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The Peal Collection Bookplate

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The Peal Collection Bookplate

Bookplates do not serve merely as the mark of a book's provenance and ownership. They also provide scope for graphic design in miniature. A book collection of high quality deserves a worthy bookplate, and that is what the University of Kentucky Libraries have attempted to achieve in the plate recently executed for their W. Hugh Peal Collection.

Mr. Peal, Class of 1922, is Kentucky's first Rhodes Scholar and the recipient of an honorary LL.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1959. A bookman as well as a scholar, he is a member of the Grolier Club and a Fellow of the Pierpont Morgan Library. From 1958 to 1959 Mr. Peal served as a Director of the King Library Associates. A collector of books and manuscripts over a period of many years, he has assembled a private library especially notable for its holdings in the field of English and American literature.

In order to identify books from the Peal Collection, which have been very generously added to the holdings of King Library's Special Collections Department, Leo Wyatt was asked to design and engrave an appropriate bookplate. Mr. Wyatt, the celebrated English wood engraver who participated in our 1978 Graphic Arts Seminar, developed the bookplate illustrated in this issue of The Kentucky Review. It incorporates a white-line engraving of a tobacco plant with lettering in Roman capitals and in chancery cursive.
A proof of the Peal Collection bookplate, pulled at the King Library Press from the original woodblock, was exhibited during the month of March 1980 in company with first editions of works by William Dean Howells selected from the Peal Collection.

James Birchfield

The Library Associates

On 24 February the Associates sponsored a program of oral history, held in the university's new Center for the Arts. A slide-tape presentation on the Frontier Nursing Service was shown, and excerpts from interviews with John Sherman Cooper were presented.

The annual dinner meeting took place on 15 April at Spindletop Hall. Following elections and a business meeting, Robert Coles, author of Children of Crisis, spoke on "Children in Ethical Conflict."

The Second Annual Library Associates Booksale was held on campus 24 and 25 April. The sale once again coincided with the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Approximately $1200 was raised. This money will be used for the purchase of special items in the forthcoming year.

The busy spring schedule ended with a reception on 28 April honoring Elizabeth Hardwick.