

# Kemp Battle Nye: Notary Monk



OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD are Dorothy and Toto, characters in "The Wizard of Oz". Tickets for the play are on sale at G.M. for next Friday and Saturday's performances.

A Buddhist monk of the third order and a Justice of the Peace, a diplomatic courier in Old China and a dealer in strobe lights and beads, a noted art collector and a Notary Public—Kemp Battle Nye is, or has been, all of these, and more.

The grandson of a founder, and cousin of a President of the University of North Carolina, Kemp lived in the Orient for a total of 11 years spanning from 1930 until after World War II.

Nye is now proprietor of Kemp's Record Shop where he sells everything from beads to cigarette papers, strobe lites to granny glasses and oriental sitars.

Kemp's collection of Oriental art has been called one of the finest private collections in this country.

"I got my art collection," he said, leaning forward in his chair, his eyes widening and voice growing loud, "during the great exodus of the wealthy in China in 1937, after the Japanese invasion."

Raising his hands above his head and sweeping them apart, he continued. "The rich were fleeing everywhere, they were willing to give anything—anything for enough American money to get out of China. If I'd had \$1,000 for one week, I'd never have had to work another day."

Kemp talked with growing intensity about his China as he sat in a huge fan-shaped wicker chair in Kemp's Record Shop.

His face—with strong features, slim and vigorous above a green ascot, and dark eyebrows and hair—made him look closer to 40 than his true 60 years.

"I lived with the people and I traveled half the continent. I rode 90 days in a mule train across the Gobi desert, and I traveled all the way from Vladivostok across Russia to

Finland. I had the only diplomatic pass granting freedom of movement for an Occidental in China in the late thirties," he said. "The writers on China—most of them—never lived a day outside the diplomatic quarters. Those who wrote against the Chinese just wanted to be in control, to subjugate. They didn't appreciate the people or the culture."

Kemp paused briefly as one of the beaded curtains parted from the back room and a customer with beret and beard and girl friend came out. The girl held an Indian sari.

"What happens when the starch washes out?" she asked. "Oh, it's even better, much more lovely," he said. "The Indians, the minute they take one out, wrinkle it like this and that gives it an even more beautiful wavy effect," he said, waving his hands down the sides of his body. "Of course, you can keep it starched too."

Kemp concluded the sale, returning to his fur-covered wicker throne to explain that he got his unlimited pass through coincidence.

"I was living with a Japanese man before the invasion," he said. "A tremendous fellow. When the troops came into Peking, it turned out he was head of Japanese intelligence for the area."

"I had many friends in China and gained a lot of things few other Occidentals ever hear about," he said, moving behind the cash register in the shop, swirling away the smoke from a burning stick of musk which filled the tiny room with its distinct aroma.

Leaning forward on the register and addressing his remarks in general to a diverse group of browsers accumulating around him, he told of how another

connection led to his becoming a Buddhist monk.

"In 1937," he said, "the Dalai Lama was run out of Tibet and the monks in Peking persuaded him to come there. I had gotten to know some of the local Buddhists at the Yellow Temple in Peking. They lived there, 1500 of them, on 90 acres of land. Depended solely on charity—contributions of the Chinese people—to live."

"I got into the habit of bringing them cast-off clothes and other items from the wealthy people in the European quarter. In those days, you thought nothing of buying a new suit at 3 p.m. for a party that night. You wore it two days and when somebody at the club spilled a beer on it, you threw it away."

"When the Dalai Lama and all the hierarchy came to Peking, I was rewarded for my help in procuring goods for the monks, who were happy to use anything they could get their hands on."

"I'm the only Occidental to ever have been touched by the hands of the Tacha Lama. He's the second man to the Dalai Lama. He made me a full Buddhist monk—third order."

Kemp never made the advance to fourth order (which requires a year of seclusion and meditation) but he has included a "Buddhist meditation chamber" in his shop. It is a tiny cubicle with a four-foot ceiling, accessible only through the bathroom.

As a monk, Kemp believes he has witnessed rituals observed by few other westerners.

"I saw the Tasha Lama work himself into a complete frenzy," he said. Sometimes it took him three days. He sat meditating while a choir of castrates—one of the few places they're still used—began to

mumble and then raised their voices to a wild wailing—on and off for three days. It was like no sound you ever heard. They were also playing on instruments made of human bone."

Now standing, his arms stretched full above his head and his eyes wide, his ascot askew, he continued: "At the end of three days the Lama delivered the golden holy word to the people, who waited all this time outside to hear it. It took the damn guy another three days to recover from it too."

Kemp believes the success of his unique shop is due to a number of factors.

"The strange, the unusual, the weird—that's what sells," he said. "A lot of times people come here just to look; it arouses their curiosity. But I've had people come back from as far away as Maryland to buy a Buddha because they just couldn't find one anywhere else."

Another reason is the expansion of Oriental culture. Young people are on the move; they want something different.

The Orientals are great artists, but their culture has been excluded from ours by government policy. This is changing.

"The Chinese are learning from us the economic advantages of mass production,

and we're learning, especially the young, to appreciate and develop a taste for the fine, the detailed and truly beautiful work of the oriental who can spend 20 years on one carving. The combination of the two ways could make a wonderful culture."

The interview ended abruptly. Kemp got a phone call and went to the back office. When he emerged through the beaded curtain, he said he had to go. A woman in

Hillsborough had died and her husband needed a notary to read the will.

Kemp left, leaving the "bazaar-museum" in the hands of Larry, part-time painter and clerk. As he walked up the steps, sidestepping pieces of paper and ashes blown from the next yard, another couple came into the shop. They went immediately to Kemp's Buddhist meditation chamber to "mediate, watch the lights or whatever they do in there."

## Senior Gift Plans

By EVIE STEVENSON  
DTH Staff Writer

Suggestions for the senior class gift are greatly needed by the senior class officers. Charlie Farris, president of the senior class, said the ideas that have been suggested so far are not as suitable as they could be.

"We want to give something good, but unusual," said Farris. "I hope our gift can be something we can associate with when we return to Chapel Hill after graduation."

Farris made an appeal to seniors to give suggestions within the \$1000 range. These suggestions should be given to Kay Fouts, treasurer of the senior class and chairman of two committees on the senior gift, or to any other senior

class officer.

Suggestions may be mailed to: Senior Gift, 319 Stacy Dorm. They may also be given by calling Farris at 968-9112.

A few suggestions that have been made are: lectern for the convention room in the new Student Union, lining South Campus with Cherry trees, installing a better sound system in Carmichael Auditorium, putting lights around the Old Well.

Gifts given in previous years have been benches, Cherry trees in McCorkle Place, shrubbery, flagpoles and flags. Past expenses for gifts have been from \$200 to \$300 to \$1500, according to the amount of money the senior class has to spend.

## 2 Playmaker Books Honor Anniversary

Accompanying the year-long celebration of the Carolina Playmakers 50th Anniversary, the University of North Carolina Press has announced the publication of two new books.

The first volume, *Adventures in Playmaking*, was released Friday, November 22nd. The second book, *The Carolina Playmakers*, the first Fifty Years, is scheduled for release in the spring.

Edited by John W. Parker, Business Manager of the Carolina Playmakers, *Adventures in Playmaking* represents a cross-section of the valuable contribution the prominent drama group have made to the world of theatre over the past fifty years. The book presents the complete text of four plays, photographs of the original productions, and the complete score of a musical. An appendix contains the list of nearly one-thousand one-act and full-length plays

written by students and produced by the Playmakers during their fifty-year history.

The four full-length plays offer a wide variety of styles.

"Singing Valley," by well-known novelist Josefine Niggli, is a romantic comedy of Mexican village life. "Spring for Sure" is a comedy-musical based on mountain folk characters. The book is by Catherine McDonald, with a complete score composed by Wilton Mason, Chairman of the Music Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "A Little to the Left" is a contemporary comedy by Brock Brower. A staff writer for Life magazine, Mr. Brower recently published his first novel, "In The Battle of Carnival and Lent," Professor Russell Graves of The Carolina Playmakers staff, has drawn from the chaotic period of the middle ages.

The four plays are available for production by university and community drama groups.

## International Bazaar To Feature Unique Imported Gifts, Decorations

How would you like to give a 100-year old Russian samavar for Christmas... or find one under your own Christmas tree?

... Or a Norwegian reindeer skin, a Scottish tartan,

a doll in native Greek costume—or maybe even a Byzantine cross...

These and many other authentic items representing countries world-wide will be available at the University of North Carolina YM-YWCA's International Handicrafts Bazaar Dec. 6-8 in the Y Building and Gerrard Hall.

Several special features will accompany this fifth annual bazaar.

A giant 15-foot Christmas tree, lighted and decorated, will be erected in the center of Y Court to signify the bazaar's opening Friday, Dec. 6.

Continuous entertainment, including folk dancing and singing by international students, will be held in Gerrard Hall. Demonstrations of crafts-making, wood carving and pottery wheel turning will be featured.

According to co-chairmen Susan Dixon and Dennis Falck, the bazaar has been greatly expanded this year with many new items.

"We feel we have one of the finest representative selections of international and North Carolina handicrafts ever assembled for the bazaar," Falck said. "We think people attending the bazaar will enjoy watching the craft demonstrations and entertainment equally as much as browsing through the handicrafts."

Crafts from England, Norway, Iran, Israel, Greece and Thailand, as well as items from the same countries represented last year, will be

included this year.

Items will range in price from under \$5 to about \$85 with the "bulk being in the \$5-\$15 range," Falck said. "We hope students will take this opportunity to buy unique Christmas gifts."

Gerrard Hall is being used exclusively to house North Carolina crafts. Featured will be vividly colored barrels and other crafts made by children at Murdock Center, and a photographic display of North Carolina.

One of the most valuable of all the bazaar items, the Russian samavar, was obtained from Greece and is guaranteed to be more than 100 years old. The samavar is a brass urn with a spigot at its base used especially in Russia to boil water for tea. The hollowed-out center portion is a compartment for hot coals, used to keep the liquid contents hot.

Twenty Iranian miniatures will be featured. The small scenes depicting details of Persian life, hand painted with a second, larger frame of carefully hand-laid mosaic.

Among the bazaar's most interesting items will be bread dough figures from Ecuador, an authentic colonial spinning wheel; hand carved thornwood figures and nativity sets from Nigerian life carved by Isaac Olatunde; and ceramic egg cups from Rhodes.

Among other interesting international items to be sold will be French comic books; and wood and beads from the

Episso school in Haiti; wooden candle holders from the Norwegian Red Cross, terracota pottery, pendants, hand crocheted shawls and rugs

from Greece; ceramic tiles from Holland; German story books; alpaca rugs, tin lanterns and toy lama from Peru and Bolivia; and authentic German lederhosen (leather short pants and suspenders).

Items from within the United States include North Carolina and Kentucky pottery, wood carvings, straw hearth brooms, skittles games, wooden bread trays, and items from the Asheville Craftsmen's Guild Fair.

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For more details, including a listing of sponsoring companies, see your college placement director or write to the non-profit sponsor of the second annual "Career-In": Industrial Relations Association of Bergen County, P. O. Box 533, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07662.



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