A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

In a world where speed chases change and change accelerates beyond the limits of our collective imagination, there is something wonderfully reassuring about the stiff resolve of a university library committed to its own ideals. "Prove it and then we'll talk," appears to be the password for getting in and leaving what is merely transitory and ephemeral behind. More than a repository, less than a laboratory, it seems to sit in judgment over the innovative activities of the university it serves, shaping speculation to fit the standards of an exacting past.

For the Friends of Fondren Library this has been a productive year, the kind of year that translates hard work into currency and currency into books. In her summary remarks, made over dessert at the Ley Student Center, Roxanne Shaw praised an industrious board for the kind of commitment that raised more than $110,000 in revenues for the library this year. Sally Reynolds, the gala chairman, and Karen Rogers, the book sale chairman, completed projects that required almost as much resolve as the task of reading Ulysses while you transmit traffic reports from the 610 Loop. Mixing diplomacy with drive, they got the best out of a board who, more often than not, found themselves agreeing to buy what they'd been instructed to sell.

How will libraries define themselves in the future? This vexed question becomes the focus of debate next fall when the newly formed symposium committee promotes a dialogue among professionals on the topic of what goes and what stays as libraries prepare themselves for the 21st century. Setting the tone for the inquiry, the Friends of Fondren has engaged Daniel J. Boorstin, the eminent historian, scholar, and Librarian of Congress Emeritus, to speak about challenges to the library.

Sincerely,

BETTIE CARRELL
Secretary

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 OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library - MS - 44-F, Rice University, 6100 South Main Street, Houston, Texas 77005-1892. The Flyleaf is a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.
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Cover photography from the
Woodson Research Center

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Photographs of plaque in Cohen House and facade of Abercrombie Hall are from the Woodson Research Center. Gala photographs are by Paula Wirth.

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The William McVey collection of letters and scrapbooks in Fondren Library illuminates a vital part of the prominent sculptor’s life: his love of Rice and all things Texan. A Bostonian by birth, who was raised in Cleveland, McVey studied architecture at Rice as a member of the Class of 1926. He played football under the legendary coach John Heisman (for whom the Heisman Trophy was named).

Even when McVey achieved international fame, he still returned to Rice for inspiration. “Energy” decorates the front of Abercrombie Engineering Laboratory and features a stylized relief figure representing man taking energy from the sun. McVey’s nickname for the figure is “Uncle Jupe,” an irreverent moniker for one surrounded by dynamos, power lines, oil tanks and refineries.

With self-deprecating humor, McVey says the Rice football players thought him an egghead while the architects always called him a jock. He seems to have thrived on dual roles all his life -- a sensitive sculptor whose medium requires the use of cranes and a knowledge of engineering, an Ohio Yankee with deep roots in Texas soil.

Indeed, one of McVey’s first major commissions was the 18- by 240-foot frieze and three-dimensional star on top of the San Jacinto Monument. The monument was built in 1936 to commemorate the centennial of Texas Independence. The frieze, inspired by McVey’s study of Mexican primitive art, is carved in a sunk-relief technique. Many artists have admired it for its legibility at a distance.

This work McVey followed by monuments to two Texas heroes:

- In Texarkana, a 9-foot statue of Davy Crockett carved in Texas pink granite,
- In Ozona, a 6-foot, 7-inch bronze statue of James Bowie.

In the courtyards of Will Rice and Hanszen Colleges you can find a charming series of fired terra-cotta plaques depicting college life during McVey’s tenure at Rice. Freshmen wear beanies. The sophomore class president (actually, McVey himself) swings by a rope from one downtown office building to another to elude pursuing freshmen. Students sleep atop open books during an all-nighter. A student mails a letter home asking for money. When Rice expanded Cohen House and enclosed the courtyard, McVey adorned the walls with bas-relief portraits of memorable Rice professors: McKillop, Bray, Bourgeois, Chandler.
Elsewhere in Houston, you can find McVey’s charming representations of the arts of painting, sculpture, music and garden design on the grounds of the Museum of Fine Arts on a stone bench and balustrade.

In Austin, he left his mark at the University of Texas with relief figures on the entrance doors to the Texas Memorial Museum. McVey’s cactus ornamentation and stylized longhorns appear on the rooms inside.

Perhaps McVey’s most famous -- and controversial -- work is the majestic statue of Winston Churchill that stands in front of the British Embassy in Washington. Commissioned by the English-Speaking Union and completed in 1966, the statue attracted worldwide attention at the unveiling. English tailors complained about Churchill’s rumpled clothes, which McVey said represented his irrepressible energy. Purists complained about the “undignified” cigar, and McVey responded that in all his research he couldn’t find a photograph of a cigarless Churchill. “He used to lay the cigar down in a potted plant while he was receiving people and go back later to retrieve it,” McVey said with a chuckle, every minute of the controversy.

Ill health has slowed Bill McVey considerably in the past few years, and his assistant, the sculptor William T. “Mike” Moore, now runs the McVey studio in Pepper Pike, Ohio. Despite recent inactivity, McVey has left an indelible mark with his works -- from huge, climbable animal sculptures meant to charm children to the flight of bronze birds that graces the Cleveland airport.

McVey’s last commission was a return to the duality that has marked his life: athletics and art. It was a lifesize bronze of John Heisman, who coached the architect-egghead then known as “Big Bill,” a 6-foot-3-inch defensive tackle and offensive pulling guard for the Owls in 1923. In McVey’s fond rendition, Heisman wears a rumpled crewneck sweater and smiles benignly from beneath a billed coach’s cap.

The statue, completed in 1987, was offered to Rice, but Rice declined. It now stands on the campus of Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

The Rice Alumni Association honored Bill McVey in 1981 as a Distinguished Alumnus by the Rice Alumni Association.
Flying for Fondren Gala Honors Mary and Ben Anderson

by Karen Hess Rogers

Sammy the Owl greeted people at the door to Cohen House to start the “Flying for Fondren” Gala in April. The party honored Mary Greenwood Anderson and Benjamin Monroe Anderson. Proceeds of some $80,000 from the Gala went to the Friends endowment fund.

Mrs. Anderson said she had watched the Friends grow from a charter membership of 30 to the largest academic friends group in Texas.

After the guests had dined on baby lettuce salad, leg of lamb with sun-dried tomatoes, roasted garlic potatoes, asparagus and baby carrots, and strawberry shortcake, the Friends' auctioneer par excellence Bucky Allshouse led the bidding through 11 live auction items. The auction chairman, Ed Koehler, produced two contributions: “Top Gun for a Day”, a real aerial combat mission over Houston with the Texas Air Aces using laser guns, and “Air Acrobatics”, a thrill ride in a stunt plane.

The Anderson’s guests included Mr. and Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Carson Williams, Mrs. Marvin Greenwood, Dr. and Mrs. John G. Hull, Burdine and Lester Giese, the Giese’s sons, Monroe and Benjamin, and Mary and Joseph Abell and their son James.

These benefactors of Rice have contributed to the university in many ways. The theme of the evening recognized their donation to the Fondren Library of the Anderson Aeronautical Collection, a significant collection of books, paintings, watercolors and memorabilia about flying. Some 250 guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres while they bid in the silent auction, which included the fabulous trips, rare books, dinners, jewelry, and portraits - not to mention an oak three-drawer desk from the Fondren Library lovingly refinished by Marilyn Hellums along with an oak swivel chair.

Roxanne Shaw, president of the Friends of Fondren Library, welcomed the Andersons to the 14th Annual Fondren Saturday Night. She introduced Mary Anderson, who recalled the founding of the Friends organization in 1950. Mrs. Anderson said she became a charter member of the Friends largely because of the encouragement of her friends Katherine Tsanoff Brown, Margaret Dudley Cashman, and Florence Bryan Cook.
Events cont'd.

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Events cont’d.

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Theatre Under the Stars
Tootsie’s
David Westheimer
Mary Ellen and Dick Wilson
Events cont'd.

Rice Authors' Reception Held at Ley Student Center

by Elizabeth Hutcheson Carrell

When I want to read a novel, I write one," Disraeli once observed, clarifying the impulse to get it said before someone else does. Today "it" might signify a list of topics as wide as the breach between Trollope and MTV in a world grown swollen with fact.

We write books to get a handle on an overload of information that would have paralyzed Darwin and made Victorian excess a model of selective restraint. We also write out of the enduring motives that have inspired both sexes for centuries: tenure, money, fame, personal advancement, and the need to explain what we love to one another, whether "it" is Shakespeare or baseball or history or how to (make money, pass the bar, eat more and weigh less, detox your computer, or whatever . . .).

Twenty-five writers attended the annual Friends of Fondren Library Authors' Reception last January in the Farnsworth Pavilion. They included Rice alumni, faculty and staff, and members of the Friends - anyone who had good reason to celebrate that rite of passage known as entrusting what you think to the permanence of hard covers and flush margins, in the hope that others will see it, want it, buy it, and read it.

A partial list of titles includes: Streets of Laredo, Larry McMurtry's latest best-seller; Don't Let Them Psych You Out!; Panic Profits: How to Make Money When the Market Takes a Dive; Medieval Mythography: From North Africa to the School of Chartres; The Internet Roadmap; Oedipus, Philosopher; Is Your Aerobics Class Killing You?; The Third Texas Cavalry in the Civil War; Paradox 4.5 for DOS User's Instant Reference; and The Multicultural Cookbook for Students.

Three of the authors spoke. William Camfield, the Joseph and Joanna Nazro Mullen Professor of Art History, explained the origins of his book and exhibition catalogue, Max Ernst, DADA and the Dawn of Surrealism. The idea of staging a retrospective on Ernst's early work emerged from discussions at the Menil Collection among Walter Hopps, Paul Winkler, and Dominique de Menil. The Menil Collection owns the largest collection of Ernsts in the world.

Camfield, an expert on modern art, joined to draft an exhibition catalogue that would explore the early relationship among Expressionism, Dada, and Surrealism. Scholars associate Ernst's work most specifically with Dada, the irreverent protest movement that swept through European art as a response to the violence of World War I. Dada resulted from a deep antipathy to power in any form. The Freudian concept of the unconscious and a developing awareness of the importance of dreams and myths led Ernst into a productive relationship with the Surrealist painters Arp, Picabia, and Di Chirico.

Work on the exhibit and the accompanying catalogue took Camfield to more than 75 museums in pursuit of Ernst's paintings from this early period and involved him in negotiations or interviews with the artist's family and friends.

A Rice graduate, Christopher Castañeda, adjunct professor of history at the University of Houston, wrote about the development of Houston and the natural gas transmission industry in From Texas to the East: A Strategic History of Texas Eastern Corporation (Texas A & M University Press). Joseph Pratt was Castañeda's co-author. A companion study entitled Regulated Enterprise: Natural Gas Pipelines and Northeastern Markets, 1938-1954 (Ohio State University Press) appeared this year as well, capping several years of research into the workings of an industry critical to the growth and development of Houston in the 1940s.

Before then, the Northeast had relied on coal gas or petroleum delivered by tankers from the Gulf of Mexico. During World War II, German U-boats sank many tankers. To protect critical supplies of fuel, the Federal government funded a system of overland petroleum pipelines.

After the war these pipelines became war surplus and attracted a group of investors led by George and Herman Brown, who bought the pipelines and converted them to natural gas. The formation of their company, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, began a new chapter in Houston's business history and developed new and important resources in the history of local philanthropy. At a critical juncture, the Brown brothers donated major funds to Houston's emerging cultural and educational institutions, enabling them to keep pace with the city in a post-war
Events cont’d.

The Brown brothers - who also owned Brown & Root, the international construction company - directed much of their philanthropy to the Rice Institute. George Brown served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Rice from 1950 to 1967.

Meredith Skura conceded that while her first book took shape out of the tenure requirements of her profession, the commitment to one book created the internal need to go back and do another. Convinced that writing is at best “a nasty and brutish business,” she returned to it nonetheless, inspired by the intimacy that books engender between the subject and the self. Her latest work, *Shakespeare the Actor and the Purposes of Playing* (The University of Chicago Press), explores her theory that Shakespeare’s desire to perform on the stage preceded and shaped the impulse to write.

In all, the reception honored 50 Rice authors. Display tables, compliments of the Rice Campus Store, offered browsers the latest reports on a down-sized Russia, an invigorated Germany, an updated Saudi Arabia, and a primer on Influencing People in Organizations.

My personal favorite was David Nathan’s *Baseball Quotations*, which contained almost enough epigrammatic wisdom to account for all of the above.

**RICE AUTHORS**


Events cont’d.


Gibson, Kathleen R. *Tools, Language and Cognition in Human Evolution.* New York: Cambridge University. (co-authored with Tim Ingold)


Events cont'd.


Wade, Mary D. *Austin, The Son Becomes Father*. Houston: Colophon House.

Wade, Mary D. *I Am Houston*. Houston: Colophon House.


In a 30-minute talk after dinner at the annual meeting of the Friends of Fondren Library, President Malcolm Gillis stated his perceptions about the university’s functions in an era of change.

While maintaining its emphasis on the student, he said, the university must respond to the needs of society by helping conceptual and technical advances achieved on the campus enter the public domain. He said universities must also take seriously their obligation to educate future professionals - “the physicians, musicians, architects, engineers, lawyers, and managers” - who will confront complex problems in an evolving world.

Dr. Gillis identified four currents of change that will affect on universities in the near future:

- an increasingly interdependent economy
- a technological revolution in information and communications
- startling advances in biomedical and other molecular sciences
- demographic shifts that will lead to greater representation for minorities and the aged.

He said the rate and depth of change suggest that universities must prepare students to consider learning as a lifetime goal rather than a fixed-four year investment. In the new marketplace, he said, competence will mean more than a degree. It will mean adaptation, flexibility, development, and growth, qualities that students must acquire during their formative years and cultivate throughout their careers.

Like the students, he said, the university must learn to respond to changes in a constructive and thoughtful manner. President Gillis pointed to the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy as an example of Rice’s determination to keep pace. In addition, he said, Rice will re-emphasize the humanities and social sciences to expand Rice’s reputation in the liberal arts. He said the new fields of computational engineering and nanotechnology will both benefit from a major financial commitment by the university.

Dr. Gillis warned that progress carries a price tag. But he said that keeping tuition costs low is a major objective of his administration. Rice will expand its efforts to solicit money through national foundations and continue to search for ways to find savings and lower costs. He said that he agrees with Rice’s commitment to need-blind admission.

Dr. Gillis praised the new members of the Rice administration: David Auston, the new provost; Zenaldo Comacho, the new vice president for student affairs, and Edward Djerejian, the first director of the Baker Institute and the former ambassador to Israel.

Friends of Fondren Library to Honor Rice Authors on January 25, 1995

Members of the Friends, Rice Alumni, faculty, and staff who had books published in 1994 will be honored on Wednesday, January 25. If you know of a Rice-affiliated author published in 1994, please call the Friends’ office at 713-285-5157 or send the information regarding the author and book to:

Rice University
Friends of Fondren Library - MS 44-F
6100 South Main Street
Houston TX 77005-1892.
THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

CALENDAR

1994 - 95

Sunday, September 18 HEROES OF THE UNEXPECTED by Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress Emeritus. Stude Concert Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8 COFFEE for Families Weekend 1994. Alice Pratt Brown Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 5 HOMECOMING AWARDS CEREMONY honoring Henry A. Jackson and Kenneth E. Jones. Cosponsored with the Rice Engineering Alumni. Lovett Lounge, Fondren Library, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 25 RICE AUTHORS honoring faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the Friends who had books published in 1994. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26 SCHUBERTIAD A musical event in the style of the nineteenth century featuring performances by students of the Shepherd School of Music. Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 1 FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT XV honoring Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin M. Woodson. Cocktails and dinner to benefit the Friends of Fondren Endowment Fund, Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 ANNUAL MEETING. Program by Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, Director of the James A. Baker III Institute of Public Policy. Dinner, Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 6:30 p.m.

Gift Membership

The Friends of Fondren Library is offering a guest membership of $25 for one year. Members of the Friends may give this to non members. There are the restrictions that no member is under 18 years and the guest member is not enrolled in another educational institution. Guest members may check out two books at any given time. You may return the form to the Friends. The address is Rice University, Friends of Fondren Library - MS 44-F, 6100 South Main Street, Houston TX 77005-1892. For more information please call the office at 285-5157.

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Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin to Speak

On Sunday, September 18, 1994, the Friends of Fondren Library and Fondren Library will sponsor a program by Daniel J. Boorstin titled "Heroes of the Unexpected". The event will be held in the Stude Concert Hall of Alice Pratt Brown Hall on the campus of Rice University. Partial funding is from the Robert Foster Cherry Endowment Poetry Reading Series.

Daniel J. Boorstin, historian, Pulitzer-prize winning author, and Librarian of Congress Emeritus, directed the Library of Congress from 1975 to 1987. He had previously been Director of the National Museum of American History and Senior Historian of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C. Before that he was the Preston and Sterling Morton Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago, where he taught for twenty-five years.

Dr. Boorstin’s books include:
- The trilogy The Americans: The Colonial Experience (1950), which won the Bancroft Prize; The Americans: The National Experience (1965), which won the Parkman Prize; and The Americans: The Democratic Experience (1973), which won the Pulitzer Prize and the Dexter Prize and was a Book-of-the-Month-Club Main Selection.
- The Discoverers (1983), Boorstin’s best-selling history of man’s search to know the world and himself, was a Book-of-the-Month Club Main Selection, and was awarded the Watson Davis Prize of the History of Science Society.
- The Creators, a history of man’s achievements in the arts and companion to The Discoverers, was published by Random House in September 1992 and was the Main Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club in November of the same year.

A graduate with highest honors from Harvard College, Boorstin received his doctorate from Yale University. As a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, he won a coveted “double first” in two degrees of law and was admitted as a barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple, London. He is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar. He has been visiting professor at the University of Rome, the University of Geneva, the University of Kyoto and the University of Puerto Rico. In Paris he was the first incumbent of a chair in American History at the Sorbonne, and at Cambridge University, England, he was Pitt Professor and Fellow of Trinity College.

He has received numerous honorary degrees and has been decorated by the governments of France, Belgium, Portugal, and Japan. Dr. Boorstin has been awarded Phi Beta Kappa’s Distinguished Service to the Humanities Award and the Charles Frankel Prize of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1989 he received the National Book Award for Distinguished Contributions to American Letters by the National Book Foundation.

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MEMBERSHIP

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

Recent Alumni (1-5 years since graduation from Rice) ........................................... $10
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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 44 - F, 6100 Main Street, Houston, Texas, 77005-1892, 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. Contributions also help to meet the Brown Foundation Challenge Grant.

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