

Steve Webb named winner of the first Undergraduate Book Collection Contest

May 13, 1975

Steven Webb, a Revelle College senior majoring in computer science, was named winner of the first Undergraduate Book Collection Contest at the University of California, San Diego for his collection of science fiction.

Webb, of 206 Rubenstein Place in Encinitas, was awarded a check for \$150 by Mrs. Margaret S. Landon, President of the Friends of the UCSD Library, sponsors of the contest. An awards ceremony was held in the UCSD Cluster Undergraduate Library where the winning collections were on display.

Muir College senior Michael Hughes of Solana Beach, was awarded second prize and a check for \$75 for his collection of works published by the Black Sparrow Press, an avant-garde press located in San Francisco.

Rebekah Snodgrass, a Third College freshman from La Jolla, was awarded third prize and a check for \$50 for her collection on mythology, legend and folklore.

According to Mrs. Landon, the contest was organized and sponsored by the Friends "in order to encourage undergraduate interest in reading and to stimulate personal book collecting by students." She said that the Friends plan to continue the contest in the coming years.

The contest was open to all UCSD undergraduate students. The collections had to be of 25 books or more and had to have been collected and owned by the student. The collections could be centered on any subject, could focus on a single author or group of authors, or could be the works by a printer, book designer, binder or illustrator.

An essay describing each book, the reasons for its choice, and its special value or interest to the collection had to accompany each entry. The essay also had to include a section on how, when and why the student became interested in building a library and its importance to him or her.

The judges for this year's contest were Clara Breed, former director of the San Diego Public Library; Laurence McGilvery, La Jolla antiquarian book dealer; Ronald L. Silveira, head of the Mandeville Department of Special Collections at UCSD; and Dr. Andrew Wright, Professor of Literature at UCSD.

According to the judges, Webb's collection of science fiction represented bibliomania at its best. The collection exhibited a life-long passion for his field, showing Webb to be a truly dedicated and omniverous reader and collector. The index, or comprehensive catalog, of his collection was highly impressive, the judges said.

Webb, who has more than 1,700 books in his collection, said he began reading science fiction when he was very young. He said he bought four science fiction books one summer and then was so taken with the subject, he spent all of his money on books. He lists his favorite author as "probably" Philip Jose Farmer.

Hughes was cited by the judges as "a most professional collector with a high enthusiasm for his authors." They added that his interest in an important publisher was consuming and that he exhibited a keen eye for quality.

Hughes, who is an aspiring writer, works part-time in the UCSD Central University Library. He said he was attracted to the Black Sparrow Press by the quality and the care put into its work and by the fact that the press publishes mostly work of Southern California authors.

Miss Snodgrass said her collection began through an interest in her Celtic ancestry. She said she got about five books as gifts and bought the rest of the 33 items in her collection. The judges felt she "evidenced a remarkable potential for growth as a collector and that she ably demonstrated her long interest in her subject and in the books reflecting it."

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