

The Key Reporter

Your Link with
Phi Beta Kappa

Winter 2000-01 Volume 66, Number 2

Books on Archaeology, Fossils, and the Holocaust Win Phi Beta Kappa's Prizes for 2000

At the annual Senate banquet, held at the Doyle Washington Hotel on December 1, 2000, the Society honored three authors of books that represent outstanding contributions to humanistic learning. Each author received \$2,500 and talked briefly about his prizewinning book.

The Christian Gauss Award went to Leonard Barkan for *Unearthing the Past: Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Making of Renaissance Culture*, published by Yale University Press. Barkan had won the same award in 1987 for *The Gods Made Flesh: Metamorphosis and the Pursuit of Paganism*.

This year's Gauss Award was presented by the committee chairman, Jerome Buckley, of Harvard University, who had himself won the Gauss Award in 1952 for *The Victorian Temper*. Buckley remarked that he was visiting Columbia University at the time, and that Marjorie Hope Nicolson, then the national president of Phi Beta Kappa, had presented the award to him over tea.

The Science Award went to J. William Schopf for *Cradle of Life: The Discovery of Earth's Earliest Fossils*, published by Princeton University Press. Committee chairman Ira Hirsh, of Washington University, made the presentation. Schopf, director of the Center for the Study of Evolution and the Origin of Life at UCLA, has received awards at UCLA for research, teaching, and overall excellence.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award went to Peter Novick for *The Holocaust in American Life*, published by Houghton Mifflin Company. Robinson Hollister, of Swarthmore College, presented the award. [Eugen Weber's review of this book for the *Key Reporter* appeared in the Summer 1999 issue.]



Book award winners (seated, from the left) are Peter Novick, J. William Schopf, and Leonard Barkan. Standing are award committee chairmen Robinson Hollister, Ira Hirsh, and Jerome Buckley.

1927 Berkeley Graduate Gives \$1.8 Million to Society

Phi Beta Kappa has been notified that it will receive \$1.8 million from the estate of Gladyce Arata Terrill (ΦBK, University of California, Berkeley, 1927), the largest gift in the Society's 224-year history. The funds are to be used to support an endowment fund named for her and created "for the purpose of supporting specific Phi Beta Kappa projects designed to encourage excellence in American education." Grants from the income generated by investment of the gift are to be made annually by the Society's Executive Committee in consultation with the national secretary.

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By Jane Bowyer Stewart

Editor's note: A recent Kennedy Center concert program for the Vivaldi Festival of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) in Washington, D.C., noted that among the violin solo performers was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University. When the Key Reporter tracked her down, Jane Bowyer Stewart (class of 1978) readily agreed to tell us about her life in music, noting after she wrote this piece that, if we had attended the concert in which she played, we probably heard her five-year-old son, Timmy, "making his own kind of debut there. As the applause diminished after the soloists' entrance, he called out, 'Hi, MOM.'" Jane Bowyer Stewart is married to David Balton, a State Department official, whom she met through friends from Yale Symphony days, and they also have an eight-year-old daughter, Rebecca.

Like most sixth-grade girls in my Boulder, Colorado, elementary school, I wanted to play the glamorous flute. The music teacher cleverly suggested that all girls wearing braces (that was all but two of us!) pick another instrument, so I followed a family tradition of string playing and began to study the violin. My grandfather, a theology professor [Marshall Bowyer Stewart, ΦBK, Trinity College (Connecticut), 1902], had been a dedicated amateur violinist with a deep love of chamber music. My father, a professor of astrophysics, specialized in the most unusual and seldom-mastered instruments, including viola, double bass, and bassoon. My mother, now a literature professor [Rachel W. Stewart, ΦBK, University of Colorado, 1967], was a cello soloist in high school. To complete the quartet, all they needed was a daughter with well-timed orthodonture!

Despite my parents' intellectual orientation, playing music was their preferred pursuit at home. From earliest childhood I would sit in my pajamas at the top of the stairs, listening as my parents and their friends, often colleagues from the university, devoted innumerable evenings to the earnest playing of string quartets, quintets, and sextets. Eagerly, tirelessly, they explored the masterpieces, pausing only to remark on passages of great compositional ingenuity or profound beauty. Occasionally, I also heard helpless laughter as mistakes snowballed and cacophony prevailed. For so many reasons, I yearned to be a part of that magical world.

Entering the Music World

I quickly exhibited talent on the violin. I gave a full recital, which included a Mozart

duo with my dad, during my second year of study. Still, I always assumed that I would proceed comfortably to college, major in something like math, and move on to an academic life, with music a side passion. My father died suddenly just months after our recital, but I found a father figure in my beloved violin teacher, Abraham Chavez Jr. He let me play in the University of Colorado orchestra, which he conducted, and he introduced me to the beauty of orchestral literature and the thrill of being one of a hundred humble souls cooperating towards a spectacular common goal.

At the same time, I was a dedicated student at school, and it excited me to see my courses interconnect. I also began to glimpse how academic disciplines might enhance my musical appreciation and vice versa. When I played Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* overture just after I'd studied the play, I saw how music can capture the emotional essence of a great story. Similarly, my interest in foreign languages expanded when I began playing operas and wanted to appreciate a composer's word-painting. At the end of high school I was unwilling to abandon my study of liberal arts, so I chose to attend the Ivy League school with the strongest extracurricular musical life, Yale, rather than go to a music conservatory.

Some say that anyone with aspirations of becoming a professional musician should head straight to conservatory, bypassing liberal arts study. I have heard Dorothy DeLay, Juilliard's violin guru and the teacher of Itzhak Perlman, among others, assert that the teen years are best for mastering the violin. Physically and mentally, one must acquire a high level of technique before that peak of opportunity

passes. In her view, four years of college study would prove an unwise and frivolous detour, an unrecoverable loss of key (pardon the pun!) time. In fact, in the National Symphony Orchestra today, only a handful of the hundred or so members hold bachelor of arts degrees from academic colleges.

By my junior year at Yale, I was spending an extraordinary amount of time absorbed in music. I not only played with the undergraduate Yale Symphony but also did professional work with the New Haven Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of New England. I explored every piece of chamber music I could get my hands on, practiced after midnight in sound-proof practice modules, and sought out so many music theory and history courses that I became a music major almost by default. Nonetheless, the violin was never what came most easily to me; my B's were in music courses. My study habits, furthermore, did not lend themselves to the steady mastery of an instrument. I routinely pulled all-nighters, a bad strategy in preparing for a recital because "cramming" Bach or Bartok doesn't work. Bursts of inspiration should be superimposed upon years of consistent hard work (never really my forte). Nevertheless, I was becoming addicted to music.

Because I did not follow the musician's conventional path, I eventually needed a stretch of focused practice time. I briefly inhaled the conservatory atmosphere when, after college graduation, I went on to the Yale School of Music to earn a master's degree. I also attended summer music festivals in Aspen and Norfolk with students from conservatories. I still felt, however, that I was a bit of a misfit in the performing world. I *badn't* been playing the violin since I was four. I *badn't* "always known" I'd be a musician. I *badn't* resented academic coursework or shunned it in favor of scales and études. And most of my best friends were becoming lawyers or doctors.

Making a Living at It

Living music was one thing; making a living from music would be tougher. Once out of school, I lived in a group house in New Haven, free-lanced, reluctantly taught several beginning students, and went into New York City to take lessons. I did some part-time work screening applications for the Yale Admissions Committee (this was the only time in my life when being Phi Bete had the slightest effect on my getting a job), and I began taking auditions all over the country.

The orchestral audition process is a curious phenomenon, perhaps the closest thing to a pure meritocracy that the job



market offers. Without knowledge of your age, race, gender, or appearance, not to mention your experience, the audition committee listens to you from behind a curtain. Once, I was asked to remove my shoes before walking onto the stage; the committee didn't want the clicking of high heels to tip them off! You are identified by number only. Nobody cares who taught you, where (or whether!) you went to school, or what kind of performing reputation you enjoy. It's all about *How You Play Today*.

You play several specified excerpts from the orchestral repertoire for about 10 or 15 minutes—you hope. The Chicago Symphony darkly warns, in its audition notices, that it “reserves the right to dismiss immediately any candidate not demonstrating the highest professional standards.” “Next!” Fifty or a hundred more violinists do the same. A handful are chosen to proceed to the next round, which is another alarmingly brief demonstration of everything you’ve learned in your many expensive years of violin study. Should you be “eliminated,” you may well go home with no constructive comments in hand and no clue whether you were close or hopeless. Unlike most job hunters, the auditioner cannot rely on networking, writing samples, portfolios, references, recommendations, or face-to-face interviews. Playing music is usually an extremely subjective and emotional endeavor, but auditioning feels oddly impersonal and dry.

Having failed to make the finals at several auditions in the United States, I decided to look into performing opportunities abroad. The monthly union newspaper, *The International Musician*, advertises orchestral vacancies, and like all “starving” musicians I perused this rag intently. A notice of several violin openings in the Orquesta Sinfonica de Maracaibo caught my eye. I had a strong academic background in Spanish and thought it might be fun to spend a year in Venezuela and combine handling a full-time orchestra job with achieving fluency in a foreign language.

The OSM audition was most informal. In the Manhattan apartment of a flirtatious Venezuelan tenor known vaguely by the OSM conductor, I played a couple of solo pieces, chatted in Spanish, and got the job!

A few weeks later, I found myself on the plane to sunny Maracaibo, eager to test that cliché about music as the international language. How else *would* I survive in an orchestra where 13 languages were spoken in the first-violin section alone? Actually,

given the speed and indistinctness of equatorial Spanish, I found it easier to understand my colleagues’ Polish-inflected or French-accented Spanish. The orchestra was packed with foreigners; in 1980, oil-rich Venezuela was buying instant cultural visibility by creating opera companies and



Jane Bowyer Stewart

orchestras beyond the scope of its resident talent. Caracas alone had three orchestras, heavily populated with Americans.

Handling the Maracaibo job was almost as painless as passing the audition. Each week we rehearsed four mornings, gave a Thursday-night concert, and had three days off. We got 14 weeks of paid vacation. The salary equaled that of a major U.S. orchestra (about \$25,000 in 1980). After a few months, I won an audition to become assistant concertmaster. Never mind that the conductor made sudden program changes as a result of his hangover or that I had to bribe an airline official to get out of the country for the Christmas holiday. This was living—and a living!

Moving Back North

Still, the uncomfortable fact remained that no American from the OSM had yet landed a “real” job back in the States. I practiced a fair amount (for me) and did mock auditions for fellow string players. When I went home for a summer vacation, I took auditions for the Houston and National symphonies and, miraculously, won both. I had a few friends from Yale living in Washington and thus chose to join the NSO, where I’m now completing my 20th season.

I knew a serious job required a serious violin, and so I promptly embarked on my next big project, the violin hunt. Visiting the major violin dealers in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, I realized with amazement that if you walk in and play respectably on a \$50,000 instrument, they

will let you take it home for a week’s trial, or even mail you one later, no collateral required! At one point, I had six or eight such violins on loan in my apartment. I was scheduled to appear as one of four soloists in Vivaldi’s Concerto for Four Violins in an NSO subscription concert, and I was desperate to get an instrument comparable to those played by my three colleagues.

The finest one I tried was a beautiful 1691 violin by Matteo Goffriller, the Venetian who made the cello Pablo Casals played. I feared that it was beyond my means, but I decided to use it for the concert and then mail it back to the dealer. Instead, I fell in love, swallowed hard, took out a big loan, and promised to love, honor, and cherish that violin forever. Indeed, seeking the perfect instrument is something like looking for a spouse: appearance shouldn’t matter, but it does (I love my violin’s auburn-colored varnish); what thrills one person leaves another cold (violinists and cellists tend to admire my violin’s dark, rich sound, but fellow violinists often find it wanting); and no one violin “has it all.” With this violin, worth more than a house, and my French violin bow, worth more than a car, I have partners for life.

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The Pleasures of Work

I'm starting to feel less like a misfit among musicians; instead, I'm conscious that life in an orchestra barely resembles life in a "real world" job. I work when most of the world is at leisure. I share a windowless office with a hundred other people—without partitions! Our best equipment is centuries old. In fact, the life of orchestral musicians has changed little in 200 years. We still play off of sheet music, sharing two to a stand. Computer literacy is irrelevant, and we can't take phone calls at work.

Probably because so many people play music for fun, I constantly field the question, "Is that a full-time job?" Frankly, in terms of sheer numbers of hours, the schedule seems light, unless you consider the precision and concentration required. Neurosurgeons and pro basketball players don't perform more than twice a day either. Most of my colleagues nevertheless find time to complement the orchestral career with chamber music or teaching. Before having children, I played for many years with the Manchester String Quartet, rehearsing several times a week and giving more than 20 concerts a year. Performing in chamber music series at the Corcoran, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Kennedy Center still keeps me busy. One of my chamber music CDs received a Grammy nomination. I've been a soloist with the New Jersey Symphony, the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, and, several times, the NSO. During the NSO's August vacations, I frequent the Grand Teton Music Festival, where "busman's vacationers" from orchestras around the world come together to feed their music addiction.

As my friends from college progress measurably in their careers, they ask me, "So, where do you go from here?" The concept of advancement up some ladder is less relevant in my world. My continuing goals are to serve the music ever better and to express its emotional content more beautifully. Like a scholar with a commitment to learning as an end in itself, I find that these goals fulfill me. But I do envy those friends whose work allows for leisurely revision and editing. The creation of my art occurs in real time, and I can't snatch back any mistakes. To the audience, I am only as good as I sound in the piece they're hearing. To my ears, that's never quite good enough; an aversion to complacency moves me forward. I also thrive on the indescribable sensation of being surrounded by an orchestra's sound and inspired by the tremendous collective passion of its players.

The Liberal Arts Choice

Twenty years ago, I chose a liberal arts education over conservatory training. How has that choice enhanced my life in music? Every time I research and compose program notes, I use skills developed in college. As I seek to create original performances, I call upon the critical thinking emphasized in my humanities courses; I question the "received" wisdom of traditional interpretations, analyze my logic, and examine transitions, just as I would when writing a paper. My literature background gives me a familiarity with composers' inspirational sources and keeps the music fresh for me. My fascination with languages helps me enjoy deciphering obscure musical instructions and *libretti*, and the contemporary repertoire taxes all my math skills. In the orchestra I've chaired two committees and closely followed our union's negotiations with the management.

In my travels with the NSO to some 25 countries, I have used knowledge gleaned in college courses to appreciate diverse cultures. Art history courses whetted my appetite for touring historic sites. Unlike some colleagues, I loved giving outdoor concerts while choking on the dust in Pompeii or braving 40-degree weather in Red Square, where I played wearing gloves with the fingertips snipped off. Performing in Beijing's Great Hall of the People and at the base of the Acropolis really brought to life the learning I began on paper in school. In truth, I might have risen to a finer orchestra or been a finer violinist had I gone the conservatory route, but having developed a host of other interests gives me perspective when my trills are too slow or the piccolo is too loud.

In some ways, my life is opposite from the one my parents led. I read and study during my free time. I'm already out so many evenings, usually playing three or four concerts a week, that I don't belong to a traditional book group, but my husband and I will read the same books, then seek out criticism and discuss them. Chamber music, still my first love and a source of marvel (yes, sometimes helpless laughter, too!), is a less spontaneous, more pressured endeavor for me than it is for my former Yale Symphony cohorts who are now avid amateurs.

Ironically, my own children are not listening to my music from the top of the stairs. I practice and rehearse while they are at school, and I prefer silence when I come home from a day filled with sound. The violin probably feels to them like a rival; my son, as a toddler, poignantly called my violin the "bye-bye." My daughter has begun studying the piano and will occasionally allow me to play duets with her. Someday, I hope, they will embrace music as I have and carry on a family tradition. ♦

The AMERICAN SCHOLAR



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KRW101



Committee to Study Chapter-Association Cooperation

ΦBK President Joseph Gordon has appointed a committee to study ways to improve cooperation between chapters and associations. The committee consists of officers of the seven national districts, the national officers of the Conference of Association Delegates, and the chairman of the Senate's Committee on Associations. The group will hold its first meeting on March 3.

Two small-group sessions on chapter-association cooperation at the triennial Council last October reported the following suggestions:

Chapters can:

- notify association members about lectures of interest on campus, particularly ΦBK Visiting Scholar lectures.
- invite association representatives to attend and speak at initiations.
- encourage members of the chapter to join the local association where one exists.
- provide locations on campus for association meetings.

Associations can:

- raise funds for scholarships for needy and foreign students in local ΦBK colleges,

and for college faculty research and study (sabbatical) grants.

- invite chapter members to meetings and other events.
- invite new initiates to become members of the local association, perhaps offering free first-year dues.
- help with processing letters to initiates and parents and with making follow-up telephone calls and e-mails to ΦBK invitees.
- participate in orientation sessions for honors colleges and programs, talking about Phi Beta Kappa and giving out ΦBK brochures.
- help publicize events and Phi Beta Kappa in general through newspaper articles, television coverage, etc.
- suggest possible high school recipients for book awards and college scholarships.

Together, associations and chapters can:

- plan meetings for National Honor Society students, providing a keynote speaker and recognition certificates, as well as information about Phi Beta Kappa.
- join each other for certain events.
- put together a speakers bureau for local high schools for NHS inductions and other purposes.

The Difference between ΦBK Chapters And ΦBK Associations Redux

Each member of Phi Beta Kappa is elected to lifetime membership by a *chapter*; each of the 262 chapters is located on a college or university campus. After graduation, members may join an *association*, in areas where such groups exist. Nationwide there are some 58 active associations, each of which offers social and cultural programs and serves the community.

The District of Columbia area association reported that the *Key Reporter's* brief article last winter about the distinction

between chapters and associations, accompanied by the list of addresses for associations nationwide and an application form, had resulted in at least 22 new members for the D.C. group. Heartened by that report, we are again publishing the membership application, which may be reproduced or clipped and mailed directly to the association nearest you. The amount of dues each association charges appears on the list of association secretaries' addresses, page 6.

Administration Support Makes a Difference at Rice

After some years of what he described as "gloomy lists of things Phi Beta Kappa is having a hard time accomplishing," Rice University chapter president Robert L. Patten has reported that all 74 candidates in the class of 2000 accepted invitations to join Phi Beta Kappa. He attributed this success, in the face of the recently started and heavily promoted Golden Key chapter, to the following factors:

- The university president, Malcolm Gillis, has underwritten membership fees for initiates for three years while the chapter and the development office try to raise an endowment to pay most of these fees in perpetuity.

- For each of the past three years, the university president has also hosted a dinner for initiates, their college masters, the chapter officers and senators, and previous winners of the ΦBK teaching prize, which goes to the best assistant professor each year.

- The university president has supplemented the chapter's contribution and that of the Houston association to the teaching prize.

- The chapter secretary, Priscilla Huston, has diligently tracked down all nonrespondents and persuaded them to join.

- The public information office has become involved, and for the first time the chapter planned to issue a press release for hometown newspapers of initiates.

- The relatively small scale of Rice allows the chapter to have better contact with students than at larger and more impersonal institutions. The chapter's Web site is frequently consulted, and chapter members "do a lot of hands-on mentoring."

Patten attributed some of the university president's interest and the improved visibility at Rice to Phi Beta Kappa's participation in the National Honor Society's national conference in 1997.

Houston Association Raises \$307,000 for Scholarships

The Greater Houston association's 2000 scholarship dinner raised \$307,000. It was chaired by H. E. McGee III (ΦBK, Princeton University, 1981), who, as a high school senior, had received one of the Houston association scholarships in 1977. The association, which has 537 members, gave 60 awards of \$2,500 each and one \$3,500 award to high school students in the Houston area. The remainder of the funds raised went into the Endowment Fund, the value of which exceeds \$1 million.

ΦBK Association Membership Application

Name _____

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa at _____ in _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____ Dues enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to the association and mail it to the secretary listed on page 6.

Phi Beta Kappa Association Secretaries, 2001

(Annual dues follow each address.)

Alabama

- * Northeast Alabama—Dr. George E. Whitesel, 907 Second St. NE, Jacksonville, AL 36265. \$10
- * Southeast Alabama—Dr. James Sherry, Department of Foreign Languages, Troy State University, Troy, AL 36082. \$10

Arizona

- * Phoenix Area—Mrs. Doris Krigbaum, 1230 E. Loyola Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282-3946. \$10

California

- * Northern California—Mrs. Jean Gossard James, 8 San Ardo Ct., Novato, CA 94945-1234. \$25
- * San Diego—Mr. Hal K. St. Clair, 17187 Prado Pl., San Diego, CA 92128. \$15
- * Southern California—Mrs. Shari Dennis Nelson, 11525 Bellagio Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. \$35

Colorado

- * Denver—Ms. Barbara Berryman, 2068 Elm St., Denver, CO 80207. \$20

Connecticut

- * Greater Hartford—Ms. Marilyn Pet, 235 E. River Dr., #1601, East Hartford, CT 06108. \$7

District of Columbia

- * District of Columbia Area—Ms. Erin Metzinger, 215 C St., SE, #402, Washington, DC 20003. \$15

Florida

- * Northeast Florida—Prof. John Garrigus, Division of Social Science, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL 32211. \$12
- * Sarasota-Manatee—Rev. Dr. R. E. Nygren, 1049 Greystone Ln., Sarasota, FL 34232-2165. \$10
- * South Florida—Mrs. Edith Ann Gilson, 6701 S.W. 120th St., Miami, FL 33156-5453. \$10
- * Tampa Bay—Prof. James B. Halsted, 4024 Bell Grande Dr., Valrico, FL 33594. \$25

Georgia-Carolina

- * Atlanta—Dr. Linda Koenig, 2417 Watermark, Decatur, GA 30033. \$25
- * Coastal Georgia-Carolina—Dr. George B. Pruden, 13 Old Mill Ct., Savannah, GA 31419-2824. \$10
- * Middle Georgia—Dr. Douglas Steeples, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207-0001. \$25

Illinois

- * Chicago—Ms. Lisa Godde Kerr, 7117 N. Keystone Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60646. \$25
- * East Central Illinois—Dr. Karen Taylor, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920. \$10

- * Southern Illinois—Dr. Elizabeth Singleton Gammon, 11119 Adams Acres Dr., Marion, IL 62959-9362. \$10

Indiana

- * Eastern Indiana—Dr. Cheryl Adams, 2510 N. Morrison Rd., Muncie, IN 47304. \$10
- * Indianapolis—Dr. Carole Sue Stewart, 3001 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46220-2945. \$20

Kentucky

- * Kentuckiana—Prof. Scott D. Johnson, 4129 Brentler Rd., Louisville, KY 40241. \$10

Louisiana

- * Southwestern Louisiana—Dr. Mary R. Meredith, Department of Management, U of LA, Box 43570, Lafayette, LA 70504. \$10

Maryland

- * Greater Baltimore—Dr. Murray Steinberg, 2429 Still Forest Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208. \$35

Michigan

- * Detroit—Ms. Carol Poosch Klein, 31720 Franklin Rd., Franklin, MI 48025. \$15
- * Southwestern Michigan—Dr. John Petro, 2521 Parkwyn, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. \$5

Minnesota

- * Minneapolis—Mr. George A. Warp, 4824 Thomas Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410. \$5

Missouri-Kansas

- * Greater Kansas City—Mrs. Shirley W. Keeler, 2035 Drury Ln., Shawnee Mission, KS 66208-1229. \$0
- * Northeast Missouri—Ms. Carol Race, Rte. 3, Box 38, Kirksville, MO 63501. \$5

Nebraska

- * Omaha—Ms. Erica Hawley, 11215 Decatur Plaza, Apt. 610, Omaha, NE 68154. \$0

New Jersey

- Northern New Jersey—Mr. Clifford Brooks, 594 Forest St., Kearny, NJ 07032-3629. \$10

New Mexico

- * Los Alamos—Mrs. Rosalie Heller, 301 El Viento, Los Alamos, NM 87544. \$0

New York

- * New York—Mr. Michael D. Caratzas, 3117 Broadway, Apt. 62, New York, NY 10027. \$20
- * Scarsdale/Westchester—Dr. Lloyd Raines, 29 Argyle Rd., Rye Brook, NY 10573. \$30
- * Upper Hudson—Dr. Frances C. Allee, 24 Providence St., Albany, NY 12203. \$25
- Western New York—Ms. Patricia Randolph, 3 Brantwood Rd., Buffalo, NY 14226. \$20

North Carolina

- * Pitt County—Dr. Tinsley E. Yarbrough, East Carolina University, Department of Political Science, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. \$20
- * Wake County—Ms. Mary Grady K. Bell, 2320 Lake Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609. \$15

Ohio

- * Cleveland—Mr. Richard D. Manoloff, 26522 Knickerbocker Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140. \$20
- * Toledo—Mr. Lyman F. Spitzer, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, 1000 Jackson, Toledo, OH 43624. \$5

Oklahoma

- * Oklahoma City—Mrs. Maria Thompson Abbott, 6508 N. Hillcrest, Oklahoma City, OK 73116. \$15

Pennsylvania

- * Delaware Valley—Mrs. Evelyn S. Udell, 124 Annasmead Rd., Ambler, PA 19002. \$20

South Carolina

- * Low Country—Ms. Cornelia Carrier, 201 Broad St., Apt. 2, Charleston, SC 29401. \$25
- * Piedmont Area—Mrs. Charlotte Tinsley, 209 S. Fairview Ave., Spartanburg, SC 29302. \$5

Tennessee

- * Chattanooga—Professor Clinton Smullen, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Tennessee/Chat., 615 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405. \$0
- * Nashville—Ms. Vicki Agee, 766 Rodney Dr., Nashville, TN 37205. \$35

Texas

- * Greater Austin—Mrs. Joyce Pulich, P.O. Box 5366, Austin, TX 78763-5366. \$20
- * Greater Houston—Mrs. Mary C. Craddock, 3024 Del Monte, Houston, TX 77019. \$20
- * North Texas—Ms. Virginia Schattman, 6220 Locke Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76116. \$25
- * San Antonio—Mr. Kurt G. May, 1703 N.W. Military Hwy., San Antonio, TX 78213. \$10
- * West Texas/Eastern New Mexico—Dr. Heather Barkley, Dept. of English, MSC3081, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409. \$10

Virginia

- * Northern Virginia (see D.C. Area)
- * Richmond—Mrs. Ellen H. Massie, 12283 Fieldcrest Ln., Ashland, VA 23005. \$10
- * Shenandoah Valley—Dr. Linda Cabe Halpern, General Education Program MSC 1201, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. \$25

Washington

- * Inland Empire—Ms. Amy Kelley, 721 N. Cincinnati St., Spokane, WA 99202. \$15
- * Puget Sound—Mrs. Myra Lupton, 3443 72nd Pl. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040. \$25

West Virginia

- * Charleston—Mr. Corey Palumbo, 600 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25301. \$15

Wisconsin

- * Greater Milwaukee—Dr. Chan D. Tran, 1631 W. Edgerton Ave., Unit D, Milwaukee, WI 53221. \$20

*Chartered associations. Charters are granted by Phi Beta Kappa Senate.



California Groups Continue To Set Fast Pace

The Northern California association has awarded some \$300,000 in scholarships and more than \$10,000 in Teaching Excellence awards over the past decade. (Twelve outstanding graduate students received scholarships of \$3,500 each last year.) Membership dues and donations provide most of the funds, but a variety of activities, including a backstage tour of the San Francisco Opera and a Culinary Academy brunch, foster camaraderie and raise money for scholarships. The association, which has 1,600 members, sponsors a Young Phi Betes group (ages 20-40), publishes a quarterly newsletter for 28,000 people, and maintains a Web site.

The Southern California association has attained a record 2,325 members by presenting distinguished speakers and taking advantage of the wealth of cultural and educational institutions in the area as program sites. Attendance has ranged up to 200 for a single event. In addition, the association last year gave 22 awards to international scholars, as well as 10 graduate fellowships of \$2,200 each to ΦBK initiates from 10 different chapters, and awards of \$400 each to 16 outstanding students in local high schools.

The San Diego Association, with 293 members, maintains a similar three-tiered scholarship program under which it disburses a total of \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually as follows: Two or more graduate fellowships of \$3,000 each are awarded to ΦBK members, two or three new initiates at San Diego State University and UC San Diego receive \$500 scholarships each, and outstanding juniors in each of 55 high schools receive book awards. The association's Sunday Salons are held three times a year, and the association's annual meeting takes the form of a Sunday brunch.

Atlanta Association Receives \$10,000 to Endow Occasional Lectures

The Atlanta Phi Beta Kappa association recently received a gift of \$10,000 from Stephen M. Berman, a Certified Public Accountant (ΦBK, Tulane University, 1970), the income of which is to be used to bring a distinguished scholar or public figure to speak to a meeting of the association from time to time. The Atlanta association was established four years ago and received its charter at the 39th triennial Council in Philadelphia.

Phoenix Area Association Revamps Its Activities

Last year the Phoenix association abandoned its awards to high school students and the accompanying mentor program after finding it "extremely difficult and frustrating" to work with guidance counselors to find students who were interested in the mentor program. The association is now working with the financial aid offices at the three state universities in the area to find promising liberal arts and sciences students who need scholarship aid.

The association has also "borrowed a page" from the Northern California association's "idea book" and has begun to offer

tours and similar experiences for their members. "We aren't really sure why it works, but it seems to," comments the Phoenix group's report. Each of the informal tours of parts of the Arizona State University campus arranged by the Development Office has been fully booked. In addition, a tour of the Phoenix Art Museum's exhibit "Monet at Giverny" attracted 119 members and guests, and a tour of Taliesin West attracted 31. The association now hopes "to convert these people into enthusiastic, dues-paying, scholarship-supporting members."

High School NHS Adviser Launches N.J. Association

For the first time ever, the initiative for starting a Phi Beta Kappa association has come from a high school teacher working as adviser to National Honor Society students. It happened in northern New Jersey, where Clifford J. Brooks (ΦBK, Georgetown University, 1973), a media specialist at Emerson Jr.-Sr. High School in Emerson, N.J., was joined by Patricia R. Castelli (ΦBK, Fordham University, 1979) and Numaan Sheikh (ΦBK, Rutgers University, 1998) to organize the first ΦBK association in New Jersey.

Some 48 Phi Beta Kappa members attended the organizational meeting of the association at the school's Media Center on September 7, 2000, at 7 p.m. The meeting was followed by a concert of chamber

music and a reception hosted by the school's National Honor Society, Cultural Diversity Club, and Young Critics Program, for all of which Brooks serves as faculty adviser.

Since then, the Northern New Jersey ΦBK Association has sponsored a trip to Lincoln Center to attend a concert by the American Symphony Orchestra. The group plans a community service project, another trip to attend a cultural event, and two educational symposia.

For the past several years, the national Phi Beta Kappa organization has been working to increase its ties with the National Honor Society, in order to improve awareness of Phi Beta Kappa among high school students.

Literature

◆ ΦBK IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE ◆

From Sue Miller, *The Good Mother* (Dell Publishing Co., 1986), p. 110.

"... Around the edges of this conversation, the usual family information, the real substance of the gathering, was being exchanged: who was pregnant, who was planning on getting married, who was Phi Beta Kappa, or had had stitches out or had ended an engagement."



From Herman Wouk, *Don't Stop the Carnival* (Doubleday, 1965), p. 234. (The book is now being made into a Broadway musical.)



Mrs. Sanders, the wife of the governor of the Caribbean island Amerigo [aka Kinja], "blinked at her husband with a dangerous, exasperated look in her wine-brightened eyes. 'This is what I hate about Kinja, Norman. It's all low-grade vaudeville and burlesque, it sickens me, and in other words I'm afraid Alton is going to become just like them if he stays here much longer, and to me I'm being a good wife by staying in Washington and keeping the children out of *this*.' She flung a hand at the island of Amerigo, and Norman noticed that the charm dangling from her gold bracelet was a Phi Beta Kappa key."

Michigan Professor Named Romanell-ΦBK Professor for 2001-02

Kendall Lewis Walton, professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan, is the recipient of the Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship in Philosophy for 2001-02. The professorship carries a stipend of \$7,500 and responsibility to deliver a series of lectures at the recipient's home institution.

Yale Undergrads Organize ΦBK Lunches with Faculty

On January 17, undergraduate members of Phi Beta Kappa at Yale sponsored the first meeting in a planned twice-monthly ΦBK Faculty Lunch Series. Charles A. Porter, who retired from the French Department last year, talked about his career and led a discussion of the "ways that studying literature can shape our world views."

According to Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, undergraduate vice president of the chapter, the series "represents an effort to develop the Yale ΦBK chapter into an intellectual community that unites students and faculty." The luncheons will provide a forum for undergraduate and graduate ΦBK members to meet and explore "the role of academic pursuits in our lives."

College Receives \$1 Million to Upgrade Liberal Arts

Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, which has recently applied for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, has received a gift of \$1 million from the son of an alumnus to help the college meet Phi Beta Kappa's qualifications to be considered to shelter a chapter. The alumnus, O. Carlyse McCandless, had told the president of Georgetown in 1992 that he was "disappointed in the college's library, faculty salaries, and ability to endow faculty departments," and that he would help the president only if he would

Walton's proposed lecture theme concerns music as representational art.

Endowed by a donation from Patrick and Edna Romanell in 1984, the professorship recognizes both distinguished achievement and potential contributions to the public understanding of philosophy.

Key Reporter's Fiction, Science Reviewers Publish Books

Fiction reviewer Michael Griffith's first novel, *Spikes*, is scheduled for release in February. According to one reviewer, "*Spikes* is a wicked and smart indictment of American absurdity, thinly disguised as a novel about golf." Griffith's publisher, Arcade, has contracted with him for three novels.

Science reviewer Jay Pasachoff's new book, written with Leon Golub, is *Nearest Star: The Exciting Science of the Sun*; it is scheduled for publication in May by Harvard University Press.

"demonstrate clear intentions to build a great liberal arts institution of Phi Beta Kappa quality."

McCandless died last fall, and in December, Georgetown's president, William H. Crouch Jr., received a call from McCandless's son, Russ McCandless, donating the \$1 million. "How thrilled and appreciative I am that people understand the significance of quality liberal arts education and the importance of Phi Beta Kappa recognition," said Crouch.



Six newly elected ΦBK senators attending the Senate meeting in December are, from the left, Don J. Wyatt, Bruce R. Barrett, Catherine White Berbeide, Harvey E. Klebr, Arline Bronzaft, and Kurt O. Olsson. Olsson was appointed by the Senate to complete the term of David Levering Lewis, who has resigned.

Scholar Essayists In Photo Finish

"No clear winner." Where have we heard that before?

In the "Best Essay" category of *The American Scholar's* third annual awards competition, a series of re-votes failed to break a deadlock between Carlo Rotella's "Cut Time" and Brian Doyle's "The Soul of Plutarchos," published, respectively, in the Spring and Summer 2000 issues. As a result, Doyle and Rotella shared the award; "Cut Time" was also chosen as "Best Work by a Younger Writer."

Rotella is assistant professor of English at Boston University. Doyle is editor of the University of Portland's *Portland Magazine*. Other awards went to:

- Michael Harper, University Professor and professor of English at Brown University, for "Release: Kind of Blue" ("Best Poem," Winter issue).
- Wendy Lesser, editor of *The Threepenny Review*, for "Recollected in Tranquility" ("Best Literary Criticism," Winter issue).

The *Scholar's* staff and Editorial Board meet together at the end of each year to honor the journal's best writing.

Society Announces Nondiscrimination Policy

The Phi Beta Kappa Society formally declares that it is the policy of its chapters to:

- elect individuals to membership;
- afford emoluments of membership;
- elect members to positions within the Society;
- make awards, grants, and gifts;
- conduct any program and allow access to any program;
- employ individuals on its staff;
- administer its personnel policies and procedures; and
- engage vendors, contractors, and consultants

all in accord with the qualifications, merits, and abilities of all persons seeking or applying for any of the same, without regard to and without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnic origin, military service, handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation, or on any other basis prohibited by law. The Phi Beta Kappa Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The national headquarters of the Society are located at 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20036.



Susan Howard Appointed ΦBK's Associate Secretary

In January, the Executive Committee appointed Susan Wells Howard (ΦBK, University of Kentucky, 1973) to be the Society's chief administrative officer, with the title of associate secretary. She will also continue to work with Secretary Douglas Foard on programs, development, and long-range planning.



Howard, who studied in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1973-74, holds a Ph.D. in German literature from the University of Texas, where she also taught and held a

variety of administrative positions in business, student, and academic affairs. She came to Phi Beta Kappa headquarters a year ago as a management consultant and was responsible for handling the arrangements for the triennial Council last October.

A First-Generation Phi Bete's Story

Among the summa cum laude Phi Beta Kappa graduates at the University of Oregon last June was Raluca Negru, a history and French major who, with her mother, came to the United States in 1983 at age six to join her father, a sailor who had fled Romania in search of a better life. Negru told university staff that "there was barely enough money in Romania for food, and higher education wasn't an option for those who didn't join the Communist Party."

The family, none of whom spoke English, settled in inner-city Los Angeles, where, Negru says, she "couldn't believe the abundance. I loved American food—and the toys." The first year of American school was especially difficult as she struggled to learn English, but today she speaks German and French in addition to her native Romanian and English.

After graduation she headed to Paris for graduate study at the American Graduate School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

Members of Phi Beta Kappa in the U.S. Congress, 2001

(Names in bold: New members of Congress.)

House of Representatives	State (Party)	College/University
Thomas H. Allen	Maine (D)	Bowdoin College, 1966
Brian Baird	Washington (D)	Univ. of Utah, 1977
Thomas M. Barrett	Wisconsin (D)	Univ. of Wisconsin, 1976
Doug Bereuter	Nebraska	Univ. of Nebraska, 1961
Brad Carson	Oklahoma (D)	Baylor Univ., 1989
Christopher Cox	California (R)	Univ. of S. Calif., 1973
Elijah E. Cummings	Maryland (D)	Howard Univ., 1973
Diana DeGette	Colorado (D)	Colorado College, 1979
Peter Deutsch	Florida (D)	Swarthmore College, 1979
Barney Frank	Massachusetts (D)	Harvard Univ., 1962
Virgil H. Goode	Virginia (D)	Univ. of Richmond, 1967
Jane Harman	California (D)	Smith College, 1966
Tim Johnson	Illinois (R)	Univ. of Illinois, 1968
Tom Lantos	California (D)	Univ. of Washington, 1949
Earl Pomeroy	North Dakota (D)	Univ. of N. Dakota, 1974
David E. Price	North Carolina (D)	Univ. of N. Carolina, 1961
Jim Ramstad	Minnesota (R)	Univ. of Minnesota, 1968
Adam B. Schiff	California (D)	Stanford Univ., 1981
Brad Sherman	California (D)	UCLA, 1975
Bud Shuster	Pennsylvania (R)	Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1954
Ike Skelton	Missouri (D)	Univ. of Missouri, 1953
John M. Spratt Jr.	South Carolina (D)	Davidson College, 1963
David Vitter	Louisiana (R)	Harvard Univ., 1983
Melvin L. Watt	North Carolina (D)	Univ. of N. Carolina, 1967
Dave Weldon	Florida (R)	SUNY, Stony Brook, 1978
Senate	State (Party)	College/University
Susan Collins	Maine (R)	St. Lawrence Univ., 1975
Jon Corzine	New Jersey (D)	Univ. of Illinois, 1969
Russell Feingold	Wisconsin (D)	Univ. of Wisconsin, 1974
Bob Graham	Florida (D)	Univ. of Florida, 1959
Tim Johnson	South Dakota (D)	Univ. of S. Dakota, 1969
Jon Kyl	Arizona (R)	Univ. of Arizona, 1964
Joseph Lieberman	Connecticut (D)	Yale Univ., 1964
Richard Lugar	Indiana (R)	Denison Univ., 1953
Paul Sarbanes	Maryland (D)	Princeton Univ., 1954
Charles Schumer	New York (D)	Harvard Univ., 1970
Arlen Specter	Pennsylvania (R)	Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1950
Paul Wellstone	Minnesota (D)	Univ. of N. Carolina, 1965

Members of Phi Beta Kappa Nominated for Cabinet and Subcabinet Positions

Cabinet	Position	College/University
Karen P. Hughes	White House Counselor	Virginia Tech, 1978
Larry Lindsey	Assistant for Economic Affairs	Bowdoin College, 1966
Gale Norton	Secretary of Interior	Univ. of Denver, 1975
Condoleezza Rice	National Security Adviser	Univ. of Denver, 1974
Bob Zoellick	U.S. Trade Representative	Swarthmore College, 1975

Note: Ralph Nader (ΦBK, Princeton, 1955) is the only Phi Beta Kappa member who was a candidate for U.S. President on the ballot in 2000.

Harvard astrophysicist Margaret Geller explains theories of motion to students attending the annual meeting of the National Honor Society in Orlando last November. Geller was one of four panelists Phi Beta Kappa provided to discuss the conference topic "Imagination and Innovation."



'Gloriously Useless'?

Hats off to Leroy S. Rouser for his remarks ["Resolved: That Phi Beta Kappa Is Gloriously Useless," Autumn 2000]. He reaffirmed my belief in a liberal arts education and compelled me to write this letter. Since 1987 I have worked in the field of law firm marketing and public relations, where I would be worth nothing had I not learned how to write, articulate, and become a quick study. My livelihood depends on my undergraduate choice, English. More important, my love of literature has enhanced my enjoyment of life.

As Professor Rouser so eloquently points out, we must learn what we love. How else can you explain the deluge of self-help books on how to be happy? "Do what you love and the money will follow" is a new thought to many who bought into this culture's rhetoric on how we must declare undying allegiance, as undergraduates, to a field, whether it be business, accounting, medicine, or law. English, sociology, and history majors are left to contend with the question, "What will you be when you grow up?" The answer should always be, "I will know myself."

Debra Scala, Sayville, N.Y.

I have never written to the *Key Reporter* before, but I was really inspired by Dr. Rouser's article, which arrived in mid-December. I am not complaining at the lateness of its arrival since I have not sent in a penny for the past 50 years and after all this time I am still getting the newsletter.

I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1949 [at the College of Saint Catherine] against my wishes. Because I did not wish to spend the money for a key, I got one only because another person's was passed on to me. I never mention my membership because it seems snobbish, and I know only too well that there are many smarter people than I who never got an opportunity for membership.

But Rouser's article hit home with me. I feel honored finally to belong to a group of people who acknowledge that they are gloriously useless. I majored in economics, thinking I could be "useful" if I got a job in a labor union (having worked at the UAW during college summers), but, as it happened, after I got my M.A. I did volunteer work for five years and then I worked for

four years for a credit union league, which was partly connected with my interests and only partly with my studies.

I had never thought of Phi Beta Kappa as "more like a party than a program," but I like the idea. Now "love" is something else. I think that is what I had in mind when I chose economics—i.e., working with the "common (wo)man." It is also what made me change the emphasis of my life when I realized that an economics degree would not help me with my real purpose in life. And the college where I got my membership luckily did emphasize "love," if not by that name.

If all this time Phi Beta Kappa was "never just about being smart; it was also about being good," then now, at age 75 I can actually feel proud of my key, and not so discouraged about having been "useless." Thank you so much, Dr. Rouser and *Key Reporter*.

Maria E. (Bibl) Maboney, Phoenix, Ariz.

"Gloriously useless"? Never! Gloriously disdainful of immediate shortsighted practicality, perhaps! In all walks of life I have found what earned me Phi Beta Kappa membership to be lastingly useful. Like any tool, the trick is to use it efficiently, unaffected by the "madding crowd."

Max Oppenheimer Jr., Sun City, Ariz.

As one who has been a family physician for 25 years, I write with appreciation of Leroy Rouser's "Resolved: That Phi Beta Kappa Is Gloriously Useless." When I graduated from Union College in 1975, I was astonished to learn I had been invited into Phi Beta Kappa. Because I had heard horror stories about how a single misplaced comma could lead to failing grades in college, I had with pernicious delight studiously avoided any courses dealing with liberal education. Perhaps out of a sense of guilt, I had with equal deliberation explored the college library, discovering books of my own choosing, at my own pace.

After college, I deliberately read a chunk of "The Great Books of the Western World," which my father had bought for me when I was younger. I mastered my science and enjoyed a leisurely liberal education as a lifetime habit.

I now reflect upon the value of this. I have always given much time to my patients and have sought to understand the root emotional causes of anguish and illness. As an educator in a family practice residency, I have taught medical students and physicians how to think and put facts together, rather than to respond with treatments prompted by reflex. Much illness is emotionally and spiritually based, but medicine today often consists of endless tests, inappropriate medications, and empty words of placation that fool no one.

What has made a difference in my life? Moving past science, we are to love what we do. Rouser spoke of love, and I add that we must love the unlovable. They respond, you respond, you change, and all for the better.

My college professors saw potential in this overly focused premed student. My being given the gift of Phi Beta Kappa recognition impelled the seed within me to grow.

Frank Krautter, Youngstown, Ohio

'Horses Galloping'

Matt Cartmill begins his article ["Do Horses Gallop in Their Sleep?" *Key Reporter*, Autumn 2000] by discussing the possibility that a drug could abolish one's consciousness while having no effect whatsoever on one's behavior. That is, as observed by others, the drugged person would behave no differently than if he were not drugged. There is therefore an obvious difficulty in scientifically establishing the effectiveness of the drug.

The same difficulty obtains for all of Cartmill's suggestions for scientifically studying consciousness: He does not allow it to be inferred from behavior, arguing, for example, that a computer cannot be conscious, no matter how intelligently it may converse with us.

The fact is that there is no observable phenomenon whose scientific explanation requires the postulation of consciousness (as Cartmill uses the term), save one: *I am conscious*. So, applying Occam's razor, is it more parsimonious for me to suppose that I am solipsistically unique or to suppose that there are other conscious persons and creatures? If the latter, how are the conscious ones to be recognized; how much like me do they have to be? These questions seem beyond the reach of the scientific method and therefore in my view are undecidable.

John G. Fletcher, Livermore, Calif.



Matt Cartmill did a commendable job of writing an article about the soul without mentioning it once. It is frustrating that the rigid compartmentalization of academia forbids scientists from acknowledging that which exists outside their sphere. With his illustration that an egg collection that thought it was Elizabeth Dole was, in reality, nothing more than an algorithm machine, Cartmill adroitly stepped right up to the cliff. But instead of leaping into the comprehensive reality, he retreated into the mechanisms that regulate and produce consciousness. He overlooked the essential item without which consciousness could not exist.

If we could program an exact duplicate of the human mind (and possibly even some animal minds), there would still be something missing—something that science cannot explain. This is the realm of philosophers and theologians. But as science continues to grow in its capacity for genetic engineering and even programming the physical mind, it must recognize both the reality of the soul and the frightening ramifications of ignoring its existence.

Daniel M. Singleton, Orlando, Fla.

Matt Cartmill's article was interesting and suggestive, but it seems to me that it missed the mark on the following points:

First, consciousness may not be "too metaphysical and subjective" for science to concern itself with, but may be too poorly defined. It is like saying that a dog barks because it wants to bark. "Wanting to bark" turns out to be based on behavioral observations rather than on understanding the causes of that behavior. When we know enough about conscious awareness to define and observe it, we can then begin correlating it with other observable variables.

Second, what we subjectively observe and describe as conscious awareness may be related, as others have suggested, to the fact that we respond not only to external stimuli but also to internal conditions of the body, including the neurological changes that occur with immediate and more distant memory and with various bodily states, including emotions. When we can build a computer that can respond to external and internal input in such a way that it can alter the external input, it may be difficult to say that it does not have conscious awareness. Years ago I read of a battery-powered, wheeled device that roamed around a room avoiding obstacles until the battery power was low, when it would go to a nearby outlet and plug itself in. Conscious? Hmmm!

Finally, suggesting that the price of consciousness is the need for sleep is rather a leap. It may make more sense to say that the need for sleep arose with the development of emotional neural circuits and related organs. These can be observed and their activities correlated with other observables. Sleep and dreams may provide conditions for the emotional residuals of the previous day to move toward the normal state, i.e., self-desensitization.

James Straughan, Lopez, Wash.

Matt Cartmill replies:

Fletcher thinks that ontologically subjective phenomena are beyond the reach of scientific investigation, and that scientists shouldn't talk about consciousness unless and until it can be defined in terms of publicly observable behavior. I suggest that a scientific approach to the world is perfectly compatible with accepting the reality of subjective experience. It had better be compatible, because all experience is subjective—or, to put it another way, all observations are necessarily from the standpoint of some observer. What science demands of experiences that claim the name of evidence is not that they be public but that they be replicable. Scientific experiments are simply experiences that any of us can have if we follow the directions. The fact that an experience is ontologically private doesn't exclude it from scientific investigation.

For example, anyone with normal vision who stares fixedly at a glowing light bulb for about 10 seconds and then looks away will see a negative (dark gray) after-image of the bulb. Such after-images have intelligible physical causes; they result from the saturation of retinal photopigments. But the fact that we experience them isn't something we can infer from what we know about photopigment saturation. After all, our visual system might have evolved to eliminate after-images by correcting for such saturation, as it eliminates and fills in the "blind spot" corresponding to the optic disk on the retina. In the present state of our knowledge, after-images are ontologically private phenomena. They are nevertheless perfectly amenable to scientific study.

Like Fletcher, Singleton wants to exclude consciousness from the realm of science, though his reasons differ. He thinks that consciousness can't be explained without postulating the existence of the soul. I don't think this clears anything up. It just piles additional mysteries on top of the ones we are already struggling with. In the

traditional reading, the soul is supposed to be a nonmaterial substance that thinks. No one has ever come up with a plausible account of how such a substance can be causally connected to a body so that the soul can perceive images on the retina or make muscles contract.

The thing that does seem to have these kinds of causal connections is not the soul but the brain. We also know that things that alter the workings of the brain can alter or abolish consciousness, and that different states of awareness (waking vs. sleeping) are reflected in different patterns of brain activity. These facts strongly suggest that consciousness—our awareness of the world and ourselves—is a function of the brain. Positing an undetectable, immaterial consciousness-substance to account for human or animal consciousness doesn't explain anything. It only expresses our ignorance more poetically.

As for Straughan's arguments, an air conditioner is a machine that responds to internal input (thermostat setting) and external input (thermometer reading) in such a way that it can alter the external input, but I doubt very much that air conditioners are conscious. If we wish, we can of course redefine "conscious awareness" in an operational way that includes air conditioners, but we shouldn't allow ourselves to be fooled into thinking that this represents an advance in our understanding of the world.

Books for Gambia

In your Autumn 2000 issue ["Letters"], Susan Mannon asked whether you might consider doing a piece on what others are trying to do about the lack of books for students in places all around the world. We can add another continent to the list of locations for which books are being collected: the English-speaking country of Gambia. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Shelby Tarutis, directs the nonprofit organization GambiaHELP, which works to create libraries in villages through the country. GambiaHELP's address is 17043 Second Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98177; e-mail: GambiaHLTH@aol.com.

David and Barbara Sando, Seattle, Wash.

. . . and Jamaica

Another nonprofit organization, the Children's Change, founded by Marilyn and Peter Gresser of Minneapolis, has been shipping books (500,000 so far) to schools and libraries in Jamaica for 21 years. For information, write bookmon@isd.net or telephone (763) 545-2708.

Karol P. Gresser, Burnsville, MN

B O O K C O M M I T T E E

Humanities: Svetlana Alpers, Michael Griffith,

Robert P. Sonkowsky, Eugen Weber

Social Sciences: Thomas McNaugher, Josephine Pacheco,

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

Natural Sciences: Germaine Cornélissen, Jay M. Pasachoff

Josephine Pacheco

America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress 1800–2000. James Conaway. Yale, 2000. \$45.

I am prepared to argue that the Library of Congress is the single irreplaceable institution in the United States and that because Congress allows us to share in its bounty, celebrating its bicentennial deserves fireworks, parades, and general rejoicing. Conaway's book cannot possibly convey its splendors, but by concentrating on the people involved in creating the library and building the collections, he demonstrates that a great institution was not inevitable: People struggled to create a wonder. Even diligent users of the Library of Congress, whether on-line or in the reading rooms, will enjoy new information about how it grew. If, for example, you have used the Toner Collection in the Rare Book Room, you will be delighted to learn that Joseph F. Toner was the first person to donate a collection to the library, setting a pattern that continues today. If the Smithsonian Institution is the nation's attic, the Library of Congress is the nation's intellectual center.

The United States Capitol: Designing and Decorating a National Icon. Edited by Donald R. Kennon. Ohio Univ., 2000. \$75.

It is frequently said that Americans do not trust or like their government in Washington. If that were true, how does one explain the long lines of tour buses arriving at the Capitol before 8 o'clock on any spring or summer morning? The Capitol of the United States has become the symbol of this country, the building known and recognized around the world. It is beautiful and impressive, and it became so largely by accident. Who could have imagined that incompetent amateur architects, meddling legislators, and dishonest or incompetent contractors would end up producing a masterpiece? In *The United States Capitol* we can learn about some of the architects and artists who struggled to create a great

building. As is always the case with any collection of essays, some are more interesting than others. I thoroughly enjoyed the story of the conflict between Montgomery Meigs and Thomas Walter, especially since later chapters provide a different view of Meigs. The account of the peopling of Statuary Hall makes clear the changing standards for greatness in American culture.

The Boxer Rebellion: The Dramatic Story of China's War on Foreigners That Shook the World in the Summer of 1900. Diana Preston. Walker & Company, 2000. \$28.

If you want to know why the Chinese distrust Western countries, look past the Communists and consider the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Although Americans were not major participants in the events that led to the uprising, they were there for the siege of Peking and Tientsin; future president Herbert Hoover and his intrepid wife, Lou, played important roles in the defense of the latter city. Christian missionaries, striking at the heart of traditional beliefs, had aroused intense fear and hatred among rural and village-dwelling Chinese who organized to drive foreigners out of the country. Westerners called them Boxers. The rulers in Peking worried that foreign nations, having established control of much of the country through spheres of influence, would continue to carve up China, leaving them powerless. Members of the government encouraged the Boxers to attack the foreigners, but the extent to which the Chinese rulers themselves were involved in the fighting is unclear. It is a classic story of brutality and bravery and an enlightening study of resistance to imperialism at the end of the 19th century.

Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America. Fred Anderson. Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. \$40.

Americans are inclined to believe that their war for independence was inevitable; therefore, all the events of the 18th century seem significant only if they led to revolution and constitution-making. The French

and Indian War, for example, has been perceived as a prelude to the American Revolution. Anderson, harking back to an earlier school of imperial historians, insists that we take a broader view and recognize that the English colonies in North America were only part of a worldwide struggle among European nations bent on expansion of their power and influence. We learn not only about frontier warfare but also about European politicking. It is a great story, Anderson tells it well, and if George Washington's early reputation is somewhat diminished, that only makes his later career more impressive.

A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History, 1861–1865. Russell F. Weigley. Indiana Univ., 2000. \$35.

Interest in the Civil War only increases as we move further away from the actual conflict. It takes various forms: detailed scholarly analysis of battles, a passion for reenactments, belated recognition of the centrality of African Americans in the struggle, and emotional arguments over flags used by the short-lived Confederate States of America.

Weigley, clearly setting forth his northern sympathies, has written a careful account of both the military and the political events of the middle of the 19th century. His knowledge of European wars and battles enriches his analysis, and he has not hesitated to take on some of the sacred heroes of the Lost Cause. This reviewer, bored with southern piety in spite of being the granddaughter of a Stuart cavalryman, finds Weigley's approach refreshing. His most controversial conclusion is that the South gave up more easily than one might expect—hard to believe in view of the ferocity of the fighting.

Eye of the Storm: A Civil War Odyssey. Robert Knox Sneden. Edited by Charles F. Bryan Jr. and Nelson D. Lankford. Free Press, 2000. \$37.50.

For the reality of Civil War conflict, try *Eye of the Storm*, a memoir based on the diary of Robert Knox Sneden. A talented draftsman who endured both battles and imprisonment, Sneden wrote a detailed account of his ordeal and made fascinating sketches and maps. Take a look at pages 30–31 or 331; what you see there will haunt you. The book is beautifully edited and printed.

Regeneration through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier 1600–1860. Richard Slotkin. Univ. of Oklahoma, 2000. \$24.95.

A university press provides a great service to a literate public when it reissues important books that have been out of

print. A noteworthy example is the first volume of Richard Slotkin's trilogy on the mythology of the West. Through analysis of American writings Slotkin shows how the myths of the frontier became a vital factor in Americans' perception of themselves.

Germaine Cornélissen

Greenhouse: The 200-Year Story of Global Warming. *Gale E. Christianson. Penguin, 1999. \$13.95.*

A "hot" topic, thoroughly discussed, starting with the work of Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier, *General Remarks on the Temperature of the Terrestrial Globe and Planetary Spaces*, published in 1824, and ending with the United Nations Conference on Climatic Change held in Kyoto in 1997. One great attraction of this book is to see scientific advances presented in their historical context. One learns not only about industrial pollution and how it may affect the Earth's temperature, but also a great deal about the lives of the major players of the past two centuries, about Fourier's travel on the Nile, about Eldeston's discovery of the change in color of the "peppered" moth (at the very time Charles Darwin was completing his magnum opus *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* and Gregor Mendel was conducting his experiments on peas that would lead to the foundation of genetics) and how it was linked to industrial development in Manchester in the mid-19th century, and about the stunning CO₂ measurements of Keeling. These and many other facts are presented in a scholarly fashion, yet with a novelist's storytelling skills.

A Darwinian Left: Politics, Evolution, and Cooperation. *Peter Singer. Yale, 1999. \$9.95.*

Bioethicist Singer lucidly presents several arguments in answering the question whether the left can swap Marxism for Darwinism while remaining left. According to Singer, a Darwinian left would remain on the side of the weak, poor, and oppressed. It would not assume that all inequalities are due to discrimination or prejudice, but would seek a better understanding of human nature, so as to foster cooperation for socially desirable ends.

Finding Order in Nature: The Naturalist Tradition from Linnaeus to E. O. Wilson. *Paul Lawrence Farber. Johns Hopkins, 2000. \$15.95.*

The emergence of a new discipline is the topic of Farber's book, which traces the beginnings of modern natural history to the lifetime work of Linnaeus and Buffon. Collection of specimens and classification of

animals, plants, and minerals were indeed essential first steps that established the foundation for the life sciences. The two men's work inspired extensive expeditions to expand the scale of specimen collection. The ground was laid for comparative anatomy, leading to competing interpretations of the living world by Georges Cuvier and Etienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, and to Cuvier's fossil reconstructions of prehistoric animals, pioneering the science of paleontology. Technical innovations provided opportunities to bring natural history to the public. Natural history was reaching a point of synthesis. The theory of evolution was soon to follow. Drawing on the results of 19th-century research in embryology, Haeckel would formulate his argument that "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny." Through the study of function, the life sciences were born, with Claude Bernard's introduction of the experimental method in physiology. While still attracting enormous popular interest today, natural history remains central to advances in a number of fields, from ecology and agriculture to environmental science and medicine. This is a jewel of a book everyone can enjoy.

Larry Zimmerman

The Woman in the Surgeon's Body. *Joan Cassell. Harvard, 1998. \$35.*

Anthropologist Cassell observed 33 female surgeons over three years, providing insight on how being female in a largely male discipline influences the way the surgeon is perceived by colleagues, nurses, patients, and superiors.

Sleeping with Extraterrestrials: The Rise of Irrationalism and the Perils of Piety. *Wendy Kaminer. Pantheon, 1999. \$13.*

With both humor and empathy, Kaminer looks at how our society defers to spiritual authority and resists critical thinking.

Bison: Monarch of the Plains. *David Fitzgerald (photographer), Linda Hasselstrom, and James Welch. Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., 1998. \$39.95.*

A beautifully designed photographic essay. The authors examine human relationships with the bison from prehistoric uses up to contemporary efforts to reestablish herds in North America.

Robert P. Sonkowsky

When a Gesture Was Expected: A Selection of Examples from Archaic and Classical Greek Literature. *Alan L. Boeghold. Princeton, 1999. \$32.50.*

Literature and the Visual Arts in Ancient Greece and Rome. *D. Thomas*

Benediktson. Univ. of Oklahoma, 2000. \$37.95.

Each of these books treats the relationship of visual and spoken elements in Classical culture. Boeghold uses some visuals, such as Greek red-figure vase paintings, to illustrate his observations, but concentrates mainly on language and literature, genre by genre. The topic is by no means new to Classical scholarship, but has lately been quite neglected, and is in great need of this modern treatment, which incorporates some modern kinesic studies without using the jargon and includes evidence of gestural survivals in Modern Greek. Boeghold also says much that is important about gestural clarifications implicit in certain kinds of Ancient Greek syntax, such as incomplete conditional sentences. The book stimulates especially the kinesthetic imagination and helps Ancient Greek literature to come alive.

Benediktson's book is more theoretical in its conclusions and examines more theoretical evidence, focusing on questions posed by the Greek and Roman writers on the relationship between visual and spoken arts, such as in Horace's dictum *ut pictura poesis* ("as painting, poetry") in his *Ars Poetica*.

Ancestor of the West: Writing, Reasoning, and Religion in Mesopotamia, Elam, and Greece. *Jean Bottéro, Clarisse Herrenschildt, and Jean-Pierre Vernant. Trans. by Teresa Lavender Fagan. Univ. of Chicago, 2000. \$25.*

Cracking Codes: The Rosetta Stone and Decipherment. *Richard Parkinson. With contributions by W. Diffie, M. Fischer, and R.S. Simpson. Univ. of California, 1999. \$27.50.*

Both of these books discuss the importance of writing in the development of civilization, and both employ a broad approach to culture.

Ancestor of the West begins with artifacts, before history, before writing, before the Mesopotamian cultures of the Akkadians and the Sumerians, but concentrates on the written documents of these two peoples. Bottéro characterizes them separately and together in their cultural blending from about the fourth and third millennia B.C., stressing the intelligence, culture, and religion that Mesopotamia has bequeathed to the modern world. Herrenschildt writes on the development of writing in Iran, Israel, and Greece. As she describes how pictograms replaced tokens and alphabetic writing replaced pictograms with the com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

RECOMMENDED READING

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ing of Aramaic culture, she speculates on the concomitant development of increasingly sophisticated and abstract thought. In contrast, as Vernant shows, writing and texts were not at the center of Greek development; the poetry of the 8th century was not written down but performed orally. Orality prevailed even after the adoption and wider use of writing through the 5th century. Greeks also differed from the Mesopotamians in mythology, the development of philosophy, and the varied and changing (not progressing) location of ruling power. This book is particularly helpful not only for people who studied Classics, but for everyone who looks for a general perspective on the ancient Mediterranean beyond the usual “humanities” instruction.

Cracking Codes is not so narrow as might be implied by its subtitle, which refers to the famous priestly inscription honoring Ptolemy V Epiphanes in 196 B.C., written on a fragment of a black granite stela in one known (Greek) and two unknown (Egyptian) scripts. It was found in 1799 at the village of Rosetta on the Nile delta and has been housed in the British Museum since 1802. Champollion deciphered the Egyptian scripts, the hieroglyphic and the demotic, in 1822. Parkinson discusses the decipherment, the development of the Egyptian language, Egyptian culture, and the uses of writing in reference to nearly 100 objects on display at the British Museum exhibition in celebration of the bicentenary of the discovery of the Stone. Thirty color plates round out a splendid volume that will appeal to scholars and nonspecialists alike.

Jay M. Pasachoff

The Book of the Cosmos: Imagining the Universe from Heraclitus to Hawking. Edited by Dennis Richard Danielson. *Perseus*, 2000. \$35.

The Universe is a varied place, and it has been discussed from all points of view. Danielson, a professor of English at the University of British Columbia, has provided a rich selection of short (3 to 10 pages each) pieces from the literature of cosmology. They range from the Bible (Genesis) and the ancient Greeks to the present. Names that might be expected, like Copernicus and Kepler, are joined by less obvious contributors like Milton, Poe, and Chesterton. Danielson provides helpful introductions and commentaries to appeal to students of the sciences and the humanities alike.

The Universe Unveiled: Instruments and Images through History. Bruce Stephenson, Marvin Bolt, and Anna Felicity Friedman. *Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum/Cambridge Univ.*, 2000. \$29.95.

This book offers a feast for the eye and for the mind, encompassing hundreds of the finest drawings, engravings, rare books, and scientific instruments from the collection of the Adler Planetarium, on the Chicago shore of Lake Michigan. Although the format is small—9 inches square—the book is sumptuously reproduced, with irregularly shaped objects cut out and masked to make the book a design delight.

The instruments include globes of the Earth and sky, and astrolabes that, hundreds of years before today’s computers, located stars in the sky at different times. The star charts from the 17th century have still not been surpassed in beauty. The 18th- and 19th-century Chinese star charts show constellations unfamiliar to most of us. Time-keeping, navigation, and surveying join astronomy in the survey. The Adler’s collection and this display are worth visits.

The Return: A Novel of the Human Adventure. Buzz Aldrin and John Barnes. *Forge*, 2000. \$25.95.

This novel hides, within a story that grows to Grisham-like status, musings on the future of the space program by the second person to set foot on the Moon. Aldrin and his novelist coauthor set their tale within the plausible circumstance of a private space company launching individuals into Earth orbit to fill spare Space Shuttle seats, mixing in the public celebrity of a Michael Jordan figure as a passenger. When things suddenly go terribly wrong, the nature of the aerospace industry and individuals within it play important roles in the story’s resolution.

When the characters deplore the restriction of the once-promising space program, I share their regret; in the 1969–72 era, when six crews of astronauts landed on the Moon, many of us expected to have tourist seats available by the year 2000. Now that we have reached that year, the PanAm that had taken reservations is no more, and few people expect to go into space.

The story Aldrin and Barnes tell brings in a talented lawyer—the ex-wife of the story’s hero—and deals with relationships of family and old friends in addition to the space tale. Although the book started slowly, by the time I was halfway through, it had become a page-turner. I will not reveal the twists and turns here.

Henry Norris Russell: Dean of American Astronomers. David H. Devorkin. *Princeton*, 2000. \$49.50.

Devorkin’s thorough biography of Henry Norris Russell reveals the scientific and institutional progress of this first American astrophysicist. Russell dominated American astronomy in the first half of the 19th century. From his secure perch at Princeton, he influenced research and appointments at observatories as widespread as Harvard in Massachusetts and Mount Wilson in California. The reader comes to understand the rocky scientific and personal path that led to what is now widely known as the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, still the major organizing theme of stellar astronomy. Readers interested in the structure of American research will find the march of great names of the past generation, from Harlow Shapley and George Ellery Hale on down, and see the roots of today’s graduate departments.

With the centenary symposium for Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin just past in October 2000 and the centenary symposium for Donald H. Menzel coming in May 2001, the abilities and discoveries of these and other major figures in astrophysics are placed in context. The prepared reader will benefit most from this book, which would have been even longer had the scientific matters mentioned been elucidated for nonprofessionals. Those interested in the role of women in science will particularly follow the analysis of the discovery and proof that hydrogen is the major constituent of the stars. In Devorkin’s analysis, Cecilia Payne’s thesis conclusion on this point was rightfully not accepted until subsequent analysis and discussion, especially by Menzel and Russell.

Eugen Weber

France at War: Vichy and the Historians. Edited by Sarah Fishman et al. *Berg*, 1999. \$65.

France at War is a kind of *festschrift*—the best kind, substantial and suggestive—for Columbia’s Robert Paxton. Twenty-three historians—French, British, and American—contribute brief but meaty, informative, and densely argued essays on collaboration, resistance, anti-Jewish politics, bureaucracy, continuities, discontinuities, memory, and history in the years of Vichy and Occupation. The rich potluck buffet of thought-provoking pieces provides a glowing tribute to a fine historian, but also to the practice of history, and to the variety, evolution, and possibilities of the complex issues that historians tackle. The title alone seems wrong or, at least, not explicit. Who was France at war with from 1940 to 1944? Only with itself.

Civilization and Barbarity in 20th-Century Europe. *Gabriel Jackson. Prometheus Books, 1998. \$21.95.*

A thoughtful historian's take on the moral, intellectual, and artistic legacies of Europe's past century: factors of economic, scientific, technological leadership; factors of cultural conflict, murderous politics, and horrific wars. Not just dead white men but dead white women too, and lots of what they stole, borrowed, and improved on from all over the world. Much unexpected information, plenty of common sense, and lots of opinions that you can accept, reflect on, or argue with.

Faces of History: Historical Inquiry from Herodotus to Herder. *Donald R. Kelley. Yale, 1999. \$40; paper, \$18.*

There used to be two kinds of history: the sort inaugurated by Herodotus, who inquired into all aspects of human experience, including the lies we tell each other, and the narrower, explanatory sort associated with Thucydides: wars, treaties, personalities, politics, the stuff and source of events past and present. Call the one "cultural, social, and intellectual" and the other "drum and trumpet," or, if you

prefer, pragmatic, political, and present-minded. The two genres are still with us. Kelley reviews all varieties, and their creators, in a critical survey of historical inquiry in the West from the pioneers of the 5th century B.C. to the 19th-century beginnings of "scientific history" (well past Herder) and even some of our 20th-century meanderings. Intelligent, dense, and demanding, this is not a bedside book, but it rewards amateurs of perception and perspective.

Panorama of Paris: Selections from Le Tableau de Paris. *Edited by Jeremy D. Popkin. Pennsylvania State Univ., 1999. \$50; paper, \$16.95.*

Louis-Sébastien Mercier's *Panorama of Paris/Mudville* in the 1780s, just before the great Revolution, is, as Popkin tells us, one of the forgotten treasures of French literature. Urban journalist, ethnographer, reformer, and moralist, Mercier sketched every aspect of city life from traffic jams to rag-and-bone pickers, through police (wholly corrupt), furnished rooms (sordid), markets (disgusting), fires (frequent), fashion (futile), streets (filthy and dangerous), pedestrians (ignoble), bureaucracy (arbi-

trary), cattle (no respecters of persons), sermons (prefabricated), sedan chairs (traps prone to overturn), husbands (uncivil race), cemeteries (health hazards), produce (half-rotten), garbage removal (inadequate), and lots more of the same. Popkin's Introduction is knowledgeable and savorous, his selection compendious, and the paperback an excellent value for students and tourists both.

The Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing. *Edited by Rosemary Herbert. Oxford, 1999. \$49.95.*

There are many compendia of crime, most of them useful but all full of holes. Herbert's *Companion* must be one of the best, if not the best, to date. It does not aim at exhaustiveness, let alone exhaustion, but ambles knowledgeably from Abduction (see Kidnapping), Academic Milieu, and Academic Sleuth, to Zangwill, Israel, the Anglo-Jewish fictioneer whose *Big Bow Mystery* of 1891 came only five years after Sherlock Holmes's appearance and exactly 50 after Poe's Chevalier Auguste Dupin. On the way, the book touches on Revenge, Voyeurism, Wisecracks, Whodunits, Whydunits, White-Collar Crime, Music, Medics, Fans, Farceurs, Coziness, Computer Detective Games, and Authors' Politics, not to mention scores of scribblers, sleuths, villains, and archaeologists: 20 pages' worth of index. Most entries are followed by appetizing bibliographies, and the entries themselves are scrumptious. A tome to be treasured, read, and dipped into for guidance or sheer fun. No aficionado of the genre should miss it.

Dust: A History of the Small and Invisible. *Joseph Amato. Illus. by Abigail Rorer. Univ. of California, 2000. \$22.50*

Dust we are and to dust we shall return. Meantime we breathe it, breed it, face it, flee it, ignore it. Not so Amato, whose pages carry it from muck to magic, from motes to metaphors, microbes and molecules. Scholar, but never dry-as-dust, explorer of the invisible and intrusive for whom no speck is too small, no mite beneath notice, Amato writes beautifully and absorbingly. The revelation that common household germs and dust bolster our immune system (*New York Times*, Aug. 31, 2000) has come too late to figure in Amato's tale. But he does mention the restorative power of crumbs from the Communion table, as of powdered spiders. Disease and cure, hygiene and sanitation, find room in his pages; so do darkness, benightedness, and light; plumbing; paint; pollens; bacteria; housewives and healing; rubbish and riches. Imaginative, poetic, and idiosyncratic, *Dust* is a compact quarry of engrossing lore. ♦

Phi Beta Kappa Rings and Keys



Phi Beta Kappa offers members various items bearing the Society's insignia. The 10-karat gold signet ring is available in two styles. The ring gauge printed below can be cut out and wrapped around the finger you wish to measure. The key is available in 10-karat gold and gold electroplate. It is shown here on the optional chain.

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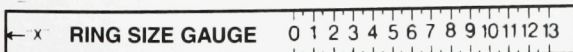
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Secretary Douglas Foard commented, "I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Terrill several years ago and learned at that time of her good wishes for Phi Beta Kappa and her intention to help the Society expand its mission of excellence. I had no idea, of course, that she intended to put such noteworthy resources at our disposal. We mean to make the best possible use of every cent of this singular contribution to our future."

Mrs. Terrill, a widow, died at her home in Marin County, California, in July 2000.



Phi Beta Kappa welcomes gifts from members, while living, by will, via trust, or through life insurance. The Society is able to provide assistance in coordinating arrangements with you and your advisers to help you maximize the value of your gift and preserve proper tax attributes. Gifts may be made using cash, securities, or other properties (although Phi Beta Kappa must reserve the right to approve gifts of assets other than cash or securities). Gifts may be made on an unrestricted basis to the Society, or restricted to particular uses or programs. Gifts are tax-deductible, as Phi Beta Kappa is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Society is grateful for all contributions.

THE KEY REPORTER

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Society Announces Details of New Poetry Award

The Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award of \$10,000 will be presented for the first time in late autumn 2001 to the author of a book of original poetry published in English in the United States between June 1, 2000, and May 31, 2001. The work—a single copy of the book—may be submitted by the poet or by a publisher, an agent, or another representative, with the poet's consent. The poet must be an American citizen or a legal resident alien in this country. A distinguished American poet will be the sole judge of entries.

The judge for the poetry competition this year is John Ashbery, who has won numerous prizes for his

work, including the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the National Book Award.

The award was established by a \$75,000 grant last year from the Joseph and May Winston Foundation to foster excellence in the liberal arts.

The finalists in the competition will be invited to read from their work at the Library of Congress at a ceremony on the day preceding the announcement of the winner.

Entries for the current year's prize may be addressed to Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

ΦBK Fellows to Hear Biggs, Present Award to Sondheim

On April 4, at the Harvard Club in New York City, the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows will hear a talk about Andrew Carnegie and J. P. Morgan as founders of two pension systems. The speaker for the annual Couper Lecture will be John H. Biggs, head of TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund). The Fellows will also present their annual award to Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim.

The ΦBK Fellows were organized in 1940 to provide a financially secure future for Phi Beta Kappa. The current annual pledge for members is \$500, for a total of \$5,000. For further information about the Fellows' organization,

write to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Williamsburg to Host 225th Anniversary Meeting

The Phi Beta Kappa Senate will return to Williamsburg, Virginia, on December 6-8 to observe the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Society at the College of William and Mary. Details of the special events being planned in connection with the Senate's meeting on the college campus as well as in Colonial Williamsburg will be announced in the next issue of the *Key Reporter*.

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