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#### DUKE'S PERKINS LIBRARY PLANS CELEBRATION FOR 4 MILLIONTH VOLUME

DURHAM, N.C. -- Officials at Duke University's Perkins Library aren't likely to hoist a big golden sign announcing "4 million served daily," but a big celebration commemorating the library's 4 millionth volume and involving students, faculty, employees and members of the Triangle community **is** planned for April 10.

The library has selected the first issue of the first collected edition of John Donne's poems as the 4 millionth volume. The event coincides with the recent announcement of the Carpenter Foundation Endowment of \$1.2 million for English and American Literature. To inaugurate the endowment, the library has selected five rare volumes representing first printed poems of classic British and American authors, one from each century beginning with the Renaissance.

As the 4 millionth and first volume, the library has selected a full text database of English poetry on compact disks. The database, covering poets from 900 to 1900, symbolizes the commitment of the library to providing access to information in a variety of formats, according to Connie McCarthy, associate university librarian for Duke's Perkins system.

If the magnitude of the celebration is surprising to the public in general, it isn't to people associated with libraries, McCarthy said. "Duke has always been counted as one of the major private research libraries in the country -- it's currently the 19th largest research library in the nation -- but any million volume milestone is important," she said, adding that Perkins reached its third million volume on Nov. 15, 1979.

"In a sense this event signifies the coming of age of Duke as an institution, the end of the adolescence of the library. ... We're always trying to add quality materials to our collections but we try to do that in a way that is tailored to university priorities and to the demands of faculty and students. A library evolves as the university evolves. For example, we've built a very strong English and American literature collection because people here are strong in those areas; we have a strong divinity library because we have a strong Divinity School," McCarthy added.

Data related to how often information duplicates itself and progress in online technology lead McCarthy to believe that the acquisition of volumes for the library might slow down a bit in the future. "We'll continue to add print volumes to the collection, but in addition we will be increasing

our access to networked information and online sources, thus decreasing what we need available on site," she said.

University librarian Jerry Campbell, McCarthy and other library staff members see this as a good opportunity to draw the attention of students -- in fun ways -- to the importance of the library and its offerings.

The library plans to have a booth on the West Campus quad near Perkins Library and to pass out frisbees from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 10. A frisbee toss will be held at noon.

Other events that day include the dedication of the Leona Bowman Carpenter Memorial Room in Lilly Library on East Campus and the formal presentation of the 4 millionth volume at 3 p.m. in Duke Chapel. Participants in that ceremony will include Provost Thomas Langford, Campbell, library advisory board members and Carpenter Family and foundation representatives. Reynolds Price, James B. Duke Professor of English and winner of the 1986 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction for his novel, "Kate Vaiden," will speak during the presentation ceremony.

An exhibit featuring the 4 millionth and the 4 millionth and first volume will be in

Perkins Library's main lobby April 6-17.

For more information on the upcoming event, call Connie McCarthy at Perkins Library, (919) 684-2034.(END) D