

THE FLEUR COWLES

*Flair*  
SYMPOSIUM 2008



The Harry Ransom Center presents  
**CREATING A USABLE PAST:  
WRITERS, ARCHIVES, & INSTITUTIONS**  
November 13–15, 2008  
Harry Ransom Center  
The University of Texas at Austin

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE**

Lee Blessing, Denis Johnson, Tim O'Brien, Amy Tan, National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia, and library directors Stephen Enniss, Kris Kiesling, Breon Mitchell, Richard Ovenden, Ben Primer, Michael Ryan, Alice Schreyer, Thomas Staley, and Frank Turner.



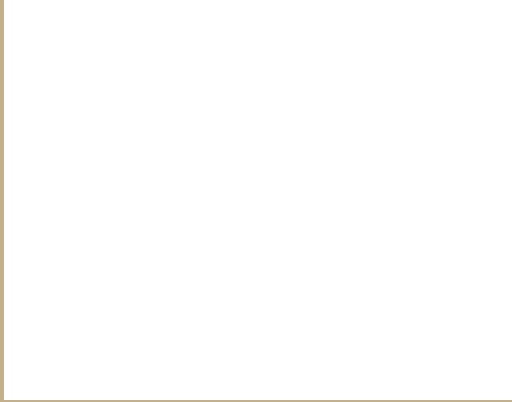
HARRY RANSOM  
CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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The Harry Ransom Center presents the seventh biennial Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium

## CREATING A USABLE PAST: WRITERS, ARCHIVES, AND INSTITUTIONS

November 13–15, 2008

In response to the ever-increasing global interest in the future of research libraries and archives, digitization, preservation, and the value of original materials, the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin will bring together leading figures in the field for its seventh biennial Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium, *Creating a Usable Past: Writers, Archives, and Institutions*.

The symposium will encourage writers, archivists, agents, library directors, and scholars to examine the ways in which they are both actively and passively engaged in creating a literary and personal past for future generations to study.

Writers Lee Blessing, Denis Johnson, Tim O'Brien, and Amy Tan will discuss the issues they confront as they create their own archives. Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, will provide the keynote address.

Research library directors, archivists, agents, and dealers, including Glenn Horowitz and Rick Gekoski, will examine the challenges involved with selling, donating, processing, and preserving archival materials.

The Flair Symposium, held biennially at the Ransom Center, honors the ideals set forth by Fleur Cowles and her landmark *Flair* magazine.

## REGISTRATION

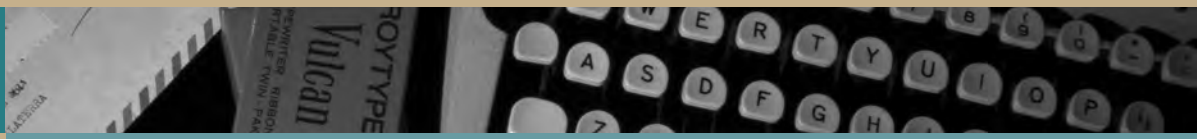
The \$100 registration fee includes access to all events on the schedule. There are a limited number of \$35 registrations available for students. Registration is limited and closes when available seats are filled or by November 1, 2008.

To register, visit [www.hrc.utexas.edu/flair](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/flair). For more information, call 512-232-3214 or email [flair@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:flair@hrc.utexas.edu).

## THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ARCHIVE

September 2, 2008–January 4, 2009

This exhibition uses the lens of the Harry Ransom Center to explore both the archiving of our culture and the culture surrounding archives themselves. Drawing on the Center's extensive holdings of the imaginative creations of writers and artists, the exhibition illustrates the diverse nature of archives and their myriad uses. In the process, the exhibition traces the life of an archive in an institution, demonstrating how collections are acquired, accounted for, cataloged, preserved, and, most importantly, how they support the quest for knowledge and endlessly yield new discoveries.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 13

Schedule is subject to change.

All events take place at the Ransom Center unless otherwise noted.

5 p.m. **Registration and Reception**

7 p.m. **Writers on the Future of Reading**  
AT&T Conference Center Ballroom

MODERATOR: Jim Magnuson, Michener Center for Writers, University of Texas at Austin  
Lee Blessing, Writer  
Denis Johnson, Writer  
Tim O'Brien, Writer  
Amy Tan, Writer

## Friday, November 14

9 a.m. **Registration and Coffee**

10 a.m. **Welcome**  
Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin

**Introduction**  
Ben Primer, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

**Keynote Address**  
Dana Gioia, National Endowment for the Arts

10:45 a.m. **Building the Archive**  
MODERATOR: Jim Magnuson, Michener Center for Writers, University of Texas at Austin  
Lee Blessing, Writer  
Denis Johnson, Writer  
Tim O'Brien, Writer  
Amy Tan, Writer

12:15 p.m. **Break for Lunch**

2 p.m. **The Archive on the Market**  
MODERATOR: Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin  
Rick Gekoski, Gekoski Booksellers  
Glenn Horowitz, Glenn Horowitz Booksellers, Inc.  
Breon Mitchell, Lilly Library, Indiana University

4 p.m. **Transforming the Archive**  
MODERATOR: Michael Ryan, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University  
Chris Fletcher, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford  
Steve Mielke, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin  
Stella Halkyard, John Rylands Library, Manchester University  
William Stingone, New York Public Library

## Saturday, November 15

9 a.m. **Coffee**

10 a.m. **The Changing Shape of Archives**  
MODERATOR: Kris Kiesling, University of Minnesota  
Peter Hirtle, Cornell University Library, Cornell University  
Jeremy Leighton John, British Library  
Matthew Kirschenbaum, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland  
Naomi Nelson, Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library, Emory University  
Susan Thomas, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Noon **Break for Lunch**

2 p.m. **Looking Forward to Preserve the Past**  
MODERATOR: Alice Schreyer, University of Chicago Library, University of Chicago  
Stephen Enniss, Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library, Emory University  
Richard Ovenden, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford  
Frank Turner, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University  
Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin

4:15 p.m. **Conclusion**

5 p.m. **Reception**