

# The RIENDS FRONTISPIECE

Vol. 11, No. 4

Newsletter of the Friends of the Tulane University Library

Summer 1987

## Friends Library Exhibit Will Focus on New Orleans Writers

"First, let me tell you something about our Quarter, the Vieux Carre. Do you know our quarter, with its narrow streets, its old wrought-iron balconies and its southern European atmosphere?"

It was that atmosphere that attracted a colony of famous writers — writers and artists other writers have been writing about for more than half a century. And, they are the subject of an exhibit — "Sherwood Anderson and Other Famous Creoles" — opening on the fourth floor rooms of the Tulane Library on June 1.

The opening quotation in this piece is part of the foreword of the book, *Sherwood Anderson and Other Famous Creoles*, written by William Faulkner, who later would become a world-famous writer himself and who, at the time, was also a resident of the French Quarter. The booklet about Anderson and others was dedicated to "All the artful and crafty ones of the French Quarter," and authored by William P. Spratling. It provided a gallery of contemporary New Orleans writers and artists of the time.

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## Annual Book Sale Set for Nov. 13-15

The annual Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held the weekend of November 13-15, 1987. The previous Book Sale netted over \$3,000. All of the proceeds of the sale go directly for the purchase of new titles for the library. Books for the sale come from donations to the library.

All books given to the Library are first checked to determine if the title should be added to the library's holdings or if it can be used as a replacement copy for a well-worn volume. It does take a bit of time to sort through all the donations so the sooner the library gets the books the sooner items can be replaced, added to the holdings or put into the sale. Check your book shelves for those volumes you no longer want.



Drawing depicts William Faulkner and William Spratling.

## Besthoff Endowment Pledged for Books

Mrs. Sydney J. Besthoff, a founding member of the Friends of the Library, has made a generous gift to Howard-Tilton. Mrs. Besthoff's gift was without restrictions and may be used in any manner the Library desires.

University Librarian Philip Leinbach has decided that since "endowed book funds are one of the strongest needs of the Library," Mrs. Besthoff's gift will become the Mrs. Sydney J. Besthoff Book Fund. Income from the fund will produce several thousands of dollars a year.

In consideration of Mrs. Besthoff's interest and activity as a rare book collector and since that she previously donated her fine collection of rare books and manuscripts to the Library in 1974, the first year's income from the Besthoff Fund will be used to purchase books for the Rare Books Section.

## Tulane Acquires Literary Treasure in Toole's Papers

The Tulane University Library has acquired another literary treasure in the personal papers of John Kennedy Toole, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*. The papers were donated by Toole's mother, Thelma Ducoing (Mrs. John) Toole, and Mrs. Toole's other legatees — John Geiser III, Douglas Crawford, Dr. Kenneth Holditch, Dr. Peter Jaeger and Robert Kirn.

Toole's book, published after his death, became an instant critical and popular success and has been published in several editions in the United States and in nine foreign languages. Its success is due to a mother's persistence in the face of great odds. Thelma Toole worked for 10 years to get the attention of a publisher. Her son died by his own hand in 1969, and it was not until 1980 after enlisting the aid of author Dr. Walker Percy that LSU Press became interested in publishing the book. It won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The Toole papers are a collection of correspondence, manuscripts, scrap-books, photographs, books and memorabilia relating to the author. Of special interest are Toole's letters to his parents, written while he was in Puerto Rico, in which he makes reference to progress on his manuscript. There are numerous materials in the collection, and additionally there are typescripts of two unpublished short stories and four poems written by Toole.

A native of New Orleans, Toole was graduated with a B.A. in English from Tulane in 1958 and won an M.A. from Columbia University in 1959. He taught at Hunter College in New York and later at St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans.

The Toole papers join other valuable documents in the Manuscripts-Rare Books Department of the Tulane Library, including the addition last year of the Hamilton Basso papers. The Toole

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# Augusto P. and Virginia Miceli Are Cited for Contributions

Friends of the Library and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Augusto P. Miceli—in some instances one and the same—were on hand to celebrate the dedication of the Augusto and Virginia Miceli Humanities Collection on the second floor of the Library on Sunday, March 29. The dedication recognizes the outstanding contribution and support that Mr. and Mrs. Miceli have given the Library for many years.

A native of Cefalu, Italy, Miceli has lived in New Orleans since 1920 and has been prominent in the professional, cultural and social life of the city. The author of two books, *The Pickwick Club of New Orleans* and *The Man With the Red Umbrella*, Miceli has donated all of his research material for these books as well as other papers relating to his law practice and his career during World War II, to the Tulane Library.

Miceli studied foreign trade at Tulane during the early 1920s, and graduated from the Loyola University Law School in 1930. In 1934 he received a doctorate in jurisprudence from the Royal University of Rome. During World War II he was a Judge Advocate of the V Army Corps and later served on the staff of General Omar Bradley, 12th Army Group. He served in North Ireland, England, and France, and was present at the landing in Normandy at Omaha Beach.

Following the war, Miceli joined the Standard Fruit Company as head of their



Dr. Eamon M. Kelly presents award to Augusto P. Miceli.

legal and governmental relations department, retiring from the firm in 1965. In 1966, he joined the law firm of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrere and Denegre and though he will celebrate his 85th birthday this coming July, he is still active in the legal profession, serving “of Counsel” with the firm. He is a member of the New Orleans, Louisiana State, American, Inter-American and International Bar Associations and honorary member of the Permanent Council of the Union Internationale du Notariat Latin.

## T. U. Gets World Trade Center Papers

The Manuscripts Section of the Tulane Library has received a series of collections of papers that significantly strengthen the Library’s holdings on the development of New Orleans as an economic and cultural center.

The World Trade Center, formerly the International House and the International Trade Mart, has presented its extensive files to the Library. Both collections date from the organization’s founding in the 1940s and runs to the mid-1980s. The papers of International House comprise over 54 cubic feet and 30 large scrapbooks. The records of the International Trade Mart measure over 150 cubic feet. Both collections show the extensive efforts made to attract economic growth to the region and keep New

Orleans as the “Gateway of the Americas.” Two additional collections of papers relate closely to the International House and International Trade Mart Collections. They are those of the New Orleans Traffic and Transportation Bureau, which from its organization in 1914 attempted to keep the freight rates into and out of New Orleans competitive with those of the rest of the nation. The New Orleans Traffic and Transportation Bureau Papers contain all the minutes of the organization from 1914 to 1987. The Foreign Relations Association also has donated two cubic feet of records mainly relating to the hosting of important foreign visitors to the city.

During his research for his book *The Man With the Red Umbrella*, a biography of Italian patriot, scholar and explorer Giacomo Beltrami, Miceli traveled in many parts of the United States and Italy and did extensive work at the Tulane Library, which has a copy of Beltrami’s own book about his travels published in 1824, *La Decouverte des Sources du Mississippi, etc.*

Mrs. Miceli, the former Virginia Brown of Little Rock, Ark., is a 1932 graduate of Newcomb College and has maintained close ties with her alma mater.

A resolution of the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund, read at the dedication, acknowledges with pride Mr. and Mrs. Miceli’s association with Tulane, their longstanding affection for the university, their generous support of the Howard-Tilton Library, and Miceli’s contribution to the continuing history of scholarship at Tulane through his research and study at the Library.

## Jazz Friends Begin Drive for Funds

The Friends of the Jazz Archive have begun a drive to expand its membership.

“Join us in our exciting new plans to help the archive become an even greater collection of facts and documents on the history of our own American jazz music,” says an announcement by the group.

Annual dues are \$15. Persons wishing to join are asked to send their checks to the Jazz Archive at P.O. Box 850252, New Orleans, 70185.

Officers and Directors, Friends of the Tulane Library	
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	Shingo Woodward.
Ex-Officio .....	Dr. Eamon M. Kelly
Frontispiece contributors: Elsie Martinez, Walter Cowan and Wilbur Meneray.	

# Friends’ Leader Cites Value of Reading in Education

Introduce children to books early in life and you provide them with an advantage on the road to education.

This year’s president of the Friends of the Tulane Library is an example of the value of that theory. Mary Ellen (Mrs. Charles) Nice, who assumed the presidency in January, cites the value of books in her own life.

“Books were always valued by my family, as I was growing up,” she said in an interview. “Books were given as special gifts on holidays and birthdays. Childhood summers were spent in ‘city library’ in the park across the street from my home. Books for the library were popular memorials in my home town.”

Mary Ellen recalled that she and her husband, who is in the Department of Radiology in the Tulane Medical School, bought an art book on their first wedding anniversary, and after that concentrated on raising a famiy and building a home library.

“Eight children later, we bought an old New Orleans home and built shelves from the floor to the ceiling in one room. The children appreciated the convenience of our reference library when they were required to write school papers. Later, several of the children brought back books from studies abroad to enrich our home library.”

Their library training has enabled the children to have a lifelong romance with learning, observed Mary Ellen.

Her own mother admonished her years ago, says Mary Ellen, that “education is a lifelong process.” Good library habits pay great dividends in education, Mary Ellen soon learned, and she encouraged her famiy to read as often as possible. Of the eight children born to Dr. and Mrs. Nice, one was a Fulbright scholar, one a Woodrow Wilson scholar, three gained Ph.D. degrees, and one an M.D. and seven hold master’s degrees. Mary Ellen was a Watkins scholar at the University of Kansas.

Born in Conway Springs, Kansas, a town founded by her grandfather, Hiram Milton Cranmer, Mary Ellen moved with her family to New Orleans, in 1958. Mary Ellen met her husband while both were at the University of Kansas.

Mary Ellen has held a number of civic posts, at various times servng as president



Mary Ellen Nice and Stephen Ambrose



Librarian Philip Leinbach and Mrs. Virginia Miceli, following Awards ceremony.

of the boards of Rayne Memorial Methodist Church nursery school, the Tulane University Women’s Association and the Tulane Medical School Medical Auxiliary.

Serving with Mary Ellen as officers of the Friends this year are Mrs. Paul Selley, vice president; Mrs. Milton G. Scheuermann Jr., secretary, and Warren Stern, treasurer. President Eamon Kelly and University Librarian Philip E. Leinbach also serve.

Members of the board are Mrs. Thomas Akers, Mrs. Hodding Carter, Dr. Joseph Cohen, Walter G. Cowan, John Geiser III, Dr. Joseph Gordon, Dr. Bernard Lemann, Mrs. John Martinez, Dr. Wilbur Meneray, Mrs. A. W. Mysing and Mrs. Truman Woodward.

# Stephen Ambrose Gives Insight into Richard Nixon’s Life, Watergate

“Expletive deleted.” Those words were voiced time and again in the famous, or infamous, Watergate tapes that brought about the demise of a president of the United States, but there really was no reason to delete the words, says Stephen Ambrose, professor of history at the University of New Orleans who has just completed the first of two volumes on Richard Nixon.

Professor Ambrose, who addressed the Friends of the Tulane Library on March 29, revealed that his research showed those words to be nothing more than “Damn,” “Hell,” . . . “For God’s Sake.” This was but one of many points of interest in the Nixon story revealed by Ambrose, who analyzed the Nixon years through 1962, the period covered in Ambrose’s first book on Nixon.

Touching on Nixon’s personal life, Ambrose said the former president ended up a lonesome figure in the most powerful job in the world, unable to act forcefully because he was paralyzed by the Watergate Scandal. “Nixon was the head of a warm, loving, happy family, and he did not take his work home with him, but hardly ever did he leave his work,” said Ambrose in analyzing how Nixon became so detached.

Ambrose presented a balanced analysis of Nixon, assessing the results of his accomplishments and mistakes. Ambrose was introduced by Mary Ellen (Mrs. Charles) Nice, president of the Friends, who presided at the meeting held in the Tulane Library.

## Staff Treated to Coffee

On April 6, the Friends of the Library hosted a “coffee break” for the staff of the Library in observation of National Library Week. P.J.’s Coffee and Tea Company donated the coffee and the Friends purchased a wide array of pastries. Members of the Friends Board who served coffee and talked with the Library staff included Mary Ellen Nice, Ann Akers, Margie Scheuermann, Shingo Woodward, Betty Carter, Blanche Mysing, John Geiser and Bernard Lemann.



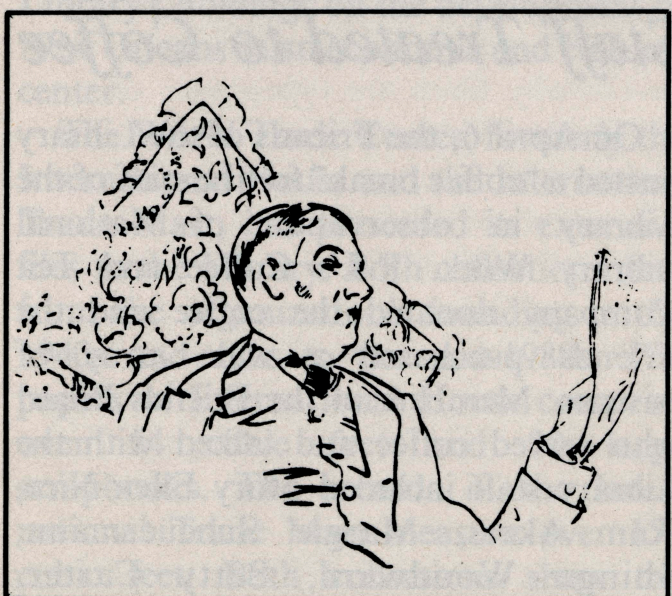
# Gallery of Personalities Highlights 'Creoles' Exhibit



WEEKS HALL



GENEVIEVE PITOT



LYLE SAXON

## New Orleans Writers

(continued from Page 1)

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Department of the Tulane Library is the depository for the Spratling book, and other valuable literary gems of the 1920s. Illustration of, and information about, this galaxy of writers and artists are to be taken from the Spratling book as the basics of the Tulane exhibit.

Materials from the following will be displayed:

Sherwood Anderson, Nathaniel C. Curtis, Franz Blom, Ellsworth Woodward, Nathalie Vivian Scott, Richard Kirk, Moise Goldstein, Frederick Oechsner, Pops Whitesell, Roark Bradford, John McClure, Marc and Lucille Antony, Lillian Friend Marcus, Keith Temple, Hamilton Basso, Lyle Saxon, Caroline Wogan Durieux, Genevieve Pitot, Albert Bledsoe Dinwiddie, Samuel Louis Gilmore, Grace King, William Spratling and William Faulkner.

The Library will mount an exhibit of New Orleans writers of the 1920s June through September. Thus, there'll be a special focus on the literary activities in New Orleans in the library during most of 1987.

Michael Fanning of the Southeastern Louisiana University faculty will speak at a meeting of the Friends in September, the exact date to be announced. His subject will be the literary life of New Orleans in the 1920s.



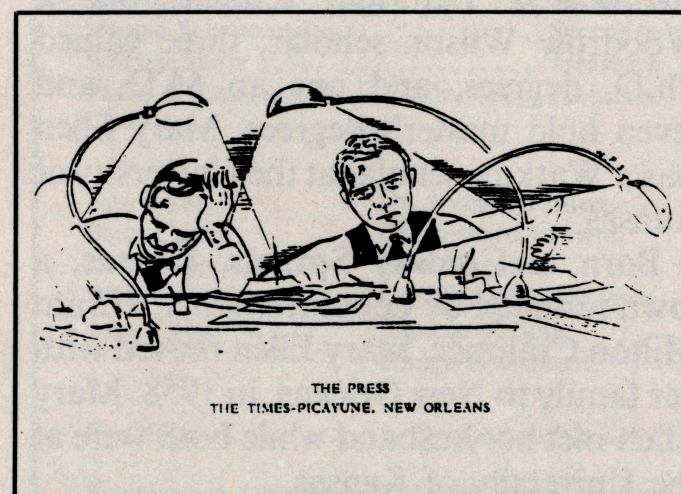
FRANZ BLOM



FREDERICK OECHSNER



SHERWOOD ANDERSON



ROARK BRADFORD and JOHN MCCLURE

## Latin American Unit Shows Photographs of Guatemala

During April and May the Latin American Library has on display an exhibit of photographs from Guatemala entitled "A Century of Photography in Guatemala." The exhibit is the joint effort of Kathy Sierke of the Latin American Library and Mitchell Denburg of the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica (CIRMA), Antigua, Guatemala. Denburg gave a slide lecture at the opening of the exhibit on March 27. His trip to New Orleans was funded by Dr. Christopher Lutz of Plumsock Mesoamerican Studies and CIRMA.

Tulane and CIRMA have had a relationship for the past 10 years. Last summer Ms. Sierke spent a month at CIRMA assisting them in organizing their photographic archive. Thomas Niehaus, head of the Latin American Library, spent two weeks in July at CIRMA writing a description of their photographic holdings. Both of their trips were financed by grants from Tulane's Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies.

Since 1979 CIRMA has sent to LAL copies of some 1,000 photos from their archive. These are documentary photos of Guatemala showing daily life style, architecture, work places, cultural events, etc. Most are photos taken by Mitchell Denburg from 1977 to the present, but about 125 are historical photos of 19th-century Guatemala which Denburg discovered in his travels throughout the country.

Tulane's collection of 15,000 Latin American historic and documentary photos is a valuable resource for scholars, adding to the depth of our Latin American holdings and enabling researchers to use visual materials as primary sources for their work, according to Niehaus.

## Toole

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Collection will be open to public use after being catalogued, but there will be restrictions on photocopying and publication of material gained from it, according to Dr. Wilbur E. Meneray, head of the Manuscripts-Rare Books department.

## ... More Exhibit Illustrations



GRACE KING



MRS. J. O. NIXON



ELIZABETH WERLEIN



HAMILTON BASSO and the Muse do the Charleston.



POPS WHITESELL

## Quarante Club Honored in Exhibit

The Quarante Club, founded a century ago to provide "bright, talented women an opportunity to gather once a week with their peers to present, to listen and to discuss a wide array of topics," was the

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# Dufour Presented Plaque by Round Table Club of Baton Rouge

Charles L. "Pie" Dufour, well known New Orleans writer and historian, has been presented the T. Harry Williams Memorial Award by the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table Club for outstanding contributions in the field of American Civil War History. Dufour was presented a plaque in ceremonies in Baton Rouge on February 19.

Dufour is one of the founders of the New Orleans Civil War Round Table and that organization's annual award is named in his honor. Others who joined with him in founding the local group thirty-five years ago include the late Dean John P. Dyer of Tulane, Howard Bennett and Richard Colquitt.

Dufour is the author of three books on the Civil War, *Gentle Tiger*, published by LSU Press in 1957, *The Night the War Was Lost*, published by Doubleday in 1960, and *Nine Men in Grey*, published by Doubleday in 1963. He has authored a number of other books concerning New Orleans and Louisiana history and culture and is the city's leading authority on Mardi Gras.

He is currently teaching a journalism class at the University of New Orleans.

## Quarante Club

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subject of an exhibition at the Tulane Library from early January through March.

The club's purpose, unchanged since its founding in 1887, has attracted generations of New Orleans women. The Centennial Exhibition was shown in the Reading Room, where articles were displayed telling of the founding, early history and course of study of the club, and in the Aron Room, where displays told of written works of club members.

The Quarante Club papers are on deposit in the Manuscripts Section of the Library.

At the opening of the reception, the club presented the Library a first-edition of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*.

# JOIN!

The Friends  
of the  
Tulane  
University  
Library  
&



“Friendship  
for libraries  
is enlightened  
self-interest.”

Barbara Tuchman,  
historian

be a part of the major support group of the Tulane University Library.

Each year the Friends sponsor informative programs, exhibits, a book sale and other events in the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library building.

Membership privileges include:

- invitations to special events
- *Frontispiece* newsletter
- *Inside Tulane* which includes a calendar of events (monthly)
- discount on library check-out card

Consider gift memberships to out-of-town Tulanians to keep them informed of current campus activities.

Memberships start at \$10 per year.  
Call 865-5685 for more information.

## The FRIENDS FRONTISPIECE

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