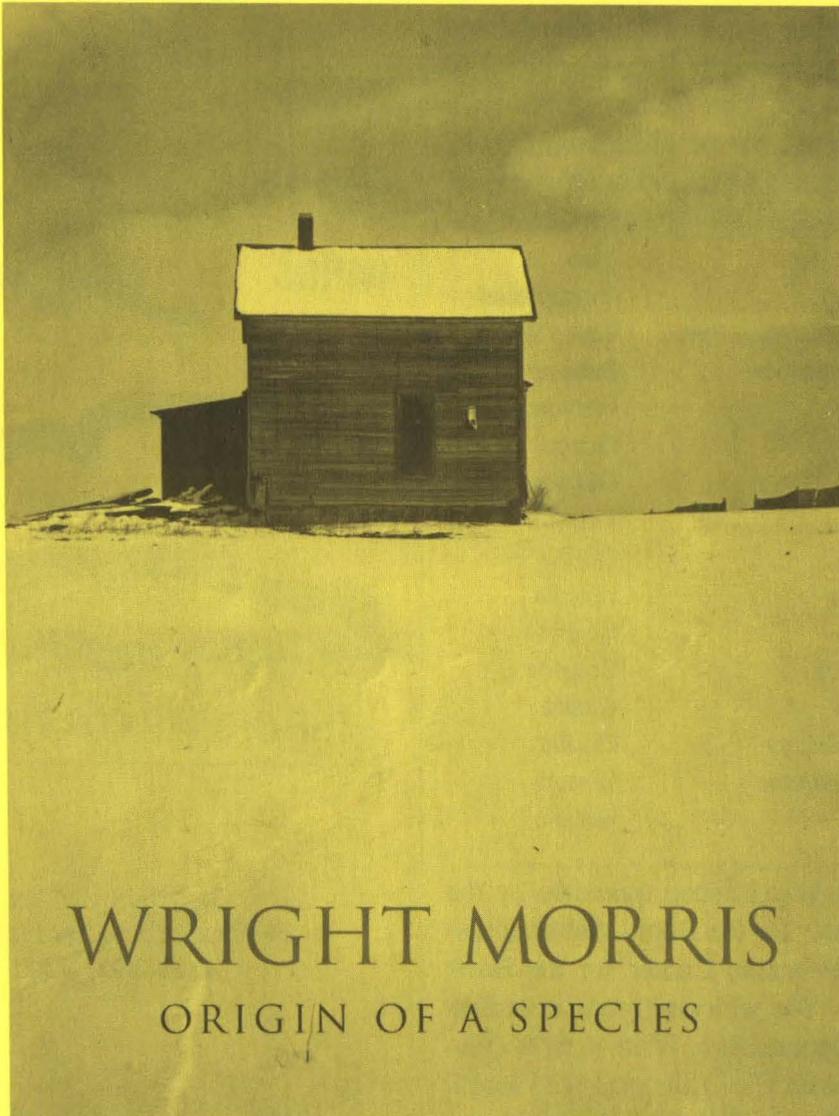


NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 3

No. 1



WRIGHT MORRIS
ORIGIN OF A SPECIES



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The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. The Center is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Center acts as a catalyst, bringing together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book. The Center serves as a partner and supporter of programs, events, and unique projects which celebrate the written word. The current board members are:

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On the cover:

Photograph by Wright Morris
from the cover of *Origin of a Species*.

BOOKS

GIVE US

WINGS



THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK

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President's Message

— Elaine Booth

As I begin my tenure as president of the Nebraska Center for the Book, I am acutely aware of my responsibility to coax this, still youthful, organization into the future. Still, I am just as acutely aware that, in our zest to move forward, we must remain continually cognizant of our historical foundation and mission. Since the deeds of history are accomplished by individuals, this glance backward will feature four on whom I have depended for the continuity only a sense of heritage can assure.

If it is appropriate to describe a person as mentor to an organization, then that description could surely be applied to John Cole's relationship to the Nebraska Center for the Book. As an historian and as an employee, since 1966, of the Library of Congress, John Cole serves as the single best authority on our origins of affiliation with that prestigious institution through its National Center for the Book. Since its creation in 1977, the Center has enjoyed Cole's leadership as director and, as a result, state affiliates benefit as they seek to validate their own activities on behalf of books and reading. He has encouraged a unique identity for the Nebraska Center for the Book through his steady endorsement of, and personal participation in, our fledgling efforts. He has reminded us that, as a "community of the book," we will naturally travel multiple tracks in fulfilling our state commitment to (in his words) "keep books and reading central to our personal lives and to the life of our democracy."

There can be no arguing that designation as founder

and father of the Nebraska Center for the Book must be assigned to Dick Allen. In January, 1989, some 35 Nebraskans representing varying interests and regions gathered at Dick's invitation to answer the question "Shall there be a Nebraska Center for the Book?" Positive responses were mysteriously favored and, by the end of the meeting, buzz-words were "proposals," "possibilities" and "purposes." Dick wasted no time in organizing a planning committee which had its first meeting the very next month to formulate a mission statement, the next meeting in March to set goals and objectives and bimonthly meetings thereafter culminating, by year's end, in a presentation of bylaws and articles of incorporation. In 1990, with Dick still at the helm, sub-committees former collaborations and initiated projects in areas of literary heritage, literacy and governance. Later that year, with a home in the Lincoln City Libraries and approval of the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska Center for the Book joined 22 other state centers as an official affiliate of the National Center for the Book. To summarize mercilessly, Dick's four-year nurturing of this organization has resulted in its promotion of as many national themes from "Year of the Young Reader" to "Explore New Worlds — Read!", its consponsorship of major conferences and popular festivals and its status, nationally, as one of the most active and successful state centers. Readers may be wondering why anyone would agree to follow such an act. My response is that "I was set up." Or, rather, The Nebraska Center for the Book has been set up — to thrive.



Upon first attempting a posture of leadership in this organization, I was struck with the countless details of which I had been kept innocent even as an original planning committee member and, more recently, as vice president. My desperate flailing for answers led me invariably to Dave McCleery or Tom Boyle.

Dave McCleery has certainly earned titles of chronicler and composer of NCB's public image. We can characterize him as editor, publisher and writer of our newsletter, and that, in itself, is a profile of distinction. With support of the Nebraska Humanities Council, the *Nebraska Center for the Book Quarterly* has been recognized nationally as one of highest quality and significant content. John Cole recently answered my concern regarding the future of the NCB and its place in the scheme of national affiliation with an assurance that we are, indeed, well-established and respected by those in his office and the state affiliates. He went on to praise our publication as largely responsible for this standing. Dave has not only "done his job" in the capacity of quarterly editor, but from the very beginning he has exhibited a commitment to recording and expressing our organization's identity and mission. NCB mailing, membership and promotion eventually crowded into Dave's bailiwick, as well, until now, when we must face his extrication from us, the process feels like open-heart surgery.

In the spirit of disclosure, the new NCB president

admits to being a monetary moron for whom maintaining a checking account is an example of a numbers crunch. So, when reflecting on Tom Boyle's role in the history of NCB, I cannot help but marvel at those skills required for not only providing financial coherence where a financial base doesn't exist, but also for coping with money problems which, at first, seemed to compound daily. I recollect that at nearly every one of our early meetings, Tom was called upon to venture into uncharted territory of budgets, taxes, grant funds and special accounts and consistently he would return to us with reports that somehow made sense — even to me. His work has resulted in a financial foundation on which we can continue to build our non-profit book culture.

So, these pioneers of the Nebraska Center for the Book have served us well. Theirs were not terms of office, as mine is, but rather formative years of commitment, exploration and organization propelled by vision. I am gratified, primarily, that they persevered through the difficult phases of our youth with its unknowns and growing pains, and that when we turn our backward glances to their guidance, we will see that they are keeping us company on the forward path-paved for us with their experience.



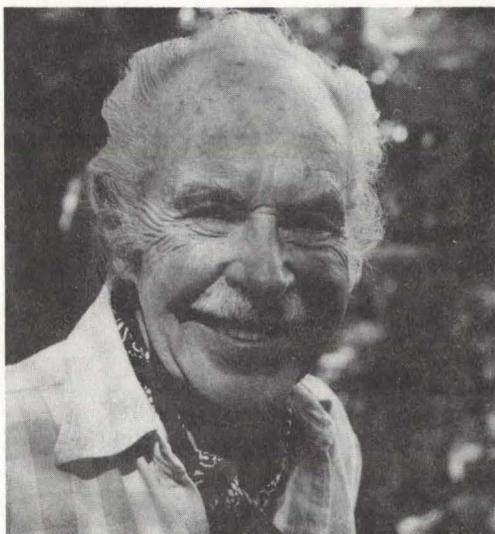
Wright Morris: Origin of a Species

— Joseph J. Wydeven

It is unlikely that we will see much more writing from former Nebraskan Wright Morris. He turned eight-three this January and he has stated that he has given up writing fiction. It is now thirteen years since he published his last novel, *Plains Song for Female Voices*, the book which won the American Book Award for Fiction in 1981. Much of his work since then has the look of denouement, a tidying-up for the assessment of posterity.

In the decade of the 1980's Morris' efforts in fiction were given over to the short story, several of which were included in the "Best of Year" anthologies. In addition, Morris published three volumes of memoirs, short story and essay collections, and several books pertinent to his "other career" as photographer. In his important *Time Pieces: Photographs, Writing, and Memory* (1989) he gathered together his remarkable essays — ranging over forty years — on photography.

Given Morris's withdrawal in the 90's, we have reason to celebrate the publication of a new book dedicated to his relatively short but very active career as a photographer (roughly 1933-1954). *Wright Morris: Origin of a Species* is the happy by-product of an exhibition of Morris's photographs staged at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco in September - October 1992. Morris, delighted with the museum's extravagant display of his work and the opportunity to address an audience of old friends, has called the show his "last hurrah."



Photograph Courtesy of Joseph J. Wydeven

The *Origin of a Species* exhibition was lavishly presented. The viewer entered the vestibule room to face an enlarged reproduction of Morris's celebrated GANO photograph — so sharply printed that for a moment the corrugations in the grain elevator seemed to shimmer and thrust forward physically into the viewer's space. The show filled two large rooms, most of the more than 90 images familiar ones from Morris's several photo-texts, many of them from his returns to Nebraska in 1940 and 1947 to reclaim, or as he has often suggested, to "repossess" his past.

The large-format text accompanying the show is also handsomely designed and printed (although the reproductions cannot match the crisp and informative laser-scanned prints in Morris's *Photographs &*



Words [1982]). The two essays accompanying the photographs testify to Morris's power to engage readers and viewers and provide fresh perspectives for viewing his work. One of these is by John Szarkowski, Director Emeritus of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, who admits a debt to Morris in some of his own photo-text work. The second essay, by San Francisco photography curator Sandra Phillips, is particularly useful in linking Morris the photographer to Morris the writer-novelist. Phillips' discussion of the "passageway" both in Morris's photographs and *between* his photos and his texts is illuminating.

As a writer-photographer Morris will be remembered as a pioneer of the photo-text and an astute explorer of its theoretical implications, especially applied to the borderland where fiction and truth necessarily content. Reader-viewers will find *Wright Morris: Origin of a Species* a handsome tribute to Morris and a welcome addition to the literature of commentary intended to clarify Morris's large body of work.

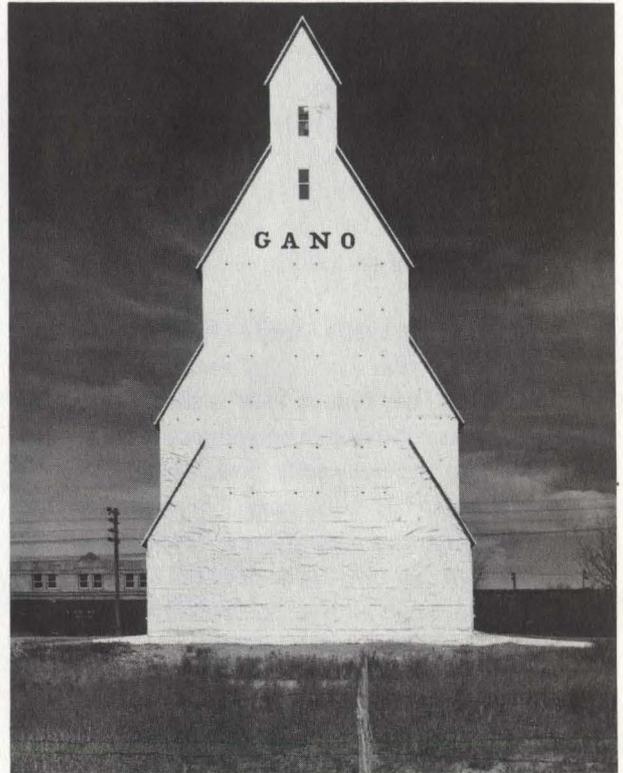


Photo Courtesy of Wright Morris



1993

The Nebraska Center for the Book presents

Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival

Sponsored by Southeast Community College — Lincoln Campus

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Southeast Community College, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

WRITING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A One Day Festival for Writers & Storytellers of All Ages!

The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival is made possible in part through the help of the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB). As an added benefit, your registration to the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival (NWSF) automatically makes you a member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and entitles you to all membership privileges.

1993 Session Schedule

For this year's Festival please choose a 2-hour morning and a 2-hour afternoon workshop led by professional Nebraska writers and storytellers. Schedule a one-on-one conference to discuss a piece of writing you may bring with you.

WRITING SESSIONS A.M.

- 1) Nancy McCleery Writing for Young People
- 2) Mel Krutz Writing for Children:
Why Wheezles & Ptheezles Pleasles

WRITING SESSIONS P.M.

- 1) Mary Jackson Home Spun Stories
- 2) Marjorie Saiser Writing the Natural Way

STORYTELLING SESSIONS A.M.

- 1) Mary Heise Storytelling to Preschoolers
- 2) Sally Snyder Telling True Stories to Children

STORYTELLING SESSIONS P.M.

- 1) Pat Clark Storytelling to Preschoolers
- 2) Connie Yost Humorous Storytelling
for Young Adults

Festival Schedule

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Registration/Check-in	11:45 - 1:30 P.M.	Buffet Luncheon
9:00 - 9:15	Festival Opening	1:30- 2:00	Manuscript Conferences
9:15 - 11:15	Morning Sessions	2:00- 4:00	Afternoon Sessions
11:15 - 11:45	Manuscript Conference	4:00- 4:30	Festival Close



REGISTRATION FEE

Registration includes membership in the Nebraska Center for the Book, coffee break, morning and afternoon sessions, one-on-one conferences, and a buffet luncheon.

Fee: \$45.00 non NCB Member, \$30.00 NCB Member, \$15.00 Students under 18

In order to encourage participation by youth, a limited number of scholarships will be offered. If you need a scholarship in order to attend and are under the age of 18 contact: Mary Jackson, NE Library Commission, 1420 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. Phone 1-800-742-7691 (or 471-2045 in Lincoln.)

SESSION LEADERS

Storytelling to Preschoolers: Pat Clark, professional storyteller, will demonstrate several stories for pre-school age children, then offer guidelines for selecting and telling stories. Participants will have an opportunity to tell a story and receive constructive tips on their presentation.

Storytelling to Preschoolers: Mary Heise is an educator with the Omaha Public Schools and member of OOOPS (Omaha Organization for the Promotion of Storytelling). Mary will present a workshop in which members will gain experience in oral storytelling through small and large group work. Non-threatening participation will help everyone be at ease.

Homespun Stories: Mary Jackson, Coordinator for Children's/Young Adult Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, will demonstrate "once-upon-a-time" techniques for capturing and writing about special family memories in ways that appeal to children. Participants should bring a story or episode based on their own or their family's history that can be shared with the group and used to stimulate further writing experiences.

Writing for Children: Why Wheezles & Ptheezles Pleasles: Mel Krutz, WSTF Founder, holds a Ph.D in English Education, teaches composition, creative writing, literature, and children's literature at Central Community College in Columbus. She has published and given a variety of presentations on many topics in English and Children's Literature at both the state and national levels. "Writing for Children: Why Wheezles & Ptheezles Pleasles" is a mini workshop to explore how you can utilize techniques and qualities of writing which result in the kinds of prose and poetry children value and enjoy.

Writing for Young People: Nancy McCleery has edited 5 student anthologies, taught writers of all ages in more than 100 schools, colleges and communities. Her publications include 3 books, most recently *Staying the Winter*, The Cummington Press, a hand set letterpress book of poems. Her workshop will encourage adult and school age participants to write poems and short stories for a young audience and will discuss creative writing ideas and publishing for youngsters.

Writing the Natural Way: Marjorie Saiser holds a master's degree in Creative Writing from UNL and has taught various classes in creative writing in Lincoln. She has 25 poems in *Adjoining Rooms* (Platte Valley Press, 1985), and has work forthcoming in *Zone #*, *Crazy Horse*, and *Prairie Schooner*. In leading her session, she will use techniques from Gabriele Rico's *Writing the Natural Way*.

Telling True Stories to Children: Sally Snyder, librarian and storyteller, will help participants explore techniques for bringing true stories to life through storytelling. Local history stories, events in one's life and stories from nonfiction sources can be exciting for all ages. Participants will be encouraged to tell stories from their own lives and receive constructive tips on their presentation.

Humorous Storytelling to for Young Adults: Connie Yost is an educator with the Hastings Public Schools who utilizes the art of storytelling to incorporate humor and imagination into curricular instruction. Her workshop will center on the humorous angst of adolescence. Participants may share individual memories of their own youthful experiences and insights. Through guided exercises, commentary, and personal stories, she'll share techniques and laughter.

NEBRASKA WRITING AND STORYTELLING FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM

Your Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Your Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Indicate your first and second choices for morning and afternoon workshops:

Morning Session: First Choice _____
Second Choice _____

Afternoon Session: First Choice _____
Second Choice _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FEE AND FORM BY MONDAY, MAY 24TH 1993 TO: Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, c/o Southeast Community College, Adult and Continuing Education, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

Make checks payable to "Southeast Community College."
Your cancelled check is your receipt.

1993

BOOKS CHANGE LIVES

"A book that changed my life was The Brothers Karamazov, which I picked up, I don't know how or why, and all at once believed I was born to be a writer."

— Arthur Miller

"Part of the difference a book makes to you depends on when in your life you read it. I read The Forsyte Saga by John Galsworthy when I needed it. It opened up the world to me in the strangest way. Until that moment, I was overly dependent on my parents, but after it, I moved off into my own life."

— Anne Bernays

"Books Change Lives," is the Library of Congress reading promotion theme for 1993-94, and is dedicated to Thomas Jefferson and his belief that education, liberty, and self-government are inseparable.



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Renewal New

Name of organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Name and title of contact person: _____

Additional information about organization: _____

(Attach sheet if needed)

Circle all the Center for the Book interests that apply to your organization:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Book Arts | BA | Popular Culture | PC |
| Children's Books | CH | Printing | PG |
| Censorship, Right to Read | CN | Promotion of Reading | PR |
| Book Collecting | CO | Preservation | PV |
| Book Discussions | DI | Reading | RD |
| Foreign Language | FL | Reviewing | RV |
| Book Illustration | IL | Book Selling | SE |
| Libraries | LB | Print-Handicapped, | |
| Literacy | LC | Special Needs | SP |
| Nebraska Authors and | | Storytelling | ST |
| Nebraska Literary Tradition | NE | Teaching | TG |
| Nebraska History | NH | Writing | WR |
| Publishing | PB | Other: _____ | |

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136 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508



NCB Individual Membership



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New

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone with area code (not for directory use): Home _____ Work _____

Will you serve on a committee? _____ Comments: _____

Help us learn your Center for the Book interests by circling all that apply:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Book Arts | BA | Popular Culture | PC |
| Children's Books | CH | Printing | PG |
| Censorship, Right to Read | CN | Promotion of Reading | PR |
| Book Collecting | CO | Preservation | PV |
| Book Discussions | DI | Reading | RD |
| Foreign Language | FL | Reviewing | RV |
| Book Illustration | IL | Book Selling | SE |
| Libraries | LB | Print-Handicapped, | |
| Literacy | LC | Special Needs | SP |
| Nebraska Authors and | | Storytelling | ST |
| Nebraska Literary Tradition | NE | Teaching of Reading | TG |
| Nebraska History | NH | Writing | WR |
| Publishing | PB | Other: _____ | |

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Nebraska Center for the Book

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