

1986

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Charlton Tebeau Chair

The Charlton Tebeau Chair in American History has been established at the University of Miami with a gift of \$1,000,000 by one of Dr. Tebeau's former students. Dr. Tebeau, former president of the Florida Historical Society, began teaching at the University of Miami in 1938 and served as chairman of the history department from 1946 to 1969. He is the author of many books on Florida, including *A History of Florida*, the recognized standard text. He is one of the founders of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, the longtime editor of *Tequesta*, and Florida's most renowned historian. The Charlton W. Tebeau Book Prize, an annual literary award of the Florida Historical Society, is named in his honor.

D. B. McKay Award

The Tampa Historical Society presented its D. B. McKay Award in Florida History to Dr. Samuel Proctor at a dinner meeting at the Tampa Yacht Club, November 19, 1986. Dr. Proctor was introduced by Hampton Dunn, vice president of the Florida Historical Society. In his talk, Dr. Proctor traced the history of the Florida Historical Society from its organization in St. Augustine in 1856 to the present, and the growth of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* from its beginnings in 1908.

Announcements and Activities

A conference on literature and film will be held at Florida State University, Tallahassee, January 29-31. The theme is "Crosscurrents/Art, History, Politics: Literature and Cinematic Representation." Write to Winnie Adolph, Department of Modern Languages, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

Ownership of the William V. Knott house in Tallahassee was transferred to the trustees of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board on July 15, 1986. The house, its contents, and an

endowment fund were gifts from the late J. Charles Knott. The Knott house will be operated as a historic house museum according to Mr. Knott's wishes. The two-story wood frame residence was built before the Civil War; the classical-style front portico was added in 1928. It is located in the Park Avenue Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Knott family played an important role in Florida political and social history. Charles Knott's father, William V. Knott, served as state treasurer and state comptroller. His brother, Circuit Court Judge James R. Knott of West Palm Beach, was president of the Florida Historical Society.

Hotel Cuba, a forty-five minute video tape, is available for sale or rental. It was produced by Robert Levine, Department of History, University of Miami, and Mark D. Szuchman, Florida International University. The music is by the University of Miami's School of Music. Dr. Szuchman is the narrator. It details the history of the Jewish community of Cuba from the beginning of the twentieth century to 1959. The photographs were collected in south Florida, California, and the Library of Congress. The Pacific Coast Association in Latin American Studies recognized *Hotel Cuba* in 1985 as the best film on a Latin American subject produced the previous year. For information on purchase or rental of *Hotel Cuba*, which is in three-quarter inch format, contact the University of Illinois Film Center, Champaign, Illinois 60801.

The Southern Literary Festival will hold its fiftieth annual meeting at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, April 9-11, 1987. William Styron will be the main speaker. Others will include Barry Hannah, Willie Morris, and Ellen Douglas. Write to Evans Harrington, Department of English, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677.

State Senator Patrick Neal of Bradenton was recognized at the 1986 meeting of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in Fort Lauderdale for his outstanding service in the field of preservation. Florida Secretary of State George Firestone made the presentation to Mr. Neal. Gainesville will be the site of the next annual meeting of the Trust, September 17-19, 1987.

Obituary

J. Leitch Wright, Jr.

J. Leitch Wright, Jr., professor of history, Florida State University, and a prominent Florida and southern historian, was killed by an automobile on September 28, 1986, as he was jogging on a road in Tallahassee. Dr. Wright received his bachelor's degree from Virginia Military Institute and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Virginia. After teaching at the University of Virginia, Virginia Military Institute, and Randolph-Macon College, he joined the faculty of Florida State University in 1968.

He was the author of five books and many essays and scholarly articles, several of which were published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Wright was an authority on Spanish and British Florida, Spanish-English colonial America, and the American Indians living in the South. He wrote *Florida in the American Revolution* by invitation of the Florida Bicentennial Commission. His latest book, *Creeks and Seminoles: Destruction and Regeneration of the Muscogulgee People* will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in the spring of 1987.

Dr. Wright twice received the Rembert W. Patrick Book Award from the Florida Historical Society: in 1976 for his *Florida in the American Revolution*, and in 1981 for his *The Only Land They Knew: The Tragic Story of the American Indians in the Old South*. The latter study was named an "Outstanding Academic Book for 1981" by *Choice*. It was a History Book Club selection in 1981, and was a finalist for the Charles Sydnor Award by the Southern Historical Association. Dr. Wright was also recognized by the American Association of State and Local History with a Certificate of Commendation for his writings, and the Florida College Teachers of History for his historical scholarship. Dr. Wright was an active member of the Florida Historical Society, serving as a director of the Society and as a member of the board of editors of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS...

1987

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| Feb. 26-28 | Southern Humanities Conference | Nashville, TN |
| Mar. 6-7 | Florida College Teachers of History | Miami, FL |
| Apr. 2-5 | Organization of American Historians | Philadelphia, PA |
| Apr. 9-11 | Fifth Citadel Conference on the South | Charleston, SC |
| May 6-8 | Society of Florida Archivists | Orlando, FL |
| May 7 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL CONFEDERATION | St. Augustine, FL |
| May 8-10 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY— 85th MEETING | St. Augustine, FL |
| May 8-10 | Florida Anthropological Society | Clearwater, FL |
| Sept. 17-19 | Florida Trust for Historic Preservation | Gainesville, FL |
| Oct. 4-7 | American Association for State and Local History | Raleigh, NC |
| Nov. 6-8 | Southern Jewish Historical Society | Durham, NC |
| Nov. 11-14 | Southern Historical Association | New Orleans, LA |