

The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 48, No. 3

Summer 1998



Great Libraries in England
The Fondren Tour

A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

At our Annual Meeting this year I again talked about what a good year the Friends of Fondren Library has had, and John Boles, our speaker, talked about what a good year Fondren Library has had. Our attendance at the Annual Meeting was the highest ever, and I think that fact may be credited both to our having John as speaker and to the general excitement about the changes that are coming for the library. We should also credit Pamela Giraud, event chairwoman, and thank her both for doing such a good job this year and for volunteering already to chair the event next year!!

Which brings me to next year. Our slate of officers for 1998-1999 is indeed impressive. Texas Anderson, who is a longtime member of the board, and who has served us well in so many capacities, including as gala chair and *Flyleaf* editor, will be our new president and will bring her usual resourcefulness and creativity to the job. Kyle Frazier will serve as vice president for membership, Charles Maynard as vice president for publications (*The Flyleaf*), Susie Glasscock as the gala chair, Phoebe Tudor as secretary, and David Elder will be our new treasurer. Others of us will work on the Book Sale and chair the number of events through the year.

We will also welcome next year five new board members: Robins Brice, Henry Hernandez, Frances Heyne, Bob Patten, and Norma Scott. I am gratified that board members so enjoy their work with Friends of Fondren Library that they are eager to encourage others to serve on the board. We will, however, next year lose two of our most hard working and productive members - Shirley Hamner and Susan Merriman. Thank you both for all that you have done for Fondren Library.

In my first letter as president, I spoke of the board's considering founding a new Friends' endowment to preserve and make accessible the special collections of Fondren Library. A committee, led by David Elder, has recommended and the board has approved such a new

endowment. In fact, a portion of the proceeds from the gala honoring the Bakers will provide the seed money for the endowment. This seems very appropriate, for the Baker papers are such an important part of the Special Collections at Fondren.

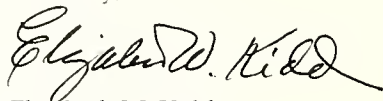
I am also very pleased to announce that our honorees for the 1999 Fondren Saturday Night will be Diana and Bill Hobby. The recent announcement that the Hobby Foundation gifts have been designated for the library was some of the best news ever received on the Rice Campus. The date of the gala will be February 20, 1999, so mark your calendars now.

Quite honestly, this last month or so has been more fun than work for many of us, as is reflected in the articles of this *Flyleaf*. I have written about the truly remarkable journey through the libraries of Oxford, Cambridge, and London. I use the word "journey" because it has stronger connotations than the word "trip," and I think for all of us this experience was far more than the word "trip" can convey.

A far shorter excursion was our two-day adventure to Larry McMurtry's bookstores in Archer City. I use the word "adventure" because when the air-conditioning on the bus failed on the outgoing arm of the trip, it became something of a survival experience. Still, we all bonded in adversity, and our tenacious executive director convinced the bus company to send overnight another bus!! We were thus able to peruse our recently purchased treasures in great comfort on the ride home.

And one final "thank you" from me, to our executive director, Mary Bixby. She works to keep all of us as board members focused and effective and with her help, we will continue to meet our goals as supporters of Fondren Library.

Cordially,



Elizabeth W. Kidd

FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

THE FLYLEAF

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Cover photo courtesy of The Bodleian Library.

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Great Libraries in England

The Fondren Tour

by Elizabeth W. Kidd

On the last night of our tour of libraries of England, we ate by candlelight in the dining room of an eighteenth century Georgian house in Spitalfields, London, the guests of Michael Gillingham. Mr. Gillingham and the late Donald Findlay had rescued and lovingly restored the house and garden, from which one could view at a stone's throw the somber gray exterior of Nicholas Hawksmoor's masterpiece, Christ Church.

Upstairs Mr. Gillingham had laid out a few books from his "working library," among them a second edition of Palladio, from 1581, willed to him by a famous architectural historian. Our guide, Lady Jane Howard confided to Michael that this same historian had given her as a wedding gift an inscribed copy of his book on the architecture of Bath. She offered to leave it to Michael, should she predecease him, if he'd return the favor with the Palladio. So the trip had gone, full of serendipitous associations, everything seemingly not separated by six degrees, but only one or two, and everywhere the love of books.

WORMSLEY

But to return to the beginning of our trip: an excursion to the personal library of J. Paul Getty, Jr. at Wormsley, his home near High Wycombe. This was the first of the many times at which we all agreed that nothing could surpass what we were



Chuck Henry and Bryan Maggs at the Getty library.

seeing. The library was housed in a new building designed by the architect Nicholas Johnston, in a more or less castle-folly style complete with portcullis. The interiors were lovely, and the books were jewel-like on the shelves. Getty's collection was based on the "art of the book," and every great bookmaker, ancient and modern was represented. Among the treasures were Anne Boleyn's psalter, beautifully bound in embroidered silk.

Mr. Bryan Maggs, renowned book dealer of Maggs Rare Books of Berkeley Square, assists Mr. Getty in building his collection, serves as his curator, and happily was our guide. As our appreciation of the books became ever more evident, kind Mr. Maggs allowed us to touch some of them, which we did carefully and reverently. Betty Baird of Louisiana, who is writing a book on Anne Boleyn, was allowed to hold the psalter. Mary Bixby and Sally Reynolds were long turning the pages of an exquisitely decorated book on the subject of pond scum no less.

David and Caroline Minter were interested to see the books bound by Sydney Cockerell, who had resided across the road from them when they were living a year at the Old Vicarage in Grantchester, near Cambridge. They saw books bound by him, as well as earlier volumes bound by his father, Douglas Cockerell.

Some of us were drawn to the early texts, the oldest of which dated from 1194. Others were drawn to the beautifully bound art books of the early twentieth century. Our guide Lady Jane, who



Betty Baird holds Anne Boleyn's psalter, Getty library.

goes by the name Jinny, was drawn to books that had been at Strawberry Hill, the famous home of Horace Walpole, sold by some of her Walpole ancestors in the nineteenth century. And finally we were all drawn to tea and back to Oxford.

OXFORD

The next day we saw at Brasenose College, founded in 1504, one of the thirty odd working "college" libraries. Brasenose Library holds 200,000 books primarily for the 350 undergraduates of the college. At lunch (lovely poached salmon, not to be the last) with Lord Windlesham, Principal of the college, we were joined by the well-known writer Candia McWilliam and Mark Fisher, MP, the Government's Minister for the Arts. Mark Fisher's suit coat pocket was held together, more or less, by a very long needle, but his thoughts on the cultivation of the arts as essential to sustaining a civilization were tightly stitched together and beautifully expressed.



L. to r. Mark Fisher, Caroline Minter, Candia McWilliam, Mary Chapinson, Chuck Henry, Lord Windlesham.

After Brasenose we were on to the venerable Bodleian Library, the University Library of Oxford, with over 6 million volumes including 150,000 MS volumes and 6,500 incunabula. The oldest part of the library is the Duke Humfrey, completed in 1490, full of magnificent volumes in beautiful oak cases under decoratively painted beams, and also unfortunately full of death watch beetle. The latter necessitates their closing the library in September, totally dismantling it, treating all the wood to kill the beetle, and replacing it before June of 1999. This is an enormous task that will be completed in only nine months in order not to interfere with the scholars who are more numerous in the summer months, a fact that reminded us that these libraries full of ancient and historic documents and texts are all working libraries.

One amusing story about the Duke Humfrey: The library had, of course, a First Folio of



Julius Glickman, Sally Reynolds, and Susan Glickman atop the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford.

Shakespeare's works contemporaneous with its publication. When the Second Folio was published, the library replaced the First Folio with the newer version, and deaccessioned the First. No one knows what next happened to it. Centuries later, recently in fact, a First Folio came on the market and was purchased for the Duke Humfrey. When the Bodleian archivists studied it, they discovered that it was the original Duke Humfrey's First Folio, returning to its rightful place.

The Sub-librarian for Archives, Mary Chapinson, (sporting an "I Love Texas" keyring) shared with us some of the treasures of the Bodleian, including a letter from the Duke of Monmouth the night before his execution in 1685 in which he disavowed any claim to legitimacy and thus the throne, in hopes thereby of protecting his sons from the king's wrath. This was not to be the last occasion when the librarians showing us the treasures in their charge were clearly moved as they spoke of the documents and texts, ancient and modern, tiny and immense, simple and jeweled, universal and particular, each remarkable in some way, each loved. Ms. Chapinson was obviously moved when she took from its case a lovely small text written in firm and simple script, a translation of French devotionals bound in a cover of silver embroidery, all done by the hand of Elizabeth I, at age 10, for her last stepmother, Katherine Parr. Imagine our awe.

SHAW'S CORNER

On our way to Cambridge we stopped off at Shaw's Corner at Ayot St. Lawrence. George Bernard Shaw had retreated to this remote little village hoping to find more time to write than living in London's press of would-be visitors had afforded him. In fact, Albert and I and the children had taken one of those "country walks" to the village many years ago, and as the tour coach took many wrong



Patricia and John Brice atop the Radcliffe Camera with St. Mary the Virgin church in the background, Oxford.

turns on poorly marked country lanes, we began to think walking was the only way to get there!

The house, a two story red brick of the nineteenth century, was unattractive on its exterior, but pleasant and full of small, sunlit rooms in its interior. The rooms, of course, were full of books and memorabilia. Julius and Susan Glickman were curious about a set of Cambridge Classics that appeared identical to a set they owned. The curator at the house, Miss Ruth Gofton, graciously provided the Glickmans with the date of the set's edition.

We were intrigued by the photographs of noted Communists that were lined up along the fireplace mantle. Equally intriguing and resting on a table across the room was a small copper-colored statuette which turned out to be Shaw's Academy Award for *Pygmalion*.

Miss Gofton directed us to the garden to the "writing shed," which I had missed on my previous visit. Hidden behind a grove of trees in the garden

was a small shed with a large window. Inside was Shaw's tiny typewriter on a spare table, a chair, and a shelf. The remarkable feature of the shed was its turnstile of simple design that enabled Shaw to position the shed with the windows always facing the sun. Shaw was ingenious as well.



David Minter, Elizabeth Kidd, and Caroline Minter beside George Bernard Shaw's writing shed.

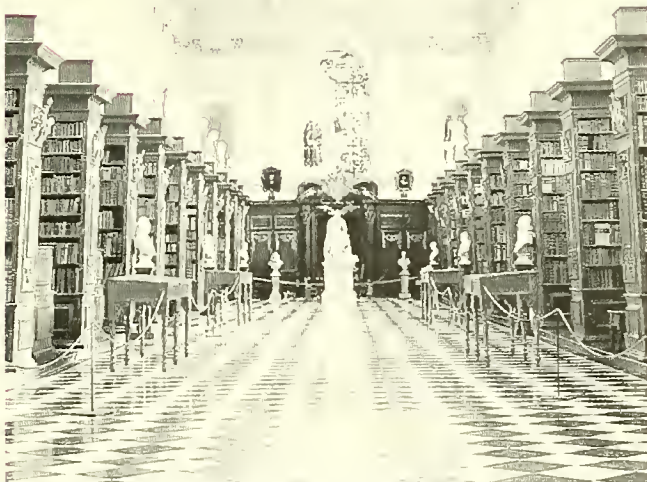
CAMBRIDGE

Our excursion to Shaw's Corner, though well worth the detour, had encroached upon our time at the Wren Library at Trinity College in Cambridge. As we approached the architectural masterpiece on our walk through the trees and fields of the "backs," we saw its magnificent windows reflecting the noonday sun. We had a one o'clock appointment for lunch with the Master and some of the Fellows of Trinity College, so we moved rapidly to meet Mrs. Sproston, the Sub-Librarian.

She explained the brilliance of Sir Christopher Wren's design, which presents on the exterior perfect proportions of elegant, markedly elongated windows that make the expanse of solid walls beneath them less weighted. On the interior, the solid walls provide far greater space for the shelves and desks, and the windows above flood the room with light. In fact, to walk into the room, so full of books and light, is to experience astonishment. The computers that rested on the original Wren-designed desks reminded us that, in the midst of all this grandeur, we were once again in a working library.

As Mrs. Sproston summarized for us some of the treasures that could be viewed in the room, we each were trying to determine what, in the short time we had left, we simply must see. In the end, most of us could leave nothing out, so we simply moved very quickly around the cases of the room, seeing:

- John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments*, hand-colored in 1570
- Langland's *Piers Plowman*
- *Winnie the Pooh*
- Isaac Newton's letter with a diagram of his reconception of gravity.



Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge.

At our lunch (salmon again!) with the Fellows and Master of Trinity Professor Sen we were cordially received by many who had spent some time at Rice. They all appeared to have had a very good experience here, and remembered many Rice professors fondly. After lunch, one kind Fellow took me around the "working" library at Trinity, three floors of a wing that held tens of thousands of books for the use of the undergraduates at Trinity College.

Sunday morning we spent listening to the Kings College Chapel Choir, first in rehearsal and then in the morning service. Our guide, Jinny, only one degree removed from everyone in the British Isles, had been able to arrange for our hearing the rehearsal because the Chapel's Director of Music, Dr. Stephen Cleobury had, as a boy, been under her musical tutelage.

Sunday afternoon, again thanks to Jinny's connections, we had a private visit at Houghton Hall, built in the 1720's by Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister and one of Jinny's ancestors. The house is now owned by the 7th



Lew Eatherton, Dr. Glauert, and Marsha Eatherton at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Marquess of Cholmondeley who graciously allowed us to see Walpole's personal library in an area of the house not open to the public. This was the one library that we saw that is not a working library. The shelves, fitted specifically for his large and impressive leather-bound volumes, appeared to have been untouched for decades. Our guide's uneasiness as we perused the volumes made it clear that visitors to the library were rare.

For many of us the most remarkable day was Monday in Cambridge. In the morning we visited the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College (called we were told by cognoscenti simply "Corpus") and the Pepys Library at Magdalene College. We spent the afternoon at the Cambridge University Library.

At the Parker Library at Corpus we were met by Dr. F. Ratcliffe, who was for thirty years the Librarian of Cambridge University Library. He explained that the Parker Library contained the books and manuscripts of William Parker, the Archbishop of Canterbury under Elizabeth I. After taking the throne, and convincing Parker to become the Archbishop, Elizabeth instructed him to find the books and manuscripts that had been in the monasteries and abbeys prior to Henry VIII's destruction of all Catholic institutions.

Many of the possessions of the institutions had not been destroyed but had been appropriated by the nobility of the era. After finding the texts, Parker was to copy them and return them to their then owners. As Dr. Ratcliffe



Dr. F. Ratcliffe



Beverly and Walter Baker in Cambridge.

explained, it is not known if he copied them, but it is known that he did not return them. And here they were, housed magnificently in the neo-Gothic room designed by Wilkins in 1823.

Since returning I have questioned many I thought would know of almost any important library and none have heard of the Parker Library, a fact which makes the Parker collection all the more astonishing (It includes not only the priceless volumes, but also over 400 pieces of silver, four of which were recently appraised by Sotheby's at 4 million pounds). Housed in this single room in a small college were treasures any one of which would be the centerpiece of any other library's collection:

- the Canterbury Gospels, dating from the ninth century, and originally housed in the St. Augustine Abbey outside Canterbury
- two books printed by Caxton
- the earliest manuscripts of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, the vellum sheets having small holes made in Saxon times by ticks in the sheepskin.

Dr. Ratcliffe explained that these treasures can remain in the Parker Library at Corpus only on certain conditions: Parker's deed of gift required that the Masters of Gonville and Caius College and Trinity College conduct an annual check of the collection. If one item is missing, the entire collection must be turned over to Gonville and Caius within one month. If Caius "loses" one item, then the collection goes to Trinity, who could then forfeit the collection back to Corpus. After nearly five hundred years, the collection has never left the Parker!

At Pepys Library at Magdalene we were hosted by Dr. Lockett, who appeared, as another Magdalene Fellow said, "to know everything about every minute of every hour in Pepys' life." What an extraordinary man was Pepys, to which his library

as much as his diary can attest. **The library is exactly as he left it, with instructions not to have any books taken from it or added to it after his death.** He left the 3,000 volumes to his nephew, John Jackson, for the nephew's lifetime, and then to his old college of Magdalene. It is now housed in an altered but lovely seventeenth century building, and watched over carefully by Dr. Lockett.

The books are catalogued by their sizes and arranged in the truly beautiful glazed cases designed by Pepys in 1666. According to Dr. Lockett, Pepy's design became the model for bookcase design for the next two centuries. (We were to see cases from this library again, but not until our last evening and this time it would be in the home of Michael Gillingham.) Dr. Lockett removed from its shelf a volume of the famous Diary and turned the pages to allow Lew Eatherton to read a passage on the Great Fire. He explained that Pepys stopped keeping the Diary when he thought that he was going blind. In fact, he lived many years longer with adequate eyesight. The problem, said Dr. Lockett, was not that he had bad eyesight, but that he had "a very bad ophthamologist!"

Pepys had collected not only remarkable books, but also remarkable etchings, bound as well in large volumes. Dr. Lockett opened a volume to a magnificent Rembrandt etching, only one of many. As he turned the pages of these treasured volumes, we noticed that he, as others before him, did not use



Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

protective gloves. Susan Glickman and Beverly Baker wondered about this so Mary Bixby later queried him on this subject. He explained that the careful human touch, with its natural oils was actually nourishing to the pages and bindings of these volumes. His opinion was that the use of archival gloves “might be an American thing.”



Lady Jane “Jimmy” Howard

After champagne in the Master’s Lodge, “by kind invitation of the Master, Lord Gurdon” and Lady Gurdon, we were off to lunch at Cambridge University Library. Peter Fox, the librarian and Anthony Tootal, the Development Officer, came literally running to greet us. Actually, they were running to head off our coach from making a wrong turn – but we felt important for a moment. Truly, we were treated here as everywhere as very important persons – thanks to Chuck Henry’s presence as a tour member, and again, to our guide, Jinny.

After a lovely lunch (salmon, again) in Peter Fox’s office – yes, it was big enough - we were off to an unremarkable room where arrayed for us on a quadrangle of tables were truly remarkable manuscripts and texts:

- Charles Darwin’s letter from HMS Beagle
- Book of Hours of Alice de Reydon
- *Book of Cerne* of the ninth century
- *Recuyell of the Histories of Troy*, the first book printed in English
- Chaucer’s *Annelida and Arcyte* printed by Caxton in 1476

I’m afraid I was so overwhelmed by having such texts literally at my fingertips that I had to step back periodically and take a deep breath, as I noticed did others. I had not thought to turn the pages of the Gutenberg Bible until Chuck Henry reminded me that I would never again have such an opportunity.

After our “viewing” of these great treasures, we were treated to a tour of the full library, including the old leather-covered shelving and the new technologically innovative moveable shelving. Then it was off to London at the end of an amazing day. We had been only two and one half days in Cambridge, but we had so enjoyed not only its libraries, but also walking about it, listening to the laughter of students punting on the Cam River and

jostling each other in the narrow lanes as they celebrated the end of exams, and enjoying the gardens and lovely buildings of all ages. We were sorry to leave. Mary Bixby found a wonderful quotation from another Mary, Mary Lamb, who in 1815 described well the Cambridge we had seen almost two centuries after her:

In my life I never spent so many pleasant hours together as I did at Cambridge. We were walking the whole time – out of one College into another. If you ask me which I like best I must make a children’s traditional unoffending reply to all curious enquirers – ‘Both.’ I like them all best. The little gloomy ones, because they were little gloomy ones. I felt as if I could live and die in them and never wish to speak again. And the fine grand Trinity College, oh how fine it was! And King’s College Chapel, what a place! I heard the Cathedral service there, and having been no great churchgoer of late years, that and the painted windows and the general effect of the whole thing affected me wonderfully.

LONDON

The highlight of our time in London was the time spent at the British Library, old and new. The British Library is in the process of moving its collections from the British Museum to its outstanding new building, the career-long work of



Patricia Brice at the British Library with St. Pancras Station in the background.

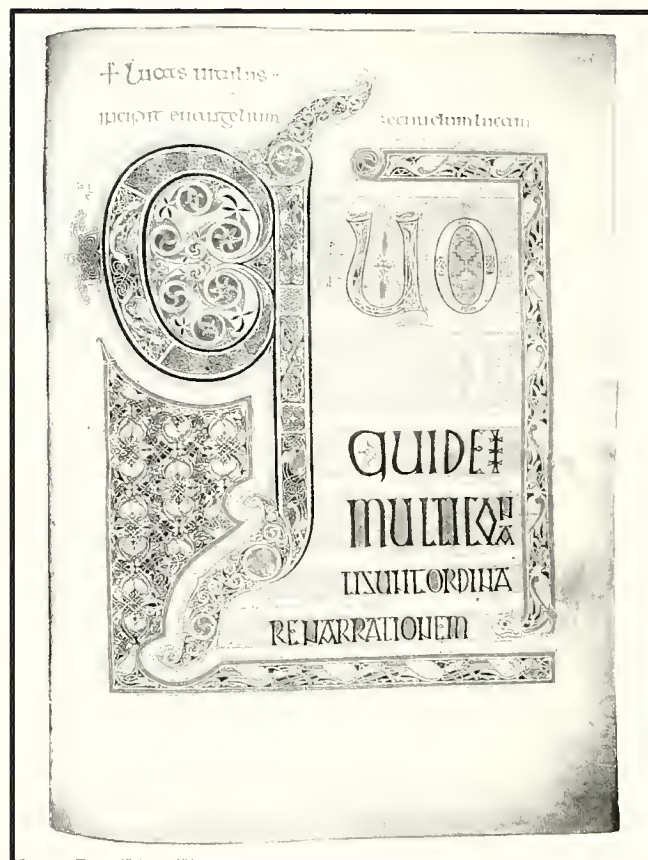
the architect, Sir Colin St. John Wilson. The new building is adjacent to St. Pancras train station, whose ornate Victorian towers can be seen rising behind it. Wilson, sensitive to establishing harmony between the two buildings, ordered the library's bricks kilned from the same quarry as the one used by the builders of St. Pancras.

Though it complements St. Pancras, the library is of the forceful modern design that Prince Charles has lately been inclined to criticize. Apparently the remarkable interiors and impressive facilities of the library have converted even Prince Charles. We were told by our guide that on a recent visit Prince Charles was very complimentary.

Certainly our group was much impressed, as we joined Dr. Brian Lang, the chief executive of the British Library, and many of his cohorts for tea in the Board Room, surrounded by portraits of executives of the East India Company. Our tea came before a tour of the new library, of which more later. First I should describe the previous morning spent at the old British Library site where we were allowed to see and hold and turn the pages of many of the marvels of their collection that have not yet been transferred to the new site.

At the old site in Bloomsbury, we had walked through vast rooms of empty bookcases which I found a bit haunting and disturbing until we saw the next day the commodious new "housing" for the books. We were ushered into what had formerly been the office of one of the most famous of the librarians, Antonio Panizzi, a political refugee from Italy. Fearing that an assassin's bullet might find him even in far away London, he had installed a steel door to his office (still there) and a secret passageway from it (now converted to a loo). For the next two hours we sat in cozy comfort in this historic office as three of the archivists introduced and then passed about some of their "favorites" from the British Library collection of manuscripts.

The first works were presented by Dr. Michelle Brown, a Curator of the Manuscript Collection, whose specialty is illuminated manuscripts. She explained that previously not all illuminated manuscripts had been catalogued as such, but catalogued in some other manner. The British Library was taking the occasion of its move to enumerate the illuminated manuscripts in its possession. Expecting to find something in the range of 2,000 - 3,000, they were currently at 20,000 and counting! Bear in mind, the new building now houses over 12,000,000 volumes and many more have not yet been transferred, but imagine having that number of illuminated manuscripts and not



The Lindisfarne Gospels, major initial page at the opening of the Gospel of St. Luke.

knowing it. It illustrates well the phenomenal depth and wealth of their collections.

Dr. Brown's enthusiasm for her subject was infectious. She explained that many of the illuminated manuscripts were ordered by the wealthy who could afford them so as to get "brownie points for the soul." There were also those who shared the motivation of Cassiodorus, sixth century monk, that "Every word written is a wound on Satan's body." The illuminations were actually "markers" in the text and helped the reader to find his way around the scriptures.

The British Library manuscript collection includes liturgical volumes, books of devotionals, classical and medical texts, bestiaries and herbals, romances and apocalypses. The apocalypses were "best sellers.....The only ones who didn't bother with it [the Apocalypse] were the Irish," according to Dr. Brown. The famous *Lindisfarne Gospels*, example of Hiberno-Saxon art (c. 698) were already safely encased in the new library (where we later viewed them), but there remained at the old site many priceless examples of the scribes' art.

Our tour group had contributed funds to the British Library for book preservation. We were delighted to be offered a choice between a 1506

Talbot volume, a collection of romances and poetry, and a Commentary on Canon Law from Bologna University.

Next Dr. Frances Harris, Curator of 17th and 18th Century Manuscripts, shared some of her treasures. She showed us, for example, letters from the first Lady Diana Spenser to her godmother, Sarah, the Duchess of Marlborough. Some of the letters were on stationery with dark edges, indicating that they were written within a year of a loved one's death, a fact helpful to archivists when studying an undated letter. The British Library collection includes 700 volumes of papers from the first Duke of Marlborough, complete with the famous Blenheim Dispatch of 13 October, 1704. These were joined by the Althorp papers over the centuries to 1910. Althorp is the seat of the Spenser family.

Dr. Harris told us of her excitement in finding among the Althorp papers a note of scribbled minutes of a meeting, which she quickly realized was an "eyewitness" account of a meeting of noblemen and the Lord Mayor of London who were trying to determine what to do with a recaptured King James II. William of Orange was on his way to claim the throne, and King James II had been allowed to escape to exile, but had been recaptured by a pesky group who were returning him to London. The nobles did not want another regicide on their hands, so discussed their options. The minutes end with "But would not do anything that would treat him as a king," and in the end he was allowed to escape again to France. Her discovery provides an example of the value these family documents can have for scholars. It also suggests we should all be cautious about what we discard from our family archives!

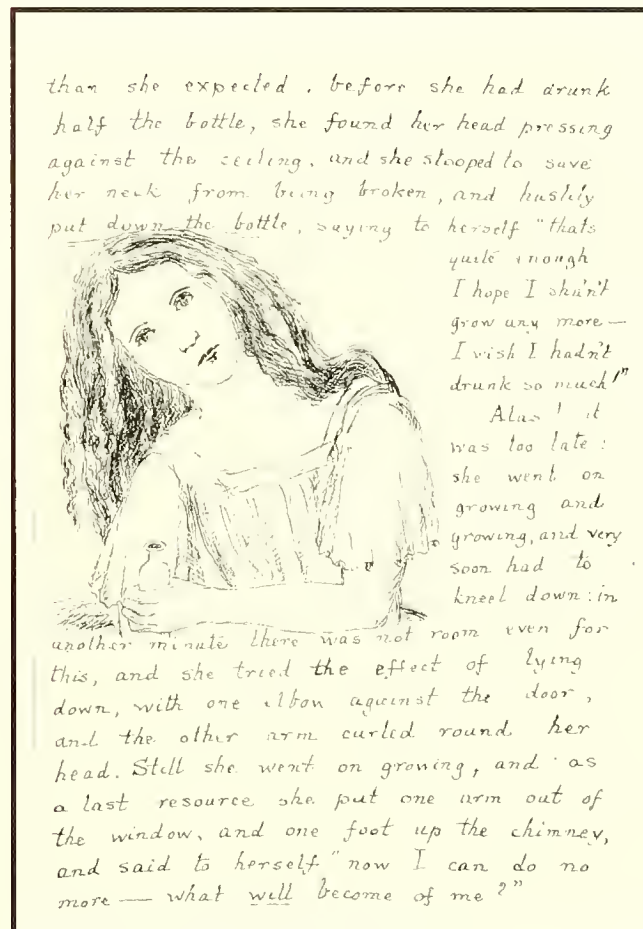
Finally, Mrs. Sally Brown, Curator of Modern Literary Manuscripts, showed us manuscripts from 19th and 20th century literary masterpieces. I had read about the "Juvenalia" of the Brontes, sisters Anne, Charlotte, and Emily, as well as brother Branwell, and been fascinated by the thought of children writing and "publishing" their own gothic tales of knighthood and gore. Now I was holding in my hand one of their tiny productions which Mrs. Brown compared to holding a butterfly. She shared other treasures with us including manuscripts of:

- *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon
- Chapter 10 of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*
- *Adam Bede* by George Eliot
- Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Delaware*
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

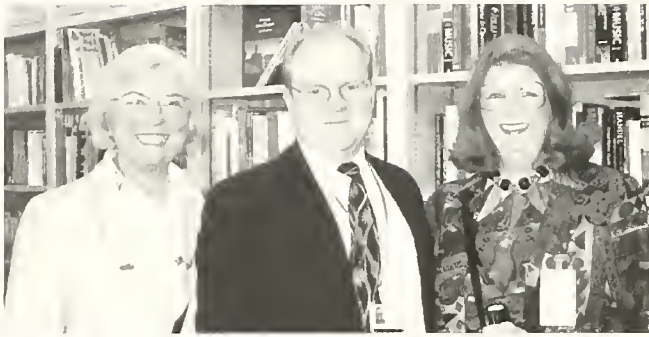
The next morning we spent at the new home for the British Library, the exterior of which I described earlier. On our tour of the interior we saw the various reading rooms for different academic disciplines, already much in use. Perhaps the most impressive feature of the library was its centerpiece, the 120,000 volumes of George III's splendid library. Here were the books that had once filled those vast rooms at the British Museum. When our guide, Mark Walton, explained that King George III had spent more on his library than was now provided for expenditures for all the public libraries of Britain combined, I commented that perhaps we owed his heavy taxation, and thus the birth of the United States, to the books magnificently displayed before us! On shelving of ingenious design, the books are available to scholars, but appear to be suspended in an enormous square glass column six stories high, dramatically lighted.

As you might expect, the Library is a museum as well as a research institution. In addition to the *Lindisfarne Gospels* (c. 698) the stunning exhibition space held:

- *Codex Sinaiticus* (mid-fourth century) – the Bible written in Greek



Alice drinks from an unlabeled bottle from *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*.



Patricia Brice, Mark Walton, and Marsha Eatherton

- *The Diamond Sutra* (868) – the world’s earliest dated printed book
- *Magna Carta* (1215)
- *Beowulf* (11th century)
- Leonardo da Vinci’s *Notebook* (1480-1518)
- *The Shakespeare First Folio* (1623)
- Georg Fridrich Handel’s *Messiah* (1741)
- Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures Under Ground* later published as *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1862-64)
- “I Want to Hold Your Hand” by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Also helpful for visitors were exhibitions, on occasion staffed by artisans, of the art of bookmaking. Dr. Lang, Roy Sully, and the others of the staff who visited with us were particularly proud of software they have developed which allows one to “turn” electronically the pages of the great manuscripts and books in their collections. We needed not more hours, but more days, to absorb fully all that we were seeing.

Sandwiched between the tours of the British Library, old and new, was a visit to the library of the University of London, housed in Bloomsbury as well, in a building known as the Senate House that dates from 1936 and is of rather monumental design, to put it politely. Inside it is a beehive of academic industry, with all desks occupied by scholars, only a few of whom were taking a snooze. It also, as might be expected, houses many fine collections, including Goldsmith’s Collection of Economic Literature and Edward Phelps Collection of Spanish Literature.

Mrs. Emma Robinson, the Librarian, and John Davidson, the Director of Administration of the Central University, explained to us the origins of the University of London, opened in 1826 for those who were excluded as “dissenters” from the older universities. Those “dissenters” would have included all non-Anglicans; that is, Catholics, Jews, Baptists, Quakers, and so on. This group became known as “University College” after another college for Anglicans, known as “King’s College” was

founded in 1828. In 1836 it was refounded with both colleges and other institutions incorporated and now includes the Medical Schools of the principal London hospitals, as well as the Courtauld Institute of Art, and 11 colleges. In keeping with its more progressive position, it allowed women to sit for degrees beginning in 1878, before either Oxford or Cambridge.

Cambridge. That brings me back to the dinner of the last night. Our host, Mr. Gillingham is a Cambridge man. He was kindly indulgent as a few among us gave toasts to commemorate our journey. John Brice graciously thanked Lady Jane Howard, our inveterate tour guide whose careful shepherding of her charges had earned her the title of “Nanny.” Julius Glickman wittily “took the mickey” out of the entire group, with Sally and me receiving the most chiding. It seems we had become less a Greek chorus, more a couple of chorines, repeating vacuously, “Isn’t it wonderful?” Sally effectively challenged his reductionism in reciting “Ode to a Journey,” apt verses she had prepared as a tribute to “Nanny,” from which I quote a few:

*It would seem it was books we were after,
Or was it really the pub of the day?
One would think the “Eagle” worth seeing—
But it was books, lots of pages at bay.*

*Can you imagine one day and another
Filled with all sorts of manuscripts rare?
Can you imagine the beginning of god verse
At your hand, just to touch, just to stare?*

*Here we are with a nanny quite knowing,
Telling what, when, and how to be where,
Placing all kinds of delectables before us,
Making sure we are timed to be there.*

*So we, of the former far colonies,
Lift our glasses to the Queen and one more
To our Nanny with thanks for her efforts,
We can’t wait for what’s next in store!*



Norman Reynolds, Mary Bixby, Sally Reynolds, Lew and Marsha Eatherton, Patricia and John Brice, and Chuck Henry at the Eagle and Child Pub, Oxford.



Michael Gillingham and Albert and Elizabeth Kidd



Norman and Sally Reynolds and David Minter

I commented to our host that for me the collection of the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College (I forgot I was to refer to it as simply “Corpus”) was the most surprising and extraordinary. “Ah,” said he, pleased I think, “Corpus was my college.” It was one more example of how few degrees of separation exist for those living on this island. Of course, that we as Americans share with them a common language

brings us closer to them as well. It was to that language, to English, and to England from whence it came, that David Minter referred in his toast of gratitude (see below) for the evening .

So to Nanny, to England and English, to scribes and printers, to writers and their books, to libraries and librarians and their benefactors, then and now, thank you. It was an extraordinary journey; in fact, it was wonderful. ≡

For our journey, when we pause to think about it, has been not only through some of England but also back into England’s past. I want to propose this toast to England—the wonderful land that has enriched our world in countless ways, not least by creating the language that we call our own. In day-by-day life, we take that language for granted, forgetting the constitutive roles that it plays in enabling us to comprehend and record what we think and feel, need and desire, hope and fear, believe and doubt. But in these past few days we have been given a chance to see things that challenge such complacency. For we have seen with our own eyes and even held in our hands rare documents and books that record and exemplify the centuries-long process through which our shared language came into being. And we have been reminded that books not only constitute a truly remarkable information system, one that transformed the world, but also, at times, became beautiful human artifacts. These are, indeed, gifts so rare as to fill the heart with gratitude for the land, now called England, that gave them to us.

*Time that is intolerant
Of the brave and innocent,
And indifferent in a week
To a beautiful physique.*

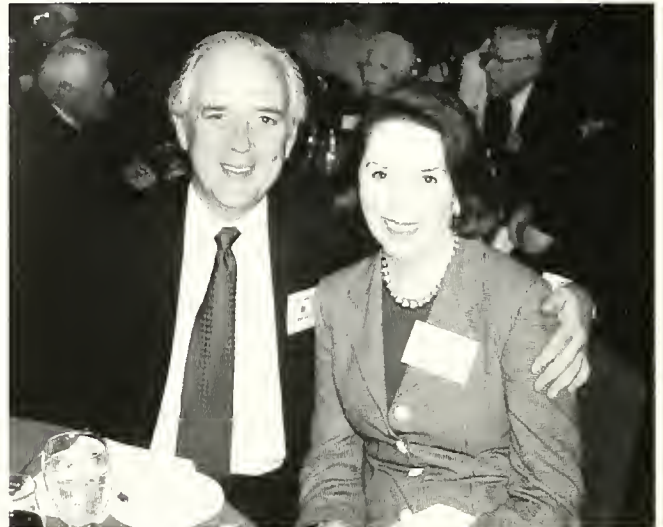
*Worships language and forgives
Everyone by whom it lives;
Pardons cowardice, conceit,
Lays its glories at their feet—*

W.H. Auden wrote in a poem called “In Memory of W.B. Yeats,” as though to remind us of how fundamental language is to us all, and also of how enduring written words can be. To have had occasion in these past several days to think with deepened intensity, first, about the creation of the language that we share with England and too often take for granted, and second, about books and the incomparably large role that they have played both in shaping and enriching our world and in deepening our understanding of it, is to be blest in ways that are at once humbling and uplifting. So, it is to England that I propose this toast.

— David Minter

Historian John Boles Informs and Entertains at Annual Meeting

Dr. John Boles, the William P. Hobby Professor of History, delighted the guests at the 1998 annual meeting of the Friends of Fondren Library with his talk, "Fondren Library: Its Past and Future." Dr. Boles, the managing editor of the *Journal of Southern History*, received his undergraduate training at Rice and his graduate training at the University of Virginia (Ph.D., 1969). He is the sole author of seven books and the editor or coeditor of five other books. He has held fellowships sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1991 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the Association of Rice Alumni, and in 1994 he received the Graduate Student Association Teaching Award.



Albert and Elizabeth Kidd



Lee Seureau, Ann Brice, Peggy Barnett, Karen Rogers, and Susan Merriman



Beverly and Ellis Rudy



Henry Hernandez and Caroline Minter

Dr. Boles described to his enthusiastic audience the first library system at Rice, followed by the dedication of the Fondren Library, and then discussed what the future might bring for library improvements and renovation that have been given the full support of the Rice president, as well as the board of directors. He thanked Diana and Bill Hobby for their generosity in designating \$21.4 million for the library.

The dinner meeting was held on Tuesday, May 26, 1998, at Cohen House. The chairman for this year's event, which set a record for attendance, was board member, Pamela S. Giraud. The Friends president, Elizabeth W. Kidd, reported on the

successes of the past year, thanked the board members who led the activities and events, and announced new board members and officers for the upcoming year:

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE

Kathryn V. Smyser

HOMECOMING BRUNCH

Sally K. Reynolds

RICE AUTHORS RECEPTION

Texas Anderson

SCHUBERTIAD

Elizabeth W. Kidd

ANNUAL MEETING

Mrs. Pamela S. Giraud

FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT

Lew Eatherton

Lucas T. Elliot

Shirley L. Hamner

Elizabeth W. Kidd

Sally K. Reynolds

Lee Chatham Seureau

Phoebe Tudor

Charles B. Wheeler

Wellington Yu

THE FLYLEAF

Texas Anderson

Walter S. Baker, Jr.



Bob Patten and Bill Hobby



Bill Byrd and David Smith



Charis Smith, Jane Dawson, and Mary Jane Byrd

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Texas Anderson

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Lee Chatham Seureau

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Henry Hernandez

Frances Heyne

Robert Patten

Norma Scott



*Back: Malcolm Waddell and Ann and David Romm
Front: Susan Waddell and Pamela and Charles Giraud*

An Archer City Adventure

Early in the morning on May 29 a small group of enthusiastic bibliophiles gathered in the Rice stadium parking lot to board a bus bound for the Hay-on-Wye of Texas – Archer City. Used as the backdrop for *The Last Picture Show*, Archer City is now home to (an amazing) four bookstores collectively named *Booked Up* and owned by noted author, Larry McMurtry.

Upon arrival the group immediately armed itself with printed lists of the holdings in each of the four buildings and dispersed. The toughest decision was where to go first: Texana or poetry, fiction or Shakespeare, books about books or anthropology, cookbooks or philosophy books or rare books or art books – over 300,000 in all.

After a long afternoon of book browsing, buying, and conversing the group gathered around the fireplace at the newly restored Spur Hotel. Locally-owned, the hotel lived up to its slogan, “Down the Road from Ordinary.” The new chef, with obligatory toque and earring, presented a delicious meal to the hungry travelers. The town is proud of their new chef—a reflection of the aspirations of this remote spot. Evening entertainment was a walk to the town square where the county had erected an impressive and very moving memorial to those killed in battle.

The next day Mr. McMurtry graciously opened the store early so that the group could enjoy an entire morning of browsing. Suddenly departure time came and books were paid for, boxed, and loaded onto the bus. After lunch in a local cafe and a short detour in town to see Mr. McMurtry’s restored home, the group settled in for the drive back to Houston. Newly purchased books were passed around and duly appreciated, while all agreed that a return trip was a must. ☘



David Minter, Larry McMurtry, and Texas Anderson



*Back: Karen Rogers, Kerry Keck, Helen Otte, Elizabeth Kidd, Melinda Flannery
Middle: Bob Patten, Caroline Minter, Mary Margaret Hanson, Robert White
Front: Norma Scott, David Minter, Lee Seureau, Texas Anderson, Mary Bixby, and Dorothy Knox Houghton*

Book Sale Promises Bargains

Lee Seureau and Charles Wheeler, co-chairs, have announced The Friends of Fondren Library Book Sale will be held October 30–November 1, 1998, in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center. The scheduled hours are listed below.

Friday, October 30
6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Members' Preview Book Sale and Reception
(Open to members of Friends of Fondren Library only)

Saturday, October 31
9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Book Sale

Sunday, November 1
1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Book Sale

We need you!

- to volunteer your time setting up for the sale on Friday and/or working a shift during the sale
- to donate your unwanted books—hard cover, paperbacks, fiction, non-fiction, first editions or last! Make room on your book shelves and make a tax-deductible contribution at the same time.



You can drop off your books at two locations:

FOFL Sale features books for all ages.

Star Motor Cars, located at 7000 Old Katy Rd.

- Monday-Saturday between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.
- Call 713-868-6800 if you need directions.
- Please pack books in boxes rather than paper bags. If bags must be used, please double bag.

Fondren Library

- Books may be dropped off Monday-Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.
- Drive to the loading dock on the south side of the building. Speak into the intercom to the left of the doorway and ask for assistance at the loading dock. (It is not necessary to push any of the buttons on the intercom.) If there is no answer, go to the phone inside the loading dock area and dial 3737. Personnel at the library security desk will answer, and you should then ask for assistance at the loading dock.
- Please pack books in boxes.

If you have more than three boxes, please take your books to Star Motor Cars. The library is running out of storage space!

For more information please contact the Friends of Fondren office at 713-285-5157 or fofl@rice.edu. ☺

Susan Sontag

1998 Distinguished Guest Lecturer

The Friends of Fondren Library is delighted to announce that award winning author Susan Sontag will be the 1998 Distinguished Guest Lecturer at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 18, 1998, at Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall. Ms. Sontag's topic will be "The Art of Fiction – A Reading."

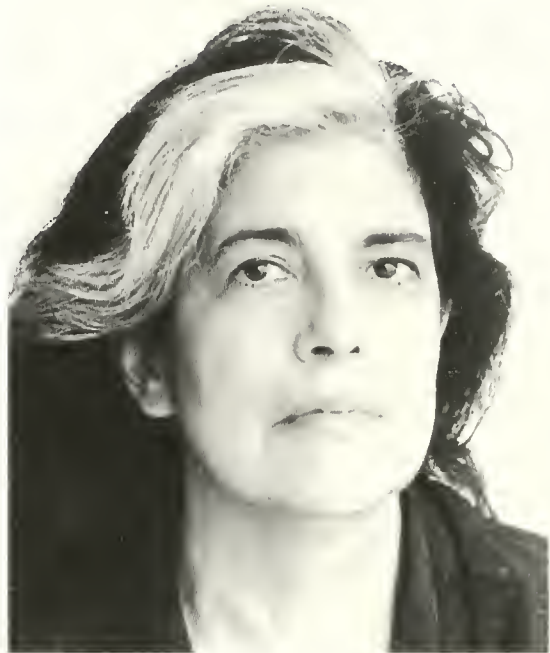
Susan Sontag is one of America's best known and most admired writers. Her work includes two novels (*The Benefactor* and *Death Kit*), a collection of stories (*I, etcetera*), six collections of essays: *Against Interpretation*, *Styles of Radical Will*, *On Photography*, *Illness as Metaphor*, *Under the Sign of Saturn*, and *AIDS and Its Metaphors*.

In addition, Ms. Sontag has written and directed four feature-length films, two of which – *Brother Carl* and *Duet for Cannibals* – Farrar, Straus and Giroux published as screenplays. She has directed in the theater here and abroad, including the first American production of Milan Kundera's *Jacques and His Master* at the American Repertory Theater in 1985.

Ms. Sontag was an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Chicago, where she received her B.A., and she did graduate work at Harvard University and Oxford University. She has taught philosophy, the history of religion, and literature at Harvard, the City College of New York, Columbia University, The New School for Social Research, and Brown University, among others. Her numerous awards and honors include two fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, two fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, and an Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. She received the National Book Critics Circle Award for *On Photography*. In 1990 she received the Elmer Holmes Bobst Award to honor a lifetime of achievement in arts and letters.

Ms. Sontag was elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1979, and was named *Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French government. From 1987 to 1989 she was the President of the American Center of PEN, the international writers' organization. In 1990, Ms. Sontag was awarded a five-year fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation.

Ms. Sontag's latest novel, *The Volcano Lover*, was released in August, 1992. She is currently at work on a new novel entitled *In America*, a collection of short stories and a long essay on Japan which will be published in book form.



Comments on Susan Sontag and Her Work

"This is one of the worst-informed eras in history, just like the beginning of the 15th century. Countries are ignorant about each other. And, like Erasmus, exactly when it is needed, Susan Sontag is a communicator in this broken-down world. Erasmus traveled with 32 volumes, which contained all the knowledge worth knowing. Susan Sontag carries it in her brain! I know of no other intellectual who is so clear-minded with a capacity to link, to connect, to relate. She is unique."

– Carlos Fuentes

The Volcano Lover

"In fact, one thing that makes *The Volcano Lover* such a delight to read is the way it throws off ideas and intellectual sparks, like a Roman candle or Catherine wheel blazing the night." – *The New York Times*

"*The Volcano Lover* is a great novel. It repeatedly scales heights of complex thought, passion and expression that few American writers ever approach, while reimagining a majestic love story in dazzling style." – *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"*The Volcano Lover* is a slippery, intelligent, provocative and gripping book." – A. S. Byatt, *The Washington Post Book World* ≡

Donor Recognition Now Online

Gift information, for contributions of \$50 and above, will be included with the book record in the Fondren Library online catalog starting July 1, 1998.* To view a book record you may search either version of the online catalog, LIBRIS or WebCat, by using the Words or Phrase field. Please enter the word **presented** followed by a **name**. Using the portion of the name that is closest to being unique will present more accurate search results which should appear as:

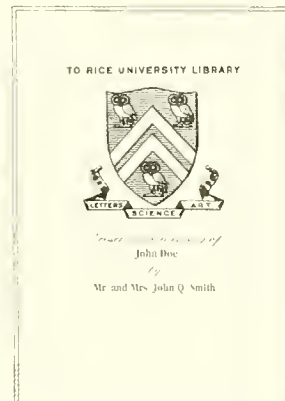
Gift: Presented by *Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith* in memory of *John Doe*.

Your gift in honor of the birthday or anniversary of family or friends, in celebration of a special event, or in memory of a loved one, will be used to enhance the collection of Fondren Library. For each \$50 gift a commemorative bookplate will be placed in a selected volume, and the contribution will be included in the online book record. For gifts under \$50 your contribution will add to the general Gifts and Memorials Fund for purchasing library materials. All gifts will be acknowledged and recorded in *The Flyleaf*.

The Friends of Fondren Library, through sponsorship of the Gifts and Memorials program, provides funds for the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other library materials. Generous support from individuals, families, organizations, and businesses enables us to help provide excellent resources for Rice University students, faculty, and other library patrons.

The Friends thank librarians Elizabeth Baber, Melinda Flannery, Kerry Keck and the staff of the Technical Services Department for their dedication and effort to increase donor recognition at Fondren Library. Thank you also to all of you who contribute so generously to the Gifts and Memorials Program. ≡

* There may be a delay before your gift is displayed in the online catalog due to the time required for selection and processing.



Great Books Discussion Group is Alive and Well

Contrary to recent rumors, the Friends of Fondren Library Great Books Group is thriving, but new members, observers, and visitors are always welcome. There are no dues, and there is no admission charge. The only requirement is that you must have read the work in order to participate in the discussion.

This devoted group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month (unless that day is part of a religious or government holiday weekend, when the meetings are on the third Sunday) between 3 and 5 P.M., in the Miner Lounge of the Ley Student Center. The August, 1998, meeting will be held in Sewell Hall, Room A352.

The group is currently reading in the third year of the Great Books program. The schedule and readings for the coming months follows:

August 23:	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
September 27:	James, <i>The Beast in the Jungle</i>
October 25:	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
November 22:	Tolstoy, <i>The Death of Ivan Ilych</i>

For additional information or update, contact Nancy Glass by e-mail at nglass@bcm.tmc.edu or call the Friends office at 713-285-5157.

An offshoot of the group meets every two weeks to study works of political philosophy. For information on this group and its upcoming meetings, please send an e-mail inquiry to: kent.guida@worldnet.att.net. ≡



Bookmark

Bookmark is the book club of the Friends of Fondren Library, featuring book reviews both in print and online at our web site. You can participate by adding your own reviews and comments. Log on to: www.rice.edu/Fondren which is the library's home page. Click on Friends of Fondren, and at the Friends' home page, click on Bookmark.

Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place

Review by Texas Anderson

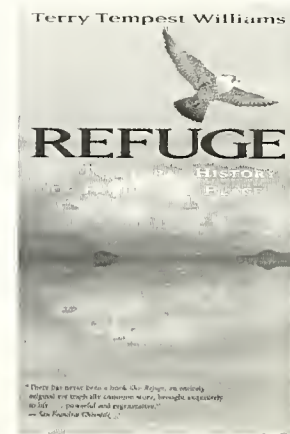
Utah naturalist and journalist, Terry Tempest Williams, has recorded a moving account of two pivotal events in her life—the story of the relentless cancer that consumes her mother and the story of the Great Salt Lake slowly consuming her beloved bird refuge. Each avian-entitled chapter notes the level of the rising lake and its effect on the wildfowl, as Williams shares her intimate story of living and dying in this desert environment. Williams discovers in her mother's dying a deeper encounter with life and "every pilgrimage to the desert...a pilgrimage to the self." In each instance life is illuminated against a stark background.

As a budding naturalist of ten just returned from an Audubon Society tour of the refuge with her grandmother and now seated at the family dinner table, she stretches her arms "like wings" and exclaims enthusiastically they have seen "Birds...[h]undreds of birds...." This adventure foretells a life lived in sweet and often bittersweet relations with the winged inhabitants of the Bear River delta marshes. Years later, encountering a drowned whistling swan on the beach of Stansbury Island in the Great Salt Lake, the author reveals a still childlike romanticism—

I knelt...and began smoothing feathers. Untangling the long neck...washed the swan's black bill and feet until they shone like patent leather. I have no idea of the amount of time that passes...I remember...lying next to its body and imagining the great white bird in flight...the deep breaths as it lifted from the arctic tundra...the shimmering Great Salt Lake calling...down like a mother... I left the swan...a crucifix on the sand.

Unnoted is the irony—mother has become killer.

In the epilogue the author provides an equally dramatic accusatory of the federal government as primary cause of the cancers infecting the women of her family. Williams said, "I crossed the line at the Nevada Test Site and was arrested with nine other Utahns for trespassing on military lands. They are still conducting nuclear tests in the desert. Ours was an act of civil disobedience...It was a gesture on behalf of the clan of the One-Breasted-Women." She goes on, "...one officer found a pen and ...paper tucked inside my left boot. 'And these?' the officer asked sternly. 'Weapons,' I replied." And so they are. ≡





February 1, 1998–May 31, 1998

We welcome the following new members.

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In addition, the following have upgraded their membership in the Friends.

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The Friends of Fondren Library is most grateful to these new Friends for their interest and to the Friends of longer standing for their support and for renewing their commitments.



February 1, 1998–May 31, 1998

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on her election as President of
Will Rice College,
Dr. and Mrs. V. Philip Glassman

J. David Hellums
on his retirement,
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Smith

Mary McIntire and Jim Pomerantz
on their marriage,
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Smith

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J. Robert Strawn, M.D.
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In Memoriam: Allie May Autry "Sally" Kelley

Allie May Autry "Sally" Kelley, former president of the Friends of Fondren Library, died on June 21, 1998. Mrs. Kelly was born in Corsicana on July 5, 1903, to James L. Autry and Allie Belle Kinsloe Autry. The family moved to Houston in 1906 where her father, along with J. S. Cullinan and William S. Hogg, formed the Fidelity Bank and Trust Company.

Mrs. Kelley was the first woman in her family to attend college, and she graduated from Rice Institute in 1925. She married Lt. Edward Watson Kelley of Newport, Rhode Island, on December 3, 1930, in the parlor of her parents' home on Courtland Place. After living briefly in Oregon, the family returned to Houston where Mrs. Kelley designed and built their new home in Shadyside.

After Mr. Kelley's death in 1946, Mrs. Kelley devoted herself to her children, the family business, the city of Houston, and Rice University. She built several landmarks at Rice, including the Autry House to honor her father, Autry Court in memory of her mother's love of Rice students and sports, and the Allie Kelley Dittmar Lounge in Rice Memorial Center in remembrance of her daughter.

Mrs. Kelley was a guiding force behind the Friends of Fondren Library, joining the board of directors in 1956. She served as president longer than any officer in the organization's history, holding the office from 1959-1966. In 1992 the Friends honored Mrs. Kelley at their annual Fondren Saturday Night. That evening she represented the Autry and Kelley families, whose members have generously donated time, materials and funds to the library and to other Rice University efforts over a period of many years. ≡





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Membership in the Friends of Fondren Library is open to everyone. It is not an alumni organization. Membership contributions are as follows:

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Library Fellow	\$1,000

Members of the Friends receive *The Flyleaf* and invitations to special programs and events sponsored by the Friends. Members who are not already faculty or staff of the university receive library privileges. A maximum of four books may be checked out for a period of 28 days, and a photo ID is required. Members must be at least 18. Checks for membership contributions should be made out to the Friends of Fondren Library and mailed to Rice University, Friends of Fondren Library MS 245, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas, 77251-1892, along with your preferred name and address listing and home and business phone numbers. Under Internal Revenue Service Guidelines the estimated value of the benefits received is not substantial; therefore the full amount of your gift is a deductible contribution.

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Upcoming Events

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



Distinguished Guest Lecture

Program by Susan Sontag, Fiction Writer, Essayist,
and Cultural Critic.

“The Art of Fiction: A Reading”

Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall, 5 P.M.

- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Friends of Fondren Book Sale

Members' Preview—Friday, 6 P.M.

Book Sale—Saturday, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., and Sunday, 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Homecoming Brunch honoring Elaine Illig Davis and REA's Outstanding Engineers

Fondren Library, Kyle Morrow Room, 9:30 A.M.



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