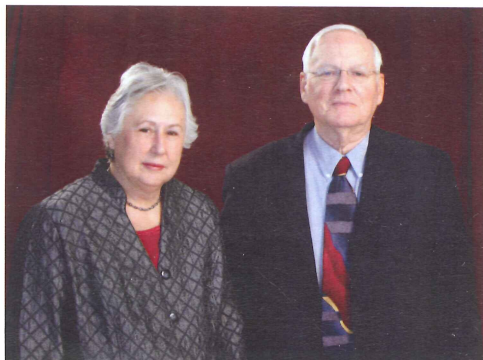


**"IT WAS HIS LOVE OF
TEACHING, AND
EVERYTHING
ATTENDANT TO IT, THAT
IMPRESSED ME MORE
THAN ANYTHING ELSE."**

Dr. Roy Wortman (Ph.D. 1971)



Rita and Austin Kerr

**The Ohio State
University**

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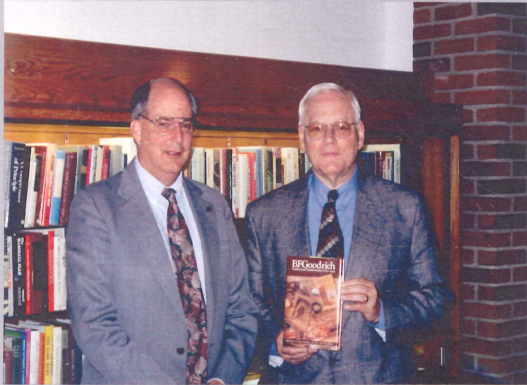
The Department of History
The Ohio State University

***The K. Austin Kerr
Endowment in Modern
American History***



K. Austin Kerr

Austin retired in 2004 after serving Ohio State and its students since 1965. A dedicated teacher who took great enjoyment from his time in the classroom, Austin rigorously insisted that students understand the complexity of the world as seen through history. He taught a wide variety of courses over the years in the social and economic history of the United States, business history, and modern American History, and he pioneered the use of audio-visual aids in teaching. As an historian of modern America, Austin's research and publications were especially concerned with investigat-



Professors Mansel Blackford and Austin Kerr celebrating the publication of *BF Goodrich*

ing people in the context of organizations. He published his first monograph, *American Railroad Politics, 1914-1920*, in 1968. He published the landmark *Organized for Prohibition: A New History of the Anti-Saloon League* in 1985. He developed an acclaimed web site on "Temperance and Prohibition."

Austin has been honored for his work in many ways. The Business History Conference established an annual prize in his honor to recognize excellence in research by a younger scholar.

K. Austin Kerr Endowment in Modern American History

The establishment of the Kerr Endowment in modern American history is a recognition of Professor Kerr's thirty-nine year commitment to Ohio State and its students. This endowment not only will pay a tribute to Professor Kerr but also will recognize the strength of the Department of History. Modern U. S. history is at the core of all first-class research universities and thus our ultimate goal of the Professor K. Austin Kerr Chair will be a critical step in enabling our department to reach beyond excellence to eminence.

Students and Colleagues Pay Tributes to Austin Kerr

Former students consistently pay tribute to Professor Kerr for his exceptional teaching qualities. Many report that as they pursue their own teaching careers, they emulate the skills Professor Kerr taught them. "I modeled my teaching on his style" said one of his former Ph.D. students. His classes were "both entertaining and engaging" and he "made the History Department feel like a home," said one student. Another recalled, "history students were his first priority." A colleague who worked with Professor Kerr in the honors program noted that "Austin was long known as an effective advisor to undergraduate students who was concerned not only about their academic progress but also their lives after graduation." Professor Kerr's love of teaching, another student testified, "impressed me more than anything else."

Contributing to The K. Austin Kerr Endowment in American History

You may support the Austin Kerr Endowment by sending a check payable to The Ohio State University and designated to the K. Austin Kerr Fund (account #481013). You may clip this panel and send it with your contribution. The mailing address is:

Emily Alonso-Taub
Senior Director of Development
College of Arts and Sciences
1501 Neil Avenue, Suite 020
Columbus, OH 43201-2602

The Kerr Endowment will be used to enhance the teaching of Modern American History and ultimately to endow a chair in that field.

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