



*Zeke Pippin and His Family* by William Steig  
COLLECTION OF HOLLY M. MCGHEE

The Fifth  
**Oxford Conference For The Book**  
*The University of Mississippi · Oxford, Mississippi*  
March 13-15, 1998

# The Oxford Conference for the Book

## The Fifth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

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All program sessions will be in the Baxter Room of the John Davis Williams Library.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 9:00 AM Welcome  
Richard Howorth  
Submitting Manuscripts/Working with an Editor  
Randall Kenan, moderator  
Jere Hoar  
Alane Mason  
Daniel Woodrell
- 10:30 AM Finding a Voice/Reaching an Audience  
Randall Kenan, moderator  
Larry Brown  
Fredric Koeppl  
Alane Mason
- NOON Lunch (On Your Own)
- 2:00 AM Writing the Wilderness: From Meriwether Lewis to William Bartram and Back  
Thomas P. Slaughter
- 3:30 AM Bookmaking in the 21st Century: Technology, Creativity, and the Economics of Publishing  
Bea Jackson, moderator  
Wylene Dunbar  
Michael Farmer  
Claire Bradley Ong
- 5:30 AM Cocktail Buffet - City Grocery
- 8:00 AM Readings/Remarks  
Rick Bragg  
Daniel Woodrell

Detail from *Zeke Pippin and His Family* by William Steig. Collection of Holly M. McGhee.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 9:00 AM "It Was Really *My* Idea": Spouses of Writers Speak Out  
Wylene Dunbar, moderator  
Maira Ambrose  
Mary Annie Brown  
Susan Hannah
- 10:30 AM Readers in the Year 2004  
Elaine H. Scott, moderator  
Scott Cook  
Jack Gantos  
Barbara Bonds Thomas  
Nancy Van Laan
- Noon Booksigning - Off Square Books  
Lunch (On Your Own)
- 2:00 PM *Wieners and Rebels: Writing from the Trenches of Southern Culture*  
Charles Reagan Wilson, moderator  
Stephen E. Ambrose  
Tony Horwitz  
Jerry E. Strahan
- 3:30 PM *Skeletons in the Closet: Writing about Family*  
Barry Hannah, moderator  
Rick Bragg  
Elizabeth Spencer  
Daniel Woodrell
- 8:00 PM Greetings  
Chancellor Robert C. Khayat
- Readings  
Stephen E. Ambrose  
Elizabeth Spencer

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast  
Harrison Room, John Davis Williams Library  
Hosted by John M. Meador, Dean of University Libraries
- 10:00 AM Presidential Scandal, the Press, and Print  
Jere Hoar, moderator  
John F. Marszalek, presenter  
Rick Bragg, commentator  
Tony Horwitz, commentator
- 11:00 AM Brunch - Downtown Grill
- 1:00 PM Making a Living Writing Autobiographical Fiction and Getting Away with Telling Your Family Secrets  
Jack Gantos
- 2:00 PM *Fair and Tender Ladies: A Musical Interpretation of Lee Smith's Novel*  
A Preview of a Work Commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
Tommy Goldsmith  
Tom House  
Karren Pell

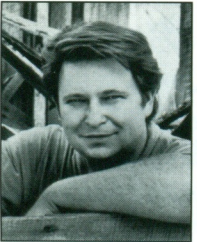
## SPEAKERS

MOIRA AMBROSE has been a teacher and the wife of Stephen Ambrose for 30 years. They have raised five children and are enjoying their grandchildren.



STEPHEN E. AMBROSE, a former teacher, is the author of numerous books of history, including the best-sellers *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the*

*Opening of the American West* and *Citizen Soldiers*.



RICK BRAGG, a national correspondent for the *New York Times*, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for his "elegantly written stories on contemporary America." His bestselling memoir *All Over but the Shoutin'* details his life growing up in Alabama.



LARRY BROWN is the author of *Facing the Music*, *Dirty Work*, *On Fire*, and, most recently, *Father and Son*. He is currently teaching writing at the University of Mississippi.



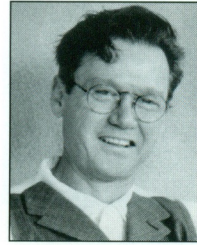
MARY ANNIE BROWN is assistant to three attorneys and has been married to Larry Brown for 24 years. They have three children and live on Billy Ray's Farm in Yocona.

SCOTT COOK, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, began his art training as a child studying with the painter Marie Hull. His first illustrated children's book, *The Gingerbread Boy*, was published in 1987 and, like his subsequent work, enjoyed wide acclaim. His sixth book, recently published by Simon & Schuster, is *With a Whoop and a Holler—A Bushel of Lore from Way Down South*.

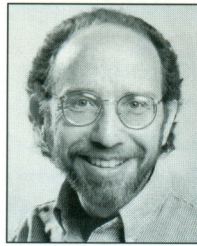


WYLENE DUNBAR lives in Oxford where she has been a philosophy professor and a lawyer. Her first novel, *Margaret Cape*, was published recently.

MICHAEL FARMER is vice president, director of design and production for Harcourt Brace & Company, Trade Publishers, in San Diego, California. He is the art director for Harcourt Brace Children's Books and oversees the design and production for all adult and children's book imprints.



JACK GANTOS is the author of the *Rotten Ralph* picture book series and the award-winning Jack books for middle-grade readers. A resident of Santa Fe, he has taught creative writing at Emerson College and travels the country giving writing workshops for children.

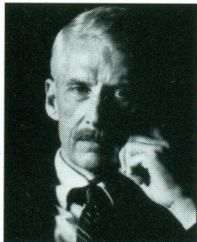


TOMMY GOLDSMITH is an editor and former music critic at the *Nashville Tennessean*. He also performs and composes country music. His songs have been recorded by Riders in the Sky, Uncle Walt's Band, the Nashville Bluegrass Band, and others.

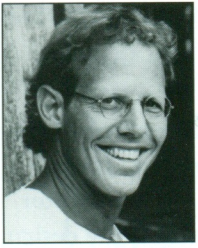


BARRY HANNAH is the author of 10 works of fiction, including the landmark collection of short stories *Airships* and the novels *Geronimo Rex* and *Ray*. His latest collection of stories is *Bats Out of Hell*. He is on leave as writer in residence at the University of Mississippi this semester while serving as visiting director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

SUSAN VARAS HANNAH is working on a B.A. in art history and "still growing up," as she says. She has been married to Barry Hannah since 1986 and has two children, three stepchildren, and one new stepgrandchild.



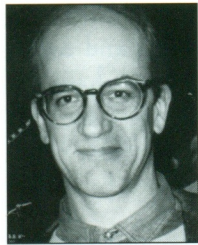
JERE HOAR is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi and an attorney. His first story collection, *Body Parts*, was recently published by the University Press of Mississippi.



TONY HORWITZ is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. He is the author of *One for the Road* and the bestselling *Baghdad without a Map*. His book *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* is soon to be published by Pantheon.



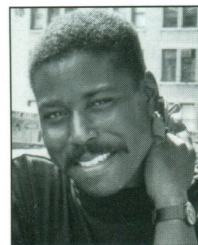
TOM HOUSE is a poet and folksinger who has published hundreds of poems in the United States and abroad. He has in current release a self-produced cassette, *Inside These Walls*, and *The Neighborhood Is Changing*, a Checkered Past CD included in a *Nashville Scene* 1997 Top 10 list.



RICHARD HOWORTH is proprietor of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi. He is an organizer of the Oxford Conference for the Book.



BEA JACKSON is the proprietor of Ivy Pages, a book packaging company she created in 1996 after 12 years of experience in publishing. Her book designs have won several awards, and her clients now include Chronicle Books and Simon & Schuster.



RANDALL KENAN is the author of a short story collection, *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*, and a novel, *A Visitation of Spirits*. He teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University and is currently Visiting Southern Writer at the University of Mississippi.



ROBERT C. KHAYAT has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995. An avid reader, he enjoys the work of Frederick Buechner and Stephen Ambrose.

FREDRIC KOEPEL is book review editor of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*. He also writes a national wine column for Scripps-Howard and is the author of two books of poetry, *October* and *Romance*.

ALANE MASON, an editor at W. W. Norton & Co., has published, among other books, Magda Denes's *Castles Burning* and *Last Days of the Dog-Men* by Brad Watson.



JOHN F. MARSZALEK is the author of *The Petticoat Affair: Manners, Mutiny, and Sex in Andrew Jackson's White House* and has written or edited nine other volumes on American history. He is a professor of history at Mississippi State University.



CLAIRE BRADLEY ONG is a production manager at Alfred P. Knopf. She is responsible for all phases of production from manuscript to bound book, working with Richard Ford, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Anne Tyler, Doris Betts, Jane Smiley, and many other notable authors.



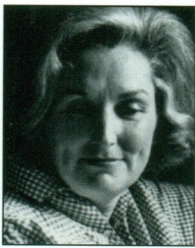
KARREN PELL is a country music songwriter, producer, and performer whose songs have hit the Billboard charts and achieved Gold Record status in Europe. She teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery and recently presented her *Alabama Troubadours* composition for the Southern Voices

Conference in Hoover, Alabama.



ELAINE H. SCOTT, former chair the Arkansas State Board of Education, has been involved with the Reading Is Fundamental program since 1974 and received the RIF Leader for Literacy Award in April 1994.

THOMAS P. SLAUGHTER is the author of *The Natures of John and William Bartram* and editor of *William Bartram: Travels and Others Writings*. He is professor of history at Rutgers University.



ELIZABETH SPENCER is the author of *The Light in the Piazza and Other Italian Tales* and *The Voice at the Back Door*, among others. The native Mississippian's most recent work is a memoir, *Landscapes of the Heart*.



CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is the coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and is a professor of History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Judgment and Grace in Dixie* and *Baptized in Blood*.



JERRY E. STRAHAN studied history at the University of New Orleans before becoming manager of Lucky Dogs Inc. His book *Managing Ignatius: The Lunacy of Lucky Dogs and Life in the Quarter* was recently published by Louisiana State University Press.



DANIEL WOODRELL, an Ozark native, is the author of five acclaimed novels, including *Under the Bright Lights* and *Give Us a Kiss*. This summer, Henry Holt and Company will publish his novel *Tomato Red: A Country Noir*.

BARBARA BONDS THOMAS, a former teacher, lives in Austin, Texas, where she owns the famous bookstore for children, Toad Hall. She is currently president of the American Booksellers Association.



NANCY VAN LAAN is the author of *Possum Come a Knockin'*, a 1990 Parents' Choice Award winner and best-selling picture book, and other works, including the recently published *With a Whoop and a Holler—A Bushel of Lore from Way Down South*.

PHOTO CREDITS: Stephen and Moira Ambrose, photo by John Holcomb; Rick Bragg, photo by Marion Ettlinger; Larry Brown, photo by Tom Rankin; Wylene Dunbar, photo by Milly Moorhead; Jack Gantos, photo by Merry Scully; Barry Hannah, photo by Bruce Newman; Jere Hoar, photo by Robert Jordan; Bea Jackson, photo by Daniel L. Sherman; Randall Kenan, photo by Tim Smith; Elizabeth Spencer, photo by Sam Tata; Nancy Van Laan, photo by David Metzger; and Daniel Woodrell, photo by Katie Estill.

# Fair and Tender Ladies

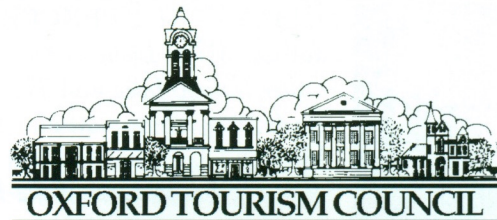
The song cycle *Fair and Tender Ladies* presents three Nashville singer-songwriters in their evocative musical settings of Lee Smith's acclaimed novel. A stage adaptation of the novel, using these songs, will be presented in the 1998-99 Alabama Shakespeare Festival season.

Composers Tom House, Karren Pell, and Tommy Goldsmith use folk, country, blues, and gospel styles to accompany Smith's story of a mountain girl's long and eventful life. Using solo and harmony singing as well as guitars and mandolin, the performers present songs and narration that guide even unfamiliar listeners through the pathos, insight, and humor of Smith's novel. The piece was commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and will receive a full theatrical staging at the Montgomery theater.

The composers previously joined with noted songwriter David Olney to create adaptations of the William Faulkner novels *Light in August* and *As I Lay Dying*. Along with Olney, the writers have performed *As I Lay Dying* at the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, the Oxford Conference for the Book, the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville, the Conference on Southern Literature in Chattanooga, Birmingham's Hoover Library Theater, and at the September 1997 Faulkner Centennial Celebration in New Albany, Mississippi.

Composed by Tom House, Karren Pell, and Tommy Goldsmith

THE 1998 OXFORD CONFERENCE FOR THE BOOK is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and Square Books with support from the Oxford Junior Auxiliary and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.



The conference is coordinated by the Institute for Continuing Studies and is partially funded by the University of Mississippi and through a grant by the City of Oxford.

For tourist information, contact: Oxford Tourism Council, P.O. Box 965, Oxford, MS 38655. Telephone: 800-758-9177 and 601-234-4680. Fax: 601-234-0355.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI began a four-year Sesquicentennial celebration February 24-25, 1994, with Charter Day academic convocations on the Oxford and Jackson campuses and a legislative reception. The Mississippi Legislature signed the charter to form the University in 1844, making it the first institution of higher learning in the state. Four years later in 1848, the University opened its doors to the first 80 students. This observance—designed to showcase the University's academic offerings, research, and service to Mississippi and the nation—will climax November 6, 1998.

## THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

*A Nationwide Celebration of Poetry*

APRIL 1998

*"I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear."*

WALT WHITMAN

This April, America will again sing the praises of poetry, as thousands of publishers, bookstores, libraries, schools, and literary organizations across the country celebrate the third annual National Poetry Month. As a result of this annual celebration, sales of poetry books have increased (30 percent in April 1996 and another 25 percent in April 1997), and teachers and librarians have reported an increased interest in poetry among both children and adults.

The highlight of the third annual National Poetry Month will be the Great APLseed Giveaway, a project cosponsored by the Academy of American Poets and the American Poetry Literacy Project, a not-for-profit organization created by the late Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky and Andrew Carroll. During April, Andrew Carroll will take on the role of a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, driving a truck from New York City to San Francisco, stopping in large cities and small towns to give away 100,000 free copies of *101 Great American Poems* (Dover Publications, 1998), *African American Poetry* (Dover Publications, 1997), and other poetry anthologies.

On April 1, 1998, the Academy of American Poets will cosponsor two events in New York City to launch Carroll on his cross-country journey. Peace through Poetry, readings by poets and schoolchildren, will take place at the United Nations. Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate of the United States, will join Laurie Anderson, Ed Bradley, Garrison Keillor, and others in a reading of favorite poems at Town Hall.

National Poetry Month will also be celebrated in communities across the country. Bookstores are hosting readings and creating special book displays; libraries, universities, and literary organizations are sponsoring readings, festivals, and workshops; and teachers and educational organizations are working to emphasize poetry as an essential part of the school curriculum.

Sponsors of the Oxford Conference for the Book encourage the celebration of National Poetry Month and the nationwide effort to keep America singing.

THE CITY OF OXFORD, originally part of the Chickasaw Cession, was incorporated by Legislative Act in 1837. The town was captured during the Civil War by Union troops, and most of its buildings were burned to the ground, although many historic structures remain. Oxford has always been known for its close relationship with the University of Mississippi, whose approximately 10,000 students make it roughly the same size as the town. Many people visit Oxford each year to see the University, Rowan Oak, and other classic Southern architecture, including the Lafayette County Courthouse, Barksdale Isom House, built in 1838, and other homes on the streets surrounding the town square. Visitors and residents alike appreciate the close and gentle beauty of the Lafayette County countryside, which includes National Forest land and such buildings as College Hill Church, where William and Estelle Faulkner were married in 1929. *USA Today* named Oxford one of the top six college towns in the United States. Oxford is also listed in *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's oldest public institution of higher learning and has been a recognized leader in teaching, research, and public service since opening in 1848. In November of that year a faculty of four offered liberal arts instruction to 80 students. From those beginnings, the student body has increased to its current enrollment of 10,580 on the main Oxford campus. The campus itself has expanded from 640 acres in 1848 to more than 2,500, with an additional 23,000 acres of forest land in south Mississippi. The academic division of the Oxford campus is composed of the College of Liberal Arts (1848), School of Law, which is the fourth oldest state-supported law school in the nation (1854), School of Pharmacy (1908), School of Business Administration (1917), Graduate School (1927), and School of Accountancy (1978). The Schools of Medicine (1903), Nursing (1958), Health Related Professions (1972), and Dentistry (1973) are located at the Jackson campus. In all, the University offers more than 100 programs of study. Having graduated 23 Rhodes Scholars, Ole Miss ranks seventh among all public universities in number of students chosen for this honor.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE was established at the University of Mississippi in 1977. Since then, the Center has become a focal point for innovative education and research by promoting scholarship on every aspect of Southern culture and encouraging public understanding of the South through publications, media productions, lectures, performances, and exhibitions. Among its notable publications are the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *The South: A Treasury of Art and Literature*, *Mississippi Writers: Reflections of Childhood and Youth*, and two magazines, *Living Blues* and *Mississippi Folklife*. The Center has also sponsored or cosponsored important programs that draw national recognition, among them the Oxford Conference for the Book in the spring, the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in the summer, and a history symposium in October. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., except for University holidays. Telephone: 601-232-5993.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE was founded in 1984 to provide support for the Center's teaching, research, and outreach programs on the American South. All Friends of the Center receive its quarterly newsletter *Southern Register*, the *Southern Culture Catalog*, discounts on Center conferences and programs, and reduced prices on Center posters, books, recordings, and other items. Contributions to Friends are tax deductible. Telephone: 601-232-5993.

ROWAN OAK, William Faulkner's Home, was built by a pioneer settler in 1844 and bought by Faulkner in 1930. This plantation-style house was his home until his death in 1962. Open 10:00 a.m.-noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Mondays and on Easter Sunday, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Telephone: 601-234-3284.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS: The Mary Buie Museum (1939) and the adjoining Kate Skipwith Teaching Museum (1976) house collections representing the fields of archaeology, art, anthropology, decorative arts, history, science, and technology. Particularly outstanding are the David M. Robinson Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, the Millington-Barnard Collection of 19th-century scientific instruments, and the Southern Folk Art Collection, centered on the paintings of Oxford artist Theora Hamblett. Open 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays and on University holidays. Telephone: 601-232-7073.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Over 300 manuscript collections and over 30,000 volumes of Mississippiana are housed here. Among its permanent exhibits are William Faulkner's Nobel Prize and signed first editions and manuscripts. The Seymour Lawrence Room, a gift of the late publisher, contains signed first editions, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia of the dozens of authors he published, including J. P. Donleavy, Barry Hannah, and Jim Harrison. Many Mississippi writers are on display in the adjacent Mississippi Hall of Writers. Open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. Telephone: 601-232-7408.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI BLUES ARCHIVE: This research collection on blues music contains books, periodicals, recordings, films, photographs, and posters. Of special interest are the B. B. King Collection, the Kenneth S. Goldstein Folklore Collection, and the Living Blues Archival Collection. Materials do not circulate. Open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. Telephone: 601-232-7753.

YOUNG AUTHORS FAIR: Jack Gantos will participate in the 1998 Young Authors Fair sponsored by the Oxford Junior Auxiliary. The fair, held annually in the spring, provides opportunities for children's authors and illustrators to make presentations to third, fourth, and fifth graders in local schools. The children participating in the fair write books and illustrate them with the help of their teachers, parents, and members of Junior Auxiliary. The books are collected and displayed at the public library, which hosts a reception for the children and the guest authors and illustrators on fair day.

The University of Mississippi complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, creed, color, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, veteran or other status.



WILLIAM STEIG, who is 90 years old, has published drawings in the *New Yorker* since 1930. He is also the creator of 28 books for children, including *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* (winner of the 1970 Caldecott Medal), *The Amazing Bone* (a Caldecott Honor Book), *Abel's Island* (a Newbery Honor Book), *Doctor De Soto* (a Newbery Honor Book), and more recently, *Zeke Pippin*, *The Toy Brother*, and *Grown-ups Get to Do All the Driving*.

This coming fall, HarperCollins will publish two brand-new Steig books, *Pete's A Pizza*, which is dedicated to Steig's original pizza, Maggie Steig, and *A Handful of Beans, Six Fairy Tales Retold* by Jeanne Steig, with pictures by William Steig. He lives in Boston, with his wife, Jeanne, a writer and sculptor, who makes entire worlds spring delightfully from found junk.

The drawing *Zeke Pippin and His Family* by William Steig appears in this publication courtesy of Holly M. McGhee, executive editor and associate publisher, Michael di Capua Books, HarperCollins Publishers.

