

the **KEY** reporter

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8 Years of the Visiting Scholar Program

by JOHN W. DODDS

"THREE STUDENTS called for me at 7:15 A.M. to take me to breakfast in the college dining room. We had an agreeable time considering the hour . . . Later . . .

a class in Shakespeare, where I talked about *Much Ado About Nothing* for the hour. The class was responsive and asked intelligent questions . . . a luncheon with

faculty members of the chapter. A good atmosphere and friendly talk . . . from 3:45 to 5 P.M. a coffee hour was held for general conversation with faculty and students . . . dinner at 6 P.M. with students in literature . . ."

These are not the notes of a nineteenth-century Lyceum lecturer, but excerpts from the diary of one of the new breed of intellectual barnstormers: the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars. The pace for Mr. Fredson Bowers on this visit was perhaps a little more hectic than usual, but the delights of visitation were those which have come to be expected by this new kind of itinerant. Few things which the United Chapters has attempted in recent years have been richer in satisfactions, both on the giving and receiving ends, than the eight-year-old Visiting Scholar Program. During this time 51 distinguished scholars and writers have visited some 550 campuses—from Agnes Scott College to the University of Wyoming. The grass roots of the 170 chapters of Phi Beta Kappa are deep and widely spread.

The statistics themselves are impressive. The program was launched in 1956-57 under the imaginative leadership of Senator Kirtley F. Mather, and in that academic year 29 campuses were visited by five Scholars. In 1957-58 there were 59 visits by six Scholars. In 1958-59, 63 visits by seven Scholars, and in 1959-60, 83 visits by nine Scholars.

The peak of what might be called Phi Beta Kappa's gross national product was made possible by a supplementary grant of \$25,000 by the Ford Foundation. Since then the number of visits has dropped slightly, but some 75 visits will be made during the academic year



◀ A Visiting Scholar gives several formal lectures during his stay on campus.

Dr. Ernest J. Simmons lectures to a history class at Lehigh University

Photo courtesy of Lehigh Alumni Bulletin



At Lunch

Dr. Carleton Coon talks with honors students at Knox College about the problems of ethnographers and archaeologists working in the field. The students questioned him about his own extensive field trips in Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Central Africa, the Balkans, and South America.



At a Reception

Dr. Kirtley F. Mather chats with undergraduates at Gettysburg College. After his visit, the chapter secretary reported that "Dr. Mather's personality should make him one of the most popular Visiting Scholars and his intellectual attainment one of the most useful ones."



At an Evening Discussion Group

Dr. Ernest J. Simmons exchanges comments on Russian language and literature with students at Lehigh University. At Lehigh, the president and vice president of the Residence Halls move out of their "residential suite" and turn it over to the Visiting Scholar. During the Scholar's visit, the Residence Hall Council provides breakfast for the Scholar and for eight to ten invited students, a different group of students each day. After breakfast, a coffee hour is held for all comers.

Photo courtesy of Lehigh Alumni Bulletin

◀ A Visiting Scholar also meets informally with students during his visit.

1964-65. The red pins on the map in the Washington office look like the markers on a map of Standard Oil filling stations (and filling stations these really are—but intellectual, not gas!).

The wear and tear on the Scholars is appreciable, but they seem to love it; they have to be protected against themselves. The typical Scholar gives no less than four weeks to the program during an academic year, visiting perhaps two colleges or universities in one week. He spends two days in each place, giving one or two addresses open to the academic community as a whole. Just as importantly, however, he meets with faculty and students for informal discussions at coffee hours, lunches, conferences, and dinners. All scholars, notoriously, like to talk, and students seem avid to discuss ideas informally with the visitors. Hence these meetings spread by a kind of infection until sometimes the Quiet Hours within which the Visiting Scholar is supposed to be able to retreat briefly to himself disappear in an orgy of communication. "The crowds at the dormitories had to be told to 'go to bed' following lengthy discussions," reported painter Lamar Dodd after a recent visit at Lehigh University.

Most of the institutions seem to be hungry for visitors in the humanities and social sciences; the natural sciences are doing pretty well today in terms of available speakers. But the Visiting Scholar Program casts a wide net, and the kinds of scholars representing the sciences have been those who trail clouds of Sir Charles Snow's "Two Worlds." This overarching approach is reflected in the comments of the chapter secretary of the Elmira chapter on the visit of biologist Paul B. Sears in April: "He ranged rather widely, introducing anecdotes and interdisciplinary references and tying the whole performance together with certain key moral principles regarding the conservation of human and nature resources. All in all he helped us realize our college objectives of promoting interdisciplinary synthesis and the development of social responsibilities."

At the other end of the visiting

spectrum have been scholars best known as creative writers: Louise Bogan, May Sarton, Catherine Drinker Bowen, Wallace Stegner, and Sean O'Faolain. As a visitor to Washington and Lee, Bucknell, Delaware, Rice and Oklahoma Universities, as well as Ripon, Colorado, Swarthmore, and Williams Colleges, Mr. O'Faolain discussed such topics as "How a Writer Writes," "The Angry Young Men," "So You Want to Write a Short Story?" and *con amore*, "An Irishman Looks at the World." There have been other Scholars who have made visitations from abroad: F. P. Wilson and Herbert Davis from Oxford and H. D. F. Kitto from Bristol. In each case they impressed their audiences with their humane learning, and were themselves impressed by the intellectual receptiveness of a wide range of American colleges and universities.

From six to nine Scholars are appointed annually by a Visiting Scholar Committee composed of five members who are appointed by the Phi Beta Kappa Senate. All chapter requests for a Visiting Scholar are sent to the Washington office, where a staff member devotes full-time work to arranging travel schedules and coordinating campus programs. Next year's circuit riders include William Arrow-smith, professor of classical languages at the University of Texas; Germaine Brée, director of the institute for research in the humanities at the University of Wisconsin; Laurence M. Gould, professor of geology, University of Arizona; Howard Hanson, director emeritus of the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester; Randall Jarrell, professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Dumas Malone, former Thomas Jefferson Foundation professor of history, University of Virginia; Robert S. Rankin, professor of political science at Duke University; Walter O. Roberts, director, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder; and Ernest J. Simmons, former professor of Russian literature, Columbia University. They will speak on a variety of topics from music as a discipline to civil

rights to possibilities for man's control of the weather.

Some rough spots still remain in scheduling, although the record as a whole is tremendously heartening. On occasion, a Scholar has observed that his visit required more careful planning at the local level, so that maximum benefits might be had from the use of his time, rather than simply a use of his maximum time! Often such weakness in local arrangements comes from a lack of sufficient communication among the various campus officers and the faculty responsible for organizing and promoting the schedule—or sometimes from an unawareness of who really *is* responsible. Occasionally also a college (and a good one) can wonder modestly “whether we are justified in taking the time of so busy and distinguished a visitor,” forgetting that scholars of real distinction are often greatly interested in *not* limiting themselves to the provincially of a few centers of eminence.

It is not easy to assess the total and continuing impact of this program and other programs designed to bring Scholars into contact with undergraduates on a broad basis. The opportunities they provide for students to meet informally with distinguished scholars—for advice on area studies, graduate work and fellowship possibilities, for criticism of a manuscript, musical composition or painting—will probably continue to be as significant as the lectures themselves. Certainly both on its formal and informal aspects, the Visiting Scholar Program seems to have been rewarding for all concerned, and it can be a matter of pride to the Society that, as Scholar Morris Bishop of Cornell recently reported, “Phi Beta Kappa seems to be everywhere in good hands, it is honored and envied; and American higher education in the interior is something for us all to be proud of.”

John W. Dodds is chairman of the special programs in the humanities at Stanford University. For the last six years, he has been chairman of the Committee on the Visiting Scholar Program.

Address Changes

Phi Beta Kappa must pay ten cents for each change of address notice. On a yearly basis, this means more than one thousand dollars. It is important, therefore, that members promptly notify the United Chapters of a change of residence. Please use a KEY REPORTER stencil if possible. Otherwise, the address to which Phi Beta Kappa mail was previously sent, as well as chapter and year of initiation, should be included in the notice. This information should be directed to Phi Beta Kappa, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

Phi Beta Kappa: Who Needs It?

by JOEL E. COHEN

HARVARD'S CHAPTER is unique in Phi Beta Kappa because the undergraduate members choose their successors. At all other colleges, the dean announces the eight or sixteen people who have the highest grades in their class, and that is that. At Harvard, seven “Graduates,” including some faculty members, the graduate secretary of the chapter, and a dean representing the Administration, are supposed to assist at each election, and they, like the undergraduates, have one vote each. In practice, those “Graduates” that come to elections generally just supply information when asked.

At the elections of the Junior Eight and Senior Sixteen, the candidates are those with the highest grade averages in their class; there are slightly more than twice as many of them as there are places to fill. The electors have before them each candidate's grade average and grade distribution, the comments of tutors and Senior Tutor, the extracurricular activities (of which the House office is aware), the courses taken, and the grade received in each.

The electors go through the list three times. The first time they try to classify the candidates as obviously electable, possible, and below par. (This, in itself, is no mean trick when all the candidates are at the top of a class of a thousand Harvard men.) They then go through again, raising or lowering the ranks of disputed candidates. Finally, they try to reduce the number of obvious candidates to the number permitted for election.

The discussion of individual candidates is usually on an extraordinarily high plane—at least when compared with elections in several other, fairly exclusive undergraduate organizations. The difficulty is: what are to be the criteria of election?

According to the handbook for new members of Phi Beta Kappa, election means “recognition of intellectual capacities well employed, especially in the acquiring of an education in the liberal arts and sciences.” Instructions to the electors interpret “intellectual capacities well employed” more narrowly as “scholarship.” “Good character” is also relevant (Phi Beta Kappa presumably excludes outright criminals), but the phrase “achievement in extracurricular activities” is an anathema.

The emphasis on academic achievement, equated to scholarship, and on the least ambiguous measure of it, grades, forces many undergraduate electors to play a curious game during elections. Before and after the election meeting, and during the break in discussions, they ad-

mit how arbitrary, capricious, and generally insignificant grades are as measures of interest, talent, and achievement in most of the courses they have taken. Yet when they enter the conference room on the tenth floor of Holyoke Center, they are faced with grade averages calculated to five digits, and they must pretend that an A instead of an A— in this course or that is a sure sign of intellectual capacities better employed. They have to play this game because academic achievement is defined as the principal criterion of intellectual capacity. If the tutors' comments are uninformed and uninformative, as they often are, and no undergraduate member knows the candidate, grades are the only bit of information left.

The game is particularly aggravating when, as is often the case, the candidate has Advanced Standing or has taken a leave and has been in the College for only a year and a half. Then, many feel, even the grades are too few to be reliable, and the ordinary juniors are at a comparative disadvantage. But this is an internal problem of Phi Beta Kappa. The more general problem of criteria of choice remains.

Senior Tutor X, let us call him, devotes much time and care to preparing recommendations for the candidates in his House. The morning after the election, he finds that the choices have conformed strictly to neither grades nor his recommendations. To eliminate this funny business, he would like elections to Phi Beta Kappa postponed from their present premature dates in the Harvard career to the end of the senior year when all academic scores are in. He would like the decisions made by professors, or at least the “Graduates,” acting on the presumption that election is based on numerical rank unless there is some extraordinary reason for deviating from it.

Postponing the elections is now a constitutional impossibility. Greater control of the elections by the “Graduates” is not: legally a majority of three-quarters is required to elect a member, and a “Graduate” block of seven votes could effect a veto at elections of the Eight and Sixteen.

Unfortunately, even if, behind locked doors, they admit to each other the weaknesses of grades as measures of intellect, academics are still likely to select as outstanding that which elevated them to their present high position: namely, academic prowess.

But, I believe, the University already offers enough carrots to the donkey of academic achievement. There are Detur

(Continued on back cover)

Letter to a Young Poet by CHAD WALSH

April more rumored yet than seen
Dresses the inner life in green
And in the breather or in the air
Music is master everywhere,
The grave, sweet music of the senses
Divided by uncertain fences
Into the realms of love and verse
To exorcise the winter curse.
It is the season and the mood
When faltering poets are renewed
And virgin poets sprout and rise
Before their own astonished eyes.

I have your letter close beside me,
Its wintry date to shame and chide me,
And I've no answer I can give
Except the plain one—Write, and live
In hope, if not in faith, that time,
Which tallies with "sublime" and "crime"
As well as with the neutral "rhyme,"
Will stamp a friendly *imprimatur*
Or English words of kindred nature
And certify in retrospect
That you were one of the elect,
The kind that scholars footnote and
dissect.

You won't be here to know for certain.
Forget the other side of the curtain.
Then choose the road less often trod,
And if you're odd, why then you're odd.
In other words, sit down and write.
Don't talk about it half the night.
But still you asked my best advice,
And that may never happen twice.
I think I'll be your good Polonius,
Half platitude and half erroneous,
And let my thoughts and fingers wander
To any pleasant blue-out-yonder,
Sustained by plain and certain knowledge
That good advice (like any college)
Never makes and equally never breaks
A poet, if he has what it takes.

First and foremost, how will you eat?
You need a snugly safe retreat
And monthly checks of moderate size.
Don't let the wolf see the whites of your
eyes.

Consider medicine or selling
Insurance, for there's one compelling
Virtue there, apart from precedent—
They are so very different
From poetry, you'll shun confusion
And be delivered from the fusion
Of life and art. That's true, and still
I know most probably you will
Join us who versify all summers
And in the cold months take all comers
To teach them anything from commas
To Arthur Miller's latest dramas.
Today the groves of academe

Welcome the poet to the team,
Crown him with hood for bay and laurel
And certify him safe and moral.
The writing workshop is his attic.
The verse is nearly automatic,
Well groomed, well tailored, and well
bred,
Well in the stream, and well-nigh dead.
There seem no adequate retreats,
For those who flee and join the Beats,
Chanting their verse to jazz crescendos,
Camouflage their diminuendos
With beard and Zen and general racket
And trade their tweeds for a leather
jacket.

As for the Ph.D., go get it,
Recover from it, and forget it.
Teach criticism if they make you,
But when you write, may your knowledge
forsake you.
Remember Ransom and Allen Tate.
Admire, but do not share, their fate.

Don't run with cliques and movements.
Lead them
Or grow the myth that you don't need
them.
The also-ran is not heroic
Beside the lone wolf or the stoic.

The public, if it has its way,
Will use you for poetic clay,
Sculpting your whimsies and pretensions
Into a thing of three dimensions
And you'll become your *objet d'art*,
And stand where Frost and Eliot are,
Incaruate verse or versified men,
Stuffed for the common citizen.

Read all your letters; answer few.
Like Frost, you've better things to do.
Serve on committees rarely if ever,
And be a chairman never, never.
Go once each fall to PTA,
And otherwise, repeat each day,
"The sun will rise if I stay away."

Avoid the Romantic heresy
Of constant personal novelty.
Greenwich Village and fornication
Are optional to inspiration.

One woman is more magic seas
And science-fiction galaxies
Than one man's lifetime can explore.
Then why insist on two or more?
Love wife and children more than the
Muse,
Love honor, God, and Adlai's views,
But here and now upon this earth
Hold little else of equal worth.
A jealous mistress is the Muse,
And daily you must choose and choose.

Drink moderately if you must drink.
Don't drink at all when you write or
think.
Thomas from pub to pub would crawl
But never touched the stuff at all
When he sat down at his writing table.
Only the sober mind is able
To pen the lines that intoxicate.
Remember also Hart Crane's fate,
Who drank too deeply in a final dive.
Whatever you do, stay alive.

Write while you can. A little shift
In hormones can annul your gift,
Or God will lead you to that strange land
where
All that is not silence is prayer.
So he has silenced T.S.E.
That bell can toll and toll for thee.
Write while you can, for write you must,
Defying every kind of dust.
Enter the deepening loneliness
Where praise is powerless to bless
Or heal or curse; where this year's skill
Could say what last year you said ill.
But last year's thoughts and last year's
hope
Are one with last year's stunted scope.
Eliot has said it all before.
There is no perfect passing score,
But all graduations from B to F,
And time is the teacher growing deaf
And blind who hands you back your
pages,
And vaguely points to coming ages,
That will read, perhaps, with a passing
remark.
Meanwhile there's many kinds of dark.
Explore them now. Explore and write.
And find or make a path in the night.
Bisect the darkness with the moment's
light.

The Phi Beta Kappa poem, *Letter to a Young Poet*, was composed by Chad Walsh during the year he was a visiting professor at Wellesley College, and was read at the Phi Beta Kappa banquet, April 2, 1959.

Mr. Walsh is chairman of the English Department at Beloit College, and a founder and editor of *The Beloit Poetry Journal*. His fourth book of verse, *The Unknowing Dance*, was recently published in the Abelard Poets Series, and his anthology of modern poetry is scheduled for fall publication by Scribner.

reading *recommended by the book committee*

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Amish Society.

John A. Hostetler. Johns Hopkins. \$6.50. Here is social science at its rounded best: objective, well-bodied coverage for the author's fellow-professionals; an empathetic and well-phrased account for any reader. There is skilled economy in the lines that draw the origins of the Amish; their life-way in America; the inevitable mordants from the insistent culture that embeds them; illustrative cases of what happens to the Amish youth, and to his and her elders—in consequence. "Technical change and human values, from birth to death in one small society"—the author turns and asks us: "How fast dare we change?"

Dark Strangers.

Sheila Patterson. Indiana. \$9. English society and economy are not American. Xenophobias are in national character; hence also their channels of adjustment—toward Poles, Italians, Negroes, other. A masterly sociologist's report on the "absorption" of West Indies immigrants in a sector of South London. The repellants are economic competition, social habits and personal behaviors. Physical distinctiveness is not a primary source of antagonism; it becomes a rider upon group-identification.

Paternalism in the Japanese Economy: Anthropological Studies of Oyabun-Kobun Patterns.

John W. Bennett and Iwao Ishino. Minnesota. \$6.50. Occidental cultures have nothing comparable to this peculiar, (pseudo-?) feudalistic relationship between labor-boss and underlings. Technologically, Japan has moved with unparalleled speed since 1949-1951, when the authors assembled their field data; the societal analysis remains none the less

pertinent. They indicate carefully how they were constrained to re-form their conceptual frame as their probes went ever deeper into modern Japan's enormously dynamic complex—an exciting thing to follow. And the four appendices by invited contributors are an extra dividend.

The Pattern of Australian Culture.

Edited by A. L. McLeod. Cornell. \$7.50. Expert and very informative résumés about this all-too-little-known Commonwealth—its social and legal fabrics, language, literature, arts, education, aborigines.

The Inevitable Americans.

John Greenway. Knopf. \$5.95. You will be constantly entertained, occasionally irked, frequently enlightened (whether or not you care for his philosophy of culture history)—the while an urbane and homespun anthropologist sits and whittles you, with malice toward few and humorous wisdom toward many.

The Aztecs: The History of the Indies of New Spain.

Fray Diego Durán. Translated by Doris Heyden and Fernando Horcasitas. Orion. \$12.50.

Another of those priceless on-hand accounts of sixteenth-century America, rendered into acceptable English, enhanced with page facsimiles and photographs. Altogether a pleasant piece of bookmanship.

Book of the Hopi.

Frank Waters. Viking. \$10. "This is a strange and wonderful book. Its spokesmen are some thirty elders of the Hopi Indian tribe." So the author begins his graceful mediation; so John Collier Sr. seconds him; the reviewer applauds both heartily. What the Hopi believe about their world and themselves, in their own words and pictures, done into a handsome book.

The African Past: Chronicles from Antiquity to Modern Times.

Basil Davidson. Little, Brown. \$7.95. The author of *The Lost Cities of Africa* offers an orderly scrap-book from literatures in Egyptian, Greek, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, English. They range the centuries and the continent. The selections are in valiant attestation that the African past shows the richer the more it is lightened.

The Broken Image: Man, Science, and Society.

Floyd W. Matson. Braziller. \$6.95. One must be a humanist to write thus respectively on the disarticulation that the image of man has suffered in Occidental culture. First comes an excellent account of why and how the thought of the be-

havioral sciences has effected man's "mechanization;" thereupon, none the less, the author looks to a deepening science for the resources that shall re-"humanize" him; and the challenge still is to the behavioral and social scientists.

Also Recommended:

North China Villages: Social Political, and Economic Activities Before 1933. Sidney D. Gamble. California. \$7.50.

Politics and Social Change: Orissa in 1959. F. G. Bailey. California. \$5.

Magic, Divination, and Witchcraft among the Barotse of Northern Rhodesia. Barrie Reynolds. California. \$6.

KIRTLEY F. MATHER

Aridity and Man.

Edited by Carle Hodge and Peter C. Duisberg. American Association for the Advancement of Science. \$12. Compiled by the Committee on Desert and Arid Zones Research of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, this surprisingly readable symposium reviews our experience in the United States in developing and using our arid lands, with perceptive analyses of our failures as well as successes.

A History of Chemistry.

Charles-Albert Reichen. Hawthorn. \$5.95. Enriched by its more than fifty pages of photographs, paintings, diagrams, and drawings, about half of which are in full color, and its artistic format, this is a well-written record of the emergence of the revolutionary discoveries and inventions of modern chemical science from the alchemy and magic of past ages.

The Nature of the Natural Sciences.

Leonard Nash. Little, Brown. \$7.50. A competent and perceptive account of the way science actually looks at the world; a treatise in which thoroughgoing analysis leads to informative synthesis.

Rutherford and the Nature of the Atom.

E. N. da C. Andrade. Doubleday Anchor. p. \$1.25. Another in the ever reliable "The Science Study Series," this is not only an epoch-making chapter in the history of science, but a fascinating biography and a well-told introduction to nuclear physics.

Tunnels

Gösta E. Sandström. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. \$6.95. Crammed with interesting factual data and with many accounts of dramatic episodes, this is a fascinating history of man's subterranean exploits from the construction of ancient Egyptian rock temples to the near-completion of the roadway beneath Mt. Blanc.

This High Man.

Milton Lehman. Farrar, Straus. \$6.50. This revealing and sensitive biography of Robert H. Goddard, the Clark University professor who built and fired the world's first liquid-fuel rocket, is an important contribution to the history of aeronautics and space science as well as a document of great human interest.

the **KEY** reporter

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The proceedings of a seminar sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in which a score of experts considered the biomedical, socio-economic, and cultural aspects of the problems involved in controlling human fertility; essential reading for anyone worried by the "population explosion."

Waves and Beaches.

Willard Bascom. Doubleday Anchor. p. \$1.45.

Also in "The Science Study Series," this will be of special interest to those residing on a shore; it deals analytically and informatively with "the struggle for supremacy between sea and land."

LAWRENCE H. CHAMBERLAIN

The Future of Political Science.

Harold D. Lasswell. Atherton. \$6.50.
For thirty years Harold Lasswell has been a controversial—and influential—figure in American political science. What other single figure has been at once more sensitive to and receptive of new ideas no matter how extreme, exotic, or implausible they may appear to be? Who has contributed more to a functional operational redefinition of the science of politics? This volume is wholly characteristic of what we have come to recognize as the Lasswell tradition: imaginative, abstruse, provocative. It will not win new converts to the Lasswell fraternity, but it will be welcomed and praised by the faithful.

Scientists and National Policy Making.

Edited by Robert Gilpin and Christopher Wright. Columbia. \$7.50.
What C. P. Snow publicized as a critical issue in *Science and Government* is here examined from a variety of perspectives by several social scientists. This inquiry into the impact of scientists—chiefly physical scientists—upon governmental decision making at the national policy level provides an excellent introduction to a subject that will receive ever-increasing attention. Some scientists will insist that this particular symposium is *ex parte* hence lacking in balance. Their rebuttal will be awaited with interest.

Liberalism and the Retreat from Politics.

William J. Newman. Braziller. \$5.
An attempt to evaluate the contributions of the major social critics of the postwar period. Most of the postwar literature of social criticism receives critical evaluation.

A Strategy of Decision.

David Braybrooke and Charles E. Lindblom. Free Press. \$5.95.
One of the most ingenious, methodological formulations of the many now current. A philosopher and an economist have collaborated to produce a work that all students of the governmental process will find useful.

City Politics.

Edward C. Banfield and James Q. Wilson. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Harvard. \$6.95.

Highly recommended for the reader who seeks to understand the governance of present-day cities. Clear, straightforward prose; not intended for popular consumption but the skillful blend of fact and interpretation makes absorbing reading.

What Is Conservatism?

Edited by Frank S. Meyer. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. \$4.95.

A symposium by some of the self-styled conservatives of the present era. The aim in this collaboration is to reconcile doctrinal divergencies so as to present a united front against "liberal collectivism."

The Atomic Age.

Edited by Morton Grodzins and Eugene Rabinowitch. Basic Books. \$10.

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Charles L. Clapp. Brookings. \$6.
Thirty-six congressmen collaborate in this illuminating dissection of the role of the congressman as he sees it. Much of the text is taken directly from the taped comments thus adding a quality of documentary authenticity to the excellent reporting.

The Truman Committee: A Study in Congressional Responsibility.

Donald H. Riddle. Rutgers. \$6.
Carefully researched, well-written, interesting. This informative case study is a valuable antidote to the flood of pretentious pseudoscientific analysis now coming off the presses. Especially recommended for those who fear or distrust Congress.

OSCAR CARGILL

A Moveable Feast.

Ernest Hemingway. Scribner's. \$4.95.
Hemingway's account of his Parisian days, written in his best manner. Yet in the name of friendship, its equal is hard to remember. Only Sylvia Beach, Joyce, and Pound come off well; Ford Madox Ford, Zelda Fitzgerald, "the rich," and a certain "pilot fish" are abused, and Gertrude Stein is assassinated by invention. Will be focal in discussions of Hemingway for a long time.

Because I Was Flesh.

Edward Dahlberg. New Directions. \$5.
With a mother who conducted the Star Lady Barber shop in Kansas City, the novelist and critic had an ash can existence as a boy and youth that no sensitive spirit should ever be subject to. Its horror is somewhat occluded by a self-conscious style.

More Stately Mansions.

Eugene O'Neill. Yale. \$7.50, p. \$1.95.
The last existing complete play by the dramatist has a conventional mother-in-law, son, and daughter situation. The historical setting (1832-41) is of small consequence; the play, however, was the planned fourth in the cycle of nine on which O'Neill was working before his death.



Blues for Mister Charlie.

James Baldwin. Dial. \$3.95.

A stark melodrama but also an important literary document in the career of a writer who has shown real creative power in the novel and essay. Fashioned on the murder of Emmett Till, *Blues For Mister Charlie* makes ingenious use of the flash-back technique to tell a story of racial violence.

V.

Thomas Pynchon. Lippincott. \$5.95.

A beatnik novel with an ambiguous dash of E. Phillips Oppenheim. Recommended only to sophisticates with a cultivated taste for new experimental talent.

The Quarry: New Poems.

Richard Eberhart. Oxford. \$4.75.

The poet-in-residence at Dartmouth eclipses much of his earlier, but intense and abstract, poetry in this volume. Start with the "Meditations" at the end.

The Stone Angel.

Margaret Laurence. Knopf. \$4.95.

An outstanding novel by a Canadian in a spring notoriously barren of good fiction. The portrait of a pioneer woman who outlived her time and became a burden for her relatives. Miss Laurence's African stories in *The Tomorrow-Tamer* should be watched for.

Also Recommended:

The Wapshot Scandal.

John Cheever. Harper & Row. \$4.95.

Robert Frost in Russia.

F. D. Reeve. Atlantic-Little, Brown. \$3.95.

The Enemy Joy: New and Selected Poems.

Ben Belitt. Chicago. \$3.95.

Blue Boy on Skates: Poems.

M. L. Rosenthal. Oxford. \$3.75.

The War Dispatches of Stephen Crane.

Edited by R. W. Stallman and E. R. Hagemann. New York. \$7.50.

FREDERICK B. ARTZ

The Rise of the West.

William H. McNeill. Chicago. \$12.50.

Widely considered as the best world history so far written.

The Byzantine Empire, Volume IV.

Edited by J. M. Hussey. Cambridge. Set: \$32.50. Part I: \$18.50, Part II: \$15.50.

A new edition of a volume in "Cambridge Medieval History"; brings subject up to date of present research.

Henry of Navarre.

Hesketh Pearson. Harper & Row. \$5.

A brilliant biography of the greatest of French kings.

Richelieu: His Rise to Power.

Carl J. Burckhardt. Random House. p. \$1.95.

A reprint of the classic account of the fascinating French statesman and prelate.

Napoleon.

Felix Markham. New American Library. \$5.95.

A good short biography of Napoleon incorporating newly discovered documents.

Napoleon: A Biography With Pictures.

André Maurois. Viking. \$6.50.

Excellent set of pictures illustrating Napoleon's career with a readable account of his life.

Illustrated History of the First World War.

A. J. P. Taylor. Putnam. \$6.95.

Excellent pictures, and a good text.

The Day of the Lion: The Life and Death of Fascist Italy, 1922-1945.

Roy MacGregor-Hastie. Coward-McCann. \$6.95.

Combines a scholarly and popular account of whole Fascist story.

Driving Forces in History.

Havdan Koht. Harvard. \$4.75.

A summing-up by one of the leading historians of our time.

LOUIS C. HUNTER

Cuba: The Economic and Social Revolution.

Edited by Dudley Seers. North Carolina. \$7.50.

Two English and two Chilean economists analyze and appraise economic and social aspects of a revolution in mid-passage. Emphasizing the incompleteness of their data and the tentative nature of their conclusions, the authors present a revealing account of the Cuban economy on the eve of upheaval, the difficulties and frustrations attending the revolutionary program, the not unimpressive achievements to date, especially in education and agriculture, and the tremendous tasks ahead.

Africans on the Land.

Montague Yudelman. Harvard. \$6.75.

In the vast extent of Africa south of the Sahara the great majority of the natives live on and by the land. *Africans on the Land* describes how the traditional way of life, which most Africans evidently have little if any desire to change, is being slowly undermined by land and development policies by which their future is being shaped. These policies offer a higher standard of living and "progress" at the price of the tensions and insecurity which accompany private property in land and a market economy. A case study of backward peoples gradually succumbing to "the revolution of rising expectations."

Resources and People in Eastern Kentucky: Problems and Potentials of a Lagging Economy.

Mary Jean Bowman and W. Warren Haynes. Johns Hopkins. \$10.

Appalachia, the place of eastern Kentucky with its forbidding terrain and depleted resources, its unemployment and its apathetic people is not unlike that of Sicily in Italy's Mezzogiorno. This meticulous and not very hopeful study represents the most intensive effort yet made with the tools of economic analysis to appraise conditions and suggest solutions. To the authors it is "absolutely clear" that the Kentucky mountains "will not develop a significantly expanding economy, no matter what public policies are pursued." The most that can be hoped for, even with continued out-migration, is to hold the line with much depending upon the will of mountain people for self-improvement.

Crito Warns Socrates

by JOHN FRANCIS SHIELDS

Why do you dare probe the thunders
Of a god so great as Jove
Or try to understand the wonders
That are hidden far above?
We are but mortals, and our powers
Never could pretend so far:
Bound by the minutes and the hours,
Ruled by moon and sun and star.
We must not question those who
reign,
Gods who are masters of our fate;
Gods of sorrow, pleasure, pain—
They rule our earth and guide our
state.
You'll drink the hemlock if you scorn
them
Querying their lofty ways
For men believe the planets warn
them
To destroy a mind that strays.
And yours, indeed, has strayed so
often
From what the archons might
approve
That I fear no plea could soften
Hearts which pity cannot move.
But there: I see you will not listen;
You're old enough to die, I guess.
But these are not false tears that
glisten
In my eyes. I must confess
That never have I known a mind
With all the varied gifts of yours,
And when it's gone we'll stumble,
blind,
Beating at unopened doors.
So be it, if you wish it thus;
Yours is a will no man could bend.
But know that you're depriving us
Of teacher, mentor, gentle friend.
Farewell then, friend, for I have
failed
To move you from your fatal course
And I must leave: the stars have
paled
As wisdom will with you—its source.

The Nation's Economic Objectives.

Edited by Edgar O. Edwards. Chicago for Rice University. \$4.95.

The Dilemma of Mexico's Development: The Roles of the Private and Public Sectors.

Raymond Vernon. Harvard. \$4.95.
Of the innumerable "development" studies of recent years, this one has particular interest for Americans living north of the Rio Grande. Dealing with a close neighbor of whom most of us really know very little, it gives an illuminating capsule review of Mexico's social revolution, portrays a process of extraordinary economic change, and describes a highly complex arrangement of politico-economic relationships which fits no recognizable pattern.

Phi Beta Kappa: Who Needs It?

(Continued from page three)

prizes and scholarships; programs for Honors candidates which ration out contact with the faculty to the blessed only; and summas, magnas, and cums.

Realizing this, several undergraduate Phi Beta Kappa members have suggested abolishing the chapter. However, Harvard's chapter was founded in 1781; Harvard institutions never die, they just become toxic. So this proposal is impracticable.

Letting the chapter atrophy of its own uselessness would be all right if election were merely on the basis of grades. However, since other criteria are used erratically, elections become irrational, and perhaps even pernicious in their effects. There is a function which no Harvard institution serves, and that is to encourage intellectual breadth. Good use of the intellect includes more than applying it to curriculum, and Phi Beta Kappa might reward this broader use.

How to save this idea from hopeless vagueness? Three obvious steps might be easily implemented. All three would make the criteria of election less a checklist and more an evaluation of overall intellectual capacity. These suggestions would make elections harder, not easier, but perhaps would also make them worth the trouble.

First, Phi Beta Kappa should explicitly and consistently encourage breadth of academic endeavor. The electors are often faced with choosing between the all-A physicist and one who has gotten all A's and a B in a history course. Since they may be assured that the physics department will reward the all-A man, they should make Phi Beta Kappa one place (and it would be the only place in the College) where the experimenter is rewarded.

Second, Phi Beta Kappa should construe the requirement of "good character" broadly enough to include extracurricular activities which reveal intellectual capacities well employed. Good acting, good writing, good artwork and music-making, good politicking, and good service of one's fellows, can all be evidence at least as clear as a cipher in the registrar's office.

The electors could easily recognize that some activities are no more a sign of intellectual capacity than an A in Chemistry 20. They would compare not activity *per se*, but the quality of performance in extracurricular interest: writing, even if not for a magazine; performing, even if not with a group.

Third, Phi Beta Kappa should make sure that an elector concentrating in the candidate's field and another elector in the candidate's House talk with each candidate about his interests before the elections of the Eight and Sixteen. Unless a candidate leads his class, if no one in Phi Beta Kappa knows him, he is at a severe disadvantage. Perhaps he is doing independent work, connected with or unrelated to his field, that not even his tutor knows about. Perhaps his tutor doesn't know him, as is usually the case with mathematicians. On the other hand perhaps he studies nothing but Serbo-Croatian, his major, all day and all night and has an IQ of 105.


Phi Beta Kappa could preserve the secrecy which traditionally surrounds its elections by telling electors in advance just the names of the one or two people they are to interview. It could prevent the interviews (ideally, dinner-table conversations) from becoming inquisitorial by giving the interviewers no official status whatever in the election. Their

sole function would be to supply information that might otherwise be missed. These three simple suggestions will not provide all that Phi Beta Kappa lacks, for no honor society can hope to have as members all and only those whom the world will call intellectually eminent. In fact, the suggestions are probably too modest: practicable within the present Phi Beta Kappa constitution, they still assume that candidates for election should be chosen only on the basis of grades.

Still, they point to a new function for Phi Beta Kappa, one which some influential and established organization ought to perform. If Phi Beta Kappa continues merely to reward what is already amply rewarded, the Phi Beta Kappa Key may become an ornament too big to wear on the lapel, too small to melt down, and too expensive to throw away.

Phi Beta Kappa: Who Needs It? first appeared in *The Harvard Crimson*, May 7, 1964.

Joel E. Cohen, Editorial Chairman of *The Harvard Crimson*, 1963-64, was elected to the Junior Eight of Φ BK in the spring of 1963. Recently he was elected to serve as First Marshall of the Alpha of Massachusetts for the coming year.

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