



The Key Reporter

Phi Beta Kappa
Founded 1776

Winter 2005 Volume 70, Number 1

Three Authors Receive ΦBK Book Awards for 2004

The Phi Beta Kappa Society presented its Book Awards for 2004 during the ΦBK Senate's winter meeting last December in Washington, D.C. The annual awards recognize outstanding books in the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences and mathematics. Each winner received \$2,500. They were selected by committees of scholars in their respective disciplines.

Jennifer Michael Hecht was honored for "The End of the Soul: Scientific Modernity, Atheism, and Anthropology in France," published by Columbia University Press. She received the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award in the Social Sciences, which was established in 1960. That commit-

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From left: George Bornstein, Christian Gauss Award Committee chair; Lawrence Buell; David Helfand of the Science Award Committee; Jennifer Michael Hecht; and Mark Burkholder of the Emerson Award Committee. James Gleick, Science Award winner, was unable to attend.

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Nominations Invited for ΦBK Senate

The 41st Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society will meet Oct. 26-29, 2006, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Ga. New members of the ΦBK Senate will be elected at the Council, and the Nominating Committee invites Society members to propose candidates. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 1, 2005.

Society Secretary John Churchill called for broad participation in the nominating process. "With this invitation," he said, "the committee wishes to convey its hope that all members of the Society will take an interest in these elections. It also hopes that

members will help to ensure that the Senate reflects the diversity of the membership's career paths, including those outside academe.

"For several triennial cycles, the committee has worked within the recommendation of an ad hoc committee, chaired by Senator Alonzo Hamby, to increase the proportion of Senate nominations from outside higher education. Members who are considering offering names for the committee's consideration are encouraged to support this aim."

Nominations must be made on a form that is available on the ΦBK

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From the Secretary

What the Hatter and the Hare Said to Alice ... About Liberal Education

By John Churchill

Secretary, *The Phi Beta Kappa Society*

In the chapter of Lewis Carroll's classic called "A Mad Tea Party," the March Hare upbraids Alice on her choice of words:

"Then you should say what you mean," the March Hare went on.

"I do," Alice hastily replied, "at least I mean what I say—that's the same thing, you know."

"Not the same thing a bit!" said the Hatter.

And on it goes. As the stream of philosophical books about the Alice literature suggests, there is much to learn from exchanges like this one. Her conversations with the Caterpillar, the White Knight, and Humpty-Dumpty are replete with interesting and amusing things. But here Alice is caught between the March Hare (inspired by the springtime rutting of English hares and rabbits) and the Mad Hatter (inspired by occupational mercury poisoning among 19th century felt handlers). And they have caught her: Meaning what you say isn't the same as saying what you mean.

In this column, and in other language we in Phi Beta Kappa produce, as we advocate for excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, we may usual-

ly—almost always, I hope—succeed in meaning what we say. But we may nevertheless, from time to time, fail to say quite what we mean. Sometimes there are reminders.

We are always seeking ways to express the values that Phi Beta Kappa exists to uphold and advance. We refer to breadth of learning, the acquisition of broadly applicable intellectual skills, the development of humane sensibilities, and the cultivation of habits of mind and heart that characterize liberal education. We distinguish such education from training that may be primarily technical, specialized, professional, or vocational. A number of members have expressed concern that the Society has seemed to be saying more than perhaps we ought to mean in connection with this distinction. Interesting questions have been posed.

First of all, a distinction between liberal education and education that is "primarily technical, specialized, professional, or vocational" marks not one line of cleavage but, prospectively, several. Beyond that, we would want to ask, "What technique?" "Which profession?" And so on.

But the most interesting and perhaps the most pressing questions seem to be these: First, is Phi Beta Kappa asserting that education other than liberal education is not valuable? Second, is Phi Beta Kappa asserting that education in fields that are "primarily technical, specialized, professional, or vocational" cannot accomplish the very goals we find so important in the pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences?

The first question is easy, for surely the answer is no. There are skills and bodies of knowledge and ranges of understanding—important, vital ones—that require education that is "primarily technical, specialized, professional, or vocational." All of us want to drive over bridges designed by well-educated engineers, to be operated on by keenly skilled surgical specialists, to have financial affairs in which we have a stake, privately or publicly, managed by people with expertise peculiar to the field. This list could go on and on. The complexities of contemporary life require, for their successful conduct and maintenance, that some of us should possess more or less technical, specialized, professional, or vocational abilities *not* possessed by most people. To deny this is to deny a central fact of contemporary life. So of course it follows that the educational processes necessary to make this world work are valuable: They are as valuable as the skills upon which we depend.

I suspect that the oppositional rhetoric we sometimes hear is grounded in a worry that liberal education will simply be left out of a reckoning of educational values. This concern, I think, can give the impression that defenders of liberal education sometimes seem to say something that they couldn't, on reflection, really mean.

And the answer to the second question, too, must surely be, "No, we don't mean *that*." We don't want to claim that someone studying a specialized field must necessarily fail in the attainment of the intellectual and moral virtues characteristic of liberal education.

As a professor, I was tempted to design an introductory philosophy

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As reported on Page 1 of the Summer 2004 *Key Reporter*, a new distribution policy for the newsletter was introduced with the Fall 2004 issue. The Summer and Winter editions now are sent to every Phi Beta Kappa member for whom the national office has a mailing address, regardless of whether he or she maintains contact with the Society.

The Spring and Fall issues are sent only to members who contribute to Phi Beta Kappa's annual giving program, which supports its advocacy of the liberal arts and sciences. Checks made out to Phi Beta Kappa may be sent to Φ BK's mailing address, to the attention of Annual Gifts. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

All four issues of *The Key Reporter* continue to be posted on the Society's website.

Recent Research Rewrites Society's History With Identity of First Black Woman Member

Editor's note: *Stephanie Y. Evans is assistant professor of African American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Florida. She was elected to ΦBK at California State University, Long Beach. She can be reached at drevans@ufl.edu and has a website at <http://plaza.ufl.edu/drevans>.*

By Stephanie Y. Evans

Mary Annette Anderson was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 1899 at Middlebury College in Vermont. This honor was granted prior to that of Jessie Redmon Fauset, who until recently was believed to be the first African-American woman ΦBK member (1905, Cornell University). Although the Society does not track members by race, this finding is important in re-conceptualizing the organization's history. It also demonstrates academic achievement by 19th century African-American women, despite the numerous barriers they faced in pursuing higher education.

As a historian, my research focus is Black women's educational and intellectual history, 1850-1955. Although

at least 250 American colleges were established before the Civil War, only a few were open to Black or women students. The most notable were Oberlin (founded 1833), Antioch (1852) and Wilberforce (1856), all in Ohio; Hillsdale in Michigan (1844); Lincoln in Pennsylvania (1854); and Berea in Kentucky (1855). A few New England colleges graduated one or two Black men in the 1820s, Alexander Twilight from Middlebury (1823) and John Russwurm from Bowdoin in Maine (1826) among them. But Oberlin was the only college to graduate a significant number of Black women before the Civil War.

So Anderson's story was off the beaten path of existing research, and finding her was a stroke of luck. She

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Senate Selects Birkelund to Fill Vacancy As Senator-at-Large until Triennial Council

John P. Birkelund of New York City was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Senate at its winter meeting in December. He will serve as senator-at-large through the 2006 Triennial Council.

Birkelund, an international investment banker and philanthropist, holds the seat vacated by the resignation of Burton Wheeler of St. Louis. According to the ΦBK Constitution, vacancies between Councils are filled by the Senate until the next Triennial Council, when the seat is filled by election of the Council.

Secretary John Churchill said, "We are delighted to welcome John Birkelund to the Senate. He brings a profound understanding of the liberal

arts and sciences and will be an energetic advocate of the Society's values."

A native of Glencoe, Ill., Birkelund graduated in 1952 from Princeton University, where he was elected to ΦBK in his junior year. After three years as a naval intelligence officer in Berlin, he studied German history at Yale University. He has an honorary doctorate from Brown University, where he was a trustee for 18 years.

Between 1981 and 1997, Birkelund was successively president, chairman and chief executive of Dillon, Read & Co., Inc. Today he is general partner of Saratoga Partners, a private investment partnership, and chairs Enterprise Investors Corp., which is engaged in

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Stephanie Evans

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ΦBK Members Invited to Nominate Scholars For Humanities and Sidney Hook Awards

Phi Beta Kappa members are invited to make nominations for two Society honors: the Sidney Hook Memorial Award and the ΦBK Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities.

The Sidney Hook Award commemorates the career of a Society member who was renowned as a philosopher and teacher until his death in 1989. The award was established in 1990 with \$60,000 from the John Dewey Foundation, and received a \$10,000 bequest in 2002 from the estate of Kris Martin.

Nominees should be scholars who have achieved distinction in teaching undergraduates; have made significant

contributions to their disciplines through published research; and have demonstrated leadership in the cause of liberal arts education.

The award will be presented at the closing banquet of the Society's next Triennial Council in October 2006. The recipient will receive \$7,500 and will be invited to address the delegates. Past winners have been Leon Lederman, John Hope Franklin, Carolyn G. Heilbrun, Natalie Zemon Davis and Jonathan Spence.

The Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities also will be presented at the 2006 Council. It was established three decades ago with a \$25,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs.

William B. Jaffe. He became a ΦBK member at Union College and maintained a lifelong interest in the Society. The recipient will receive the Jaffe Medal and \$2,500.

Past winners have been Barnaby C. Keeney; Howard Mumford Jones; Louis B. Wright; the National Humanities Center in memory of Charles Frankel, its first director; Dumas Malone; Robert Lumiansky; Daniel J. Boorstin; John H. Sawyer; Sidney R. Yates; Joseph Epstein; Richard J. Franke; and Robert Pinsky.

The ΦBK Senate's Committee on Awards will select the recipients of both awards. Letters of nomination, with the candidate's curriculum vitae, may be sent to the ΦBK Awards Committee at the Society's national office, in care of Sandra Beasley, sbeasley@pbk.org, fax 202 986 1601. The deadline is Friday, July 15, 2005.

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2005 "U.S. Professors of the Year" Sponsors Invite Nominations from Φ BKs in Academe



U.S. Professors of the Year for 2004, from left, are Harold Tinberg, Rhona Campbell Free, Robert Bell and Carl Wieman. Phi Beta Kappa hosted a reception in their honor on Capitol Hill in Washington last November. The national award program was created in 1981.

Nominations are invited for the 2005 U.S. Professors of the Year program, sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The Phi Beta Kappa Society hosts a reception for the national winners in Washington, D.C.

The 2004 national winners were: Harold Tinberg, professor of English, Bristol Community College, Fall River, Mass.; Robert Bell, professor of English, Williams College; Rhona Campbell Free, professor of economics, Eastern Connecticut State University; and Carl Wieman, professor of physics, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Tinberg was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at UCLA. Wieman, a Nobel laureate in 2001, has been a Φ BK Visiting Scholar.

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Among Our Key People

Regina Resnik is still basking in the glow of festivities marking the 60th anniversary of her Metropolitan Opera debut. On Dec. 6, 1944, in a scenario right out of “A Star is Born,” she replaced the legendary Zinka Milanov in Verdi’s “Il Trovatore.” The newcomer from the Bronx was all of 22 years old.

The career launched that night was celebrated by Stephen Hastings in the November 2004 issue of *Opera News*: “No other opera singer of her generation performed such a vast range of roles in so many languages at a similar level of artistic excellence, and few had so many opportunities to work regularly with epoch-making conductors and directors. Resnik has never stopped learning, and has consistently sought out the greatest talents of her era.”

Phi Beta Kappa members will appreciate the phrase “never stopped learning.” Resnik graduated from Hunter College in New York City at age 19, earning a degree in music education. “I was offered a Juilliard scholarship when I was 16,” she said, “but my mother insisted that I earn a diploma, and she was right.” To her parents—Russian immigrants who had lived through the Depression—job security was all-important, and “a conservatory education was not safe.”

Resnik said she was elected to ΦBK as a student, but in a “mishap,” her name got overlooked and no invitation was mailed. The chapter made up for it in 1991: On what the mayor of New York proclaimed “Regina Resnik Day,” when Hunter awarded her an honorary doctorate, she also received a Phi Beta Kappa key. By then she was an opera producer, musical theater star, stage director, master teacher, spokesperson for the arts, and filmmaker.

Resnik was born at a fortuitous time: Her career developed just as technology was introducing classical music and opera to Americans who never set foot in an opera house or concert hall.

She was only 15 when she sang an aria that marked her national radio debut and made her a winner (and \$10 richer) on “Major Bowes’ Original Amateur Hour.” Radio in those early years was essential to the development of Resnik’s own musical literacy. There were few luxuries at home, she said, but “we owned a radio, and I did my homework to it.”

In addition to the Met broadcasts, Resnik said the airwaves offered an astonishing amount of great classical music. “We were just raising our heads



Regina Resnik

after the Depression and World War II,” she said. “Ford [Motor Co.] had a symphony orchestra, and so did General Motors. The Radio City Symphony broadcast classical concerts. Later there were the Firestone Hour, the Bell Telephone Hour, and the New York Philharmonic on Sundays. Radio was all we had, except for the phonograph and Victrola. And I had some great recordings my uncle had brought to us—Rosa Ponselle, Caruso, Heifetz.”

A few months before her Met debut, Resnik won the Metropolitan Opera’s “Auditions of the Air.” She recalls that, because the coast-to-coast broadcast sponsor, Sherwin-Williams, was based in Cleveland, the winners

were announced there, “and all of Cleveland was invited.” Television brought her more national exposure with the wildly popular “Ed Sullivan Show” and “The Bell Telephone Hour.”

As a reigning opera diva, Resnik made dozens of recordings, which span the decades from LPs (long-playing records) to CDs. Among them are her signature roles of Carmen, Klytaemnestra in Strauss’ “Elektra,” Mistress Quickly in Verdi’s “Falstaff,” and the Countess in Tchaikovsky’s “Queen of Spades.” And there are dozens of compilations, from “Grand Opera Gala” to “The Royal Family of Opera,” and the latest retrospective by Decca Records, released in 2003. Then there are the televised productions, including an acclaimed Mistress Quickly in Verdi’s “Falstaff” for the BBC, and the New York City Opera’s “A Little Night Music” on PBS’ “Great Performances.”

Surfing the Internet, Resnick discovers pirated tapes of her own performances, “things I never dreamed I’d ever hear—operas I didn’t know existed on tape. The circuit of pirates is a great mystery, but—putting aside the legal issues—they picked the right material.” There are even audio archives of her singing for Major Bowes and Ted Mack.

“I was on Johnny Carson’s show three or four times,” she said, “but the tapes are lost. They could have been re-used or” One imagines the unspoken thought: Maybe they are just a mouse click away.

Resnik is a proud product of the New York City school system. “Music class was compulsory,” she said. “*Everyone* had to learn to read music.” She sang in the choir and glee club in grade school, and performed a solo at age 10 “because no one else volunteered.” She made her public debut at age 12 at Herman Ridder Junior High, in a musical act called “Gypsy Love,” composed by the teachers. Little did she know that 500 performances of “Carmen” awaited her.

James Monroe High School boasted a band, an orchestra and a chorus. At

age 14, Resnik was cast as Yum-Yum in "The Mikado." A year later she saw her first live opera: Verdi's "Aida" at the Met, the first performance for students to be sponsored by the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Seven years later, she would sing the title role on the same stage for the students.

During World War II, Resnik said, many of the great European singers could not or would not come to the United States, and American singers became the new stars. Under general manager Edward Johnson, himself a former singer, the Met became a showcase for American artists. After the war, Americans who knew Wagnerian roles were engaged to perform at Bayreuth when it re-opened (thanks to Marshall Plan funds) in the early 1950s.

A turning point in Resnik's career was the switch from dramatic soprano to mezzo. Hastings writes in *Opera News* that her soprano voice "was bursting with drama, and alive to every verbal meaning and musical nuance She was already one of the blazing interpretive talents of her era." But "my voice gradually took on another color," she said. "The color decided." In 1956 the transition—rare in grand opera—was complete. Among her 23 roles at the time, only "Carmen" could be either soprano or mezzo, so she had to learn an entirely new repertoire. "Eventually I sang 80 roles," she said. "I made up for it."

When Rudolf Bing succeeded Johnson as the Met's general director, Resnik said, he "brought in great, great movie directors, like Joe Mankiewicz, who did 'All About Eve.' But when he was staging 'Boheme,' he said there was too much music! Garson Kanin ('Born Yesterday') directed 'Fledermaus,' and it was funny and charming, but it was *not* Viennese. It was pure Hollywood."

As for the present, she said, both the director and the designer rule, a situation that goes "against the singer. This started slowly in Europe after the war, and now it's everywhere. Singers and composers ruled the roost in the 19th century. The first part of the 20th was the era of the great conductors: Toscanini, Walter, Klemperer, and so on. They had great loyalty to the com-

poser. They molded my career and my way of thinking as a singer."

Today Resnik passes on that legacy to aspiring young performers. She has been a master teacher-in-residence at Mannes College of Music in New York, and a teacher in young artist programs at the Met, the Opéra de la Bastille, the San Francisco Opera, and the Canadian Opera. Also she taught last year at Juilliard, Northwestern University and Indiana University where, she said, "I tell them that today, no one takes *time*. In the '40s and '50s, there was time—to study, to learn, to build a career. The human voice needs constant attention. It is like no other instrument. Today there is too little time for development."

Resnik also is musical director of the Eurobottega, a unique program for young singers from European Union nations. "This is the top level of master training before they go on stage," she said. She is especially pleased with the preparation she recently gave singers who were to perform Britten's comic opera "Albert Herring" in its original English at two Italian theaters. "Thanks to supertitles in Italian," she said, "the audience and the singers had a success."

The Eurobottega has headquarters in Venice and Treviso, Italy; Resnik maintains homes in both Manhattan

and Venice. She and her late husband, Lithuanian-born artist Arbit Blatas, had chosen Venice as their European base when they directed and designed opera productions around the world from 1971 to 1981. In 1983 she wrote, narrated, and produced an award-winning documentary, "The Historic Ghetto of Venice." It was broadcast on PBS, and there are plans to air it again.

Michael Philip Davis, Resnik's son by her first husband, Judge Harry W. Davis, attended Hunter College Elementary School and is now a well-known tenor and stage director. In 1971, Resnik established a scholarship in the music department at Hunter College.

Since 1997 she has been the host and narrator of the concert series "Regina Resnik Presents," with her son as co-producer. She said they enjoy "a phenomenal relationship managing the series," which has included programs ranging from "Beethoven in Song" to "The Classic Kurt Weill." Recently they launched a three-year project called "Colors of the Diaspora," which explores Jewish classical song in history. The first concert, "The American Jewish Composers in Classical Song," was presented last December and January in San Francisco and New York City.



The Chicago ΦBK Association presented its 2004 Distinguished Service award to soprano Catherine Malfitano, center, at its annual dinner. Congratulating her are Gregory Gocek, president, and Christine Myles. Malfitano, a Chicago resident, is a champion of American opera.

ΦBK Acquires 1847 Catalog of Yale Chapter Offering Glimpse of Society's Early History

The Phi Beta Kappa Society has acquired the 1847 catalog of the ΦBK chapter at Yale College. The chapters at Yale and Harvard College are among the three oldest chapters of the Society, dating to 1780. The founding chapter was established at The College of William & Mary in 1776.

The catalog was discovered by Charles E. Berry, a retired business executive in Naples, Fla. Contacting the Society's national headquarters, he wrote, "I am not a ΦBK member, simply a hobbyist dealing in old books. This turned up in a pile of material that I acquired, probably from a used book store. There is no traceable provenance."

Bound with two strands of white thread, the catalog's cover is the same paper stock as the contents. It was printed in New Haven, Conn., by B.L. Hamlen, "Printer to Yale College." "Boston Athenaeum" is embossed on the front. On the first inside page are

overlapping stamped lines that say, "Harvard College Library" and "Massachusetts State Library." "May 31, 1938" is written in pencil.



The 1847 catalog of Yale's ΦBK chapter includes members of Congress, diplomats, and college and university presidents.

"Introductory Notes" include a few lines about the Society's history and state that Harvard and Yale chartered Dartmouth College's chapter in 1787, "the original Alpha of Virginia having in the mean time become extinct." The text lists nine ΦBK "branches" in 1847: Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth, Union College [New York], Bowdoin College, Brown University, Western Reserve College, Trinity College [Connecticut], and Wesleyan University.

Chapter presidents are listed, 11 of them "from 1781 to 1801 inclusive." Every president, vice president and corresponding secretary is listed from 1802 to 1847. There is also a list of "Orators and Poets" for most years from 1787 to 1847.

The roster of members starts with one entry each for 1767 and 1773, three for 1778, and two for 1779—all before the ΦBK chapter was established. The members in 1848 are included. "Members Not Educated at Yale College" from 1780 onward are listed at the end.

Among the occupations noted are presidents of Amherst, Dartmouth, Dickinson College, Hamilton College, Hampden-Sydney College, Illinois College, Kenyon College, Middlebury College, St. John's College, the University of Vermont, and Yale. Others are members of the U.S. Congress; U.S. minister to France; U.S. chargé d'affaires in London, Paris, and Peru; comptroller of the U.S. Treasury; U.S. postmaster general; judges and justices; New York state attorney general; and governor of Vermont.

There are many tutors, professors and fellows at Yale, as well as numerous other academics, physicians, medical school professors, and state medical society presidents; clergymen (including several of the college presidents); missionaries; teachers at a "Deaf and Dumb Asylum"; and a physician at the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane

John C. Calhoun is identified as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. senator, U.S. secretary of war, U.S. secretary of state, and U.S. vice president.



A student trio played chamber music at the initiation ceremony of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Stony Brook University last year. The musicians, from left, are Andrew Beer, Nicole Hanson and Daniel Schlosberg. The institution formerly was called SUNY at Stony Brook.

ΦBK History

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was literally a side note in an article by Theodore Cross in *Black Issues in Higher Education* (January 30, 2003). “The Earliest Black Graduates of the Nation’s Highest-Ranked Liberal Arts Colleges” mentioned Anderson as Middlebury’s first Black woman graduate.

Starting in the summer of 2003, I sought facts about her life from historical societies, college archives and family members. There is limited information in her alumni file at Middlebury, at a local Vermont historical society and in the registrar’s office at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she taught for seven years. Middlebury’s records document the date of her graduation, show that she gave the valedictory address that day, and confirm her induction into Phi Beta Kappa in 1899. Her role at Commencement also was noted in a newspaper, the *Middlebury Register*, on June 30 of that year. I was able to obtain a copy from the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History.

Anderson was born in Shoreham, Vt., on July 27, 1874. She was the daughter of William and Philomine Anderson and had one younger brother, William John. She attended Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies in Massachusetts and entered Middlebury in 1895, becoming one of the first and few African-American women to attend a New England college before the turn of the 20th century. She graduated as class valedictorian. It makes sense that she had such an opportunity at Middlebury: Vermont was the first state to prohibit slavery in its constitution.

After graduation, Anderson taught at Straight College in New Orleans for one academic year, then moved to Washington to teach at Howard from 1900 to 1907. An archivist and a librarian at Howard were unable to find any record of Anderson there. But one of their colleagues, Tewodros Abebe, succeeded in finding the 1901 university catalog, which states that Anderson taught English grammar and

history. She remained on the faculty through 1906. In 1907 she married Walter Louis Smith in Washington. Shortly before she died in 1922, the couple bought a house in her hometown of Shoreham. The Smiths did not have children.

In 1994 a researcher in Boston named Marilyn Richardson had produced a wonderful exhibit, “Making a Living: The Work Experience of African Americans in New England,” sponsored by the New England Foundation for the Humanities. The exhibit celebrated Black women scholars in New England. In 1997 Richardson gave a lecture at the public library in Worcester, Mass., on African-American women in New England. *Worcester* magazine reported on the lecture and featured a photo of Anderson in her cap and gown. I was fortunate to locate and talk to Richardson, who also referred me to

Susan MacIntire of the Shoreham Historical Society. She in turn directed me toward a fabulous discovery I could not have even dreamed of.

Information from McIntire encouraged me to look for Anderson’s grand-niece and grand-nephew—her brother’s grandchildren—who still live in Vermont. It was exciting to locate Myra, her grand-niece. Myra told me that the family papers include Anderson’s marriage license and some handwritten notes—and both she and her brother have a copy of “Aunt Nettie’s” Phi Beta Kappa key!

One of the most precious things that Myra shared was a hand-written reflection tucked into Anderson’s Bible: “I’d like to add some beauty to life—I don’t exactly want to make people know more—but I’d love to make them have a pleasanter time because of me—to have some better joy or happy

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New Editor’s *American Scholar* Published

The Winter 2005 issue of *The American Scholar* is the first to be published under the leadership of its new editor, Robert Wilson. [See the Fall 2004 *Key Reporter*, Page 1.] It is also the first issue in the magazine’s 74-year history to include photographs with most of the articles.

That edition features three articles on “Understanding Iraq.” Josiah Bunting III writes about who is not serving there in “Class Warfare.” Lawrence Rosen discusses the Arab personality in “What We Got Wrong.” Andy Grundberg considers the Abu Ghraib pictures and the photography of war in “Point and Shoot.” The latter appears in a new “Arts” section.

Among other articles are “The Glue Is Gone: The Things That Hold Us Together Have Disappeared,” by Edward Hoagland; “The Software Wars: Why You Can’t Understand Your Computer,” by Paul De Palma; “The Death of Derrida,” by Charles Trueheart; and “In Praise of Flubs:

Perfection Is No Virtue in Classical Recordings,” by Sudip Bose.

In an “Editor’s Note,” Wilson writes: “... Wisdom comes in many forms, and the patent is pending on all of them, but the time seems right for a magazine such as this one to turn its attention from the truths within to the truths without; from, put simply, the *I* to the *we*. Emerson would say not to abandon the one for the other, and no magazine named after his famous essay could ever logically do so. Both the public and the intellectual have allowed Emerson’s idea of the public intellectual (what he called ‘the American scholar’) to become quaint at best and comic at worst. But in the information age we know that information is not knowledge, and even truth can be too wobbly to be called wisdom, and so Emerson’s notion might be more necessary now than ever before.”

Individual copies of *The American Scholar* are available at many bookstores.



From Our Book Critics

Humanities: Svetlana Alpers, Rebecca Resinski, Eugen Weber

Social Sciences: Rick Eden, Jan Ellen Lewis

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

Natural Sciences: Germaine Cornélissen, Jay M. Pasachoff

By Larry Zimmerman

The Man Who Found Time: James Hutton and the Discovery of Earth's Antiquity. Jack Repcheck. Perseus Publishing, 2003. \$26

To some historians of science, Scottish geologist James Hutton (1726-1797) is the father of modern geology. His work profoundly influenced such disciplines as paleontology and archaeology. With his careful examinations of Devonian sandstones along the Scottish coast, Hutton began to understand the deep antiquity of the earth—that it might be vastly older than just the thousands of years proposed by some clergy of his day. In that sense, he did “find” time, which allowed later scientists such as Charles Darwin to understand some of the key processes of evolution and geomorphology.

Probably as important, Hutton proposed a crucial principle that came to be known as uniformitarianism. This is the idea that the processes of landscape formation we see happening in the present happened in the past, in much the same way. Thus, to understand the past, we can study the present. Unfortunately the book is more an academic history of the people, ideas and events that led to the Scottish Enlightenment than it is about Hutton and his ideas.

I won't fault Repcheck's historical scholarship, but he really doesn't get to Hutton until roughly the last third of the book. Certainly, understanding the intellectual context of a particular scholar is important. But the author's approach buries a fascinating man under strata of historical facts so thick that I didn't want to bother digging him out!

Body Politic: The Great American Sports Machine. David Shields. Simon & Schuster, 2004. \$23

“Body Politic” is a quick, fun read, full of surprising statements and insights. More a collection of essays than a book with an obvious, coherent theme, this volume by professional

sportswriter Shields explores a wide range of sports topics. Some essays are analytical, such as his examination of the commonalities of sports movies. Others are as arcane as the myths about place and their impact on everything from player performance to fans arriving late to games. The book is more about the way in which America creates and maintains its mythology about sports than it is about athletic performance and competition.

Inside the Cult of Kibu and Other Tales of the Millennial Gold Rush. Lori Gottlieb and Jesse Jacobs. Perseus Publishing, 2002. \$26

During the free-wheeling days of the dot-com boom, Lori Gottlieb jumped from Stanford Medical School to become vice president and editor-in-chief for Kibu, an Internet startup geared toward teenage girls. She had no Web experience, could barely do word-processing, had 70,000 stock options, and ran a staff of “eager 20-somethings.” Funded with venture capital and having no real business plan, the company collapsed within months.

In dot-com logic, failure actually increased Gottlieb's marketability, and job offers poured in. Instead of taking any of them, she wrote an exposé of the Kibu collapse: How a goal of empowering teenage girls “devolved into a behind-the-scenes equivalent of ‘Heathers’ meets ‘Lord of the Flies.’” The piece resulted in hundreds of e-mails, including one from Jesse Jacobs, another bailed-out dot-commer, who asked if she would like to explore the phenomenon with him.

Together they gathered statements from nearly 100 people involved in the so-called “New Economy,” including journalists, investment bankers, attorneys, programmers and an expansive assortment of others. The chapter titles give a pretty good indication of how Gottlieb and Jacobs organized the statements: The Idea, The Money, The Culture, The Parties, The Lingo, The Spin, The Mismanagement, The IPO, The Layoffs and The Hereafter. My personal favorite is The Lingo, with the Buzzword Bingo game (p. 119); discreetly played at meetings or during phone calls, an absolute scream. You may have seen this elsewhere because it made the rounds of many e-mailed joke pages.

What an odd, frustrating, funny, enlightening and delightful little book! Reading it is a lot like surfing the Web: You never quite know where it's going to take you. Yet, underneath it all is a book that provides insights to a frantic, often puzzling, episode in what the dust jacket blurb rightly calls “an alternate universe.”

Marketing Heritage: Archaeology and the Consumption of the Past. Edited by Yorke Rowan and Uzi Baram. AltaMira, 2004. \$75; paper \$29.95

When you read descriptions of archaeological sites or finds, you are likely to see the words “unique,” “largest,” “oldest” or “earliest.” You rarely see much about sites or finds that make up the vast majority of archaeological discoveries. You would probably even ask why anyone would want to read about the mundane finds. If you are an archaeologist and want the public to pay attention to your work, you are forced to resort to the superlatives. Why?

The simple answer is that people want to share in what they see as a global heritage, and they are willing to pay for it. Individuals, institutions and nations have realized that there is a dollar to be made, and all this has put substantial stress on sites and the peoples associated with them. The development and impacts of this commodification of the past are the thrust of this well-written, well-organized and solid collection of 17 papers. The volume grew out of a 2001 academic session about the marketing of archaeological heritage, and the papers represent a spectrum of heritage sites around the world as wide-ranging as Avebury and Stonehenge and a theme park called the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, Fla.

Issues discussed cover topics from German nationalism to repatriation of cultural property, such as the Elgin Marbles, to the cultural meanings of heritage-related gift shop items sold at heritage sites. This book will rightly make you question the social forces at play in marketing heritage, the politics of representation apparent in particular pasts, and the ways in which commodification affects your own views about what you see and read about heritage sites.

The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Keeping Hope Alive in a Time of Fear. Edited by Paul Rogat Loeb. Basic Books, 2004. \$15.95

Paul Loeb follows his inspirational book, “Soul of a Citizen,” with a mostly inspirational collection of writings by a wide range of people who have faced fear and overcome it. Some authors are well-known, such as Nelson Mandela and Alice Walker. Others are less so. Some works are essays, while others are poetry. The works are uneven, but that is to be expected. Except for Loeb's excellent introduction, the nature of the material almost demands that you not read the book from front to back, but just at those times when you need to read something uplifting or motivational.

In truth, I still haven't finished it for that very reason. I pick and choose and savor my way through it. My absolute favorite (so far) is Sherman Alexie's story, “Do Not Go Gentle,” about a sexual toy turned sacred drumstick, and how it freed Alexie's hospitalized, near-death, baby son from Mr. Grief. Alexie shows that in one way or another, humor always defeats Mr. Grief. I was also taken with six lines of a poem

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There was no space in this issue of *The Key Reporter* for “Letters to the Editor.” That section will return in the Spring edition.

From Our Book Critics

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from Adrienne Rich's "Natural Resources" and lines from Sam Hammill's "The New York Poem." Any reader is likely to have other favorites, but that's the nature of inspiration: It can come from the most unlikely hiding places in your soul.

Karl Bodmer's North American Prints. Edited by Brandon K. Ruud. University of Nebraska Press, 2004. \$150

Following Lewis and Clark, several adventurers made their way up the Missouri River into the interior of America. From 1832 to 1834, German scientist Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied made the trip, taking with him Karl Bodmer, a 22-year-old Swiss artist. Bodmer's charge was to create "a faithful and vivid image of America and its people." On their return, both men crafted the information they had gathered into usable accounts. Bodmer rendered his watercolors and drawings into engravings to go with Maximilian's text. Over the next 10 years, they created "Travels in the Interior of North America, 1832-34."

Bodmer employed about 30 engravers who, along with Maximilian's input, altered 81 engravings in very significant ways. This oversized, heavily illustrated volume details these changes through five editions of "Travels," cataloging them through each edition and noting elements such as paper, dates and colors. The book also includes two exceptional essays about Bodmer's role in the creation of the West in American mythic tradition and the issues and processes associated with the changes in the engravings.

This is an amazing, impressive work, art history at its best. An obvious question is raised by the many changes to the engravings and even to the "knock-off" reproductions of them that have appeared over the decades: How true are the landscapes and cultural representations to Bodmer's originals, themselves representations of the realities he witnessed firsthand? Many ethnographers believe that Bodmer's engravings provide the best record of American Indian life in the region. But, if nothing else, this book should press them to reassess that confidence.

By Jay M. Pasachoff

Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution. Neil deGrasse Tyson and Donald Goldsmith. W. W. Norton, 2004. \$27.95

Most people are pleased whenever their own baby pictures turn up, so it is no surprise that there is a general interest in "origins." Scientifically, we can study the origin of the universe or the origin of the solar system or the origin of our own planet Earth. Neil Tyson and Donald Goldsmith romp through these scientific topics in a survey of the large and the small, the old and the new in our universe.

Tyson, the astrophysicist who heads the Hayden Planetarium in New York City (and its newer, surrounding Rose Center for Earth and Space) hosted a 4-hour "NOVA" series that PBS aired last fall. And his informal voice comes through in many places in this accompanying book, written with astrophysicist and science writer Goldsmith. Tyson (whose picture alone appears on the dusk jacket) acts more as a master of ceremonies than as a cynosure in the two-part "NOVA" series, in contrast to Carl Sagan on his pioneering series "Cosmos" two decades ago.

"Origins" is now one of NASA's themes, along with "Structure and Evolution of the Universe." We can but hope that a lot of real science survives there, given the new overemphasis on exploring the moon and Mars, and that NASA is apparently willing to let the Hubble Space Telescope die, even while astronauts are wishing they could be allowed to go up to upgrade it and to extend its life.

The book by Tyson and Goldsmith deals with both themes. It starts with cosmology, dealing extensively with the exciting notions of dark matter, dark energy, and the accelerating

expansion of the universe. The authors clearly explain the ramifications of the cosmological constant's overwhelming the effects of mass, and the "why now?" question. They march through the periodic table of the elements, describing each element's origins in terms of the big bang, stellar interiors and supernovas. Finally, they switch to the origin of planets and of life, as well as the ongoing search for life in the universe.




The almost 300 pages of text are broken up twice by eight-leaf color inserts containing mostly astronomical images, with a couple of welcome pictures of Tyson on location. Readers will find their minds stretched and boggled. As the authors write, after describing early measurements of cosmic background radiation, "You can't make this stuff up."

Archives of the Universe: A Treasury of Astronomy's Historic Works of Discovery. Marcia Bartusiak. Pantheon, 2004. \$35

Anthologies of original documents can be awe-inspiring, but they also can be dry. Marcia Bartusiak enlivens hers and brings the most

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Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items

Phi Beta Kappa's distinctive gold key is the official symbol of membership in the Society. A full range of solid gold and gold-plated key jewelry, as well as other items bearing the Society's insignia, are available. Keys are made in three sizes in either 10-karat solid gold or 24-karat gold electroplate. The medium-size key is shown here actual size with matching 18-inch neck chain. The box is cherry wood, 6 x 7 inches in size with a certificate plate on the lid. The wall display combines a membership certificate and a large gold-plated key in a 12 x 16 inch walnut frame.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment, and a copy of your mailing label from the back cover, showing your membership number to Hand & Hammer, 2610 Morse Lane, Woodbridge VA 22192. You may place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You may also order on line at www.hand-hammer.com. Virginia residents add 5% sales tax. A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.

- Medium-size key, 10-karat gold (1-3/8" high).....\$85
- Medium-size key, 24-karat gold-plated (1-3/8" high)....\$27
- 10-karat gold neck chain, 18 inches (for gold key).....\$49
- 24-karat gold-plated chain, 18 inches (for plated key)....\$6
- Wall display (key and certificate, framed 12" x 16").....\$85
- Phi Beta Kappa box (cherry wood, 6" x 7").....\$79

Name, chapter, and date for personalization _____

Check made payable to Hand & Hammer is enclosed.
 Charge my Visa MasterCard

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Signature _____ Phone _____

Book Awards

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tee considered 47 books submitted by 35 publishers.

Hecht is professor of history at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., and the author of an award-winning book of poetry.

A committee member called “The End of the Soul” “surprisingly engaging ... surprisingly because of the narrow topic, at least as we initially see it: the efforts of a very small group of French atheists, who became (or masqueraded as) anthropologists, directed to set Third Republic France on a new, scientific footing, through the creation of new cults and beliefs (much as had been done during and after the Revolution), notably the ‘Society of Mutual Autopsy,’ where dissecting one’s friends replaced saying prayers for their souls. ... This is an important contribution to knowledge, serious scholarship with a broad pertinence to the human condition.”

Another committee member called the book “a rip-snorter of a read. The material is intrinsically fascinating, and Hecht has done a superb job of putting it together.”

Lawrence Buell received the Christian Gauss Award for literary scholarship for “Emerson,” published by Harvard University Press. This award was created in 1950 to honor a former Φ BK president and distinguished scholar at Princeton University. The committee considered 34 entries from 26 publishers.

A committee member wrote: “In



the guise of a study intended as an introduction to Emerson—a book for non-specialists and specialists alike—‘Emerson’ probes the contradictions and ambitions of this 19th century essayist and poet. Buell’s major new contribution is to emphasize the degree to which Emerson’s celebrated ‘Americanism’ was informed by extensive reading in non-American materials, from Buddhism to Indian writers.”

Another committee member noted that the book includes “biography, literary criticism, and literary history. ... It is authoritative, interesting, well-written, persuasive; it is extremely accessible though dealing with some fairly complex materials.”

Buell is the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature at Harvard.

James Gleick was honored for “Isaac Newton,” published by Pantheon Books. He received the Phi Beta Kappa Book Award in Science, which was established in 1959. The committee considered 18 books nominated by 13 publishers.

“The overarching theme of the

book,” a committee member wrote, “is that Newton was not the first Newtonian, but the last of the pre-Newtonians, heavily invested in alchemy, theology, and philosophy. The author has done a prodigious amount of background reading (240 texts are cited in the bibliography!) and skillfully weaves together quotes ranging from the classical Greeks to the 19th century Romantic poets in driving home Newton’s overwhelming impact on human thought.”

Another committee member called the book “the best ever short peek into the mental world of a scientist since Banville’s ‘Dr. Copernicus.’ This Newton is not Newtonian, as we all are; the view is anti-whiggish and evocative of the time of the Royal Society as this hard transition was being made. There is a mass of scholarship about Newton, but by focusing primarily on contemporary documents, Gleick has done marvels.”

Gleick has been the McGraw Distinguished Lecturer at Princeton and was the editor of “The Best American Science Writing 2000.”

Senate Nominations

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website at <http://www.pbk.org/about/events.htm> or by calling 202-265-3808.

Neil Harris chairs the Nominating Committee for 2003-2006. Other members are Frederick J. Crosson, Claire Lynn Gaudiani, David W. Hart, Linda Kerber, David Levering Lewis, Judith Sebesta and Bonnie Wheeler.

New Senator

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

private investments in Poland and central Europe. The Polish government and the U.S. State Department have honored Birkelund for his services to Poland.

Birkelund, the immediate past chair of the National Humanities Center, is

a trustee of the New York Public Library. He is a director and former chair of the International Executive Service Corps. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations for 43 years, he has written for its *Foreign Affairs* magazine. His biography of Gustav Stresemann, chancellor and foreign minister of the Weimar Republic, was published in Germany in 2003.

From Our Book Critics

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important works in the history of astronomy to life in her "Archives of the Universe." The greats—Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein—are represented, but so are whole civilizations. Would that the Maya, who were so devoted to the cycles of Venus' appearance, as described in this book, could have seen last June's rare transit of Venus.

But Bartusiak is a better writer than most of them (though maybe not Galileo!), and she elucidates her choice of the top 100 books and articles (half post-1900), bringing them to an English-language general reader and setting them in their scientific and historical context. I was enthusiastic about the preliminary version, based on which I wrote a jacket blurb, and I remain enthusiastic.

Her introduction about the discovery of Pluto, for example, sets the work in the context of discoveries over the previous decades, including the discovery of Mars' moons and *canali* and of the nature of Saturn's rings by James Clerk Maxwell (whom she mistakenly calls English instead of Scottish). The final introductions, to pairs of articles about discovering exoplanets and discovering that our universe's expansion is accelerating, bring us suitably to the present. Many readers will validly read only the introductions, merely skimming the original articles.

If you want to know how our ideas about cosmology and black holes evolved, from Aristotle's conceptions to the current conclusions about how we know that we are in an accelerating universe, this book is a wonderful place to begin.

Via Lactea. *Francesco Bertola. Biblos (Cittadella, Italy), 2003. \$66*

The Milky Way is the glory of the heavens, and expert astronomer Francesco Bertola, past president of the International Astronomical Union's commission on galaxies, brings spectacular visual and scientific descriptions forward for the general reader. This large-format book, a foot square (if I may use American units), boasts more than 50 dramatic, full-page color reproductions of the Milky Way and other astronomical depictions. These range from 14,500 B.C. in the Lascaux caves; to the seventh century in Palenque, Mexico; to Tintoretto's 16th-century "Origin of the Milky Way," with the stars forming from the milk spurting from one of Juno's breasts as Hercules nurses; to a 16th-century ceiling in the Villa Farnese; to a modern painting from 2002. Bertola truly brings C.P. Snow's "Two Cultures" together.

Each of the three major chapters is devoted to an aspect of the Milky Way, with text in Italian joined by high-quality images. At the end of the book, all the descriptive material is translated into English, though in smaller type. The chapter essays are interesting and self-contained, and they can be read straight through for the reader's profit.

After the artistic images of the Milky Way, a wonderful series of scientific images shows the evolution of our understanding, from Galileo through Herschel (credited in the discussion with the major step in analysis) to modern drawings. Enlargements of part of the contemporary Milky Way panorama by Axel Mellinger are perhaps overused as the theme, even overprinting many of the other images. The book ends with a dramatic series of 20 Hubble images of galactic objects, plus a brief discussion of the ecological loss of the visible night sky through light pollution.

Although the book does not have an American distributor, it can be ordered by e-mail at info@biblos.it. See <http://www.biblos.it/it/Vialactea.html>.

The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes.

Arthur Conan Doyle. Edited with a preface and notes by Leslie S. Klinger. W. W. Norton, 2005. \$75

Some say that Arthur Conan Doyle was merely the literary agent for Dr. John Watson, chronicler of the exploits of the great detective Sherlock Holmes. In any case, the 56 stories provide fascinating and useful lessons for science students. They may learn deductive reasoning better from the Holmes stories than from many an academic course. Currently the USA Network's Adrian Monk is carrying forward Holmes's tradition in episodes of "Monk."

Before I read this book, I already knew a lot about Sherlock Holmes (though my favorite character has always been Mycroft Holmes, who did more reasoning and less gallivanting). But I never knew that he was named after Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of thousands of tidbits in Leslie Klinger's notes. Klinger's biographies of Conan Doyle, Holmes, and Watson refer to the latest relevant scholarship, to which he himself has been an important contributor.

The current status of Sherlockians (for whom Holmes was a real detective) and Doyleans (who, strangely, think that Conan Doyle made things up) is discussed in David Grann's fascinating article in the Dec. 13 issue of *The New Yorker*. This is about the recently deceased—garrotted!—Richard Lancelyn Green, an expert who had spent decades searching for a missing Doyle archive that was recently auctioned at Christie's. Was he murdered? Or did he kill himself in a manner that would implicate an American Defense Department strategist with whom he had been disagreeing over whether the auction should be stopped so that the materials could go to the British Library?

In my own astronomy textbook, as an example of the type of deductive reasoning I want students to use in order to prove that pulsars are rotating neutron stars, I quote Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet": "...when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

Reading the 1,500 pages of these two volumes will put us in hopeful anticipation of the

eventual publication of the volume with the novels that is to follow. See <http://www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com>.

By Rick Eden

The Iraq War. *John Keegan. Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. \$24.95*

This was one of the first published histories of the Iraq War, and it has much to recommend it still to anyone trying to make sense of what is happening in that conflict.

For one thing, "The Iraq War" was written by an eminent historian of war, and it exhibits an easy yet accurate familiarity with both war and history. In nine compact and well-written chapters, Keegan answers basic questions that a lay reader may be expected to ask. Chapter 1, for instance, provides a quick history of the region now called Iraq. Chapter 3 is a short biography of Saddam Hussein. Chapters 5 and 6 describe the major combat operations of March and April 2003 from the perspective of American and British forces, respectively.

For American readers, Keegan's British perspective on the war adds extra value. He describes the very significant British contribution to the effort without exaggeration or chauvinism, noting that the British armored division constituted almost one-third of the deployed coalition ground forces. By contrast, Britain's contribution to coalition ground forces in the Gulf War 10 years earlier was matched or exceeded by France, Egypt, and even Syria.

Keegan is also in a rare position to appreciate the critical role of the American military logistics system in the success of major combat operations. The American press mostly publicized problems with the provision and distribution of supplies. But it is obvious that the quick run to and into Baghdad could not have succeeded without sufficient logistical support, particularly for consumable items such as fuel, ammunition, water, and food.

Keegan records the wonder with which the British soldiers observed American re-supply activities, and he concludes that "Re-supply, quite as much as firepower or air support, was the secret of the coalition's overwhelming of Saddam's forces."

The major shortcoming of this history is that it was penned and published prematurely: Major combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom proved only a prelude to a larger war of counterinsurgency. And nothing here touches on the stability and support operations that have drained American military capability since shortly after the fall of Baghdad.

For the same reason, the concluding chapter of Keegan's book seems at best ironic, and at worst naïve, in its endorsement of the Bush administration's policy of military pre-emption. Keegan wrote too soon to appreciate the profundity of the intelligence failures preceding the Iraq War, too soon to assess accurately the

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ΦBK History

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thought that would never have been experienced if I had not been born.”

I got chills when I read this. It was clear that, although Anderson proved to be an excellent scholar, she strongly believed in the moral existentialism that was basic to Black collegiate women who involved themselves in uplift of the Black race and the improvement of women’s social conditions. It is truly a gift to have access to the thoughts of such scholars who have been obscured in the popular historical record.

Anderson’s relatives were well aware of their aunt’s achievements, but they did not know that she should be recognized as a “first” Phi Beta Kappa inductee. She was an effective club woman in Washington and was well known there and in Shoreham, so her relatives have always been proud of her. They should be even more so now in this historical context.

Discovering Anderson reveals many important things about the history of Black women in higher education. First, her story demonstrates the tendency of the educated class to marry within its own sphere. Her husband was a teacher at the M Street High School in Washington and, later, its principal when it became Dunbar High School. Anderson—much like Mary Church Terrell, who also lived in Washington then—married someone with a similar educational background.

The second value of Anderson’s story is the example it provides of discrimination against married women in employ-

ment. Although she remained in Washington after her marriage, she no longer appeared in the Howard University catalog, leading one to believe that she had resigned her position. At that time, it was tradition that, once an educated woman was married, she ceased to participate in public work, particularly in the teaching profession.

A third revelation is the ever-present conflict for African Americans between claiming membership in the elite stratum of society and being connected with the “common” Black masses. Anderson’s valedictory address was titled, “The Crown of Culture,” and presumably it espoused the virtues of high art, letters and learning. This is in great contrast to earlier viewpoints from African-American collegiate women. For example, in 1850, Lucy Stanton Sessions became the first African-American woman to earn a college degree (the literary degree, not yet the bachelor’s) from Oberlin. Her commencement speech was titled, “A Plea for the Oppressed.” It dealt entirely with the heinous practices of slavery and called the audience to action in the abolitionist tradition.

Although conditions had improved significantly between 1850 and 1899, the post-Reconstruction era saw the institutionalization of Jim Crow laws and a life of sharecropping and hard labor for most African Americans. Anderson’s life as an educated Black woman and dedicated teacher represents the ambiguous space that Black women occupied, between a life of leisure allowing participation in societies such as Phi Beta Kappa and the reality of the oppressed majority of Black women. Discovering Anderson’s history opens many doors for further research.

Jessie Redmon Fauset, previously believed to be the first African-American woman in ΦBK, was a novelist of the Harlem Renaissance. She also was literary editor of *The Crisis*, the journal of the NAACP. While she wrote of the discrimination she encountered while trying to reach the heights of academic life, she nevertheless earned highest honors and became renowned for her writing.

In his illuminating historical account, “The Earliest Black Members of Phi Beta Kappa” (*The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, October 2001), Caldwell Titcomb cleared away many misconceptions about the history of African Americans in the organization. Titcomb, professor emeritus at Brandeis University and secretary of the ΦBK chapter there, documented the fact that George Washington Henderson was the first official inductee in 1877, at the University of Vermont. Before Titcomb pursued his research, it was believed that Edward Bouchet, Yale’s first Black graduate, was also the first ΦBK. Bouchet, the first African American to earn a Ph.D. (in physics at Yale), was not elected to ΦBK until 1884 although he graduated in 1874. Because of the obscurity of Black women in U.S. history, particularly in the realm of intellectual achievement, earlier research also overlooked the little-known Anderson.

Titcomb also has recently researched Anderson’s life, and he published the results in the Autumn 2004 issue of *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*. One or two details there differ from what I am reporting. By collecting unique primary documents from obscure sources, including Anderson’s descendants, I have sought to add her own voice to the historical record.

W.E.B. Du Bois estimated that 132 Black women graduated with college-level work before 1890, so many women like Anderson have yet to be discovered. She herself serves as both a symbol of Black women’s determination to engage in academic advancement and a testament to the barriers that kept the majority of 19th century Black women from achieving their greatest potential.

I was elected to the Rho ΦBK Chapter of California in 1999 at California State University, Long Beach, and it was a pleasure for me to discover a kindred spirit from exactly a century before. I feel that it is both an honor and a responsibility to tell the story of Black women scholars because, in higher education, there is little recognition of those in this demographic for their intellectual contributions.

Phi Beta Kappa’s teen-age founders at The College of William & Mary debated such issues as “The Justice of African Slavery,” “Whether Agriculture or Merchandise is most advantageous to a State,” “Whether Commonwealths or Monarchies are most subject to Seditions and Commotions” and “Whether a wise State hath any Interest nearer at Heart than the Education of the Youth.”

From the Secretary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

course around common traffic and parking signs. Students would save money on textbooks, and access to the signs would be no problem unless they wanted to keep them for their personal libraries. But that's another story. The point is just this: That practically *any* subject matter, pursued in the right way, could provide a context for liberal education.

So does it not matter what we study? By no means. I think my course

on parking and traffic signs could succeed only against the backdrop of someone's (as the fantasy instructor, it would be *my*) acquaintance with—shall we say—a richer literature. I owe to Phi Beta Kappa member David Potts (Wesleyan, '60) an awareness of the fact that Yale President Jeremiah Day argued, in 1828, for a curriculum that would include the subjects *best calculated* to achieve the ends of liberal education. Not exclusive and necessary, but still *best calculated*.

So it matters what we study, not because there is one right way to do liberal education, but because some topics, and some methods, are generally more conducive than others to its aims. I think that, on balance, Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Plato's *Euthyphro* are more promising than a pair of signs that say "No Parking Between Signs."

And lest anyone get the impression that my whimsy hints that "primarily technical, specialized, professional and vocational" learning is still really not up to snuff with liberal learning, let me offer a set of propositions: That any field of learning can be a gateway to fundamental conceptual questions such as the nature of disease (or of health), the nature of society, or the character of the forces that operate in the physical world. That every field of learning engages issues of value and

meaning, whether questions of life and death in medicine, questions of justice, or questions about the values at play in building for efficient use of materials and for safety. That every field of learning supplies exemplars in the discovery and use of knowledge that deserve to be pondered as we shape our lives. The materials of deliberation are around us in every discipline.

And so to the member of Phi Beta Kappa who tells me that she gained her best liberal education in chemical engineering, I say, "Hurrah!" The same to the member who points to a beloved parent and says, "He has no degree, but he is the most liberally educated person I'll ever meet." Just as there is nothing magical about contact with certain disciplines that makes one liberally educated, there is nothing prohibitive about different paths. Our task should not be to claim that something *can't* happen in certain ways, but to do what we can to make it happen more, better, and more predictably in the ways that may seem to work most readily.

As Alice found out, saying what you mean can be harder than meaning what you say. What the "No Parking Between Signs" signs actually say leads, technically, to a vicious circularity, but we make do with them. And there is a lesson there, too.

Professors Award

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CASE established the Professors of the Year program in 1981, and Carnegie became its partner a year later. This is the only national program that honors excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. One national winner is chosen from each of four categories: community colleges, baccalaureate colleges, master's universities and colleges, and doctoral and research universities. The national winners receive \$5,000 awards from Carnegie at a fall presentation in Washington. CASE pays travel and expenses for each national winner, a guest of their choice and one student, who will introduce the winner at a lunch awards presentation.

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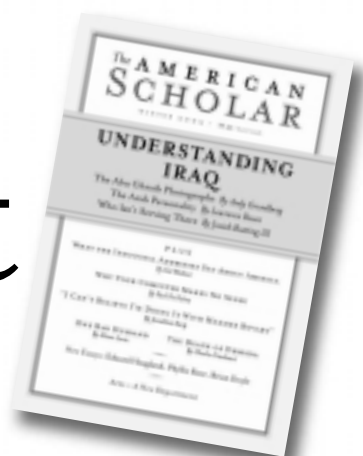
Nominations for the awards may be made by college and university presidents, vice presidents, provosts, deans and faculty members. Each institution may submit up to three nominees of any academic rank who teach full time or part time. The deadline for 2005 nominations is April 22.

More information about the program, criteria for nominees, entry instructions, and access to the online entry form are at www.case.org; enter CASE code "poy." Profiles of the 2004 winners also are at www.case.org.

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From Our Book Critics

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efficacy of efforts to contain the Hussein regime during the decade following the Gulf War, and too soon to estimate the true costs of occupation and “regime change.” Nevertheless, he has produced a good history of the major combat operations and their antecedents, and we can be hopeful that he will produce an equally readable sequel. I look forward to “The Iraq War: Volume II.”

A Terrible Love of War. James Hillman. Penguin, 2004. \$23.95

This book dramatizes the attempt of a distinguished Jungian psychologist to make emotional sense of the martial aspect of human nature. Hillman posits in humanity a love of war, and he claims that we cannot prevent war until we understand the grounds of our attraction to it. In the first three of the book's four essays, he tries to engage imaginatively with warlike impulses and battlefield emotions. In the fourth, he proposes a diagnosis and a cure for war.

For the reader, the results of this therapeutic mind game are mixed. There is no denying that Hillman is an engaging writer. His style is clever and energetic, though at times manic. His thoughts move surprisingly, as often by association as by logic. His prose is dense with quotations from commentators on war, ranging across continents and centuries. The book seems thoughtful, scholarly, even erudite.

The problem is that erudition is not sufficient in this instance. Firsthand experience with war and its aftermath also count. Here Hillman is lacking, as he admits from the start. “We psychologists are armchair generals; we like to watch,” he says. Of the occasional autobiographical “excursions” in the essays, the most telling is when he “holds coats” for his Irish friends in a barroom brawl.

Hillman's imaginative engagement is voyeuristic; war becomes the ultimate spectator sport. He devotes too much imaginative energy to identifying with the perpetrators of organized violence and too little to their direct and



collateral victims, a group that ultimately includes the perpetrators themselves.

This focus repeatedly leads him to dwell romantically on a heroic view of human devastation: “In battle, I become the supremely ethical person. ... Battles become the paradigm of the ethical, of altruism, of love.” Hillman's very method of reaching an understanding of what he calls the terrible love of war is to permit himself to experience emotions and thoughts that internal editors would normally screen out. This path leads him to entertain perverse observations that may repulse: “The worst of war is that it ends in peace.”

The final essay is particularly difficult. Hillman launches into an extended attack on Christianity that seems designed to put off even readers who are not Christian. It illustrates well his violent, anarchist approach to analyzing

ideas. First he explores the formulation “war equals religion.” Then, almost systematically, he inverts the identification: “Religion equals war.” In each case, he tests where the semantically anomalous claim leads. He smashes the two abstractions together until they shatter, then fingers through the shards, seeking patterns. The results are occasionally brilliant but also often wrongheaded or nonsensical. This is to be expected because there is more of playful chance than true philosophy in his method.

Finally, Hillman gives up. His cure for war, if it can be called that, is simply a recommendation to divert psychic energy into “aesthetic passion,” which “provides multiple fields for engagement with the inhuman and sublime certainly less catastrophic than the fields of war.” I found it an unsatisfying end to a tortuous journey.

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