



The Decree

A "Carolina Wesleyan" Publication

U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Permit No. 217
Rocky Mount, N. C.

No-Profit Organization

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 1

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1976

Black Mountain College

Library Exhibit Successful

A special showing of rare books and art from the original Black Mountain collection were recently displayed at the North Carolina Wesleyan College Library on Sunday, Nov. 14.

In 1957, North Carolina Wesleyan College purchased the library of Black Mountain College, an experimental college which promoted the idea that fine arts ought to be the center of the college curriculum. Numerous painters, musicians, architects, sculptors, poets and novelists, now of international reputation, studied there as teachers or students.

Beginning in the fall of 1974, consultation with the State Department of Archives and History and with the North Carolina Museum of Arts, and correspondence with the Mu-

seum of Modern Art in New York, confirmed that Wesleyan indeed was in possession not only of valuable works of art, but also of a valuable cultural document in the library itself. Over the past two years, some of the art works have been restored and framed and were hung in the browsing room of the College library. They formed part of a permanent Black Mountain College collection of books and art from the Black Mountain College library, eventually to be permanently housed in the library's browsing room.

century authors, notably William Faulkner, books with inscriptions to and from previously and subsequently famous people, and books rebound in the Black Mountain College bindery. The program Sunday afternoon consisted of a viewing of the original prints and light refreshments preceded by brief talks which described the significance of the Black Mountain collection. Benjamin Williams, Head of Collections at the North Carolina Museum of Art, spoke on the cultural and artistic significance of the original prints. Dr. John Sharpe, Curator of Rare Books at the William R. Perkins Library of Duke University, spoke on the potential of the library for a collection of rare books. And Dr. Leverett T.



Smith Jr., Associate Professor of English at Wesleyan and Director of the Black Mountain College Project, spoke on the educational value of the collection to the College and the community.

The occasion was sponsored by the Black Mount College Project, a project instituted by Wesleyan President S. Bruce Petteway in October of 1975 and funded privately by local citizens. The institution of a Black Mountain College collection at Wesleyan, according to Professor Smith, the project's director, was the most important of the goals of the project.

"In the Black Mountain College Library," states Professor Smith, "Wesleyan is in possession of a cultural document of considerable significance. We have spent a great deal of time and energy, and need to spend a great deal more, locating and evaluating the material we have.



Dr. Leverett T. Smith, Chairman of the Black Mountain Project.

Arthur Tyler Honored

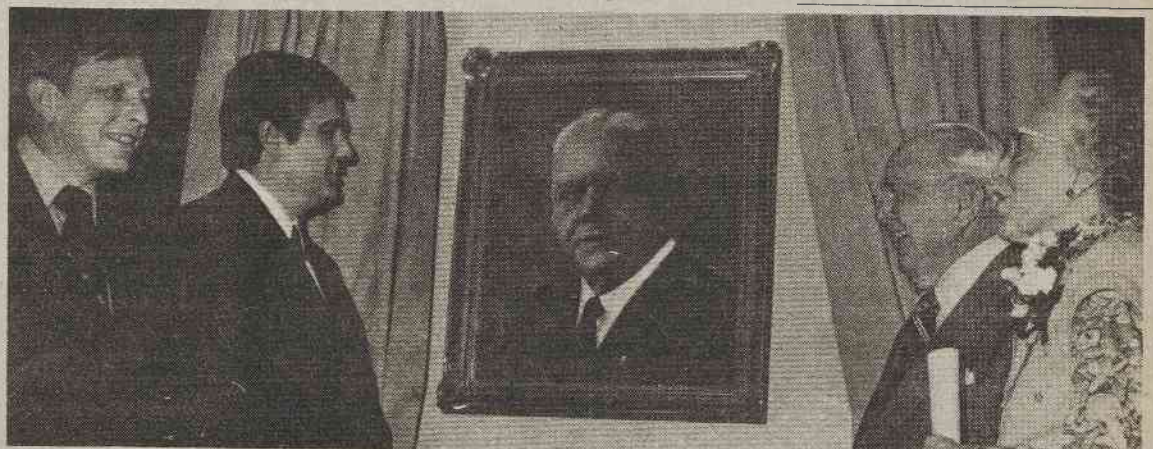
Arthur L. Tyler of Rocky Mount was recently honored by officials of North Carolina Wesleyan College Wednesday, Nov. 17, at a surprise portrait unveiling held in Garber Chapel on the Wesleyan campus.

Following the invocation by Charles I. Penick, pastor of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Wesleyan President S. Bruce Petteway welcomed those present, stating that the significance of the occasion was indeed special in view of the numerous contributions Tyler has made to North Carolina Wesleyan College and the community.

Special speakers on the program were William B. Harrison, former mayor of Rocky Mount, James B. Powers, president of Planters National Bank and Trust Company, and The Honorable

J. Phil Carlton, Chief District Judge. The portrait was unveiled by Tyler's grandson, Christopher Tyler Gardner. And John M. Cline, Rocky Mount District Superintendent of The United Methodist Church, led the benediction. A reception in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Petteway concluded the activities.

Arthur Tyler has been one of the most active business men in this section of the State. In addition to his work with the Belk stores, he has been active in numerous civic and business organizations and has participated as advisory Director of the Planters National Bank & Trust Company, member of the Board of Directors of Citizens Savings & Loan Association, president of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, and member of the Nash County Welfare Board.



PORTRAIT UNVEILED—At a surprise ceremony Wednesday afternoon attended by approximately 115 persons, a portrait of Arthur E. Tyler of Rocky Mount was unveiled at N. C. Wesleyan College. Admiring the portrait, which will hang in the main lobby of the administration building, are [left to right] Dr. Bruce Petteway, president of the college; Judge J. Phil Carlton, chairman of the board of trustees; Tyler, and Mrs. Tyler.

Sassers Perform!

William and Thelma Sasser, well known duo-pianists from Rocky Mount, presented their 14th annual concert at North Carolina Wesleyan College on Monday, Nov. 22 in Garber Chapel. The program included selections from Vivaldi, Brahms, Poulenc, and Brubeck.

Thelma Sasser is a native of the Dominican Republic. She holds degrees in music from Jacksonville University in Florida and from Oberlin College in Ohio. She has performed widely in North Carolina both as soloist and as duo-pianist with her husband. She has appeared as soloist with the Jacksonville Philharmonic Orchestra and in programs for the Southeastern Composers' League. She now teaches privately in Rocky Mount.

Dr. Sasser is chairman of the Department of Music at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount. He received the B. A., M. A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina, and has done additional piano study with Ruth Geiger in New York and in Germany. He has published articles in both American and European music journals.

In addition to his activities as a pianist, Dr. Sasser has an interest in choral conducting and has served as adjudicator in choral festivals and as clinician. He is a past president of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association and has served on boards for the North Carolina Symphony, the Rocky Mount Arts Center and the North Carolina State Arts Council.

As duo-pianists the Sassers have played recitals at more than a dozen colleges and universities in North Carolina.