

Winners of Third Annual UCSD Undergraduate Book Collection Contest

June 1, 1977

Louis Kevitt, a Muir College senior philosophy major and California native who has been backpacking through the mountains with his family since the age of eight, won first place and \$150 for his collection of books and essay on "Mountaineering" in the third UCSD Undergraduate Book Collection contest at the University of California, San Diego.

Kevitt, whose collection contains many "prizes," among them a book printed in 1894 which may be the first instructional text on mountaineering, was one of seven semifinalists and three finalists chosen out of a field of 15 entrants, according to Undergraduate Librarian Marc Gittelsohn.

Second-place winner was Third College senior Debra Patla for her collection on "Ancient Chinese Thought" and third-place winner was Revelle College freshman William Wu for his presentation on "The Fantastic Art of Frank Frazetta."

Funds for this year's awards were provided by Mrs. W. Murray Smith of San Diego in memory of Mary Churchill MacKenzie. Awards for second and third place were \$100 and \$75. A copy of "ABC for Book Collectors" by John Carter was also inscribed and presented to each of the finalists.

According to Kevitt, he acquired his interest in mountaineering "as soon as I was old enough to have my mother read to me about the subject." His mountaineering book collection is a survey not just of the history of the subject but about mountaineers and their achievements.

"As I grew older," he adds, "I needed books to guide me where I went climbing.

Then I began to teach mountaineering privately and at the National Outdoor Leadership School. Once during a climb a pot I was using to cook turned over and burned my foot. I couldn't climb for a while and that was when I increased my interest in the history of mountaineering."

Second-place winner Debra Patla says her books on ancient Chinese thought are part of a larger "working collection" which has grown out of her research needs. Patla has studied and worked in Taiwan where she says she felt free to travel and work.

"I prefer to wait to go to the People's Republic," she explains, "until I can visit with more freedom."

Patla's collection includes many versions of books published in the United States and "pirated" by Taiwanese publishing houses. But there are also many rare ones never before seen in the United States.

"I use my collection all the time. When I see a book on China, I can't be happy until I buy it," she smiles.

Wu's third-place collection on the work of science fiction illustrator Frank Frazetta (featured recently in Esquire magazine) was born by accident when the student "walked into a used book store looking for science fiction. One book was Edgar Rice Burroughs' 'The Lost Continent.' Until then I had thought Burroughs had written only

'Tarzan.' The cover of the book portrayed something unusual, an illustration by Frazetta. That's when I started collecting Burroughs' books with Frazetta covers."

Wu says he likes the "fantasy aspect, the unreality of some of the scenes interpreted by Frazetta." What started as a sci-fi collection became a collection of "anything with Frazetta illustrations."

The artist's original illustrations are still too expensive for Wu to think of purchasing and, besides, he adds, Frazetta holds onto most of his paintings. Wu says he may buy a portfolio of prints of Frazetta's work with his book collection prize money.

Judges for the 1977 book contest were Barbara Cole (La Jolla bookseller), Robert Lewis (head of the UC San Diego Biomedical Library), Georgina Peyton (collection development coordinator, UC San Diego) and Donald T. Wesling (associate professor of literature, UC San Diego).

Finalists were judged not only on their collections but on the basis of a bibliographical essay and, to a lesser extent, the displays they prepared of their books.

(June 1, 1977)

For information contact Barbara Ann Firger, 452-3120