

## A Literary Legacy: The Robert B. Heilman Book Fund

ON AUGUST 5, Professor Robert B. Heilman, chair of the University of Washington's English department from 1948 to 1971, passed away in California at the age of 98. Heilman, a renowned teacher, writer, and scholar, had published four books with the University of Washington Press. Former Press editor-in-chief Naomi Pascal reflects, "Bob Heilman was not only a fine scholar, but a superb writer who believed deeply in the importance of communicating clearly to an educated public his own understanding of, and delight in, good literature. As an author, he was demanding but appreciative of our efforts, and we proceeded on a basis of mutual respect." Heilman's then copy editor, Julidta Tarver, remembers, "copy-editing *The Ways of the World* was one of the great treats of my early years at the Press. Professor Heilman was erudite, witty, occasionally opinionated and high-handed, but always courteous and charming. He wrote so brilliantly that I did very little standard copyediting. I did, however, tactfully—if not always successfully—urge some abbreviating of the text. I was rewarded when he autographed my copy of the book with the following quatrain:

'A grateful cheer for Lita Tarver,  
That subtle, nimble-fingered carver,  
Whose cutting never pains but pays  
By making straight the wandering ways.'

One month after Heilman's death, Press director Pat Soden received news of a remarkable gift. Heilman had bequeathed \$150,000 to the University of Washington Press to support the publication of books in the humanities, broadly defined to include literary history, literary biography, literary criticism, cultural history, and editions of literary works. Heilman's request was that the books published with the assistance of



Robert B. Heilman in 1968. Photo: Mary Randlett

this bequest should be "significant to the general reading public interested in good literature, past and present, and in the study of it, and not for publications written in an exclusive technical style available only to specialists in theoretical and philosophical modes of study."

Soden expects that Heilman's close relationship with Press editors, particularly Pascal and Tarver, made him think of the Press when planning his estate. Heilman was a frequent guest at author receptions and publication parties, even long after his retirement. According to Soden, it was clear that he believed wholeheartedly in the value of scholarly publishing not only within the academy but for the broader community of readers.

In the last two years, the Press has begun several new initiatives in the humanities that will benefit directly from the Heilman



The first book to benefit from the Heilman gift will be published this fall: *The Linguistics of Lying* by Harald Weinrich, translated by two distinguished members of our faculty, Marshall and Jane Brown. As will all books supported by the Heilman fund, *The Linguistics of Lying* will carry the following notice:

*This book is published with the support of the Robert B. Heilman Book Fund*

gift, including the newly launched Literary Conjugations series. As books on literature and literary history have become more difficult to publish and many university presses have retreated from the field, this bequest will allow the Press to publish the best current scholarship and give it the marketing support necessary to reach the books' widest possible audience.

Pat Soden notes, "Robert Heilman was one of the twentieth century's great literary voices, and his scholarship will continue to inform future generations of students. Through his Book Fund we will not only be reminded of his many contributions to our university, but we will also be able to acknowledge his enormous contribution to the world of letters."

## “A Transcript of Our Time”

In November 2004, donors, authors, and friends of the University of Washington Press gathered at The Ruins to celebrate the publication of *Passing the Three Gates: Interviews with Charles Johnson*, by Jim McWilliams, and to launch the V Ethel Willis White Endowed Book series. Speaking at the event, Charles Johnson thanked those involved in the making of the book, and also paused to explore its role as “a transcript of our time.” By understanding this larger scope of a book’s role in our culture and history, Professor Johnson underscored how the work of authors enriches the lives of writers and readers alike. To reflect this sentiment, an excerpt from Charles Johnson’s remarks follows:



Charles Johnson. Photo: Mary Levin, University of Washington Photography

“When you look at this book and hold it in your hands, I think you have the same kind of revelation that I had when I first saw it. These are interviews I’ve had the privilege of doing over the last quarter of a century. But, as I see it, this book is actually not about me. If you look at the index in the back, you’ll see that the subjects covered in *Passing the Three Gates* range from Sherwood Anderson and Aristotle to Richard Wright and civil rights activist Andrew Young. What emerges, from the first interview to the last, is not just the portrait of one writer but instead a social, artistic and political transcript of our time, because no creator lives in isolation. This book is a tissue of people who have touched and enriched my own life. It contains not just my thoughts on literature, culture, philosophy, America (and especially black America) but also—and most importantly—the finest reflections and feelings by so many other people I have learned from during the course of my life. In a very real sense, this gorgeous book is a testament to what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. meant when he said ‘All life is interrelated,’ and that, ‘We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.’

That is what I see when I look at *Passing the Three Gates*—the Others from my childhood until today who made my life and work possible. I think a Buddhist would say that this book—and any book—is an example of “dependent origination” for it, like all of us, could not exist without goodwill, help, encouragement, and knowledge of countless people—our contemporaries, our predecessors, and our ancestors.”

The V Ethel Willis White Endowed Books series, which may include scholarly works and original creative writing by African American writers as well as scholarly works on African American history and culture, was established by Virginia and Deehan Wyman and the Wyman Youth Trust.

## Announcing Five New Series

In the past year, we have announced and published titles in five new series edited by University of Washington faculty:

### CRITICAL DIALOGUES IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

*Edited by* Charles Keyes, Vicente Rafael, and Laurie J. Sears  
New perspectives in Southeast Asian studies reconsider traditional relationships among scholars, texts, archives, field sites, and subject matter. The first two books in this series are *Imagined Ancestries of Vietnamese Communism: Ton Duc Thang and the Politics of History and Memory*, by Christoph Giebel and *Beginning to Remember: The Past in the Indonesian Present*, edited by Mary S. Zurbuchen.



### CULTURE, PLACE, AND NATURE: STUDIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

*Edited by* Devon Peña and K. Sivaramakrishnan  
Centered in anthropology, the Culture, Place, and Nature series encompasses new interdisciplinary research on environmental issues, focusing on the intersection of culture, ecology, and politics in global, national, and local contexts. This series includes *The Kuhls of Kangra: Community-Managed Irrigation in the Western Himalaya*, by J. Mark Baker and *The Earth’s Blanket: Traditional Teachings for Sustainable Living*, by Nancy J. Turner.

### IN VIVO: THE CULTURAL MEDIATIONS OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

*Edited by* Phillip Thurtle and Robert Mitchell  
In Vivo is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the medical and life sciences, with a focus on the scientific and cultural practices used to process data, model knowledge, and communicate about biomedical science. The first title in this series is *The Transparent Body: A Cultural Analysis of Medical Imaging*, by José van Dijck.

### LITERARY CONJUGATIONS

*Edited by* Richard T. Gray  
This series investigates literary artifacts in their cultural and historical environments. *W. G. Sebald: A Critical Companion*, edited by J. J. Long and Anne Whitehead and *Speaking Havoc: Social Suffering and South Asian Narratives*, by Ramu Nagappan are the series’ first publications.

### SUSTAINABLE DESIGN SOLUTIONS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

*Edited by* Vikram Prakash  
This series spotlights innovative design achievements by Pacific Northwest architects whose work promotes core principles of sustainable development. *Studio at Large: Architecture in Service of Global Communities*, by Sergio Palleroni and *Toward a New Regionalism: Environmental Architecture in the Pacific Northwest*, by David Miller are the series’ inaugural titles.

## Award Winners



*Brazil's Indians and the Onslaught of Civilization: The Yanomami and the Kayapo* by Linda Rabben and *Faith in Nature: Environmentalism as Religious Quest* by Thomas R. Dunlap were selected for the 2004 Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Book Awards.

*Autobiographical Jews: Essays in Self-Fashioning* by Michael Stanislawski was short listed for the Koret Jewish Book Award given by the Koret Jewish Foundation.

William Craft Brumfield, author of *A History of Russian Architecture*, received Tulane University's Provost's Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.

Press designer Audrey Meyer won two awards given by the Association of American University Presses for *Light's Ladder* by Christopher Howell in the Poetry and Fiction category, and *The Accidental Collector: Art, Fossils, and Friendships* by Wesley Wehr in the Trade Typographic category.

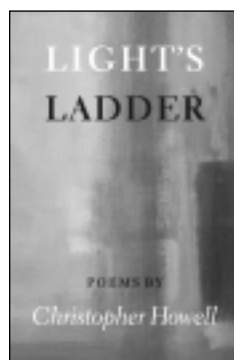
*Wild by Design: Two Hundred Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts* by Janet Catherine Berlo and Patricia Cox Crews was the recipient of the R. L. Shep Book Award sponsored by the Textile Society of America.

*Gay Seattle: Stories of Exile and Belonging* by Gary Atkins was awarded a Washington State Book Award. *Gay Seattle* also received a 2004 Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Book Award.

## In Brief

Press advisory board member Margaret Lu has returned to Seattle and the Press after more than two years in New York. On our board since 1992, Margaret and her husband, Jerry Zhu, are partners in the Seattle based law firm, Davis, Wright, Tremaine. We look forward to having Margaret's advice and support as we develop a number of strategic initiatives surrounding our strong publication list in Asian studies.

The poem "Keats," by Christopher Howell has been chosen to appear on the Library of Congress's web section entitled "Poetry 180," a site for America's high school students, created by former poet laureate Billy Collins. Howell's poem was published in *Light's Ladder*, the fourth volume in the Pacific Northwest Poetry series, edited by University of Washington professor Linda Bierds. In other poetry news, Linda Bierds has won an Emily Clark Balch Prize for



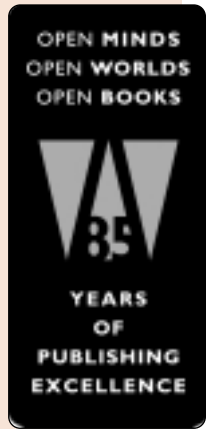
Poetry. The award is given by the *Virginia Quarterly* and honors the best writing to appear in its pages in the previous year.

As part of the "Washington Reads" program, state librarian Jan Walsh chooses a quarterly selection of thought-provoking books to highlight treasures in the Washington State Library collection. So far, University of Washington Press titles have appeared on almost every list, including *Iridescent Light* by Deloris Tarzan Ament, *John Hoover* by Julie Decker, *Kenneth Callahan* by Thomas Orton and Patricia Watkinson, and *White Grizzly Bear's Legacy* by Lawney L. Reyes.

## Happy 85th, UW Press!

The University of Washington Press is celebrating its 85th anniversary!

We will be commemorating the Press's history throughout the year with special promotions and events, culminating at a gala at the University of Washington Club on October 27th during the month our first book, *The Poems of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*, edited by Frederick M. Padelford, was published in 1920. University of Washington President Mark Emmert has stated of the Press, "It has been said that a great university deserves a great university press, and we are fortunate to have one of the best. Books published by the University of Washington Press carry the name of the University far and wide, serving the international community of scholars and the citizens of our own region."



## UW Connections

The University of Washington Press publishes authors from around the world but always remains connected to its home. Thus far in 2005, we are pleased to be publishing books by these University of Washington colleagues:

**Louis Fiset** (co-editor, *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest*) is affiliate associate professor of dentistry.

**Gary J. Louie** (co-author, *The Audio Dictionary Third Edition*) is the music recording specialist at the School of Music.

**David Miller** (*Toward a New Regionalism*) is professor of architecture.

**Adam D. Moore** (*Information Ethics*) is assistant professor of philosophy and teacher at the Information School.

**Gail M. Nomura** (co-editor, *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest*) is assistant professor of American ethnic studies.

**Shawn Wong** (*American Knees*) is director of the University Honors Program and professor of English.

# Tributes

## Horace Coward

University press sales representative Horace Coward passed away on March 1 in Middletown, Connecticut. In 1972, Coward founded the University Press Marketing Group, which grew to represent fifteen university presses throughout the country. He represented those presses to independent bookstores on the East Coast until his retirement in 1997. In 1996, the Northeast Booksellers Association presented Coward with the Saul Gilman Award for distinguished service as a sales representative in New England. He was also the recipient of the American Association of University Presses Outstanding Service Award.

Press director Pat Soden stated that Coward “was one of the greats in this business. He was responsible for establishing what I believe was the first European sales operation for American university presses. No one believed in our mission more passionately than Horace, and no one represented us better to the bookselling community.”



## Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence

At the age of 91, Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence passed away in her Seattle home on February 18. Knight was the wife of artist Jacob Lawrence who died in 2000. She was born in Bridgetown, Barbados in 1913 and traveled with her foster family to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1920. Six years later the family moved to New York. *Never Late for Heaven*, published with the Tacoma Art Museum, chronicles Knight’s story, beginning with the Harlem Renaissance and traveling through the Great Depression and beyond. In 1930, Knight attended an integrated girls’ school in Harlem and then spent two years at Howard University School of Fine Arts. Her formal education cut short by the Depression, she left Howard University and returned to Harlem. For several years she participated in WPA apprenticeships and workshops. Knight met Lawrence during this time at a class at the Harlem



*Gwen Knight & Jacob Lawrence. Photo: Mary Randlett*

Community Art Center and they married in 1941. Knight and Lawrence moved to Seattle in 1971, when he accepted a teaching post in the art school at the University of Washington. *Never Late for Heaven* accompanied a 2003 exhibit at the Tacoma Art Museum featuring her paintings from the Francine Seders Gallery in Seattle.

## University of Washington Press

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