

Famed novelist Peter Matthiessen to present 'Great Author' lecture at UCSD on February 7

January 10, 1992

Media Contact: Lucie Clark, Friends of the UCSD Library, 534-1275 or Pat JaCoby, University Communications, 534-7404

FAMED NOVELIST TO PRESENT 'GREAT AUTHOR' LECTURE AT UCSD FEB. 7

Peter Matthiessen, one of America's most distinguished novelists and nature writers, will present the Spring 1992 Friends of the UCSD Library "Great Author Series" lecture at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Price Center Theater at the University of California, San Diego.

His local appearance comes at the same time the long-awaited film version of his first work, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, is being released. Notes *Vanity Fair* in a November 1991 article: "Despite almost unflinching critical acclaim and 21 books tracing the arc of a major literary career, Matthiessen has never reaped the broad best-sellerdom of such longtime friends as William Styron, John Irving and E.L. Doctorow. Now, ironically, Hollywood is supplying the boost: a \$30 million production of Matthiessen's first major novel, the Brazilian rain-forest drama, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*."

A writer of phenomenal scope and versatility, Matthiessen's themes embrace vanishing cultures and lifestyles, while his settings frequently focus on areas ravaged by man's greed--East Africa, Nepal, central New Guinea, the Amagon jungle, the Bering Sea, the turtle banks of the Caribbean, the Everglades, and the fishing waters off Long Island. Matthiessen is known not only for his sensitivity to the planet's wild places, but for--in William Styron's words--his "unshrinking vision of man in mysterious and uneasy interplay with nature."

In addition to *At Play*, his other fiction works include *Far Tortuga* (1975), *Midnight Turning Gray* (1984), *On the River Styx* (1989) and *Killing Mr. Watson* (1990).

His non-fiction works include *Snow Leopard* (National Book Award for contemporary thought, 1979), *Sand Rivers* (Gold Medal, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1985), and *Nine-headed Dragon River*, 1986.

Proceeds from the Great Author Series are designated for the benefit of the UCSD Library. Tickets are \$15. For further information, please call 534-1275.

(January 10, 1992)