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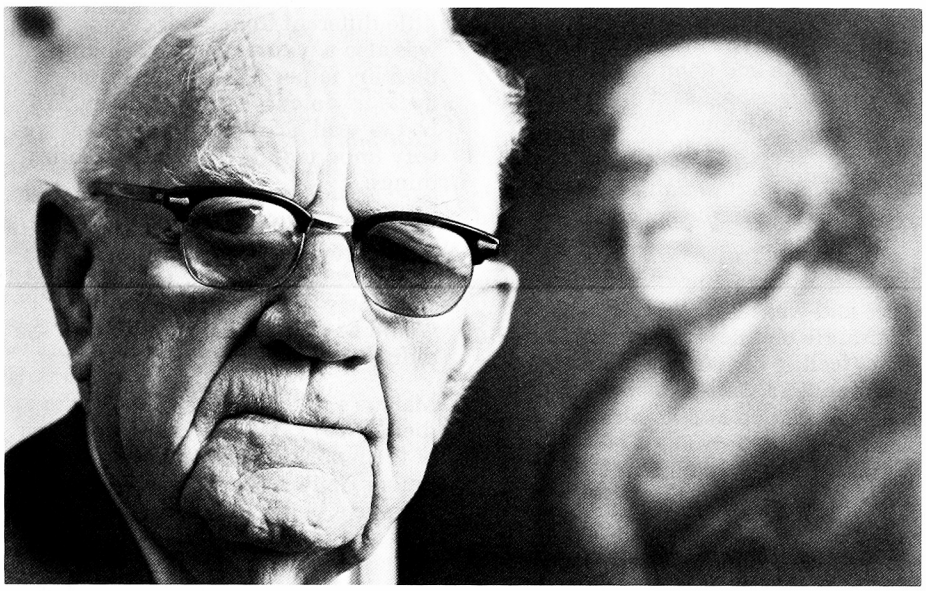

IN THE AUTUMN OF HIS YEARS, DUMAS MALONE REAPS A RICH HARVEST

by Jeffrey Smith

At the triennial Council meeting of the United Chapters, which was held in August, historian Dumas Malone was given the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities. Malone, a graduate of Emory University, was interviewed last year by Jeffrey Smith, associate editor of Emory Magazine, *and that interview is reprinted (from volume 58, number 2) here with the publisher's permission.*

In April of 1943, at the time of year when spring begins to push its path across the cold New England countryside, Dumas Malone decided he had lost his way. There was no apparent reason for such a feeling; to the most casual observer on the streets of Cambridge or Boston, Malone must have seemed like a man at the height of his powers. At the age of 51, he held the enviable position of director of the Harvard University Press and dwelled near the center of American intellectual activity. A graduate of Emory and Yale, he was a gifted historian who had already published three books of his own and had been largely responsible for editing the first 20 volumes of the authoritative *Dictionary of American Biography*.

And yet, Malone felt estranged from his work. He had always wanted to teach and write, and since 1926 he had harbored a dream that one day he would publish a book, a very important book, on the life of Thomas Jefferson. In fact, Malone had signed a contract with Little, Brown and Company in 1938 to write a comprehensive four-volume study of Jefferson. Five years later, though, when the first volume had originally been planned for publication, he was still bogged down in his business activities at Harvard and had yet to begin serious work on the biography.

"In your early years," Malone now recalls, "you're not so sure of what you want to do. You like a lot of things and the question is what do you like the most. I'd always intended to do this thing on Jefferson, but it wasn't clear in my mind as it was later that I'd rather do it than anything else. You just don't know those kinds of things when you're young. You flounder around quite a lot."

That spring, at an age when many men

(continued on page two)

Photograph of Malone by John Forasté.

1982 SIBLEY WINNER ANNOUNCED

The winner of the 1982 Sibley Fellowship is Sara Reva Horowitz, a doctoral candidate at Brandeis University. In her dissertation, she intends to examine a central motif in post-Holocaust literature: muteness, and its variations. She hopes to relate this idea of muteness to the absurdist movement in postwar France, which reflects concerns similar to those of post-Holocaust fiction.

The new Sibley Fellow completed her undergraduate work at City College of New York, studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and received her M.A. degree from Columbia University. She is the thirty-fourth woman to win the award, which was established with funds bequeathed to Phi Beta Kappa in the will of Isabelle Stone and is named in honor of Stone's mother.

In 1983 the Sibley Fellowship, which carries a $7000 stipend, will be offered for studies in Greek language, literature, history, or archeology. Candidates must be unmarried women between 25 and 35 years of age who hold the doctorate or who have fulfilled all the requirements for the doctorate except the dissertation. They must be planning to devote full-time work to research during the fellowship year that begins September 1, 1983. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the Sibley Fellowship Committee, Phi Beta Kappa, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

KEY REPORTER CASSETTES AVAILABLE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Washington Readers for the Blind, a volunteer agency, has offered to make cassette tape recordings of the *Key Reporter* available at no charge to visually impaired members of Phi Beta Kappa. To receive this service, write to the group at the Martin Luther King Library, Room 215, 901 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

MALONE (continued)

have settled into the careers that will carry them to retirement, Malone quit his job at the Harvard Press. By the end of the summer, he had settled his family in a new home in Charlottesville, Virginia, and had started work on the book that would consume much of the rest of his life. Although financial pressures forced him to accept a faculty position at Columbia two years later, Malone still managed to complete the first volume of *Jefferson and His Time* by 1948 and the second by 1951. The third volume, however, did not appear until 1962, the year he retired from teaching at the age of 70, and the fourth was another eight years in the making. By then, the biography had outgrown Malone's original plans, and he published a fifth volume in 1974, after which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

Now nearly 90 years old and almost totally blind, Malone has written more than a million words about his lengthy journey with Jefferson. When the sixth and final volume appeared in 1981, critics praised his life's work as "perhaps the greatest presidential biography ever written."

* * *

When I visited Malone in October at his small, wood-frame house near the University of Virginia, autumn had just begun to flicker in the hills around Charlottesville. Late-blooming honeysuckle and asters still lined the roadways, but the air was heavy and ripe with the end of summer. Insects buzzed low over the grass. Dogwoods and poplars and maples showed traces of scarlet and yellow and gold.

Several days earlier, Malone had told me he would try to tour Jefferson's home at Monticello with me during my stay, but he had caught a slight bronchial infection by the time I arrived and, because of his age and failing eyesight, thought it best to remain at home. Disappointed, I set out for Monticello alone. My spirits soon lifted, however, as I climbed into the hills and rose above the haze that had covered the city all morning. By the time I reached the hilltop where Jefferson had built his home more than 200 years ago, the sun shone warm and bright, and sporadic breezes swept the first leaves of fall back and forth across the lawn, past gardeners busily digging up flower bulbs in preparation for winter.

As much as any other man, Jefferson personified the hopes and ideals of American democracy, and to spend a few hours at Monticello is to gain some sense of the enormity and completeness of his vision. For a moment I was glad Malone had not been able to accompany me on the tour, for I was left alone to imagine Jefferson through my own eyes.

And given what I knew of Malone's biography, I could imagine its completeness as well. "In its majesty, in its soothing prose, in its reasonableness and humane tolerance, and in its deeply rooted confidence in things American," said one reviewer, "this great biography . . . seems to come from another time and another place." "The task is staggering," said another. "I do not see how Malone could accomplish it at all, much less do it with such style and balance."

* * *

That afternoon I returned to Charlottesville and went directly to Malone's house. He met me at the front door and then, feeling his way by holding onto furniture and walls, showed me to the small converted bedroom that has served as his study since he returned to Virginia from Columbia in 1959.

The study, like the rest of the house, has a sort of worn elegance. Books line one wall, and a copy of the Declaration of Independence and a portrait of Jefferson hang on another. The first thing Malone wanted to show me, however, was his reading machine, a television-like apparatus that enlarges documents and gives him some ability to read and write despite his blindness. After he lost his sight about five years ago, he used the machine to write the second half of the last volume of the biography. Now, he uses it to autograph copies of his book for well-wishers and to take notes for future projects.

The second of seven children, Malone was born on the edge of the black delta bottomland of northern Mississippi in a small town called Coldwater. His father was a Methodist minister who spent much of his life tending the fortunes of small women's colleges throughout the South, and not too long after Malone was born, the family moved to Oxford, Mississippi, where his father was president of the Women's College of Oxford. In 1902, his father became minister of a church in Brunswick, Georgia, on the Atlantic coast, and then four years later the family moved to Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia, where his father was named president of Andrew College, a four-year school for women.

"I was privately taught until I went to high school," Malone said, "and our mother contributed very greatly to our education. She had been a teacher herself, and the story that's told in the family is that Mother wanted every one of her children to be a Ph.D. I'm sure her ambitions for us had a great effect on what we actually did.

"She was a remarkable woman. She was a pioneer suffragist at the time when there were practically none, and any place she ever lived she was always very advanced in her ideas. I always thought that was good for all of us, because we weren't afraid to be a little different from other people. She was also a natural teacher, much more than my father was, and she used to make us do our lessons at home. We had to read aloud to her, and that was very important. We had to memorize things.

"She and my father both grew up in the Reconstruction period, and their own opportunities were limited for that reason. She was determined that we would have the opportunities that she didn't."

Malone's older brother, Kemp, who died in 1971, was the intellectual star of the family. After graduating from Emory College in 1907, he went on to become a noted linguist at Johns Hopkins and president of the Modern Languages Association. Malone's other brother, Miles, also received a Ph.D. and taught at Andover School in Massachusetts for a quarter of a century, and one of his four sisters taught at Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans.

Malone followed his older brother to Emory at the age of 14 and enrolled while he was still in short trousers. The college was located at the old Oxford campus, and there were no dormitories for the 300 or so students who enrolled that year. Nevertheless, Malone has fond memories of his years at Emory and believes his undergraduate education played a major role in determining what kind of man he is today.

"I wasn't a particularly good student," he said, "I was experimenting with life. I was awful young, you know, and I think it's a terrible mistake to go to college that young because you're not ready. It wasn't as bad as it sounds now because there were a good many people who went to college at 16. But even so, I wasn't ready. I could do the studies, but I wasn't mature; and I wasn't ready for anything else.

"The faculty was not distinguished in the sense that anybody knew them elsewhere. I don't suppose there was a member of the faculty of Emory in my day who wrote a book. But they were good teachers, and as I look back on it, I think that Emory and the other small, denominational colleges in the South

preserved the literary and classical tradition very well.

"I have no achievements as a classicist or a humanist, but I regard myself as one in spirit. Some of it I got from association with Mr. Jefferson, but a lot of it came from back at Emory. I always felt at home in the ancient world, especially Greece.

"There was a professor of Greek at Emory, Professor Charles Peppler, and of course we called him Pep. Pep was a friendly little man, and he was extremely grammatical too. He spent entirely too much time on that. Well, we were well aware of his foibles and what he was interested in and when we could get him off the track. But he gave a course that he called Greek Literature in English, and I absolutely devoured that course. It was all about the Greeks and their lives and mythology and so on, and it's one of the courses I remember to this day. I'm sure it had a great effect on me.

"Then the professor whose influence stuck with me most was Edgar—I think it was Edgar H.—Johnson. He was an economist really, but he taught economics, government, and history—all of them. I took everything he offered, and I had the pleasure of telling him years later that it was in connection with one of his courses that I first became conscious of thought. He was a great teacher. He was very difficult man, a very timid sort of man, but he did a lot for me.

"I didn't take any American history at Emory. They didn't offer any, only European. I didn't take any American history except in high school and graduate school. But the classical atmosphere and the literary atmosphere were real at Emory, and it has affected me all my life."

* * *

Because Malone was so young when he arrived at Emory, one of the most important aspects of his education involved meeting and learning to live with other students. He played center on his class football team for two years and gained much experience from "just knocking up against the other boys."

"There was a great emphasis on social relationships in those days," he said. "I don't know exactly how to say this, but being liked by your fellows was extremely important. I don't know if that's true to the same extent today or not, but I know when I first went to Yale, I was struck by the different emphasis among students. The great thing at Yale was to achieve something, extracurricular or anywhere, make the *Yale News* or something. Being liked was important but not emphasized.

"I know it was terribly important for us at Emory. That was the only question: Is he a nice guy? Do you like him?

"You know, that carries on into the life of Thomas Jefferson too. It was a very important consideration in trying to understand him—particularly in his relations with John Adams. The New Englander and the southerner. The old New England tradition is one of plain speech, and to go out of your way to be agreeable, to make people like you, in a way is a weakness. The way we were brought up in the South, though, it was very important to have people like you, and the worst thing in the world was to hurt somebody's feelings unnecessarily.

"A great many things in Thomas Jefferson I can understand better because of that reason. For example, he hated to be disagreeable. He hated to disagree with people. John Adams didn't hate it at all; John Adams rather liked it, you see. And what some of Jefferson's enemies used to call hypocrisy was really just his old southern way of trying to be agreeable.

"I hope it still exists. It's so important. It can be a handicap, but it can also be a great asset. Southerners have gotten along awfully well in the North and East. I thought when I was teaching history at Yale and Columbia that being a southerner was a great help to me. I was teaching American history and there weren't many other southerners around, so I was a little different, see?"

* * *

When Malone graduated from Emory in 1910, he spent several years teaching at small country schools in Georgia, including his father's college in Cuthbert. Soon, however, he was ready to continue his education, and he did so by traveling north to Connecticut, where he enrolled in the Yale Divinity School. He received a bachelor of divinity degree from Yale in 1916 but then left school to join the Marine Corps, and when he returned two years later, he turned his intelligence toward history rather than religion.

"I could have been a religious scholar, but the thing I finally concluded that I wanted to work at was the history of my own country. In a way, I was compromising with practicality and being pragmatic. There's something in one of Jefferson's comments—I can't give it exactly, but it was in one of his letters to John Adams—where he says there are some things beyond human comprehension and that when he comes to one of those he drops it just like he would a weight that's too heavy to lift. In a way, I gave up struggling with the deepest mysteries of human life and turned to something I could handle, see? In history, you're dealing with concrete reality.

"But even though I couldn't accept the strictly orthodox theology, my ethical standards have never changed, and I dislike the immorality of this age. I think I could say that, like Mr. Jefferson, I've sought to guide my life by the teachings of Jesus. I certainly have. Some things you can't hope to do; I don't know if I could turn the other cheek all the time. But on the whole I agree that it's the greatest body of ethics that was ever promulgated, and it's too bad it hasn't been tried more. Mr. Jefferson thought the trouble with churches is that they weren't religious enough. They deviated from the teachings of Jesus, and they put in a whole lot that he never had. He wanted to go back to the original, and that in effect is what I did. . . .

"Well, anyway," he continued, "I decided before the First World War that I was going into history, and I sort of did it as a southerner. If you've read Vann Woodward's writings, you'll remember that he made the point that southerners have a feeling about history because it did something to them. They are aware of history.

"Most Americans haven't felt it or suffered from it. All the European peoples have suffered from history, and so have southern people. I knew what history had done to my father and mother's generation, how limited their opportunities were because of the Civil War and its aftermath, and I started out thinking I'd specialize in southern history. As it turned out, I didn't. But I taught southern history—I taught it at Columbia—and somehow I always thought I could understand the problems of my own people better if I studied their history."

* * *

Malone's interest in Jefferson began to develop in the mid-1920s while he was teaching at the University of Virginia, which Jefferson founded a century before. Malone was attracted by the idea of approaching history through biography, and under the circumstances, Jefferson seemed like the most challenging biographical subject available. Malone went to France on a fellowship in 1927 to examine Jefferson's life in that country, and he published his first Jefferson article in the *Virginia Quarterly Review* in January 1931.

By then, however, he had been wooed to Washington, D.C., to work on the

Dictionary of American Biography by Allen Johnson, his old dissertation director at Yale. And although Malone did not know it at the time, it would be a dozen years before he would return in earnest to his study of the nation's third president.

"Allen Johnson was one of my greatest professional friends and patrons," Malone said. "He wanted to work with me on the *DAB* because he knew he could never finish it alone. We worked together for a year and a half, and then he was killed in an automobile accident.

"This was a very confining job. It wasn't what I'd intended to do—being shut up in an office all the time and telling other people what to write and not doing it myself—but I had to finish it. There was no way out, so I stuck on for five more years and finished it. . . .

"I loved to teach and write; but when I got out of the *DAB*, the Depression was still on, and when I was offered that excellent job at Harvard, I took it. I didn't mind. I'd dealt with authors a lot at the *DAB* and liked it, although managerial work as a whole I don't like.

"I was editing at the *DAB*. I had no financial responsibility; I had a salary and that was it. But at the Harvard Press, I was responsible for all the finances. When I was on the dictionary, at least I edited a lot, but on the Harvard Press, I didn't even edit. I had other people to edit, and I couldn't even read all the books. Other people did that, and I had to judge their judgments. I was getting more and more remote, and I finally decided that was too much and quit.

"Business responsibility is a great burden to me, and I don't like it. I like to write. But it took me half my life almost to find out what I most like to do. That's not so surprising, I guess. That's just the way things are."

Once Malone turned his full attention to Jefferson, he found him to be an extraordinary subject, a man so complex and versatile that no biographer could ever hope "to fully comprehend and encompass his life." Although some critics have accused Malone of being no more than an apologist for Jefferson, most have praised his dispassionate approach and his ability to simply describe rather than defend his man.

When Malone described his years with Jefferson, he changed verb tenses continously, going from past tense to present and back, until it was difficult to know whether he was speaking of someone alive or dead.

"There are a lot of people who say you can't understand Jefferson," he said. "One of my colleagues whom I respect very much just sort of gives him up. He thinks it's hopeless to try to understand him. But I've never felt that way. There's a certain inconsistency in the man, but there is in everybody.

"Insofar as what he was trying to do, so far as his major interests were concerned, he was very consistent throughout life. He was most concerned with the advancement of freedom in all fields. He thought the human being should have a maximum of freedom, and he's absolute on that. He might not be able to do something about it. He certainly wasn't about slavery, but he still believed in freedom absolutely.

"And there was also his belief in knowledge. These two things—freedom and enlightenment—are at the beginning of his career and the end. He had a certain amount of disillusionment, but nonetheless, I think he was consistent in his aims. He realized there were some things he wasn't going to able to accomplish, but I've realized that about myself too.

"So I don't find him all that mysterious. But I don't try to sum him up in a capsule. I don't try to give him a label. . . . I've deliberately avoided being dogmatic or using any particular term to describe him. I talk about freedom and enlightenment, of course, but I let it tell its own story. When you have a man like Jefferson—a man living as many lives as he did—it's almost impossible to sum him up. I think that's good. That's the way I did it. I wanted to definitely avoid excessive interpretation and let the story speak for itself. I have absolutely no doubt that some people, using the things that I myself say, the materials that I myself collected and described, some of them are going to get one impression and some of them are going to get a slightly different impression. That's life. The man is not going to impress everybody alike."

Now that he has finished the biography, Malone said he may write an account of his years with Jefferson because "perhaps I am now in better position to evaluate and interpret Mr. Jefferson than I was in the course of the journey." And he may also attempt a briefer biography or a book about the founding of the University of Virginia.

"I'm thinking of taking chapters of the book that deal with that and hitching them together a little better and adding something at the end," he explained. "That would be mostly a scissors-and-paste job, but because of my eyesight, it would be harder than writing.

"I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm just sort of floundering at present. I haven't worked out my regimen yet. I've spent most of my time being interviewed by people like you and answering my mail and signing books. I don't have much time to write."

As he talked, Malone thumped the small table between us. A well-built man even now, he has a large, square face framed by long ears, a high forehead, and a full mane of snowy hair. Except for his eyes, which are hardly visible behind thick, scratched glasses, his face is bright and expressive. He chuckles to himself as he talks, and the air he exudes, like the air of Monticello, is heavy and ripe with the end of summer. This is Malone's harvest time, and he appears to relish the fruits of his labor.

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Once, he had told another interviewer that Jefferson was most able to be the kind of man he wanted to be during the years he lived in France. But what about Malone himself? Has he been the kind of man he wanted to be?

"Well, nobody's been that," he said. "I've been more remote from life than I would have liked. I've been a little more in the cloister and the ivory tower than I ever expected to be, and I don't feel I've participated quite enough in life as it was going on. But I think I've always been conscious of life, and I hope it's evident in my writing.

"If I was doing it over again. . . . Well, I don't think I could change or would want to change too much. I think I'd still want to be a scholar and a historian. Because I was, my life has been richer in experience than I ever had any reason to expect. How could I have ever known that I would have the experience of living all these years in company with a man like Jefferson? It's been an enormous privilege, and in that way my life's been much richer, much richer, than I had any reason to expect. I'm sure it's been broader because, you see, he touched so much.

"Some scholarship is narrowing with its intense specialization, but I've never had that feeling. I've dealt with great things and great people. Sometimes people ask me what I do, and I say I live through great events with great men. To associate with men like Jefferson and George Washington and John Adams and to go through the things they went through, in that sense, life has been very rich. But you always wonder. It's been good for me. But how good has it been for others? You never know."

reading *recommended by the book committee*

humanities ROBERT B. HEILMAN, LAWRENCE WILLSON, FREDERICK J. CROSSON

social sciences EARL W. COUNT, LEONARD W. DOOB, ANDREW GYORGY, MADELINE R. ROBINTON, VICTORIA SCHUCK, ELLIOT ZUPNICK

natural sciences RUSSELL B. STEVENS, RONALD GEBALLE

RONALD GEBALLE

The Transcendental Part of Chemistry. David M. Knight. Dawson. Kent, England. 1978.
During the nineteenth century, chemistry, evolving into a quantitative science, faced several problems that at one time were viewed as chemical theory and at another as philosophical. The definition of an "element" was such a problem, as was the existence of atoms. Are there numerous different kinds of basic particles of matter, or only two or three—or one? In those days, physics, in the eyes of the protagonists, had little to say on this subject. The book looks back on the beliefs, scientific, philosophical, and religious, of scientists during that century and how the arguments went; it is an intellectual history. The startling experiments that marked the end of the century turned the transcendental part of chemistry into atomic physics.

Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist. Russell McCormmach. Harvard. 1982. $15.
This unique and remarkable book delves into the mind of a physics professor musing on the state of his science and on his fifty-year-long career in a German university. The time is 1918. Profound changes are taking place in the subject he loves; revolutionary, they cannot be fitted into the physics he and his contemporaries know. He knows he is not a heroic figure of the old version, but he was taught and inspired by many such men and is acquainted with others, counting some as close friends. He admires the bold new concepts that have been forced by experiment and by inadequacies in his beloved classical synthesis. While resignedly acknowledging that the new kind of physics is needed, he wonders about its abstractness and the soundness of its philosophical foundation. The effects of the war on science and society, the tragic fates of friends, and the meaning of science for the world also prey on his mind and keep him awake at night. The professor is a synthesis of a number of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century German physicists. His almost every thought and sensation is documented from letters and publications of those men (in informative notes found at the back of the book). The author has molded him sensitively and with skill. The result is the evocation of a warm, thoughtful, sturdy personality for whom one develops great sympathy, as the wife of at least one present-day physics professor can affirm.

Handbook of Regular Patterns: An Introduction to Symmetry in Two Dimensions. Peter S. Stevens. MIT. 1981. $37.50.
An attempt to synthesize the perspectives of artists and graphic designers on the one hand and scientists and mathematicians on the other, this is a well-organized and readily comprehensible handbook. Relying on an extensive set of clearly presented illustrations, it is, as well, a fine introduction for anyone interested in learning the principles according to which nature and man organize patterns.

The Cosmic Code: Quantum Physics as the Language of Nature. Heinz R. Pagels. Simon & Schuster. 1982. $17.50.
This is an important, honest, and valiant attempt to explain to the public the conception of the universe that emerges from contemporary physics. "Contemporary" in the context of the book means within the past decade, during which a multitude of discoveries have opened new vistas and have given rise to a belief that a major step in unification lies just before us. "Honest" means that the authors have attempted to explain theoretical structures and experimental findings and their relationships in considerable detail, and without resort to mystic allusion. "Valiant" means that they have taken unusual pains to illustrate concepts and relationships that lie far outside everyday experience, using only graphic language and analogy. Despite this notable and commendable effort, the book begs explanation in some spots and overly stresses detail in others, overlooks some basic conundrums hardly touched by present knowledge, and in places lays claim to a completeness that elsewhere is belied by acknowledgments of ignorance. Nevertheless, the work is possibly the best in recent years, during which many others have attempted this vexing task.

The Rise of Robert Millikan: Portrait of a Life in American Science. Robert H. Kargon. Cornell. 1982. $22.50.
Robert Millikan, the first American-born Nobel Laureate, played a triple role. He personified the national predilection for ingenuity and precision in measurement that for the most part characterized American science in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; he, together with George Ellery Hale, brought the California Institute of Technology into preeminence; and he was large on the public scene as a spokesman for science and as an adviser to government. Yet his composed and true-blue appearance covered a human personality with traits that it belied. A portrait of a life in science, yes, but Kargon gives us also a searching, fair-minded account of the society and science that nurtured it.

J. Robert Oppenheimer: Shatterer of Worlds. Peter Goodchild. Houghton Mifflin. 1981. $15.
The story of Robert Oppenheimer is well-known, at least in general outline; however, this treatment will add much to the common understanding. It makes use of interviews with many surviving actors and material available for the first time under the Freedom of Information Act; it is thorough and carefully documented and presents fairly the scientific, technical, and organizational dilemmas faced by the principals during and after the war. The ambiguity of success in an endeavor having horrifying consequences, the complexities of personality and personal relationship, the corrosive pressures of the gamble, are all treated compassionately. Goodchild raises poignantly the question whether, after all, security was served by the persistent suspicions of persons petty and prominent and by the sordid, devastating hearing. The book formed the background for the recent TV series with the same title.

MADELINE R. ROBINTON

The Return to Camelot: Chivalry and the English Gentleman. Mark Girouard. Yale. 1981. $35.
This is a fascinating book, wide in its appeal, which explains the rise of the concept of an English "gentleman." A chivalrous gentleman was "brave, straightforward and honourable . . . loyal . . . true to his word . . . a natural leader of men . . . gentle to the weak." Mark Girouard, a British architectural historian who delighted so many with his earlier books, *Life in the English Country House* and the *Victorian Country House*, has directed his wit and scholarship to what he considers was a deliberate creation, not an accident, the chivalrous gentleman. Tracing the reemergence of the idea of medieval chivalry in the late eighteenth century from the medieval knights of Sir Walter Scott through the "noblesse oblige" of Toynbee Hall to the Boy Scouts of Baden-Powell, he uses art, architecture, literature, education, sports, and religion to illustrate his study.

The Greek Heritage in Victorian Britain. Frank M. Turner. Yale. 1981. $30.
During the same period of the romanticization of the Middle Ages, the Victorians were also idealizing ancient Greece, but on a very different level. As Professor Turner of Yale states, "Discussion of Greek antiquity provided a forum wherein Victorian writers could and did debate contemporary questions of taste, morality, politics, religion and philosophy." This interesting volume follows a two-pronged inquiry. Analyzing the development of Greek studies, briefly on the Continent but principally in England, Turner shows how, although interest in ancient Greece was directed by the problems of the day, the goal of achieving more precise knowledge led to more critical reading of the sources, less distortion, and sounder scholarship. The history of Greek studies emerges at the same time as one is made aware of the Victorian problems of morality and religion, politics and philosophy, that led Grote and Gladstone, Arnold and Jowett, among many others, to look to the Greeks to find the solutions to their questions or support for their ideas. A stimulating book, especially for intellectual historians and classicists.

Disraeli's Grand Tour: Benjamin Disraeli and the Holy Land, 1830–1831. Robert Blake. Oxford. 1982. $14.95.
Robert Blake, who has written a brilliant bi-

ography of Disraeli, spent several weeks in Jerusalem in 1979. This experience profoundly impressed him and set him to thinking and exploring the impact on Disraeli of his visit to the Holy Land as a young man of twenty-five. This interesting and strange book resulted. It is based on the letters the young Disraeli sent home to his family and on the use he made of his travel experiences in his later novels, especially *Tancred*. Lord Blake recounts the high points of this Grand Tour, from Gibraltar to Malta, to Corfu and Albania, Greece and Constantinople, and especially Jerusalem and Egypt, placing these adventures in their historical and social context. He reflects on the ambiguities of Disraeli's position as a Christianized Jew and speculates on what he would have thought of the existence of Israel.

Young Edward Gibbon: Gentleman of Letters. Patricia B. Craddock. Johns Hopkins. 1982. $25.
This scholarly volume is a most revealing book about the childhood and education of the historian of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Vivid in its depiction of the minutiae of family life of an eighteenth-century country gentleman, it reads like a novel, telling of the love affair of his parents, which is disclosed from the letters they sent before they were allowed to marry, the difficulties of the sickly child that Edward Gibbon was, his schooling and his relations with his father, his time at Oxford, and his conversion to Catholicism and consequent banishment by his father to Protestant Lausanne. It was here that his self-education began. Craddock does a skillful job in weaving the materials together, especially from Gibbon's letters, journals, autobiographies, and memoirs, to produce a vivid biography that incorporates much social history.

The Declaration of Rights, 1689. Lois G. Schwoerer. Johns Hopkins. 1981. $26.50.
For the historian, the political scientist, and the student and practitioner of politics, this is an absorbing story. The Declaration of Rights, which was transformed by parliamentary statute into the Bill of Rights, is one of the basic documents of British history and along with the Magna Carta and the Petition of Right is fundamental law in the United States as well. How in the Glorious Revolution or Bloodless Revolution of 1689, politics, the art of the possible, and the manipulation of public opinion were used by clever lawyers and adroit parliamentarians to get the acceptance by the Convention Parliament and by the new King William III of these limitations on the power of the king is subtly portrayed by Professor Schwoerer of George Washington University. Based on a wide variety of sources, this is a carefully structured study not only of the basic document but also of the changes through which it went and the great skill used in maneuvering its final form and acceptance.

The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller. Carlo Ginzburg. Transl. by John and Anne Tedeschi. Penguin. 1982. $6.95.
This is a remarkable work of reconstruction of the thinking of a sixteenth-century villager about the world in which he lived. Menocchio, a miller in the Friuli, the hinterland of Venice, was brought before the Roman Inquisition accused of heresy. On the basis of the testimony at his two trials, Carlo Ginzburg of the University of Bologna has recorded Menocchio's ideas about the cosmos, creation, God, the Holy Spirit, tolerance of other religions, the soul, and his universe, and then, brilliantly on the basis of the books that Menocchio had said he had read, his distortions of what he had read, the metaphors of his language, and the recorded events of his life and times, giving us both a picture of a man of the village but differentiated from it, not by class but by the originality of his own mind, and an explanation of how he came to think the way he did. An example of "popular culture" at its best.

ANDREW GYORGY

The Soviet Art of War, Doctrine, Strategy, and Tactics. Harriet F. Scott and William F. Scott. Westview. 1982. $26.50.
This richly documented and most valuable summary of Soviet military strategy and tactics will increase our understanding of the Soviet military elite and its varied activities. The book succeeds in its overall purpose: to "document from basic Soviet sources the development of the Soviet art of war" (p. ix). The selections are carefully excerpted, and only major contributions to Soviet doctrine, strategy, operational art, and tactics have been included. The book is designed primarily for graduate and undergraduate students specializing in Soviet government and politics in Western universities.

Red Star in Orbit: The Inside Story of Soviet Failures and Triumphs in Space. James E. Oberg. Random House. 1982. $12.95.
This book offers a fascinating inside story of the Soviet space exploration effort, with all of its triumphs and setbacks. In addition to having excellent primary documentation, Oberg's analysis covers some of the major case studies in Soviet space development, emphasizing some of the "death and disaster" incidents that set back the USSR's frantic efforts to catch up with the United States in space. "The Voskhod Follies" and "The Moon-Race Cover-up" are particularly intriguing stories. Good writing and careful editing make this a popularly oriented book.

Beyond Empire and Revolution: Militarization and Consolidation in the Third World. Irving Louis Horowitz. Oxford. 1982. $19.95.
This valuable study continues the author's line of analysis begun with earlier path-breaking books, such as *Three Worlds of Development* (1965). Advancing beyond the concepts of economic and political development, this timely and sophisticated study analyzes in depth such phenomena as military modernization and the origins of Third-World dictatorships and democracies and stresses such features of the modern state as bureaucracy, administration, and state power. This is a high-level, sophisticated, and complex analysis, aimed primarily at the social scientist.

The Soviet Triangle: Russia's Relations with China and the West in the 1980's. Donald R. Shaner. St. Martin's. 1981. $13.95.
This is an up-to-date, well-organized, and yet lightly written study of the "Soviet Triangle" described in the title. The author's year-long trip was obviously most useful, and his comments on Soviet foreign policy, Eastern and Western Europe, and—last but not least—on the Sino-Soviet dispute (boundary, etc.) are most valuable to the American policymaker and the general reader as well. The chapter on Eastern Europe is especially valuable and timely. A good general study.

Russia and the Road to Appeasement: Cycles of East-West Conflict in War and Peace. George Liska. Johns Hopkins. 1982. $25.
Liska's book is a particularly valuable contribution to the analysis of the detente and postdetente periods in recent and current East-West relations. Of particular significance is his general analysis, "Appeasement or Anarchy: The Two East-West Dimensions" (Chapter VII), which presents the author's main thoughts and convictions in an interesting manner. In a sense, this book is the final volume in a major series composed of *Quest for Equilibrium*, *Career of Empire*, and *Russia and World Order*, all published by Johns Hopkins. This is not a book for the general public, but a thoughtful and immensely important contribution to scholarly thought in the academic and governmental world.

The Myth of the Nation and the Vision of Revolution. J. L. Talmon. California. 1982. $35.
The late Professor Talmon of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem concluded the third and last volume of a monumental trilogy with this eminently scholarly and successful major work. The subtitle of this posthumously published work offers a useful summary of its main themes: "The Origins of Ideological Polarization in the Twentieth Century." In a sense, this is the capstone of the author's work begun in such a distinguished fashion with his earlier *The Origins of Totalitarian Democracy*. To this reviewer, the most useful and relevant chapters were "The Jewish Dimension," "Lenin—International Revolutionary and Architect of New Russia," and "The German Revolution of 1918 and Hitler in the Wings." These are the areas of modern knowledge and social science of which Talmon was an absolute master and a most eloquent proponent. Addressed more to the specialist than to the general public.

The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution: 1895–1980. Jonathan D. Spence. Viking. 1981. $19.95.
J. D. Spence, distinguished professor of history at Yale University, produced in this volume a marvelous background to the unceasing Chinese revolutionary effort of almost one hundred years. The book, aimed primarily at the expert in Chinese politics, presents a broad cultural canvas against which the daily political waves of Chinese internal and foreign affairs are played out. Brilliantly conceived and written, this work is a must for any bookshelf on China and invaluable also to the general public interested in twentieth-century sociological developments there.

Coming Alive, China After Mao. Roger Garside. McGraw-Hill. 1982. $12.95.
The author, a former British diplomat and

currently professor of East Asian studies at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, has successfully presented a rich and varied portrait of post-Mao China. The two principal phenomena he analyzes are (1) the accumulation of a great deal of bitterness in the People's Republic of China, and (2) widespread evidence of a new readiness on the part of the people to shape future political events, hopefully in the direction of democratic development. Heavily literary, this book is a treasure trove of the "Coming Alive" period in modern Chinese history.

LAWRENCE WILLSON

The Literary Criticism of Henry James. Sarah B. Daugherty. Ohio University. 1981. $16.95.
Pleasant it is these days to come across a simple, straightforward critical work about Henry James (or any other literary figure), one that rests upon the demonstrable facts of his career and does not deal primarily in the *delicate subtleties of the critic's imagination.* Daugherty engages in no pyrotechnics, makes no devious explorations or unsettling revelations, and arrives at no conclusions that upset traditional judgments. She simply and clearly locates James in the literary context of his time, reading, writing about, and learning from not only such masters as Hawthorne and Balzac but also such writers of the not exactly shining hour as Henry Sedley, Julia Constance Fletcher, and M.E. Braddon. This book is a salutary reminder that Henry James once walked upon the earth. He did not always float just above it in the pure ether of Art.

Selected Letters, 1917–1961. Ernest Hemingway. Ed. by Carlos Baker. Scribner's. 1981. $27.50.
Hemingway is in the judgment of some people more significant as a personality than as a writer. It is vital therefore to enshrine every relic (e.g., his guns, one of which recently sold for $38,000), to preserve every scrap of his composition, in order to re-create the man, whether as hero or antihero. These letters, whose publication he expressly and on the whole wisely forbade—921 pages of them—contribute splendidly to that purpose, frequently providing intimacy with him, despite his explicitly stated wish, "I would like people to leave my private life the hell alone." Those who admire will find much to strengthen their admiration. Those who scorn will find new and powerful justifications for their scorn. Everybody will be fascinated—sometimes saddened, sometimes horrified, sometimes disgusted, sometimes enchanted, sometimes embarrassed—by the unfolding revelation of the archetypical literary celebrity of the twentieth century.

The Tragic Art of Ernest Hemingway. Wirt Williams. Louisiana. 1981. $17.95.
It is the contention of Williams that not only is tragedy possible in this age, but that "The body of Hemingway's work becomes one of the most compelling, and varied, achievements in tragedy that fiction has to offer." He believes that Hemingway's vision of life was from the beginning tragic and that he consciously shaped a method and devised strategies—from the conceptions of Imagist poetry, the Impressionist and post-Impressionist painters, and musical composition—for the projection of tragedy in our time. The thesis is doubtless debatable, but this book makes a respectable statement for the affirmative.

Money Talks: Language and Lucre in American Fiction. Ed. by Roy R. Male. Fwd. by Ronald Schleifer. Oklahoma. 1981. $14.95.
"Money," says Schleifer at the outset, preparing us for the profundities and whimsicalities to follow, "is, for America, the great national myth: it stands in relation to America . . . in the same way that the Nibelung Ring stands in relation to Germany." To demonstrate the point, Male has collected nine essays, ranging from a meditation by Leslie Fiedler, an apologia for writing for money, to a kind of anecdote on the same subject by, appropriately enough, Herbert Gold. Among the authors whose work is explored for evidence are Henry James, Poe, Hemingway, Bellow, William Gaddis, and Doctorow. Mark Harris contributes a chapter of autobiography, a pleasantly mordant account of his adventures as a candidate for academic preferment. The wry conclusion is that "He was not a student of money, but he knew this much: that if his colleagues believed him to be rich they would turn sooner and more seriously to his opinions than if they believed him to be merely one of them. And of all the grudges he bore his colleagues this was the first." Money talks, indeed, and most of the time it talks dirty. The only writer who has a very good word for it is Bellow, who "consistently associates money as a motivating factor with a search for man's immortal spirit."

Faulkner's "Requiem for a Nun": A Critical Study. Noel Polk. Indiana. 1981. $17.50.
That Faulkner has joined the immortals of our literature is certified by the gradual appearance of at least one volume of exegesis and critical commentary for each of his published works. The laudable purpose of this one is to warn us against confusing the author with his characters and assuming that their conclusions are his. Faulkner is not Gavin Stevens, and he does not confer sainthood nor even beatification on Nancy Mannigoe, whose act of murder "violates every moral, judicial, and social law the best instincts of mankind have ever devised." Polk possibly exaggerates the distinction of *Requiem* as a major work, but he does not press the point, and he does demonstrate impressively the complexity of its imagery, its thematic relationship to *A Fable*, and its importance to an understanding of Faulkner's concept of history.

Marginalia. Edgar Allan Poe. Intro. by John Carl Miller. Virginia. 1981. $11.95.
Here, gathered together for the first time, are all 287 of the random jottings, brief expository comments (some of only a sentence or two, some of several pages) on Poe's reading (the books unidentified, however, and most of them probably unidentifiable), on his colleagues in the profession, on his interests of the hour (punctuation, plagiarism, prosody, the sinlessness of Mary Magdalen). There is no continuity. As the author warns: "The purely marginal jottings . . . have a distinct complexion, and not only [not] a distinct purpose, but none at all. . . . In the *marginalia* . . . we talk only to ourselves . . . freshly—boldly—originally—with *abandonnement* . . . much after the fashion of Jeremy Taylor, and Sir Thomas Browne, and Sir William Temple, and the anatomical Burton." The resemblances are not strong, but this is, after all, the voice of Poe and worth harkening to—for five minutes at a time. We are occasionally startled into attention, as when we come across six pages of praise of Amelia Welby and Poe's judgment that "Very few American poets are at all comparable to her in the true poetic qualities."

VICTORIA SCHUCK

National Defense. James Fallows. Random House. 1981. $12.95.
The Global Politics of Arms Sales. Andrew J. Pierre. Council on Foreign Relations Book, Princeton. 1982. $5.95.
The Nuclear Barons. Peter Pringle and James Spigelman. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 1981. $16.95.
The Fate of the Earth. Jonathan Schell. Knopf. 1982. $11.95.
Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 140 "little" wars have left behind upwards of 10 million dead, without the intrusion of the nuclear bomb. Except for John Hersey's *Hiroshima* (1946), interest in nuclear books lagged. Then beginning in the mid-1970s, a volume or two came out each year until 1979 when 17 appeared, followed by 20 in 1980, 42 in 1981, and another 42 before this year is out. The majority of the 1970s titles dealt with nuclear power development and related subjects such as the environment, radioactive hazards, and history. With the renewal of the cold war, U.S. cancellation of detente following Soviet expansionary conduct, and debate on arms imbalances and the new strategies for nuclear deterrence setting off an antinuclear movement in Europe and disarmament rallies in this country, publishers have turned their attention to nuclear war, weapons, and disarmament. Thirty-nine, or 30 percent, of the more than 100 nuclear books promised for the first three years of the 1980s will fall in these categories. Not included in the publishers' lists are three extensively illustrated documentaries for distribution to various publics by the Pentagon: *Soviet Military Power* (n.d., about October 1981, Washington, D.C., GPO), a Department of Defense compendium of forces, weapon systems, and the nuclear arsenal; *Whence the Threat to Peace* (1982, Moscow), the Soviet Ministry of Defense's response to the above American booklet, reviewing and condemning U.S. forces and weapons, an "instant" translation by the American embassy; and *NATO and the Warsaw Pact: Force Comparisons* (n.d., about November 1981, n.p.), a NATO pamphlet indicating the peace-keeping capacity of Warsaw forces. The most important Pentagon document, entitled *FY 1984–1988: Defense Guidance* (March 1982, not yet published), sets forth in 125 pages the whole spectrum of military resources required to defeat the Soviet Union in worldwide conventional combat and in all-out nuclear war, and supports a $1.6 trillion budget for the next five years. Strategies include new weaponry for "space-based" fighting, peacetime economic pressure on Russia, reduced access to technology, and selected military aid to China. The

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READING (continued)

document assumes that "protracted" nuclear war is winnable.

The books reviewed here, coming from quite different approaches, in sum amount to a critique with mounting crescendo against the conventional wisdom in America and abroad concerning armament policies in the nuclear age. Each stresses the need for change ranging from "realism" to utopia.

Fallows, the *Atlantic Monthly*'s Washington editor, has written an absorbing monograph about the fallacies of the American military establishment—its management techniques and "culture of procurement," which rely on increasingly costly, complex weapons that seriously jeopardize the economy and turn up as failures on the battlefield. To correct the class makeup of the volunteer army, he would institute universal short-term service or reinstitute the draft. Fallows's version of preparation for defense in conventional war would shift the emphasis to values, training for leadership, and flexibility, and away from ideological debate. His thin chapter on nuclear weaponry clarifies disputes and warns the reader of the vast ignorance and "pure theology" of nuclear doctrine and theory.

Pierre, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, moves the scene to the international arena in a descriptive analysis of "the world's largest growth industry," arms sales. The United States, traditionally the greatest purveyor of arms to other countries, is one among 30 nations—8 suppliers and 22 buyers—discussed. Until the mid-1960s the sellers and buyers of arms were confined to transfers among the membership in NATO or the Warsaw Pact states. Now not only has the volume of sales increased, but three-fourths go to Third- and Fourth-World countries, which are receiving sophisticated arms. In the new competition, the United States has recently been falling behind the Soviet Union in actual transfers, but projections for sales in fiscal 1982 indicate that America may again exceed all other suppliers. Pierre sees the significance of arms sales not in their military or economic impact but in their political dimension. Major powers arm the Third World as proxies in continuing conflicts. He has no bold restraints in mind for spiraling conventional arms or nuclear proliferation, but holds that "realistically" these must be exercised by suppliers in the form of multilateral regulations and market-sharing agreements along geographic and/or technological lines.

Pringle, a Washington correspondent for the *London Observer*, and Spigelman, an Australian official, have produced a panoramic history of the nuclear era from the earliest scientific experiments in the 1930s to the Three Mile Island protests in the 1970s. Decision makers and their decisions, scientists, military men, politicians, industries, nations, environmentalists, demonstrators, bomb tests, power plants, a plutonium cartel, Atoms for Peace conferences, nuclear tests, genetic hazards, concealment, propaganda—all rush past with the speed of television news. Despite a superficial and almost polemical style, the comprehensiveness of the book affords a useful background.

The most compelling book is Schell's. The book originally appeared as three essays serialized in the *New Yorker* last February and is an eloquent and anguishing statement of the ghastly consequences of a nuclear holocaust. Drawing upon the best scientific knowledge, Schell asks us first to imagine the extent of physical damage to the planet—the devastation of the land, the mutilation of the ecosphere, and the possible extinction of all life including the human species. The earth would be a globe of nothingness whirling in space. In the second essay he ponders the human significance of a "second death," the end of billions of years of biology and culture. No moral issue can take precedence over the saving of humankind. In the third essay, his argument turns to the illogic of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. His purpose was not to design solutions to the predicament in which we find ourselves. These he leaves to public discussion and the political realm. He touches a nerve in references to the national state system whose ultimate settlement of disputes has always been war. Though he will be faulted for his utopian prescription, "to reinvent politics: to reinvent the world," his passionate book will assuredly leave many readers with the question, "Why not?"

War Powers of the President and Congress: Who Holds the Arrows and Olive Branch? W. Taylor Reveley III. Virginia. 1981. $15.95.
The Secretary of Defense. Douglas Kinnard. Kentucky. 1980. $19.50.

Constitutional definitions of who has the authority to make war and peace are only partially explicit in dividing power between the President and Congress, leaving ambiguities and silences. Reveley's fine historical, legal, and political study explicates the constitutional text, the intent of the framers and ratifiers, beliefs, and actual exercise of powers since 1789. The original "tilt" toward Congress has shifted over the years to the President, giving him virtual "hegemony," which today would include decisions on nuclear warfare. Though Congress has begun to reassert authority in the War Powers Resolution of 1973, some chief executives have ignored its provisions. Reveley, who prefers "indirect paths" to the development of war powers, proposes guidelines to settle the division and recommends that Congress establish a small joint committee on foreign and military affairs to collaborate more closely with the executive on objectives and crises. If the President is the dominant figure in American defense and military policy, the secretary of defense is the second most powerful. How presidents have formulated and controlled policy is presented in Kinnard's excellent short monograph on the secretary's office during the past 30 years under the tenure of five secretaries—Forrestal, Wilson, McNamara, Laird, and Schlesinger. Successive reorganizations and sophisticated management techniques have resulted in a transfer of power from the services to the secretary, while defense budgets competing with domestic demands have become the means of determining strategic policy. Arguments have continued over the declining influence of the senior military on defense issues. As secretaries and presidents have faced decision making, they have had to wend their ways among secretaries of state, National Security Councils, the White House departmental bureaucracies, and Congress.

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