



The Key Reporter

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Franklin to Receive Associates Award

36th Triennial Council to Meet October 17–20; Lederman Will Give Inaugural Hook Lecture

Phi Beta Kappa will hold its 36th triennial Council on October 17–20 in Washington, D.C., with headquarters for the meetings at the Mayflower Hotel. A highlight of the weekend will be the presentation of the first Sidney Hook Award to Leon Lederman, Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics, University of Chicago, and winner of the Nobel Prize in physics for 1988. Lederman will deliver an address at the banquet on October 19.

The triennial Hook Award is a \$5,000 cash prize that recognizes a scholar who has had extensive and distinguished experience in undergraduate teaching, has published research that contributed to the advancement of his or her academic discipline, and has demonstrated leadership in the cause of liberal arts education.

On October 17 a reception for Council participants will be held at the George Washington University, cohosted by area chapters and the Washington, D.C., alumni association. On October 18, John

Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History and professor of legal history in the Law School at Duke University, will receive the fourth annual Associates Award at a reception hosted by the Phi Beta Kappa Associates at the National Archives, marking the 51st annual meeting of the Associates. Franklin is a past president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (1973–76) and of the American Historical Association (1979) and is the author of numerous publications.

As the legislative body of the Society, the Council will consider and vote on the Senate's recommendations for the establishment of new chapters at Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut; Loyola College, Baltimore; Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas; Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania; and Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

In addition, the Council will consider
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Stanford Instructor Wins 1991–92 Sibley Fellowship For Studies in Greek

Martha Caroline Taylor, a graduate student and instructor at Stanford University, has been awarded Phi Beta Kappa's Sibley Fellowship of \$7,000 for the 1991–92 academic year. A 1983 graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she will use the award to complete her dissertation on the geographical dimensions of the polis:



Martha C. Taylor

Salamis, Marathon, and Oropos. Her dissertation is a "study of the process by which the Classical state of Athens determined what was really Athenian and what was not with regard to men (the distinction between citizen and non-citizen) as well as with regard to land

and territory." Taylor is the 43d winner of the award, which was established with funds bequeathed to the Society in the will of Isabelle Stone.

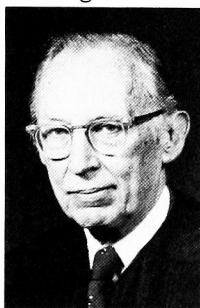
A Profile of a Prominent ΦΒΚ Member

'Most Powerful Judge of His Time' Continues to Serve on Circuit Court

At age 64, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. (Phi Beta Kappa, Washington and Lee, 1929), was persuaded to accept appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court—the oldest person ever appointed an associate justice—after having refused to consider serving on the Court two years earlier because he was "too old." As he approached his 80th birthday in 1987, Justice Powell unexpectedly stepped down because he had decided he no longer had the strength to put in the six-day work weeks he had routinely experienced on the Court. He was, says Henry J. Abraham, James Hart Professor at the University of Virginia, "the most revered and popular member of the Court, . . . very much his own man beholden only to his learning, his professionalism, and his conscience."

Because Powell had cast the deciding vote in so many 5-to-4 decisions, Herman Schwartz, writing in *The Nation*, called

him "the most powerful judge of his time," and *U.S. News & World Report* noted that his "courtly manner . . . failed to disguise the immense power he wielded."



Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

For more than 15 years Powell had sought, he said, to "decide each case on the basis of the facts and the law of that case"—a philosophy that led him to vote with the liberals in civil cases involving the rights of individuals and to side with the conservatives on business and criminal issues.

Nowadays, despite continuing health problems—he had a hip replaced and a
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1992–93 Sibley Award Increased, Offered for Studies in French

In 1992 the Sibley Fellowship will be increased to \$10,000 and offered for studies in French language or literature. Candidates must be unmarried women between 25 and 35 years of age who hold the doctorate or 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 beginning September 1992. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the Sibley Fellowship Committee, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

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Triennial Council Meeting

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an amendment on extending voting privileges for association delegates and a statement on improving standards throughout the nation's education system.

The Council will also elect officers and senators for the coming triennium. Nominated for president is Joan M. Ferrante, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and currently vice president of the Society. Nominated for vice president is Charles Blitzer, director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and currently a member of the ΦBK Senate.

Eight senators at large and four district senators will be elected for six-year terms. The Senate nominees are as follows (asterisks denote senators nominated for reelection):

John T. Casteen, III, president and professor of English, University of Virginia; *Joan M. Ferrante; Vartan Gregorian, president, Brown University; Erich S. Gruen, Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, University of California, Berkeley; *Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History, University of Chicago; *Donald S. Lamm, president and chairman, W. W. Norton and Company, Inc.; David Levering Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of History, Rutgers University; Helen F. North, Centennial Professor of Classics, Swarthmore College; Arnold S. Relman, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, senior physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*; Peter O. Steiner, professor of economics and law, University of Michigan; Catharine R. Stimpson, University Professor, dean of the Graduate School, and vice provost for graduate education, Rutgers University; and Burton M. Wheeler, professor of English, Washington University.

One senator is to be elected from each of the following districts:

Middle Atlantic: James P. Lusardi, Francis A. March Professor of English, Lafayette College; and Charles E. Staley, associate professor of economics, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

East Central: *Virginia R. Ferris, professor of entomology, Purdue University; and Roy T. Matthews, professor of history, Michigan State University.

North Central: *Judith Lynn Sebesta, professor and director of classics, University of South Dakota; and Mary E. Thompson, professor of chemistry, College of St. Catherine.

Western: Gerald L. Alexanderson, Michael and Elizabeth Valeriote Professor of Science, Santa Clara University; and Carol N. D'Onofrio, associate professor, School of Public Health, Univer-

Profile of Justice Powell

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pacemaker implanted last winter—he maintains his chambers in the Supreme Court building and serves on federal circuit courts of appeal, usually when cases are being heard in his home city of Richmond. As a retired justice Powell has one law clerk instead of the four he had as an active associate justice. His secretary, Sally Smith, who has served him for almost 30 years, says he still routinely “works every day,” but he does not often go out in the evening.

Powell, a Democrat, was pressed by President Nixon personally to accept appointment to the Court primarily because he was a Southerner who could be confirmed after two other nominees—Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., and G. Harrold Carswell—had been rejected. Unanimously given the highest rating by a panel of the American Bar Association (ABA), Powell was easily confirmed.

Today he points with pride to the thick, leather-bound volumes containing some 250 Court opinions he wrote, which take up the bulk of two shelves in his office. His controlling vote in the *Bakke* case is often considered to be his most important decision, for his opinion there established the principle of affirmative action. (Powell cast the swing vote in that case, voting against rigid quotas while voting to permit consideration of race among several admission criteria.) Powell cites the time of the Watergate tapes decision as the most exciting period on the Court, and he gives Nixon full credit for accepting the judgment of the Court in the crisis for which there was no clear precedent.

How did the soft-spoken, quintessential Virginian come to play such an important role in American public life, and why does he continue to serve? Powell

headed a boarding school for boys in Virginia, with considerable influence on him as a youth. In Richmond, Powell attended the McGuire School, which prepared boys for the University of Virginia. After a visit to Washington and Lee with his school baseball team, he was persuaded to enroll in the smaller college, which at the time had perhaps 900 students. Powell says he “couldn't have made a better choice.” Washington and Lee offered many opportunities for leadership, and, says Powell, “I went out for everything.” Ironically, he didn't make the baseball team (a left-hander edged him out as first baseman), but he did manage the football team, was managing editor on the newspaper, and became president of the student body. Perhaps because he had spread himself so thin, he says he was “totally surprised” to make Phi Beta Kappa. (One of his sisters also was elected to the Society at Randolph-Macon Woman's College.)

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., chaired the Nominating Committee of the Council. Other members were Nina Z. Baym, E. David Cronon, Adalade Kirby Morris, Emma C. Norris, F. Carter Phillips, Aileen Ward, and Burton M. Wheeler.

Four persons are to be elected to the Nominating Committee for the 1991–97 term from the following slate:

Anna J. Coble, assistant professor of physics and biophysics, Howard University; Joel O. Conarroe, president, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation; Kenneth M. Greene, retired secretary, ΦBK Society; Catherine S. Sims, dean emeritus and professor of history emeritus, Sweet Briar College, and a past president of the ΦBK Society; Svetlana K. V. Thomson, administrative operations analyst, San Francisco State University; and Helen H. Vandler, Porter University Professor, Harvard University.

likes to attribute his achievements to luck—for example, he says he was lucky to have been chairman of the Richmond Public School Board when the *Brown* decision was announced, and thus to have been in a position to exercise the quiet leadership that kept the Richmond schools open and moving toward integration when schools elsewhere in the state were closed in massive resistance.

Powell credits his great-uncle, a Confederate veteran who witnessed the surrender at Appomattox and subsequently

‘Justice Powell is a man whose acute intelligence is matched by his strength of character and awareness of the duty that we all owe to our community. In the legal world, preoccupied as it must be by technicality, Lewis Powell has illuminated his writing and his decisions with a sense of warm humanity.’

—Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian
of Congress Emeritus

headed a boarding school for boys in Virginia, with considerable influence on him as a youth. In Richmond, Powell attended the McGuire School, which prepared boys for the University of Virginia. After a visit to Washington and Lee with his school baseball team, he was persuaded to enroll in the smaller college, which at the time had perhaps 900 students. Powell says he “couldn't have made a better choice.” Washington and Lee offered many opportunities for leadership, and, says Powell, “I went out for everything.” Ironically, he didn't make the baseball team (a left-hander edged him out as first baseman), but he did manage the football team, was managing editor on the newspaper, and became president of the student body. Perhaps because he had spread himself so thin, he says he was “totally surprised” to make Phi Beta Kappa. (One of his sisters also was elected to the Society at Randolph-Macon Woman's College.)

Powell stayed on at Washington and Lee for his LL.B., which he earned in two years. After passing the Virginia bar exam, he was persuaded by his father, who had no college degree, to postpone practicing law and continue his studies at Harvard, where he took a seminar under Felix Frankfurter and earned his LL.M.

Powell then returned to Richmond to join one of the oldest law firms there, combining trial work with corporate law, which he was to practice over the next four decades, with time out for service as an intelligence officer in the Army Air

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The Future of Kuwait: A Personal View by a Veteran of 'Desert Storm'

By Thomas McNaugher

IS KUWAIT HEADED TOWARD civil war? Press reporting suggests as much. Kuwaitis want political change, soon; they see their country's occupation and recent liberation as a watershed marking the end of autocratic rule, the beginning of some kind of participatory democracy. Kuwait's resistance fighters, who stayed behind and fought Iraq's occupying forces while the emir fled to Saudi Arabia, understandably feel that they deserve a much greater role in determining their country's future.

Meanwhile, the emir talks a good line—he promised democracy well before his country was liberated, for example—but acts as if Iraq's invasion and occupation changed nothing. His cabinets, both the one that returned with him in early March and the new one appointed in mid-April, feature the "usual suspects," most of whom have for good reason lost the people's confidence and few of whom represent new political forces unleashed by the occupation. The emir's promise of elections in October 1992 places democracy too far off to satisfy his critics.

Most Kuwaitis have an abiding respect for the al-Sabah family, which has ruled what is now known as Kuwait since 1756. But many resent the arrogance with

which the emir has returned from the safety and comfort of Jiddah and points west to impose "business as usual" on Kuwait's most unusual political circumstances. Iraq's occupation has left Kuwaitis better armed and organized than ever before. How long can the emir behave this way before resentment turns to armed resistance?

Longer than many seem to think, I suspect. I recently returned from two months' duty in Kuwait City, having been mobilized as part of an Army Reserve unit whose mission was to help provide emergency relief to the city just after Iraq's troops fled. Meanwhile, as a civilian I have studied the Gulf region (albeit as a military strategist rather than an Arabist), traveled there (including a brief visit to Kuwait in 1987), and written a book about U.S. military strategy toward this oil-rich part of the world. None of this experience makes me confident about my or anyone else's predictions about this volatile region; recall how many scholars (myself included) and political leaders failed to foresee Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. Still, I have a few insights into the situation that make me slightly less worried about civil war than current press reporting suggests we should be.

My skepticism does not spring from faith in the emir's willingness to move

circuit courts of appeal. And his importance to the Court, where he was the least predictable of the justices, became even more evident during the long fight to fill his seat, first with Robert Bork and then with Douglas Ginsburg, before Anthony Kennedy was finally confirmed.

As to his current concerns, Powell notes that although he voted with the Court to uphold the death penalty (which he views as clearly constitutional), he believes that capital punishment does not deter murder and says that if he were a state legislator he would oppose capital punishment. He blames the high murder rate in the United States primarily on the unlimited sale and availability of handguns.

Powell also expresses concern about the extent to which unlimited television viewing on the part of America's youth preempts their time for reading.

—Priscilla S. Taylor

decisively toward political change, although I would be delighted to be wrong on this point. Those of us who worked with Kuwait's returning government after March 1 came to like individual Kuwaitis very much indeed. Yet we would be the first to confirm that the emir seems strangely detached from the realities of his situation. We were repeatedly frustrated by the failure of the emir and his ministers to move rapidly to handle their country's postoccupation problems.

For example, my unit convoyed into Kuwait the night of February 28 in the company of more than 70 trucks bearing food, water, and medical supplies for a population we expected to find in sad shape after seven months of Iraqi occupation. Kuwait's government had purchased these supplies while in exile, and thus despite our involvement could do with them as it pleased. It pleased to do absolutely nothing with them for 10 days, while ministers bickered over whether to distribute food and water through cooperatives run successfully by the resistance during the occupation or through new centers unconnected to the resistance. Ultimately they chose to use the existing cooperatives, but then proceeded to distribute supplies in a distorted pattern that favored Kuwaitis over the Palestinians and third-country nationals who normally constitute a majority of the country's population.

To the best of my knowledge, no one starved to death while Kuwait's returning government dithered over food distribution, nor did anyone die of thirst while the emir filled his swimming pool with fresh water. Happily, Iraqi troops trashed Kuwait City no more competently than they fought allied ground forces. We were quite surprised, as we crept into the city early on March 1, to find plenty of food in Kuwait's coffers. There was plenty of potable water in the city's reservoirs, too, although, with power plants out of action, water had to be moved about the city by truck.

If the practical consequences of the government's failure to act quickly thus were minimal, the political consequences were decidedly negative, suggesting a desire to return to traditional modes of bureaucratic operation. And in dickering with resistance leaders over food distribution, the emir and his cabinet lost a perfect opportunity to reach out to new political forces.

A similar pattern can be seen in Kuwait's decision to try accused collaborators by means that fall short of common standards of fairness. Again, the practical consequences of Kuwait's policy on

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Thomas McNaugher

Profile of Justice Powell

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Force in World War II. He participated in the invasion of North Africa in 1942 and eventually became one of a handful of American "Ultra" intelligence specialists working in England. He ended the war as a full colonel and chief of operations for intelligence on General Carl Spaatz's staff.

Education has always been one of Powell's main interests, and after leading the Richmond schools through the crisis of the 1950s he moved on to the Virginia Board of Education. He also was president of the ABA and the American College of Trial Lawyers, was a member of Lyndon Johnson's National Crime Commission, and served as vice president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. It was doubtless this variety of experience, coupled with his judicial temperament, that recommended Powell to President Nixon when he most needed a candidate that could be confirmed for the Court.

Powell claimed at the time of his appointment that he would "rather play than be the umpire," and he maintains today that he never had any desire to be a judge. He agrees now that he came to enjoy his work, as evidenced by his willingness to continue to serve on federal



The Future of Kuwait

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trials are benign, even humane, at least relative to the regional standard. After all, who else in the region holds trials at all? Thus I confess to some relief that Kuwait has (with few exceptions) chosen trials of any sort over the revenge attacks that many of us feared might occur in the early weeks after Kuwait's liberation.

Yet the fact remains that Kuwaitis and the world at large expect Kuwait's government to observe higher standards of civil rights. The emir seems unaware that he is living in a fishbowl, where every action he takes is observed for its political content.

Kuwait's rulers had a chance to signal constructive political intentions when they introduced their new cabinet in mid-April. The old cabinet resigned in part because its unpopularity was obvious. Those of us plying the streets of Kuwait City every day had no trouble divining that Kuwait's people, or at least those living there at the time (most Kuwaitis have yet to return to their native city), wanted fresh faces in charge, including members of the resistance, plus evidence of competence. What they got was mostly the same old faces in new cabinet positions, as if somehow incompetence would disappear with the assignment of a new portfolio.

All this suggests that the emir is seeking to place a lid of traditionalism on a pot that may be about to boil over—classic prerevolutionary circumstances, one might argue. Yet my experience makes me question just how close this pot really is to boiling. Kuwaitis eager to air their grievances seem neither disposed nor organized to fight over them.

No doubt Kuwait's citizens are better organized and armed than ever before. The emir can thank Iraq on both counts. Indeed, on the latter point, even if Iraq's forces had not consciously armed collaborators, they left behind such a huge arsenal that pilferage alone—and there was a lot of it—has probably made Kuwait's population the most extensively armed in the world.

Still, resistance groups remain divided on the bases of neighborhood, religious, and political affiliations. In some neighborhoods, for example, the Kuwaiti army, such as it was, quickly established close working relationships with resistance members. Elsewhere, however, tensions between the army and resistance ran fairly high. The opportunity to divide and rule thus remains real. (Although I did not work directly with Kuwait's tiny army, from a distance it too seemed to be fractured and only loosely controlled from the center. Divide and rule thus may work with the military as well as with the resistance.)

Nor is it clear that resistance figures are uniformly lionized by other Kuwaitis. To paraphrase the way one Kuwaiti who had been in the city throughout Iraq's occupation put it, "The resistance isn't all it's cracked up to be: it made many mistakes in the early months and some of those mistakes got people killed." One opinion isn't worth much, but this one reinforced the impression I had from two months' residence that the resistance simply wasn't operating as a coherent force in Kuwaiti society.

Another factor that leads me to question the political energy of Kuwait's opposition groups is the constant difference between rhetoric and reality in the country. For example, the resistance forces, who were in telephone contact with allied forces until just before the ground war began, exaggerated the extent of Iraq's destruction of their city. Although Iraq's capacity for cruelty and wanton destruction cannot be denied, the fact remains that Kuwait City was not the shambles we were led to expect. For example, we were told that Kuwait's hospitals had been stripped of most of their technology and were, by the middle of February, filled with Iraqi wounded. Yet we found Kuwait's seven major hospitals in remarkably good shape, functioning reasonably well under duress, and housing among them only 44 Iraqi wounded.

Press reports that the Iraqis had stripped Kuwait's hospitals of their equipment vastly overstated the case. Some hospitals (and many of the country's small clinics) had been stripped, but several went largely unmolested. Meanwhile, the Iraqis had completely overlooked the city's huge central medical warehouse. Thus we found only a few specialized supplies—distilled water and liquid oxygen—in short supply. In the absence of the expected medical emergency, both the U.S. Army and the International Committee of the Red Cross quickly set aside plans to bring major field hospitals into the city.

Similarly, in the weeks before the ground war began, Kuwait's resistance fighters spoke with increasing urgency of dwindling food supplies, as hungry Iraqi troops looted homes and grocery stores. Entering the city on March 1, however, we found homes stocked with literally months' worth of staples like rice and lentils. Sometimes these had been cleverly hidden, but often they were in plain sight. The city's cooperative grocery stores had begun to run out of supplies, although less as a result of Iraqi looting

Thomas McNaugher, a West Pointer who is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a member of our Book Committee, wrote this article for The Key Reporter shortly after his return in May from five months' active duty in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with the U.S. Army.

than of panic buying by Kuwaitis. We were surprised to find fresh eggs, and in some cases vegetables and fruit, on store shelves. We were told that these had been purchased in Basrah (in southern Iraq) only the week before the ground war began, suggesting that commercial trade between Kuwait and Iraq continued at some level even during the allies' devastating air interdiction campaign.

The resistance understandably may have exaggerated the situation in an attempt to trigger the ground war as soon as possible, yet exaggeration continued even after the city was liberated. We sought to verify countless tales of disappearances, torture, food riots, and so forth during our two months in Kuwait City. Some proved to be true; most evaporated as we neared the source. Food riots, in particular, normally turned out to have been mere jostling in food lines set up around the city.

Press reporting based on interviews with Kuwait's vocal dissidents thus is likely to exaggerate their unhappiness and their readiness for violence. Many of my military colleagues and I drove the streets of Kuwait almost daily looking for signs of impending violence, discontent, or whatever. We concentrated on suburbs like Hawalli and Farwanya, which are home to Kuwait's many Palestinians and third-country nationals. What we saw instead was a bustling, reawakening city whose people, while voicing fears and concerns, were mostly just happy to have the Iraqis gone. To the extent that one can feel the pulse of a city from walking the streets, visiting markets, and talking to people, this was not a population primed for violence.

Finally, of course, there looms the question of oil, revenue from which is the political narcotic of the Gulf sheikhdoms. Oil money is not the only source of political cohesion in these states, to be sure; religious, traditional, and family ties have given them surprising resilience. There is no question, however, that oil revenue greases the skids to political complaisance.

Oil is making a comeback after bottoming out in 1985; hence oil revenue will probably increase in the years ahead. Kuwait is not yet exporting oil, but will probably begin to do so this fall. In any event, Kuwait made more money in 1989 from investments abroad than from oil sales. There is an abundance of money even in this war-torn country. Whether the emir spends it wisely remains to be seen, but at high enough levels the wealth simply trickles down at a rate sufficient to diffuse political tensions.

If, as I suspect, political tensions in Kuwait are overstated in any case, the emir has a reasonable chance to succeed in returning his country to something close to the status quo ante. Alas, that would be a shame. For although we should

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THE KEY REPORTER

Recommended Reading

Book Committee

Humanities Frederick J. Crosson, Robert P. Sonkowsky, Jean Sudrann, Lawrence Willson **Social sciences** Earl W. Count, Richard N. Current, Leonard W. Doob, Thomas McNaugher, Madeline R. Robinton, Victoria Schuck, Anna J. Schwartz **Natural sciences** Ronald Geballe, Russell B. Stevens

Ronald Geballe

Light, Wind and Structure: The Mystery of the Master Builders. Robert Mark. MIT, 1990. \$19.95.

There exists, and always has existed, a tension between architecture as an art form and the technology required to realize the architect's conception. Mark points to several striking contemporary examples of unhappy failure to pay sufficient attention to technological imperatives. Using contemporary tools and analysis he has clarified the technological basis of key structures from three historic eras of Western architectural history: ancient Rome, the high Gothic period, and the era of the great Renaissance domes. A quotation illustrates his point: "The idea that architecture . . . has an 'autonomous aesthetic dimension' flies in the face of inferences drawn from technology-oriented studies of past building." Much of the book was the basis for a recent TV series.

Wild Ice: Antarctic Journeys. R. Naveen, C. Monteath, T. de Roy, and M. Jones. Smithsonian Institution, 1990. \$35.

Four naturalist-photographers have created a stunning pictorial record of their 60-odd visits to Antarctica, along with their individual reflections on the vast, lonely, austere, and breathtakingly beautiful continent. More than merely a record, the book is also a treatise on

the ecology of the area and a compelling argument for fighting to maintain its pristine status.

Cosmogogenesis: The Growth of Order in the Universe. David Layzer. Oxford, 1990. \$24.95.

The much-decried and seemingly inevitable fragmentation of science calls out for attempts to find a synthesis. Layzer, an eminent astrophysicist with wide-ranging interests, attempts to construct a coherent scientific view of quantum mechanics, macroscopic physics and cosmology, evolution, molecular biology, and neuroscience. His theme is the growth of order despite the dire consequences of the Second Law of Thermodynamics. His point of view is often at odds with commonly held notions, such as the Big Bang. He does not shy away from philosophical issues such as the matter-mind dilemma; his convictions lead him to the conclusion that "there are no limits to what we and our descendants can hope to achieve and become."

The Fifth Essence: The Search for Dark Matter in the Universe. Lawrence M. Krauss. Basic, 1989. \$21.95.

There is convincing evidence that we see (by means of all the different kinds of radiation we can detect) only about 10 percent of the total mass of the universe. The remaining 90 percent is the "dark matter" that is the subject of this book. The search for direct evidence of the

dark matter forces the seemingly disparate realms of cosmology and particle physics to joint effort. Krauss, a physicist engaged in the effort, offers dark matter as the present-day manifestation of Aristotle's "quintessence" and the various "aethers" invoked by scientists until they were seemingly destroyed by the Michelson-Morley experiments of the late 19th century and by Einstein. Krauss reviews clearly the extensive, albeit circumstantial, evidence for dark matter and in the latter, more difficult, parts of the work, the various candidates among the known and conjectured candidate particles. The search continues.

Leonard W. Doob

The Encyclopedia of Parapsychology and Psychological Research. Arthur S. Berger and Joyce Berger. Paragon House, 1991. \$45.

A splendid, objective, convenient, sensible listing and summary of persons who have investigated—and especially of those who have had publicized opinions concerning—paranormal phenomena. The volume concentrates on presenting the available biographical and autobiographical facts. Of course J. B. Rhine, Gardner Murphy, and William James are listed, but so are the poetic intuitions of persons like Blake, Elizabeth and Robert Browning, Shakespeare, and Saint Francis of Assisi. Concepts such as levitation, hypnosis, ESP, and spiritualism are cogently summarized. The book also contains the addresses of research centers and associations devoted to the challenge around the world.

Vigotsky's Psychology: A Biography of Ideas. Alex Kozulin. Harvard, 1991. \$29.95.

A provocative analysis of Vigotsky's thinking and writing as well as of his influence on other psychologists inside and outside the Soviet Union. Vigotsky himself is not easy to pigeonhole because, though banned during the Stalinist era and dying in 1934 at the age of 38, he plunged into human behavior at levels that transcend Pavlov—at times even Luria and "American behaviorism." He himself was concerned with Hamlet, and one of his disciples has sought recently to comprehend Raskolnikov. Here, out of context, are two of his sentences: "Consciousness is reflected in a word as the sun in a drop of water," and "A word is already a theory." This book's author, originally a Soviet psychologist, is now teaching in the United States, and hence well acquainted with the American intellectual climate, as he demonstrates frequently and relevantly if tangentially. He places Vigotsky in a broad context of vital interest to those who keep groping for a reformulation of our understanding of one another and ourselves.

Making Sense of Television: The Psychology of Audience Interpretation. Sonia M. Livingstone. Pergamon, 1990. \$41.95.

A serious, self-conscious effort to understand "how people in everyday life make sense of their everyday world." The emphasis is on British audiences and soap operas that, it is suggested, generally "provide a substantial role for the viewer, in that there is no single hero figure, no simple perspective expressed, no discrete boundaries to the narratives." Semiotics and psychology provide concepts and theories so that this monograph emerges, for the benefit of both viewers and researchers,

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The Future of Kuwait (continued from page 4)

not want to see civil war wrack this small and relatively humane country, neither should we want to see Kuwait slide back to its traditional politics. Of all the Gulf sheikhdoms, Kuwait probably has the best chance of making a transition toward more meaningful forms of political participation. It has a constitution and a parliament, albeit the latter has rarely had much power. It has political parties, albeit they are many and fractious. And it has always had a degree of political pluralism among its 20 or 30 major families. The al-Sabah may rule, but in many ways they are merely first among equals.

U.S. values rightly encourage our policymakers to push Kuwait toward democracy, while the dominant role the United States played in liberating Kuwait gives us moral and practical leverage to use in this effort. Such policy must of course be subtle; our policymakers understandably worry that too aggressive a push toward democracy may only encourage civil violence, or at least suck the United States into domestic politics it only vaguely un-

derstands. U.S. policymakers must also grapple with the Saudis, who have always feared that steps to expand political participation in Kuwait will somehow spill over into their country, which remains a monarchy based on very conservative religious principles.

Yet to the extent that Kuwait is less prone to civil war than it may seem to be on the surface, there is correspondingly more room for U.S. diplomatic pressure for more democracy. And having just helped to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi tanks, the United States need not cater too eagerly to the Saudis' call for a hands-off approach. Unless we find some magical alternative to oil as an energy source, we are going to be engaged with the sheikhdoms of the Arabian Peninsula for some years to come. There is no better time than now, in the wake of a great military victory, to fashion a strategy that encourages the slow but steady opening of these political systems to the demands of their citizens. Kuwait seems to be the perfect place to start.

Recommended Reading

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with a taxonomy applicable not only to understanding the text of TV programs but also to "reconceptualising media effects as gradual, symbolic, and cognitive." Wittingly or not, politicians and advertisers are well acquainted with this rignarole (minus the jargon), but are the rest of us?

Handbook of Early Childhood Intervention. Ed. by Samuel J. Meisels and Jack P. Shonkoff. Cambridge Univ., 1990. \$59.50.

An impressive compendium of the evidence substantiating the view "among behavioral scientists, policymakers, and even taxpayers that early intervention is a cost-effective method for combatting the effects of poverty experienced early in life." The 55 contributors to the handbook are Americans actively studying and promoting the welfare of exclusively American and Canadian children. There is clearly no single, magical technique to intervene productively, but there seem to be ways to help most if not all children at "high risk," provided each child's somewhat unique problems and surroundings are taken into account. The knowledge of these specialists is not being fully used by a society with other concerns, and yet— isn't there some progress?

Creativity and Madness: New Findings and Old Stereotypes. Albert Rothenberg. Johns Hopkins, 1990. \$22.95.

An impressive defense of the thesis that creativity and madness, although sometimes co-existing in the same person, are not inevitably related. Deservedly acclaimed persons have been creative without being psychopathic; obviously the reverse is too true. On the basis of clinical experience and systematic experience, including interviews with contemporary men and women of note, even experiments, and an examination of archives, this research-oriented psychiatrist argues and concludes that creative thinking results from an ability to cope with antithetical elements, to integrate them, and to articulate new identities from discrete entities. Each reader will be impressed with the analysis or psychoanalysis of a particular writer, scientist, artist, or musician; recommended are those focused on Emily Dickinson, Eugene O'Neill, and Sylvia Plath. One challenging conclusion suggests that, in order to diagnose sanity or insanity, "a study of the completed artwork is insufficient"; biographical data are needed. The author also believes that psychiatric treatment need not interfere with creativity.

Robert P. Sonkowsky

History of Old Age. George Minois. Tr. by Sarah Hanbury Tenison. Univ. of Chicago, 1989. \$29.95.

Even if poorly edited, this translation from the 1987 French version will surely interest Classicists and students of social history and gerontology. The topic is and, as we learn, always has been timely. The book is a pioneering attempt to gather texts from ca. 2500 B.C. to the 16th century A.D. which still speak to the aging population—that is, to all of us. Besides literature and myth, some attention is also paid to palaeontological statistics about age at death. But even if the temporal framework and the science were difficult for the author to master, he tries to distinguish the lot of, and

societal attitude toward, the old in various eras. Because of the "progress" we have made, it may be difficult for us to grasp one of the conclusions—that, in general, old age, although for the most part viewed pessimistically, was even in those days generally preferred to death.

The Idea of the Labyrinth from Classical Antiquity through the Middle Ages. Penelope Reed Doob. Cornell, 1990. \$34.95.

This is an excellent study, well written and important, of the concept of the labyrinth in literature and art. Doob's analysis discovers for all Classicists and medievalists a concept that is powerful both for inspiring artistry and for interpreting it. She begins with the myth of the Labyrinth of Daedalus on Crete and analyzes the concept in Vergil, Ovid, Boethius, Dante, and Chaucer, as well as in several buildings, mosaics, and other pictorial art.

The Language of Heroes: Speech and Performance in the *Iliad*. Richard P. Martin. Cornell, 1989. \$31.50.

Greek Mythology and Poetics. Gregory Nagy. Cornell, 1990. \$35.

Homer and the Sacred City. Stephen Scully. Cornell, 1990. \$32.95.

Oral Cultures Past and Present: Rappin' and Homer. Viv Edwards and Thomas J. Sienkewicz. Basil Blackwell, 1991. \$37.95.

The first three books are the first, second, and fourth volumes of the series on myth and poetics edited by Gregory Nagy to encourage the integration of literary criticism with cultural anthropology. The fourth book is an account of oral performance ranging over seven continents and from Homer to today.

Using comparative materials from other oral cultures, Martin gives many insights about the distinctive qualities of the speeches of the heroes of Homer's *Iliad*. Perhaps most important, he finds the voice of the poet himself in that of Achilles. Both the poet and the hero strive to surpass all competition. Martin's fresh approach goes far in the direction of lifting the text from the page and reuniting it with its audience.

The book by Nagy himself is a collection of closely related papers edited and organized to show his approaches to the Indo-European origins of Greek poetics, myth and ritual, and social ideology. It is a profound, yet magisterial work comparing different ancient languages with one another and with the myths of their cultures. The arguments involving myths and etymologies are complex, but all ancient quotations are translated, with key words repeated in parentheses after the equivalent English word.

Scully also brings in comparative material, especially to show the sacred nature of the Homeric polis, but the book is aimed primarily at illuminating the Homeric vision of the polis as at once architectural, human, and divine. Homer's vision is further seen as a poetic composition derived from combined elements from Mycenaean to 8th-century Ionian times. This fictional polis is at the center of the tragic themes of the *Iliad*.

Sociolinguist Edwards and Classicist Sienkewicz compare several aspects of oral performance across many cultures. They discuss the dynamic characteristics of oral performers, their language, and their interaction with audiences from ancient to modern times, from Homeric to Yugoslav singers, from Africa to Afro-America, Madagascar, Samoa, and the

Caribbean. They explore the interrelationship of literacy and oral performance, as well as miscommunication between contemporaneous oral and literate cultures.

Measure and Music: Enjambement and Sentence Structure in the *Iliad*. Carolyn Higbie. Oxford, 1990. \$69.

This is a highly technical study of different kinds of enjambement (the noncoincidence of verse-end and sentence-end) in relation to meter and the oral formulae of Homer's *Iliad*. Furthermore, reading the book requires some proficiency in ancient Greek, and very few applications of Higbie's conclusions are made to appreciation of content. They are chiefly statistical. Yet for students of Homeric Greek verse, this study is an indispensable summary of, and advance upon, our understanding of the musical composition of Homer and our ability to analyze its hold upon us.

The Arabian Gulf in Antiquity, Vol. I, From Prehistory to the Fall of the Archaeloemid Empire. D.T. Potts. Oxford, 1990. \$110.

The second volume will complete this first comprehensive survey of the archaeology and history of the area from ca. 8000 B.C. to the Islamic Conquest. The author's conviction that the commonalities perceived today among Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the other Gulf countries cover ancient underlayers that justify studying them as a unity was his original motive for the volumes, but he disclaims and avoids any suggestion that today's problems in the region are the result of unbroken historical continuity. The current volume is a clearly written synthesis of the palaeological, archaeological, and inscriptional evidence to ca. 300 B.C. The descriptions and commentary, the plates and drawings, maps, plans, and tables, along with extensive notes and bibliography not only will receive the notice of scholars, but will convince the interested general reader that in this region, which has received recent attention of a different kind, there is "more beneath the ground than oil."

The Origins of Rhetoric in Ancient Greece. Thomas Cole. Johns Hopkins, 1991. \$25.95.

In this admirably wide-ranging discussion Cole argues that the true origin of Greek rhetoric is not as reconstructed by later antiquity (e.g., in the works of Corax) or by Plato and Aristotle (in the work of their predecessors), but in the intellectual revolution taking place in Plato's own generation. This was a gradual revolution, but every bit as dramatic and important as the replacement of classicism by romanticism in modern times. Platonism itself is largely responsible for this revolution, which depends on a new ability to divorce content from expression. This ability, in turn, is linked to the development of written over oral composition and the notion of permanent realities.

Lawrence Willson

The Library of America. The governors of this enterprise, operating under the aegis of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the original financial fathers, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation, are entitled to special treatment and as much publicity in this column as can, within the limits of editorial decency, be allotted to them, for almost every one of the 50-



odd volumes issued by the Library since 1982 is recommendable as the best available collection or edition (and perhaps that "almost" strikes a note of undue academic caution). Surely the editions of Henry James (the American Shakespeare, as Edwin Fussell calls him) so far published (since 1983) are admirable, superseding (as texts) the New York Edition, which was published under James's personal supervision. While we await the novels of the Major Phase, we can rest comfortable with the works originally published between 1871 and 1890:

Novels 1871–1880: Watch and Ward. Roderrick Hudson. The American. The Europeans. Confidence. Sel. and ed. by William T. Stafford, 1983. \$29.95. (As is true of all Library of America volumes, the cost to subscribers is lower.)

Some, non-Jacobites, might question the classic stature of the first of this group, but surely not of the others. *The Europeans* has even achieved the ultimate distinction of being made into a motion picture.

Novels 1881–1886: Washington Square. The Portrait of a Lady. The Bostonians. Sel. and ed. by William T. Stafford, 1985. \$27.50.

Mysterious, it seems, that a literary commentator occasionally even nowadays wonders when the Great American Novel will get written, overlooking the existence of *The Portrait of a Lady* for more than a century. One cannot find anything much greater until *The Ambassadors* appears. (See also *New Essays on The Portrait of a Lady*. Ed. by Joel Porte. Cambridge Univ., 1990. \$19.95; paper, \$8.95. A collection of five recent essays, each providing a ray of putative illumination, despite the fashionable tendency to practice psychoanalysis on an imaginary character.)

Novels 1886–1890: The Princess Casamassima. The Reverberator. The Tragic Muse. Sel. and ed. by Daniel Mark Fogel, 1989. \$35.

The length of the first and last of these works suggests what to this reader is a flaw in the plan of the Library of America: unless one's jacket has a very capacious pocket indeed, it is not possible to slip a single volume of, say, 1,296 pages into it and carry it off on an afternoon's ramble as romantic students were once wont to do. But the point may be weakly taken, for romantic students are rare these days and they neither ramble much nor pursue romance in a book.

Other works recently issued by the Library, all worth our attention, are as follows:

Speeches and Writings, 1832–1858; 1859–1865. Abraham Lincoln. Sel. and ed. by Don E. Fehrenbacher, 1990. 2 vols. \$35 each, but recently offered by the Library, possibly as a patriotic gesture, for the very special price of \$3.95 for both volumes.

In these days when the literacy of our presidents is concealed behind a spectral mist from which anonymous compositors, assisted by word processors, shape the presidential pronouncements, it is soul-satisfying to come upon the writing—by his own hand—of a chief magistrate whose literary skills (acquired with a minimal formal education) mark him as a master of style, to be mentioned not with Calhoun and Webster but with Emerson and Thoreau. Lincoln's nearest competitor as writer among presidents is Jefferson. These volumes are among the most desirable and important yet published by the Library of America.

SUMMER 1991

Novellas and Other Writings: Madame de Treymes. Ethan Frome. Summer. Old New York. The Mother's Recompense. A Backward Glance (with an appendix: "Life and I"). Edith Wharton. Sel. and ed. by Cynthia Griffin Wolff, 1990. \$35.

Immured in an unhappy marriage (to the handsomest man in the Harvard class of 1873), Edith Wharton was advised, so it is said, by Silas Weir Mitchell, a neurologist of Philadelphia, himself a novelist of some fame, to take up the writing of fiction as therapy. If the tale be true, Dr. Mitchell deserves more honor for his prescription than for his own fiction. To be the godfather of the unforgettable *Ethan Frome* is a sufficient justification for having lived; and Edith Wharton's failure in relationships with Teddy Wharton, Walter Berry, and Morton Fullerton—a failure not primarily of her own making—gave her the sympathy with women in comparable situations that permeates these novellas. A special feature of this volume is the appendix, a fragment of autobiography not previously published.

Novels, 1936–1940: Absalom, Absalom! The Unvanquished. If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem. The Hamlet. William Faulkner. Sel. and ed. by Joseph Blotner and Noel Polk, 1990. \$32.50.

Readers who do not agree that Henry James wrote the Great American Novel are granted another option in *Absalom, Absalom!* a novel of suffocating power about the postbellum South with all its problems of a faded, fake, and discredited aristocracy. *The Unvanquished* is a series of stories introducing the Sartoris family before and after the War of the Secession, a chronicle dominated by two boys, one white, the other (smarter) black. *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem* (Faulkner's preferred title for *The Wild Palms*) is a savage tale (a pair of tales, really) of the old restless meat called humanity. *The Hamlet* is the first of three novels, together titled *Snopes*, about another group of little foxes that eat the vines.

Novels, 1923–1940: A Lost Lady. The Professor's House. Death Comes for the Archbishop. Shadows on the Rock. Lucy Gayheart. Sapphira and the Slave Girl. Willa Cather. Sel. and ed. by Sharon O'Brien, 1990. \$32.50.

The sheer luminosity of Cather's prose, in which, as she said, it is not so much what is

printed on the page as what is suggested there that tells the story, not only gives her an honored place among the writers cited earlier but explains and justifies her inclusion as one of the only four women (and the only American) among the 130 authors (of all history) represented in the newly revised *Great Books of the Western World*. It is more than possible that *A Lost Lady*, which explores the defeat of beauty in the sensual contemporary world (the world of the Snopeses), is another Great American Novel.

A Ring of Conspirators: Henry James and His Literary Circle, 1895–1915. Miranda Seymour. Houghton Mifflin, 1989. \$19.95.

Hail! Hail! The gang's all here: Stephen Crane (briefly), Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Hueffer (later Ford, the inheritor of the mantle of Ananias), Henry James, and, for good measure, Harold Frederic (glancingly), Edith Wharton, and Howard Sturgis, the author's great-granduncle (who was more skilled at embroidery than prose composition)—the writers, American, Polish, and German, to whom H.G. Wells gave the sinister title of "a ring of conspirators" bent on stealing English prose and remodeling it into some alien creation of their own.

They all foregathered in the vicinity of Romney Marsh in the late 1890s, and Seymour makes the center of the group (although there never was, strictly speaking, a group) the aging James, the Master (who was Master only to Conrad), during the last years of his life. It is a gossipy chronicle of adulterous liaisons, Uranian crushes, tea parties with elderly ladies, and the other pastimes of fin de siècle English gentry. The tales of envy (James's of Conrad, for instance, and of Wharton, who was rich to begin with and grew richer with every line she published) and duplicity (most notably, Wells's vicious parody of James in *Boon*) have all been told before, but it is pleasant to have them retold in a post-Edelian era free of the heavy atmosphere of hagiography and Freudian innuendo.

Seymour has calm and sensible things to say about the homoeroticism of the times. "The Victorians and Edwardians were more sophisticated than we are today," she writes, "in understanding and accepting that a man can love

(continued on back cover)

the American Scholar

If you are not yet a reader of *The American Scholar*, join us now and begin looking forward to the Autumn 1991 issue. Among the articles scheduled to appear are *Commencement at Duke*, by George Will, who makes an eloquent case for continuing to study in the Western tradition; *Scientific Fraud*, by David Goodstein, who investigates the kinds of behavior that ought and ought not to cause scandal in science; *Men Blow Kisses to Cahres*, a devastating attack on Harold Bloom's recent and widely acclaimed study of the Bible; and *Educating Performers*, by James Sloan Allen, vice president for academic affairs at The Juilliard School, who talks about the special problems of educating those intent on careers in the arts.

To begin a year's subscription, just complete and return the coupon below. The Autumn issue will be mailed in early September.

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Recommended Reading

(continued from page 7)

and physically worship one of his own sex without seeking any closer contact than an embrace or, at most, a kiss." Foolish, to be sure, and in an elderly man silly, but not "worse" than that. The spirit was of Winkelmann and Walter Pater, not Oscar Wilde. "The context of the time" is what counts.

The Letters of Edith Wharton. Ed. by R. W. B. Lewis and Nancy Lewis. Scribner, 1988. \$29.95.

Henry James and Edith Wharton. Letters: 1900-1915. Ed. by Lyall H. Powers. Scribner, 1990. \$29.95.

Edith Wharton: A Descriptive Bibliography. Stephen Garrison. Pittsburgh Series in Bibliography. Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1990. \$100.
Edith Wharton's Women: Friends and Rivals. Susan Goodman. Univ. Press of New England, 1990. \$27.50; paper, \$10.95.

Edith Wharton was rich and she was formidable—to her friend Henry James she was at times "a meddling philanthropist" and an Angel of Devastation, and often the impression she made was by no means calculated to win friends. When she first met Mary and Bernard Berenson, they found her intolerably rude: "She sniffed, she sneered, she jeered, she lost no occasion for putting in the wounding word." No wonder, then, that by her own testimony she never had "any warm personal life" until she was 46 years old and Morton Fullerton fell in love with her (or so she thought). Her lovers (understandably like the pusillanimous "heroes" of her fiction) always failed her; so she

found solace at first with older men (James, for instance) and later with much younger men, with her servants (who became her family and stayed with her when they could no longer serve), and always with her dogs. On the surface her life was a glittering adventure, as her letters show—warm, charming letters, comparable to those of the great correspondents of the age in which she lived, James and his friend (hers, too) Henry Adams. Be it remembered, too, that the Berensons ultimately became her devoted friends, part of her circle of expatriated Americans whom she characterized as "the wretched exotics produced in a European glass-house, the most déplacé & useless class on earth."

Because James, in an agony of despair in 1910 over the failure (financial) of the New York Edition, burned his personal papers, including Edith Wharton's letters to him, the book of James-Wharton correspondence is necessarily disappointing and lopsided. It contains only eight of her letters, written when he was near the end of his life and she was busy in her career as Lady Bountiful to the people of France in the Great War. Still, it is worthwhile to have half the correspondence (163 letters of James, all previously published elsewhere) spread before us. Whatever James wrote, even casually and in a hurry, is worth reading, notably so when it deals with his craft; and his friendship, Wharton wrote, was "the pride & honour of my life. Plus ne m'est rien after such a gift as that—except the memory of it."

For the bibliophile who treasures the writings of Wharton and seeks to be knowledgeable about them, Garrison's book appears to be a splendid guide, indispensable indeed, toward acquiring that knowledge. Garrison describes all the editions of her work and draws together the details of her fugitive compositions. An appendix lists the principal works about her.

Goodman describes Edith Wharton's failure fully to separate herself from the female literary tradition which recognizes, as her heroines do, that "conflict with men, if not unthinkable, is self-destructive"; her uneasy relationship with her domineering mother, more formidable than she herself ever became; her long friendship with Sara Norton; and her place among the other major female writers of her time: Willa Cather, Mary Austin, and Ellen Glasgow.

Jimmy Carter Granted Honorary Membership By Kansas State

Former president Jimmy Carter was granted honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa on April 26 on the occasion of his presentation of a Landon Lecture, named for Alf Landon, former governor of Kansas, at Kansas State University. Carter joins 10 other U.S. presidents who have received alumni or honorary membership: Martin Van Buren (Union College), Franklin Pierce (Bowdoin College), Rutherford B. Hayes (Kenyon College), James A. Garfield (Williams College), Grover Cleveland (Princeton University), Woodrow Wilson (Wesleyan University), Calvin Coolidge (Amherst College), Franklin D. Roosevelt (Harvard University), Harry S. Truman (University of Missouri), and Dwight D. Eisenhower (Columbia University). Five other U.S. presidents were elected as *undergraduates*: John Quincy Adams (Harvard), Chester A. Arthur (Union), Theodore Roosevelt (Harvard), William H. Taft (Yale University), and George H.W. Bush (Yale).

There are three classes of Phi Beta Kappa membership. Approximately 99 percent of all members elected each year are *members in course*, elected from candidates for degrees in liberal arts and sciences—as a rule, from the top tenth of the graduating class. *Alumni members* are elected from the alumni body of the sheltering institution; ordinarily they have been graduated at least 10 years and are thought to merit recognition for scholarly accomplishment after graduation. *Honorary members* are elected from outside the student and alumni bodies of the sheltering institution and are chosen on substantially the same basis as alumni members.

In 1991 Phi Beta Kappa's 240 chapters selected a total of about 15,000 new members.

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