

# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library

Vol. 49, No. 2

Spring 1999

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The Friends of Fondren Library  
Honor Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby

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# A Letter to the Friends

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

The Friends of Fondren continues an active year, celebrating on February 20 the many contributions of Bill and Diana Hobby to the Fondren Library at the annual gala. The sparkling dinner/auction at the newly-restored Crystal Ballroom at The Rice reflected the many hours of planning and the diligent work of Susanne Glasscock and her committee. A plethora of wonderful items collected by Sally Reynolds, Wellington Yu, and Jan Domenico were auctioned by our president, Malcolm Gillis, revealing more of his Renaissance character. An experience not to be forgotten! The entire Friends board of directors was involved in creating this, our most successful gala to date. Over 390 guests attended, and we set a record in money raised for our new endowment fund.

Before we had a chance to take a deep breath, we enjoyed a Sunday afternoon with Rice authors at a well-attended panel discussion and reception on March 21. This event in the Kyle Morrow Room honored the 42 Rice-affiliated authors who published in 1998.

Our annual meeting was held on May 25 and included a reception, dinner, and program. It was again held at Cohen House since this has been such a popular venue. Pamela Giraud, event chair, planned a wonderful menu and asked Vice Provost and University Librarian Chuck Henry to give us an overview of the plans for the library expansion and renovation. There will be more about this event in the next issue of *The Flyleaf*.

We need your support, ideas and energy to continue our success in supporting the library. We look forward to your participation in our upcoming activities.

Sincerely,



Texas Anderson  
President

## 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

Founded October, 1950. *The Flyleaf* is published by the Friends of Fondren Library, MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. *The Flyleaf* is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. *The Flyleaf* is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at <http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/>.



# The Flyleaf

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Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby

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## Contents

The 1999 Gala .....	Page 4
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby .....	Page 8
1999 Rice Authors Reception .....	Page 12
Book Sale .....	Page 15
Tour 2000 .....	Page 16
Bookmark .....	Page 18
Friends of Fondren Library .....	Page 20
Gifts to Fondren Library .....	Page 21

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# Nineteenth Annual Fondren Saturday Night

## *The Friends of Fondren Honor Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby*

On Saturday, February 20, 1999, the Friends of Fondren Library honored Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby at the annual Fondren Saturday Night gala. For the first time in nineteen years this popular event was held in an off-campus location—The Crystal Ballroom at The Rice which accommodated over 390 guests. This change in venue was not the only first of the evening.

Susanne Glasscock, chair of the gala, was assisted by gala committee members Texas Anderson, Jan Domenico, Kyle Allen Frazier, Elizabeth Kidd, Sally Reynolds, Norma Scott, Lee Seureau, Kathryn Smyser, Phoebe Tudor, and Wellington Yu. The committee, along with members of the Friends' board of directors, gathered interesting and priceless auction items, addressed and stuffed envelopes, and spent the day of the event creating an elegant setting for the dinner and auction. Their diligence was rewarded with proceeds

totaling more than \$119,000 for the Special Collections Endowment Fund.

Another first for the Friends was everyone's favorite auction item—a live miniature horse donated by Linda and D. Kent Anderson. The perfectly-groomed and perfectly-behaved horse was watched over by Ranch Manager Tuffy Acton who extolled the virtues of the breed.

The third and final first of the evening was the appearance of a new auctioneer, President

Malcolm Gillis. The laughter which emanated from the ballroom, as well as the dollars raised in the live auction, proved that Dr. Gillis was a great success!

The highlight and focus of the evening was the introduction of Diana and Bill Hobby by Vice Provost and University Librarian Charles Henry. He eloquently described the Hobbys and their involvement with Fondren Library. His remarks are reprinted on page 6.



*William P. and Diana Hobby*



*Edith Personette, Mary Lou Margrave, Alan Personette, and Malcolm Gillis*



*Albert and Elizabeth Kidd, Robert Froman, Caroline and David Minter*



*Diana and Bill Hobby and Phoebe Tudor*



*Barbara Dillingham, Barry Moore, and Texas Anderson*



*Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Payne*



*Charles Maynard and Larry and Karen George*



*Gilbert and Ruth Whitaker*



*Rainey Knudsen and Tuffy Acton*



*Carol Camacho and Pam Smith*



*Susie Glasscock, Jo Claire Gissel, and Anne Ribble*

*Ed and Françoise Djerejian and Bill Hobby*

## *Remarks from Vice Provost and University Librarian Charles Henry:*

It is both a singular honor and something of a formality to introduce tonight our Gala honorees, Bill and Diana Hobby. A singular honor, certainly, because it is so rare in life that one gets to meet and begin to know two such remarkable and compassionate people; a formality because any introduction can at best skim or circle, but never capture their character and achievements.

Part of the complexity of Diana and Bill Hobby is the way their lives are so interwoven with the lives of many of you here tonight and with the great state of Texas, Houston, Rice University and Fondren Library. Think of Texas: because of their guidance and influence, today our children are better educated and cared for; the life of the mind is rightfully cherished, and we have learned what honesty in government can accomplish. Think of Houston: because of the unflagging commitment of Diana and Bill Hobby this city has a deep and abiding culture; its forms of creative expression are lively and varied, its harmonies strong.

And Fondren Library: we are here tonight especially to honor the Hobbys as great friends. Their interest in and engagement with Fondren has helped to awaken an institution on the eve of a new century. The momentum has begun, and will not pause—the world is too interesting for that—and I can promise you tonight that in the years ahead Fondren will be an astonishing place, where the traditional and the new are finally married with unprecedented elegance and rigor.

For all of their individual and often intriguing differences, Bill and Diana share some profound qualities: they are uncompromising in their pursuit of excellence; they speak with candor and humor in a way only those who have deeply observed the human condition can; and they quietly insist, in everything they undertake, whether in the arts or politics, in public life or among friends, that we as a society are as accountable to the future as we are responsible for the past.

To put this most succinctly, because of Bill and Diana Hobby, we stand a much better chance, as the poet William Blake once envisioned, to thresh our soul from its husk.



*Chuck Henry*



*Peggy Barnett, Bill Hobby, Bill Barnett, and Elizabeth Gillis*



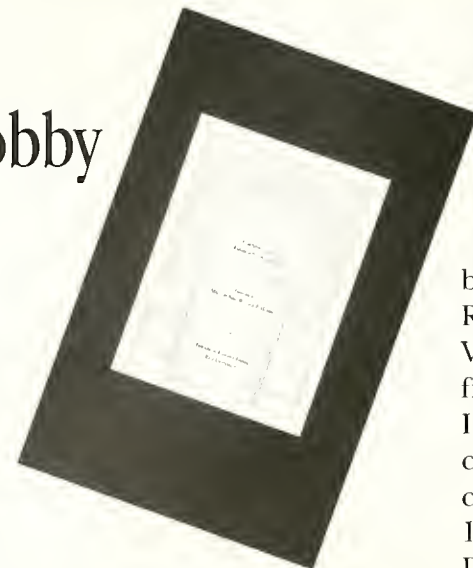
# Bill and Diana Hobby

*The program contained a fact-filled and entertaining biography of the honorees. The text was crafted by professor Robert Patton and the Rice Publications Office and is reprinted here:*

The lives of Bill and Diana Hobby have been marked by continual interest in writing and philanthropy. William Pettus Hobby, a native Texan, was born in Hermann Hospital. His father, William P. Hobby Sr., served as governor of Texas (1917-1921) and was president and later owner of the *Houston Post*, where in 1895 he had first worked as a clerk. Bill's mother, Oveta Culp Hobby, organized the Women's Army Corps, served as the first Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare during the Eisenhower administration, and later was chairman of the board at the *Post* and a Rice trustee.



**“He will make a good lieutenant governor, honestly.”**



Bill's lifelong association with Rice began in 1949, when he entered the university as a math major. After a year, Professor Hubert E. Bray suggested that he consider picking another field of study; he did, choosing history. He enrolled in Professor William Masterson's History 110, American History, but contracted hepatitis. During Bill's six-week convalescence, Dr. Masterson stopped by the house two or three times a week to deliver the lectures he had missed. Consequently Masterson became Hobby's mentor and advisor.

After Bill recovered from his illness, he participated in intramural sports and was elected to the Honor Council. He also edited the *Thresher* for three years, during a time when, as he says, “not much went on.” He graduated in 1953.

While assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., Bill met Diana Potcat Stallings, a North Carolinian who had earned her

bachelor's degree from Radcliffe and was teaching at a Virginia girls' school. “I knew from the moment I met her that I wanted to marry her,” Bill declares. He proposed; she accepted; they were married in 1954. Diana received a Master's Degree in English at Georgetown and was awarded a fellowship for doctoral work at Rice in 1957.

The Hobbys moved to Texas when Bill joined the family business as managing editor of the *Houston Post*. Diana worked as book editor of the *Post*, while Bill administered the newspaper's operations, becoming president and executive editor in 1965. They contributed time, talent, and energy to innumerable charities, and along the way, making it look easy, they raised four children, Laura, Paul, Andrew, and Kate.

In 1972 Bill campaigned for his first public office with the slogan, “He will make a good lieutenant governor, honestly.” Elected on his first try, he was re-elected four times, serving in all for 18 years, the longest tenure of any Texas lieutenant governor. In those days his office was the most powerful in the State; he presided over the Senate and set the budgets during an era of large surpluses. A moderate progressive, he was particularly notable for his support of education. Meanwhile,



Diana chaired Texas Child Care '76 and worked tirelessly on child-care issues. While completing her dissertation on William Butler Yeats, she accepted a position as Associate Editor of Rice's scholarly journal *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*, an office she held until her retirement in 1991.

In that year, Bill also left office. The *Post* had been sold in 1983, but the Hobbys, through H&C Communications, Inc., expanded into radio and television. Bill chaired the corporation until 1995, when its assets were sold. A good thing, since in that year Bill was asked to take on the position of chancellor of the University of Houston at \$1.00 per year (\$0.93 after withholding). At the same time, he continued to teach, holding the Sid Richardson Chair in Public Affairs in the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin and the Radoslav Tsanoff Chair of Public Affairs at Rice. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1985 and now is a trustee advisor on the Rice Board of Trustees.

Diana has devoted a great deal of time in recent years to Fondren Library. She was a member of the Library Planning Committee, whose goals and general mandate, published in 1997, provided the vision for the library at Rice. Diana has been a member of the board of directors of



## Diana has been a member of the board of directors of Friends of Fondren Library since 1993

Friends of Fondren Library since 1993 and she and Bill have contributed significantly to the success of the Distinguished Guest Lecture Series sponsored by the Friends.

Through the Hobby Family Foundation, Bill, Diana, and their children have supported research in the humanities, the editing of *The Jefferson Davis Papers*, the Model Science Laboratory, and efforts to improve literacy and academic achievement in poor areas of Houston; they also supplied the lead gift for the new Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. The William Pettus Hobby Chair in American History honors Bill's father, and the Diana Hobby Fellowships fund graduate internships in editing at *SEL*. Most recently and significantly, in December 1997, the Hobby Foundation designated \$21.4 million to define and create the library of the next century at Rice. The gift, and Rice's acceptance of it, signal the centrality of the library to the university's future.

Even beyond all these exceptional instances of productive service and civic mindedness, however, the Hobbys are loved for their warmth, enthusiasms, boundless energy, positive outlook, and generous affection. Their idea of a good time is riding after a fox across the muddy fields of Ireland in November, or hosting a fund-raising dinner for 125. Bill has set up in Paul's old attic bedroom a veritable electronic command post, through which he imports information, maps, charts and graphs, statistics, and terrible jokes from all over the world, and out of which he issues sensible, short editorials on major issues. Diana seems to spend her days and nights in the car, transporting (in all senses) her grandchildren and escaping to the countryside.



Dinners with the Hobbys, like tonight's, are inevitably models of what enlightened conversation, spiced with good stories and benign gossip, ought to be.

*Friends of Fondren would like to thank the following underwriters for making the gala a success:*



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Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Yu



# 1999 Rice Authors Reception

by Texas Anderson, President, Friends of Fondren Library

The Friends hosted the annual Authors' Reception in the Kyle Morrow Room of the Fondren Library on March 21, 1999. This Sunday afternoon event continues to be a well-attended and delightful way for the Friends to recognize Rice faculty and affiliates for their scholarly and creative endeavors.

Professor John B. Boles, the William Pettus Hobby Professor of History, led a panel discussion and entertained the audience as he shared his experiences as editor of the *Journal of Southern History* and the development of his two volume textbook *The South Through Time: A History of an American Region*.

Panel member, Professor Terence Doody of the Rice English Department, shared his passion for the novel and the exploration and analysis that led to the publication of his *Among Other Things: A Description of the Novel*.

The youthful associate professor of history, Carol Quillen, credited her background as daughter of a judge with the formation of a cognitive style of thinking, leading to her doctoral work at Princeton. She revealed how pleased

she was to discover that the source material she needed for her dissertation was in archives in Paris and in Rome, prompting Professor Boles to lament the lack of exotic destinations in his chosen field of study, southern history. The publication of her first book, *Rereading the Renaissance: Petrarch, Augustine and the Language of Humanism* has been received with accolades for its scholarship.

Rice University alumnus Alan Bath, after his retirement from service in naval intelligence, began graduate studies with Professor Ira D. Gruber. *Tracking the Axis Enemy* is an exploration of the Anglo-American



Panelists John Boles, Carol Quillen, Alan Bath, and Terence Doody



Authors James R. Thompson, Jane Chance, and Ewa Thompson

cooperation during the Second World War. Bath contends that “the shift in power from England to America” was as strong a force in this “special relationship” (quoting Sir Winston Churchill) as the cultural influences at work.

Among the many questions posed to the panel by the audience, Professor Robert Patten’s inquiry about the role of Rice University in their publications sparked interesting and provocative responses from the panel members.

An enthusiastic audience lingered over food and drinks as the authors responded to the many requests for autographed copies of their publications.



*Shannon and Judith Brown and John Boles*



*Alan Bath and Mary Dix*



*FoFo and Ted Lewis, John Farr,  
and Virginia Hamilton*



## Rice Authors and most recent works

Max I. Apple	I Love Gootie, My Grandmother's Story
Alan H. Bath	Tracking the Axis Enemy
Patricia B. Bixel	Sailing Ship Elissa
John B. Boles	The South Through Time: A History of an American Region, rev. ed.
Judith C. Brown	Ed., Gender and Society in Renaissance Italy
Joy Browne	The Nine Fantasies that will Ruin Your Life
Logan Browning	Ed., SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
Jane Chance	Ed., The Library of Medieval Women
James Dabney	The Student Edition of Simulink and Mastering Simulink 2
Jack Dongarra	Numerical Linear Algebra for High-Performance Computers
Terrence A. Doody	Among Other Things: A Description of the Novel
Thomas L. Harman	The Student Edition of Simulink and Mastering Simulink 2
Thomas L. Haskell	Objectivity is not Neutrality: Explanatory Schemes in History
Lynne Huffer	Maternal Pasts, Feminist Futures: Nostalgia, Ethics, and the Question of Difference
Harold M. Hyman	Craftsmanship & Character - A History of the Vinson and Elkins Law Firm of Houston, 1917-1997
David L. Ikenberry	Ed., Financial Management
Blair Justice	A Different Kind of Health: Finding Well-Being Despite Illness
George Kanatas	Ed., Journal of Financial Intermediation
Colleen R. Lamos	Deviant Modernism: Sexual and Textual Errancy in T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, and Marcel Proust
Edward S. Lewis	A Biography of Distinguished Scientist Gilbert Newton Lewis
K Krueger McDonald	Ed., SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
Larry V. McIntire	Frontiers in Tissue Engineering
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Carol E. Quillen	Rereading the Renaissance: Petrarch, Augustine and the Language of Humanism
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E.E. Williams	Entrepreneurship and Productivity
Michael Winkelman	Ethnic Sensitivity in Social Work
Edith Wyschogrod	An Ethics of Remembering; History, Heterology and the Nameless Others



# 1999 Book Sale News

The great success of the 1998 Book Sale led the Friends of Fondren to believe that there is nothing frightening about holding a sale on Halloween week-end! Attendance and funds raised were up significantly, therefore the 1999 Book Sale has been scheduled for October 29, 30, and 31, 1999, in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center.

We need books! We collect books year-round for the sale, and we need hundreds and hundreds of new and used books to ensure the success of the 1999 sale. Please pack books in boxes rather than paper bags. If you must use bags, please double-bag.

While we appreciate the generosity of all book donors, we find that it is virtually impossible to sell certain items: sets of old encyclopedias, magazines, books damaged by insects or dirt, outdated technical books, outdated directories, catalogs, damaged or yellowed paperbacks. Thank you in advance for finding another destination for these types of materials.

Books drop-off information follows:

## Star Motor Cars at 7000 Old Katy Road

Monday-Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Call 713-868-6800 if you need directions.

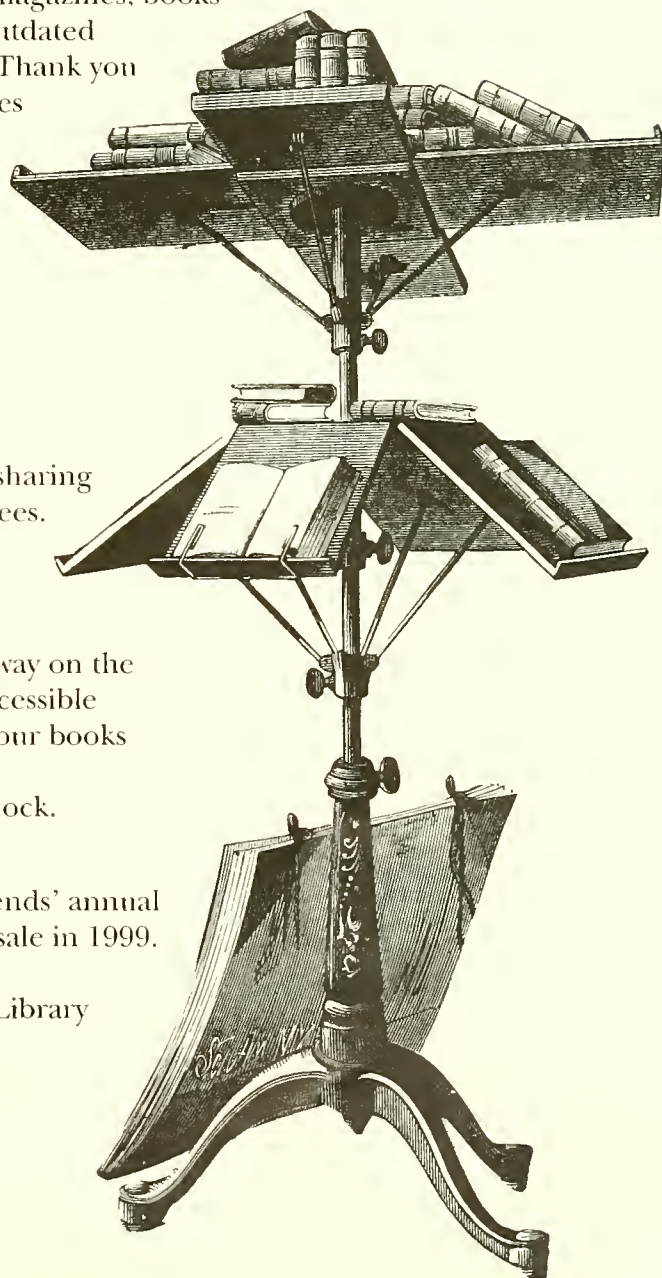
Many thanks to Lee and Glenn Seureau for generously sharing this storage space and for the assistance of their employees.

## Fondren Library

Construction on the new Humanities Building is underway on the south side of Fondren Library. The loading dock is inaccessible most of the time, therefore we encourage you to drop your books off at Star Motors Cars. If, however, this is not possible, please call the Friends office to check the status of the dock.

Our thanks go to all of you who have supported the Friends' annual book sale. With your help we will have a very successful sale in 1999.

For more information, contact the Friends of Fondren Library at 713-285-5157 or [mbixby@rice.edu](mailto:mbixby@rice.edu).



**We need books!**

# Fondren Tour 2000

Plans are underway for the Fondren Library biennial tour with a visit to Ireland and Scotland in June, 2000. Tour guide Lady Jane Howard has confirmed the dates and has also provided a partial and tentative list of hotels and sites. The itinerary and cost are yet to be confirmed.

## June 4 and 5 Shannon, Ireland

- The Adare Manor hotel is set within an 840-acre estate on the banks of the River Maigue. The 18th century manor features formal gardens and fine works of art.
- Reminders of the Irish Literary Renaissance—Lady Gregory and William Butler Yeats.
- Limerick—Glin Castle—(c 1790-1812) Seat of the Knights of Glin, the castle is a past-board Gothick castellated house. The estate also features a series of Gothick-folly lodges.



*Adare Manor*

## June 6,7,8 Dublin, Ireland

- The Shelbourne Hotel is located in the heart of Dublin and was established in 1824. The Irish Constitution was drafted in room 112 in 1922.
- Trinity College Library—Dating from 1712, Thomas Burgh's Library has one of the world's largest reading rooms (70 yds. in length) Its treasures include the Book of Kells.
- St. Patrick's Cathedral—This structure dates from 1220-60 and houses the Boyle monument.
- Marsh's Library—Bishop Narcissus Marsh was determined to provide Dublin with a public library and in 1707, it was opened to the public.



*St. Patrick's Cathedral*



*An illumination from the Book of Kells*

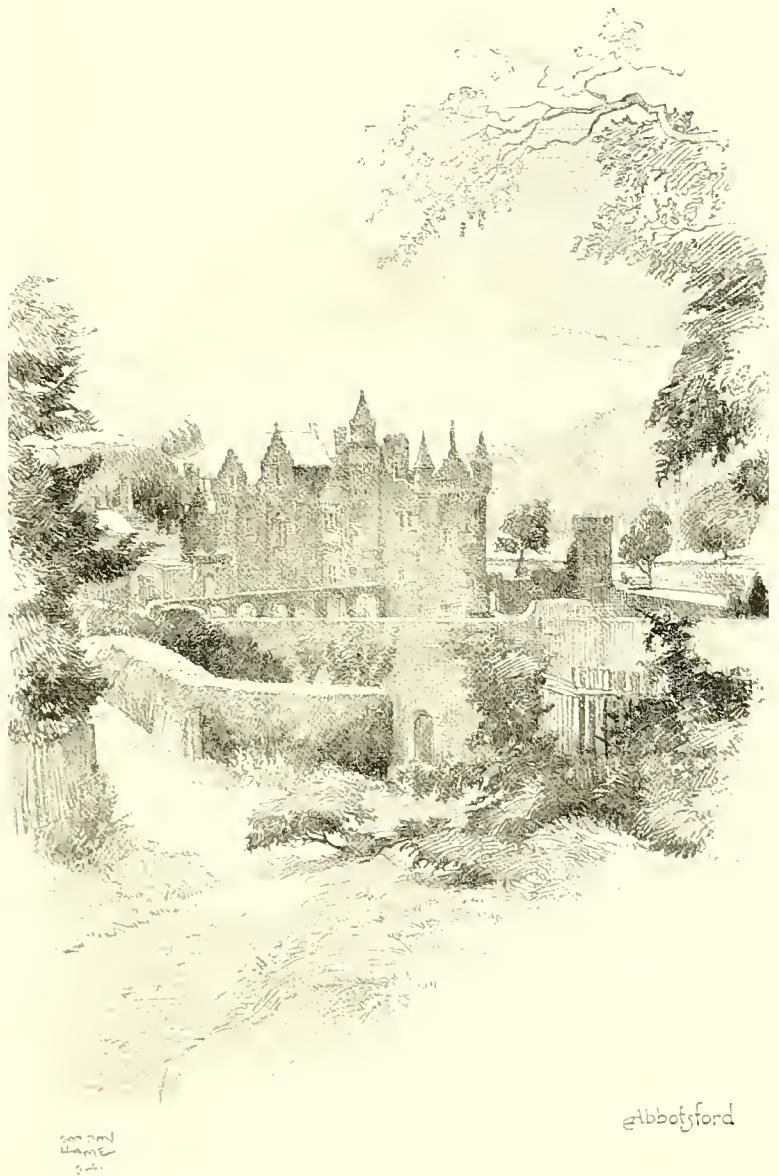


## June 9,10,11 Glasgow, Scotland

- The Mitchell Library was founded in 1874 with funds from the estate of Stephen Mitchell who directed the city to establish a large public library. The Scottish Poetry Collection is housed here.
- Glasgow School of Art—This building was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1896 and is one of the largest and oldest schools of art in Great Britain.
- Burrell Collection—This building, opened in 1983, houses the vast art collection of Wm. Burrell.
- Inveraray Castle—Built between 1744 and 1765, the castle was commissioned by the third Duke of Argyll. It is noted for the beauty of the interior, particularly Armoury Hall.
- Abbotsford—Home of Sir Walter Scott.

## June 12,13,14 Edinburgh, Scotland

- National Library—Sir George Mackenzie established the Advocates Library in 1689, and in 1925 it became the National Library of Scotland.
- Lady Stair's House—Lady Stair, a queen of Edinburgh society, was the widow of the first Earl of Stair who was held responsible for the Massacre of Glencoe.



*Abbotsford, a home of Sir Walter Scott*

### Fondren Tour 2000

*Deposits will be due on December 1, 1999, and balances will be due March 31, 2000. The cost does not include air fare. If you are interested, please call Mary Bixby at 713-285-5157.*



# 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](http://www.rice.edu/Fondren) which is the library's home page. Click on Friends of Fondren, and at the Friend's home page, click on Bookmark.

## The History of the Siege of Lisbon

by Jose Saramago

Review by Elizabeth W. Kidd

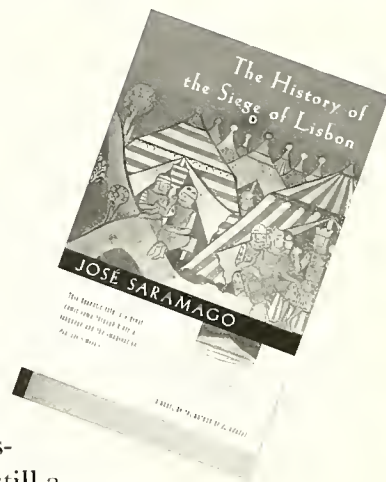
Years ago when Gloria Steinem and other women of both political parties were campaigning around the country for the Equal Rights Amendment, a group of us went to a Houston rally to hear them speak. Our group included Mino Badner, a respected art history professor at Rice who died in the late seventies, still a young man. As a Republican member of the group stood to speak, Mino, ever iconoclastic and fearless and occasionally on the impolite side, called out, "Impeach Nixon!" The speaker ignored him and began to speak, and Mino called out again, "Impeach Nixon!" As his wife Carol and others in our group shrank in embarrassment, an intrepid young woman called back to Mino, "Drop dead!" to which Mino retorted acerbically, "Marvelous repartee."

Mino Badner would have loved *The History of the Siege of Lisbon*, by Nobel Prize winner Jose Saramago. It is resplendent in marvelous repartee. It begins with a conversation between a proof-reader, Raimundo Silva, and an author whose history of the siege of Lisbon he has been proof-reading. As both are inclined to irony, their conversation is a clever exchange, and they cover a wide range of topics from the meanings of specific proof-reading symbols to the question of the "truth" of history. The proof-reader is speaking at the beginning of this passage:

...I must confess that I never had any talent for literary creation, Become a philosopher, man, You have a keen sense of humor, Sir, with a distinct flair for irony, and I ask myself how you ever came to devote yourself to history, serious and profound science as it is, I'm only ironic in real life, It has always struck me that history is not real life, literature, yes, and nothing else, But history was real life at the time when it could not yet be called history, Sir, are you sure.....

You will note that this passage hasn't the punctuation one might expect (the capitals are the only key to change of speaker), but Saramago's device quickly becomes not only accessible but essential, as the conversations and story unfold so

*Continued on page 23*





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## Bookmark

*continued from page 18*

compellingly that one wants not to be slowed by the impediment of ordinary punctuation. Raimundo, in a moment of rebellion extraordinary because he has been the most trustworthy of proof-readers, intentionally adds a word to the historian's text: not. The Crusaders did not stop to aid the Portuguese in the siege of the Moors in Lisbon. Were that true, the history of the siege of Lisbon would be a far different tale.

Thus the proof-reader belies his statement above that he "has no talent for literary creation," and his story begins. Raimundo Silva is transformed in the eyes of his employers to a proof-reader who must now be more carefully supervised. For that job is chosen Dr. Maria Sara, who is intrigued by this difficult, proud and unrepentant employee. She challenges him to write a different history, the story of what might have happened had the Crusaders, on their way to the Holy Lands, not stopped to aid the Portuguese in their siege of the Moors.

Not one, but two stories unfold. One is the story of the relationship between Silva and Sara, an unlikely couple. The other is the story of love and betrayal in the camp of the Portuguese and behind the walls of Lisbon that Raimundo Silva's love for Maria Sara frees him to write.

Mino Badner, who loved opera and could sing by heart many passages of his favorite operas; who liked nothing more than a good conversation and was ever -challenging, but ever-respectful, of those he engaged in philosophical discussions; who enjoyed commentaries on the comic ironies of our lives, but remained something of a romantic; Mino Badner would have enjoyed this book. It is operatic, funny and wise, and it tells two great love stories. As an iconoclast, Mino might not have considered the Nobel Prize a reason to read Saramago's book but our book club read it in part for that reason, and we were unanimously happy in our decision.



# Looking Ahead

*Mark your calendars now for upcoming Friends of Fondren Library events.*

**October 17, 1999**

Carlos Fuentes, Distinguished Guest Lecture in Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall

**October 29, 30, 31, 1999**

Book Sale in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center

**November 13, 1999**

Annual Friends of Fondren Library/  
Rice Engineering Alumni Homecoming Brunch  
The FOFL honoree will be Mrs. Ray Watkin Strange.



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