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Report of the Annual Dinner Meeting

The Edward F. Prichard, Jr., Lectures were inaugurated at the Library Associates' Annual Dinner Meeting on Friday, 12 March 1982. The meeting was held at Spindletop Hall, Lexington, and began with a reception to honor our speaker, R. W. B. Lewis of Yale University. The reception also featured an exhibition of important recent acquisitions and new publications of the King Library Press.

Following the dinner, President Jacqueline Hopkins introduced the Director of Libraries, Mr. Paul A. Willis. Mr. Willis detailed the state of the libraries, reviewed the accomplishments of the preceding year, and expressed his thanks to the members of the 1981-1982 Executive Committee. Prof. Louis J. Swift, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, then presented the following nominees for the 1982-1983 Executive Committee:

- Prof. John T. Shawcross, President
- Mrs. Rufus Lisle, Vice-President
- Mr. Andrew Campbell
- Mr. Dennis Carrigan
- Dr. James C. Klotter
- Mrs. Martin Stiles

The slate was elected unanimously.

Vice-President Shawcross introduced R. W. B. Lewis to the Associates for the first Prichard Lecture. Prof. Lewis, a friend of the Prichard family and a participant in our 1980 Robert Penn Warren 75th Birthday Symposium, graciously agreed to join us upon the illness of our announced guest, Alfred Kazin. Prof. Lewis is the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of author Edith Wharton, an eminent literary critic, and a consultant to Hollywood's Universal Pictures Studios.

Prof. Lewis addressed the Associates on the subject of his current
research, William and Henry James. The title of his paper was “William and Henry James: Adventures of the Will.” He explored at length the unusual relationship and contrasting ideas of the famous brothers, one a psychologist and the other a novelist. The disparity of their interests, in science on the one hand and in art on the other, has worked to create in some ways an appearance of rivalry and dissonance between the two men. This development Prof. Lewis argued to dispel. Although Henry James remains the stronger figure in literary history, Prof. Lewis nevertheless demonstrated thematic ties to the thought of William James in such modern writers as Robert Frost and T. S. Eliot. Following his presentation, Prof. Lewis entertained a number of questions on the Jameses put forward by our members.

A keepsake of the occasion, consisting of a passage from Prof. Lewis’s Trials of the Word, was printed for members at the King Library Press. Copies are available upon request.

Recent Activities
A reception was held following a matinée performance on Saturday, 27 March 1982, for the playwright and cast of Errata: Franklin in Memory. This two-act drama, by Prof. Daniel B. Smith of the University of Kentucky History Department, is based on the life of Franklin as preserved in such documents as the Autobiography, Poor Richard’s Almanac, and surviving correspondence. The Library Associates served as a sponsor for the play, which was produced with a grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council.

The Library Associates’ Annual Book Sale was held on Thursday and Friday, 22 and 23 April 1982. This was the largest group of materials offered by the Associates to date. The sale attracted both book collectors and dealers to campus for hours of browsing and buying.

Future Activities
On Friday, 15 October the Library Associates will sponsor a major symposium on three of the early English Romantic poets. The program will mark the gift to the libraries of the extraordinary collection of manuscripts of the early Romantics by Mr. W. Hugh Peal of Leesburg, Virginia, the University of Kentucky’s first Rhodes Scholar.
Participating in the afternoon’s activities will be Prof. Stephen M. Parrish, editor of the Cornell edition of the works of William Wordsworth, who will speak on “The Editor as Archeologist”; Prof. Richard Haven of the University of Massachusetts, Coleridge bibliographer, who will speak on “The Ghost of the Sage of Highgate”; and Prof. Edwin W. Marrs of the University of Pittsburgh, editor of the letters of Charles and Mary Lamb, who will speak on “The Peal Collection of Lamb Letters.” In addition, there will be a panel discussion to include the three visiting scholars and the collector, Mr. Peal. Also, there will be an extensive exhibition of books and manuscripts illustrative of the breadth of the Peal Collection. Following the afternoon program there will be a dinner meeting at Spindletop Hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Peal. The speaker for this occasion will be Prof. Herman W. Liebert, former director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. Members of the Associates will be receiving further information concerning this significant occasion.

—James D. Birchfield
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The following articles are among those soon to appear: “The Love-Dream Lyric in the Spanish Renaissance,” by Julian Palley; “Love, Comedia Style,” by Gerald E. Wade; and “Poe’s Eureka in France from Baudelaire to Valéry,” by Reina Virtanen.

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