development of an important region of the Commonwealth and made clear, also, his gratitude to those instrumental in bringing the archives of the Appalachian Regional Commission to the university.
Following the formal program, a luncheon for guests was held in the library foyer and traditional music was performed by Ron Pen and Ephraim McDowell of the School of Music.

Contemporary writers and photographers in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gnomon Press: Wendell Berry, Guy Mendes, Jonathan Greene, Jonathan Williams, Jim Wayne Miller, James Still, Gurney Norman, and Richard Taylor. (Photograph courtesy of Jeannie Leavell)

Gnomon Press Twenty-Fifth Anniversary: A Celebration of Literature, Photography, and Book Design

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gnomon Press was observed at the University of Kentucky on the evening of Monday, 29 October 1990. An important American "small press," Gnomon was founded in New York in 1965 by Jonathan Greene, moved afterward to California, and came in 1967 to Kentucky when Mr. Greene came to Lexington to work at the University Press of Kentucky. Gnomon has since flourished and is now the imprint of thirty-six publications. The press's concentration has been in the fields of literature and fine art photography.

To mark the occasion of Gnomon's quarter centenary, Jonathan Greene spoke briefly in the Peal Gallery, Department of Special
Collections, on his experiences in founding the press and in designing its books. This presentation was followed by a series of readings by some of Kentucky’s most prominent literary figures. Paying tribute to Jonathan Greene and Gnomon were Richard Taylor, James Still, Gurney Norman, Jim Wayne Miller, and Wendell Berry. Also reading was North Carolina writer and Jargon Society publisher Jonathan Williams.

A keepsake selected from the Gnomon Press edition of Wendell Berry’s *An Eastward Look* was given to those attending. The text of the keepsake, Berry’s “Watching the Mid-Autumn Moon,” was complemented with Chinese calligraphy by Clay Lancaster and printed by hand at the King Library Press. An exhibition of Gnomon Press publications and books designed by Jonathan Greene was also on view in the Gallery. Following the program, there was a reception for Jonathan Greene and the Gnomon Press authors in the foyer of King Library-North.

—Paula Leach Pope