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Dedication of the Peal Collection

On Friday, 15 October 1982, the Associates honored Mr. and Mrs. W. Hugh Peal of Leesburg, Virginia, at a formal dedication of the Peal Collection of manuscripts and rare books. The activities of the dedication included a seminar on the early English Romantics, held in the Gallery, Department of Special Collections, followed by a dinner on Friday evening.

Those attending the seminar were greeted by Dr. Art Gallaher, Chancellor of the University, and by Mr. Paul Willis, Director of Libraries. Speakers for the event included three distinguished scholars of the Romantic period. Prof. Stephen Maxwell Parrish, former chairman of the Department of English at Cornell University and general editor of the Cornell edition of Wordsworth’s writings, spoke on the topic of “The Editor as Archeologist,” with special reference to the literal archeological function of the Wordsworth editor—uncovering the crossed-out, overwritten texts to reveal the earlier, better poems. Dr. Richard Haven, Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts and Coleridge bibliographer, traced the posthumous reputation of Samuel Taylor Coleridge in England and America in “The Ghost of the Sage of Highgate.” “The Peal Collection of Lamb Letters” was treated by Prof. Edwin W. Marrs, Jr. of the University of Pittsburgh, editor of the Cornell edition of The Letters of Charles and Mary Anne Lamb and a vice-president of the British-based Charles Lamb Society.

In the evening the Associates gathered at Spindletop Hall for a reception and dinner recognizing the Peals. Following the meal Mr. Willis made the welcoming remarks, and Dr. James Birchfield, Program Chairman, recognized special guests. Dr. Otis A. Singletary, President of the University, expressed to the Peals the institution’s appreciation for their long-standing support. Dr. Lawrence S. Thompson, Professor of Classics and former Director of Libraries, delivered an appreciative reminiscence of the Peals drawing on an acquaintance of some thirty years. Next followed Mr. Robert Nikirk of New York City, who paid tribute to the Peals.
on behalf of the Grolier Club, the select society of American bibliophiles to which Mr. Peal was elected in 1949. After Mr. Nikirk’s remarks the Associates and their guests viewed a slide/tape presentation which outlined the contents, history, and significance of the Peal Collection and, drawing on interviews generated by the University of Kentucky Oral History Program, detailed the biography of Mr. Peal from his days as a student at the university and as a Rhodes Scholar at Exeter College, Oxford.

Mr. William J. Marshall, Assistant Director of Libraries for Special Collections and Archives, introduced the evening’s featured speaker, Mr. Herman W. Liebert. Mr. Liebert, Director Emeritus of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, addressed the gathering on “The History and Importance of Rare Books and Manuscripts.” He commended Mr. Peal’s achievement as a collector and recognized the good fortune of the University of Kentucky as the recipient of the Peal Collection. After a rich survey of the development of written communication and the importance to scholars of access both to published and to unpublished textual sources, Mr. Liebert concluded his remarks with the charge:

And so I say to you: read, collect, preserve, like Hugh Peal. Libraries are our fortresses against the infidel, and if we do not man their ramparts, it is we—collectors and librarians, treasurers, presidents and trustees of colleges, readers like you and me—who shall have lost the battle and failed to keep faith with the book. But if we keep that faith, we shall preserve the light of such a candle as, by the grace of God, shall never be put out.

Following warm applause for the address, Mr. Peal was recognized by a standing ovation. In his words of response he expressed his appreciation for Mr. Liebert’s observations, paid tribute to the sacrifices of Mrs. Peal in building the collection, and, in a turn on Chaucer’s *envoi* “go litel bok,” placed his collection in the care of the university with the farewell “go little library.”

An exhibition of books and manuscripts from the Peal Collection was mounted in the Gallery and Reading Room of the Special Collections Department in support of the program. A partial catalog of this showing comprised most of the contents of the previous issue of *The Kentucky Review*. In addition to the items recorded there, panels in the Reading Room displayed photographs
of Mr. Peal and Mrs. Peal as well as the grounds at “Woodburn,”
the Peals’ historic home in Loudoun County, Virginia. Other panels
featured a variety of important manuscripts under the heads
“Literature,” “Women Writers,” “French Literature,” “Royalty and
Statesmen,” “Bookmen and Collectors,” “Artists,” “The Bar,” and
“Science and Philosophy.” This unusual exhibition remained on
view through the remainder of the year.

Dedication of the George W. Pirtle Geology Library

On Friday afternoon, 22 October 1982, the University Libraries
held a dedication ceremony and reception in the Geology Library,
Bowman Hall, in honor of George W. Pirtle of Tyler, Texas. Mr.
Pirtle’s recent endowment of fifty thousand dollars was gratefully
acknowledged and the library was officially renamed the George
W. Pirtle Geology Library. Paul Willis, Director of Libraries,
welcomed the guests, including eighteen members of Mr. Pirtle’s
family, and presented an engraved brass nameplate to Vivian Hall,
Geology Librarian. University Chancellor Art Gallaher commented
on the excellent earth-sciences collection in the Geology Library and
on Mr. Pirtle’s generous support of the university through the
years. Dr. Gallaher and Dr. Nicholas Rast, Chairman of the
Department of Geology, unveiled a portrait of Mr. Pirtle. A history
of the department was given by faculty member Thomas G.
Roberts; a history of the library by Mrs. Hall; and comments on
Mr. Pirtle by M. Ruth Brown, Associate Director of Libraries.
Responses were given by Dr. William Pirtle of Bedford, Texas, son
of the donor, and by Robert Pirtle of Tyler, Texas, a grandson.

It is especially fitting that the Geology Library carry Mr. Pirtle’s
name: as a student aide in the Geology Department in the early and
mid 1920s, he managed the department’s collection of books and
journals and may thus be considered the first geology librarian. He
was also the first recipient of the Master of Science degree in
geology (1925), and as a research assistant did geological mapping
for the Kentucky Geological Survey. A few years later he moved to
Texas to begin mapping and searching for oil; successful in this
venture, he soon headed a geological consulting firm while
remaining active as an independent producer.

Mr. Pirtle’s civic contributions to the community of Tyler,
Texas, have been considerable. In addition to these, he is a
University of Kentucky Fellow, as is Mrs. Pirtle, having established

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annual scholarships in geology, made undesignated gifts, and provided ten thousand dollars toward the data base of coal information to be housed in the Pirtle Library. His recent gift will ensure the continued acquisition of geological literature for use by present and future students, faculty, and researchers.

Eileen Hogan, English Printer

The King Library Press hosted a lecture in the Gallery, King Library-North, on Wednesday, 17 November 1982, by Eileen Hogan of the Burnt Wood Press. Ms. Hogan, who teaches at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, London, described her experiences in developing a number of innovative techniques in relief printing. She has not only created her own letter designs but also produced a variety of physically unusual books that feature colored text patterns, choice papers, and unique bindings. Ms. Hogan’s work has received warm recognition and has been exhibited at the Royal College of Art, the Oxford Museum of Modern Art, the Royal Academy, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. An extensive showing of her printing, on loan from a private collection, was mounted especially for her presentation here. A catalog was made available to those attending the program. Ms. Hogan’s lecture was followed by a reception in the Solarium.

Jesse Stuart Republication Reception

Members of the Library Associates were invited to a reception in the Department of Special Collections on Friday afternoon, 19 November 1982, to recognize the Jesse Stuart Foundation’s republication of The Land of the Honey-Colored Wind: Jesse Stuart’s Kentucky. The editor of the work, Dr. Jerry Herndon of Murray State University, was guest of honor for this event.

Future Activities

Private Press Lecture

On Wednesday, 9 March 1983, the King Library Press will sponsor a lecture in the Gallery on modern fine printing and the private press. The speaker will be Mr. Roderick Cave, author of the authoritative history The Private Press, published in 1971. Mr. Cave is presently head of the Department of Librarianship at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, and is well known for his textbook Rare
Book Librarianship (1976). While residing in the Caribbean in the 1970s he served as Editor for the Western Hemisphere of the annual bibliography Private Press Books, sponsored by the British-based Private Libraries Association. (A private pressman himself, Mr. Cave prints under the Officina Speluca imprint.) An exhibit of fine printing will be on view in the Gallery.

Annual Dinner Meeting

The annual dinner meeting of the University of Kentucky Library Associates will be held at Spindletop Hall on Friday evening, 18 March 1983. The annual Edward F. Prichard, Jr. Lecturer will be the distinguished Washington attorney Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Mr. Rauh, a native of Cincinnati, was educated at Harvard University and between 1936 and 1939 served as a law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justices Benjamin Cardozo and Felix Frankfurter. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II and received the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Service Star. Afterwards, he worked briefly with the Veterans Emergency Housing Program before entering private legal practice in 1947. Well known for his expertise in the civil liberties field both as an attorney and as a contributor to legal scholarship, Mr. Rauh is a trustee of Antioch College, and a 1978 recipient of the L.H.D. (honoris causa) from Hebrew Union College. He is a Fellow of Brandeis University and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Further details of the dinner meeting will soon be forwarded to members of the Associates.

Annual Book Sale

Thursday and Friday, 21 and 22 April 1983, have been set aside for the 1983 Library Associates Book Sale. Hundreds of books and journals contributed for the sale or identified as surplus to the needs of the libraries will be made available for purchase by students, faculty, Associates, and members of the community. Past sales have proved a popular and successful activity for the organization. Members who have material to donate for the sale or who wish to assist in staffing the tables are encouraged to contact the Collection Development Department in King Library (257-5895).
Dedication of the John Jacob Niles Collection

On Thursday, 28 April 1983, the John Jacob Niles Collection will be formally presented to the University of Kentucky. This unique archive of the celebrated American collector of folk ballads, composer, and performing artist includes manuscripts, scores, recordings, books, photographs, musical instruments, and personal papers. The collection is a gift of Mrs. Rena Niles of Lexington and her sons Thomas M.T. Niles and John Edward Niles of Washington, D.C.

An exhibition drawn from the Niles Collection will be on view in the Gallery, King Library-North. Concurrently, a showing of paintings and other art works by Niles will be displayed in the University of Kentucky Art Museum. An evening program in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall will feature remarks by Barry Bingham, Sr., performances by Nancy Niles Sexton, Jacqueline Roberts, and the University of Kentucky Chorale, as well as a multi-image presentation on Niles’s life and career.

Members of the Library Associates will be receiving further details about the program at a later date.

—James D. Birchfield