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Number 1 *This issue is devoted to a catalog of an exhibition from the W. Hugh Peal Collection in the University of Kentucky Libraries.*

Article 1

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1982

# Introduction

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THE  
KENTUCKY  
REVIEW

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# THE KENTUCKY REVIEW

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THE W. HUGH PEAL COLLECTION  
AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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Dedication of the W. Hugh Peal Collection

Friday, 15 October 1982

P R O G R A M

SEMINAR ON THE EARLY ROMANTICS

The Gallery, King Library, 1:30 p.m.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

"The Editor as Archeologist"

Stephen M. Parrish  
Cornell University

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

"The Ghost of the Sage of Highgate"

Richard Haven  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

CHARLES AND MARY LAMB

"The Peal Collection of Lamb Letters"

Edwin W. Marris  
University of Pittsburgh

*Panel*

Stephen M. Parrish, Richard Haven, Edwin W. Marris,  
W. Hugh Peal

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DINNER

Spindletop Hall, 7:30 P.M.

*Remarks*

Robert Nikirk  
The Grolier Club

*Address*

"The History and Importance of Rare Books"

Herman W. Liebert  
Yale University

This issue of *The Kentucky Review* is devoted to a catalog of an exhibition from the W. Hugh Peal Collection. In addition to the descriptions of selected items from the collection, John Clubbe of the English Department has provided an overall summary of the collection. Lawrence Thompson, who served as Director of Libraries from 1949 to 1965, wrote the reminiscence of Hugh Peal.

The activities relating to the preparation of the Peal exhibition and the contents of this special issue of *The Kentucky Review* were coordinated by William J. Marshall, Head of Archives and Special Collections. James D. Birchfield, Curator of Rare Books, screened and selected the items for display. The text of the catalog was prepared chiefly by John Spalding Gatton of the English Department.

Hugh Peal came to the University of Kentucky from La Center in Ballard County, Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1922 and went on to become one of the first Rhodes Scholars from the university. Following legal studies at Oxford, he practiced law in New York with Hardy, Peal, Rawlings, and Werner. Mr. Peal received an honorary LL.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1959.

Hugh Peal's success as a lawyer and book collector could perhaps have been predicted from the "Forewarning" to the 1922 *Kentuckian*. It notes that in a break with tradition the descriptions written about the seniors were designed to make the annual interesting. I do not know if Hugh Peal had any part in this change or not, but I do suspect that he would have approved of the then new approach. Hugh Peal's description is as follows:

"Vote for Peal and get a Square Deal." Be sure your deeds won't be forgot. We give each man his due. We know Peal knows an awful lot. Peal knows it too.

One aspect of this statement bears emphasis. *Be sure your deeds won't be forgot.* By developing a major collection of American and

English literature and by placing it in the library where he worked as a student assistant over sixty years ago, Hugh Peal has ensured that his noble deeds will indeed not be forgotten.

Hugh Peal acquired his love of books and reading from his family while a youngster in Ballard County. One of his favorite early books was Lamb's edition of Shakespeare. He had his interest in literature reinforced at the university, where one of the several offices he held was President of the Patterson Literary Society. While practicing law in New York, Mr. Peal took advantage of his ready access to bookstores, dealers, and the major auction houses. He acquired books because of his interest in them, and he read what he added to his collection.

Mr. Peal is a generous man, and his generosity to the University of Kentucky Library goes back many years. He has arranged for thousands of books to be given to University of Kentucky students, and he has for over thirty years given items to the collections of the University Libraries. But it was this past year when Hugh and Margaret Peal gave up their historic home at Woodburn in Loudoun County, Virginia, and moved to Leesburg that the bulk of this collection came to the University of Kentucky. Mr. Peal brought some of his rare manuscripts to the library during a trip to Lexington the preceding summer. Since the collection arrived in the library, the staff has been busy sorting and organizing it for cataloging and placement with the library's other collections.

I will leave the description of the collection to other parts of this special issue of *The Kentucky Review*. Let me simply note that by his *deed* of placing his collection at Kentucky Mr. Peal has given a boost to the university that may never be repeated. The University of Kentucky now ranks among the major schools in the United States in holdings of the English Romantic writers. In the 1975 Cornell University Press edition of *The Letters of Charles and Mary Anne Lamb*, Edwin Marrs notes that Mr. Peal's collection of original Lamb letters is the second largest in existence.

The library plans to build upon the extraordinary collection which Mr. Peal has placed in the library. In fact, we have already done so. Present and future generations of scholars will profit from Mr. Peal's generosity. I am confident that books in this collection will inspire present and future students—perhaps some of them from small towns in western or other parts of Kentucky—in the way that Mr. Peal was inspired by books. His deeds will influence students yet to arrive in Lexington.

This catalog and the October 1982 seminar focusing on Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the Lambs are part of the formal dedication of the Peal Collection. As we dedicate the collection, let us also record special and official thanks to Hugh and Margaret Peal for their extraordinary gift to the University of Kentucky.

Paul A. Willis  
Director of Libraries