

# THE Key REPORTER

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## Phi Beta Kappa Today

*By William T. Hastings*

SEVENTY-SIX years ago, on June 30, 1881, a group of delegates from twelve of the twenty chapters of our Society that were then active gathered in convention at Cambridge, on the invitation of the Harvard chapter, which was celebrating its one hundredth anniversary. As a result of that meeting the United Chapters was organized and held its first National Convention at Saratoga Springs two years later, with twenty-one branches eligible to be represented: the twenty of 1881 plus the Cornell chapter, which was installed in 1882. Four chapters—William and Mary, Alabama, Yale, and Western Reserve—were inactive, but by 1895 all but Alabama had been revived and all the active branches had affiliated themselves with the national organization. In 1883 it was a national society more in name than in fact, for there were ten active chapters in New England, eight in New York State, two in Ohio, and one in New Jersey. The contrast with today, when we count 163 chapters, one or more in all but two states and one in Hawaii, is extreme.

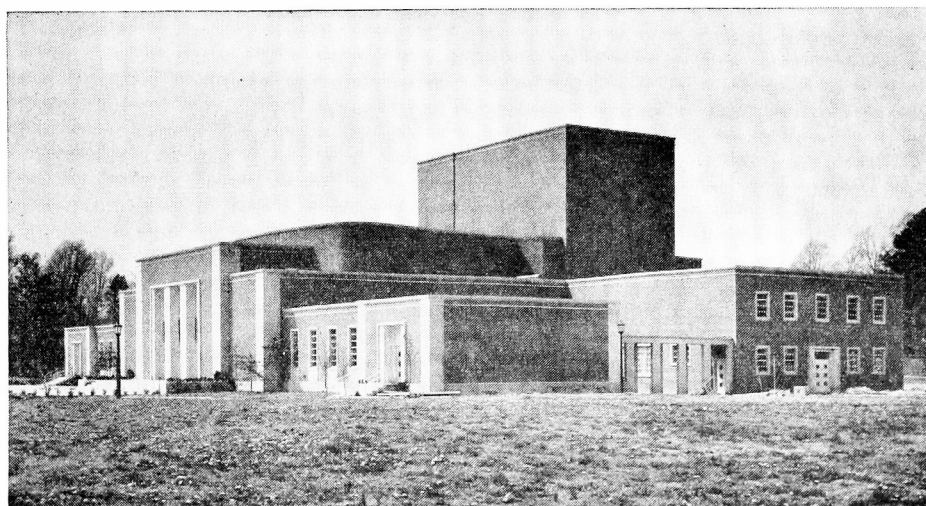
Expansion had been slow and conservative in the half century before the convention at Cambridge, but during that period two problems increasingly engaged the attention of the chapters, especially of the older Alphas: a desire for some uniformity in their laws and practices, and concern over the procedure for establishing new branches. On both subjects there were differences of opinion and inconsistencies in practice, which I

must not go into now. The constitution and by-laws of 1883 established principles by which, with later modifications, chiefly in the revision of 1937, the Society has been guided ever since.

Most people think of Phi Beta Kappa as a simple entity like the Royal Academy or the Carnegie Foundation, awarding memberships or grants to intellectually distinguished collegians. Or perhaps they see an analogy to the Masonic Order—which in the early days of the Society there may well have been—with a sort of Grand Chapter, now located in Washington, in complete control of the chapters in the various states. But these analogies are quite wrong. Phi Beta Kappa was not based on a blueprint. The Society had a gradual growth, with no real central organization and merely consultations among the early branches, until the United Chapters was organized. Its title is significant. It is a federation. The

original twenty-odd chapters reserved to themselves all rights except those specifically relinquished in the constitution of 1883. Subsequent amendments have increased the control of the central body over later-established chapters, but each has been considered to be bound only by the constitution in effect at the time it was installed, thus creating a complex situation for the parliamentarian.

ONE other glance back is necessary before turning to the present. In 1883 the United Chapters had no capital fund. The first two secretaries, college officers of course, served without pay in an extracurricular operation. Dr. Voorhees, becoming the third secretary in 1901, transferred the central office from the registrar's room at Williams College to his parsonage in Three Bridges, New Jersey, and in 1904 was granted a salary of \$100 a year. The financial report for the triennium ending in 1904 shows receipts of \$150 in "franchise fees" from new chapters, \$260 in chapter contributions of \$5 each, and \$50 in bank interest; there were expenses of \$289.97, including railroad fares of \$9 and \$35 for clerical services. The books



The new Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, dedicated on May 18. Story on page 4.

Mr. Hastings is president of the United Chapters. This article is based on an address first given at Flora Stone Mather College.



were closed with a balance on hand of \$775.70, a gain of \$170 over the preceding triennium. This was modest indeed.

I cannot pause to outline the steps leading to the establishment of the national office in New York with Dr. Voorhees as full-time secretary, or the certainly checkered financial and domiciliary history of the following years. You recall the failure of three fund-raising campaigns to reach their goals. You may recall that twenty-five years ago our invested funds amounted to about \$250,000, and we were meeting our annual deficit by letters of personal solicitation. You certainly recall how we were driven from pillar to post in New York by rising rentals, till we escaped from the slums of First Avenue to temporary asylum in Williamsburg. And you all know the happy ending of this chapter of our story, in a magnificent home of our own in Washington.

The transition to my real subject may be made at this point, though you must not think I am putting first things first in speaking of our finances. For the present year we have approved a budget of just under \$200,000, six times the average annual disbursement of \$34,633.57 in the triennium beginning twenty-five years ago. The capital funds of the Society had a market value last December of over one million dollars.

I do not say this in order to suggest that we can all fold our hands in peace and go to sleep. But we can legitimately take satisfaction in the record, and with this background of comparative security we can consider the activities of the Society without alarm.

**I**N the year 1957 what does Phi Beta Kappa do? Well, it does not seek to save America: it is not a pressure group, and it declines to become a formal associate of such a group; it does not memorialize Congress; it does not even seek to cure all the ills in American education. We attend to our own business, and if—as is certainly the case—our business has impinged upon some of the areas where reform is desirable, what we have done and said has been restricted to our own back yard. If, as I hope is the case, the influence of our activity is felt outside, we may be glad. But our position is unassailable.

What, I started to ask rhetorically, do we do?

*First*, there are all the services—to the members, to the chapters, to the committees, to the Senate and the Council—performed by the competent staff in the Washington office.

*Second*, there are the contacts with individual members, chapters, and associations through visits by the secretary and other officers, and the less immediate but more extensive contacts provided by THE KEY REPORTER.

*Third*, there are the special programs and projects: the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship, awarded alternately in the fields of Greek and French to assist a young woman in a research project; the Associates Lectureship, which makes speakers available to chapters and associations; the Christian Gauss Award, a prize of \$1,000 awarded annually to the author of the best book in the field of literary criticism submitted in competition by a university press; and now the Visiting Scholar Program, (THE KEY REPORTER, January, 1957). And most important here, I would list THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, now twenty-five years old and already the most widely read, most distinguished, and I think most influential of American quarterlies.

*Fourth*, the safeguarding and promoting of the ideals of the Society: a liberal education, freedom of inquiry, and that constant theme of anniversary addresses, "The Public Duty of Educated Men," for which service a liberal education freely pursued is the essential preparation. Now in this last and very important function it may seem to you that we are overstepping the bounds of "our business." But that is not the case. For here we work—and have done so continuously through the last quarter century—within the areas of responsibility of two important committees, the Committee on Policy and the Committee on Qualifications.

Several *ad hoc* committees have completed their work or left it incomplete, and been discharged. As early as 1904, a committee that had considered problems connected with the liberal arts and chapter standards of eligibility for election to membership reported to the Council that humanistic subjects were losing ground, but that chapter practices in election were so conflicting that it saw no immediate solution. On the eve of World War II,

a "Committee on the Status of the Liberal Arts and Sciences" collected a great body of information from the chapters, but because of the war it suspended its work and never made a final report. We have now a new Committee on Policy which may remain a permanent feature of our landscape, and to which will be referred such general questions regarding the scope of our activities or general policy as may call for special study that neither the Senate nor the Executive Committee is in a position to undertake. It might be asked to consider the propriety of certain general pronouncements by the Society.

**I**T is, however, the Committee on Qualifications that is confronted with problems connected with liberal studies and freedom of inquiry—and in such fashion that they cannot be avoided. For it is the business of the committee to recommend (or decline to recommend) institutions for charters; and it is also its business to investigate an institution now sheltering a chapter where conditions are thought to prevail that place in jeopardy those things for which the Society stands. This responsibility requires the committee to consider any interference by boards of trustees or legislative bodies with the educational program. It must consider whether an institution is yielding ground because of other pressures, so that the ideal of a liberal, rather than a technical or vocational, education, and the principle of freedom of teaching are endangered. When the college boys who founded the Alpha of Virginia in 1776 talked about "friendship, morality, and literature," and when they declared to initiates, "Here you may indulge in speculation that freedom of enquiry which always dispels the clouds of falsehood and ignorance," they were building better than they knew. Their ideals have survived, and developments in modern American life have given them new significance. Hence our Society, both by choice and of necessity, has thrown the weight of its prestige on the side of a liberal education and against those forces which seem to threaten us, on the one hand with mere technical proficiencies, and on the other with what I have elsewhere called the iron curtain of the mind.

On these issues the Society, as you



know, has taken a strong position and spoken out through the Committee on Qualifications: on freedom of inquiry (THE KEY REPORTER, Autumn, 1949); on the pressure to replace liberal studies by those of a technical, pre-professional, or vocational nature (interpreted in "The Task at Hand," THE KEY REPORTER, Winter, 1951-52); and on the curse of commercialized, big-time athletics (THE KEY REPORTER, May, 1955). The statements were in each case enunciated by the Committee on Qualifications in connection with the definition of criteria for eligibility for charters, or the retention of charters. In each case the Senate approved the statement, and the triennial Council concurred.

Was it futile or wrong for the Society to take a position on these issues? Was it wrong for us to declare we were "firmly opposed to efforts, from either the extreme right or the extreme left, to restrict within our institutions of learning the impartial analysis and evaluation of any and all literary, political, economic, social or religious tenets"? Adverse criticism was expressed in the Council of 1949, but the Council emphatically approved the statement. Similarly there was criticism of the stipulations safeguarding liberal studies in recommended institutions, from persons who would let down the bars for vocational studies and not defend foreign languages and mathematics. (Parenthetically I may say that in my own view the fault with the stipulations is that they are not strong enough; they compromise with sin. I believe the requirements in language and mathematics should be higher; there should be more severe restriction of top-heavy

pre-professional concentration; the permitted maximum of vocational or "applied" courses should be lower. Compromises are necessary for peace and progress; the present statement represents some advance; but, as was the case with the earlier compromise on the same subject in the 1937 constitution, there is a danger that the statement which is agreed upon will be taken as representing the best thought, the ideal, of the Society, and that chapters which have been maintaining higher requirements will adjust them down. This in fact is already being done by one or more of the chapters.) The third statement, on athletics, was attacked by a few delegates at the Council of 1955, who declared that the stand taken against commercialized athletics was "unrealistic," though, they said, they were in sympathy with our aim. Now it is my firm belief that these and similar pronouncements are necessary and are not in vain. They are necessary to our self-respect and to the preservation of our concept of the life of the mind. They are not in vain even though not retroactively applied to existing chapters; for, on the one hand, they provide ammunition for those in applying institutions who are on our side, and they strengthen the hands of those in institutions having chapters who would like to see their local situation improved.

I said these things a year ago. I now feel impelled to expand my statement as the patterns of illiberalism become more and more plain.

It is not too much to say that powerful forces are consciously or unconsciously working toward the disappearance of the four-year liberal arts

college, in fact if not in name. Read Mr. Conant's *Citadel of Learning*; read the newspaper reports of speakers or educational bodies with their panaceas from correspondence courses to "televised" lectures and teaching "aides." I postpone to another occasion an attempt to analyze the prospect: the two-year package of predigested "cream" skimmed off the four-year liberal arts program; to be followed by another year or two of "relevant" studies, i.e., vocational or pre-professional work—job preparation, on a higher or a lower plane, not preparation for living as a man. But the tendency is clear and will become more pronounced. We must, then, in Phi Beta Kappa stick to our liberal arts stipulations and even make them stronger. It is no effective objection that they are not applied to existing chapters. We must refuse chapters to institutions that are not willing to draw the line or do not understand the word "liberal."

The same situation exists in the field of intercollegiate athletics. Our announced policy was under fire—not effectively—at the last Council, on the ground that it was unrealistic (we could accomplish no general reform) and unfair (some institutions having chapters are as bad as those we now refuse). That battle is still being waged. That it was necessary for us to take the stand against commercialized college athletics is clearer every day. Read the newspapers with their unconscious exposures: the making of contracts with schoolboys, the "gift" rackets operated by alumni, the bull market for successful coaches that swings salaries to double and triple

(Continued on back cover)

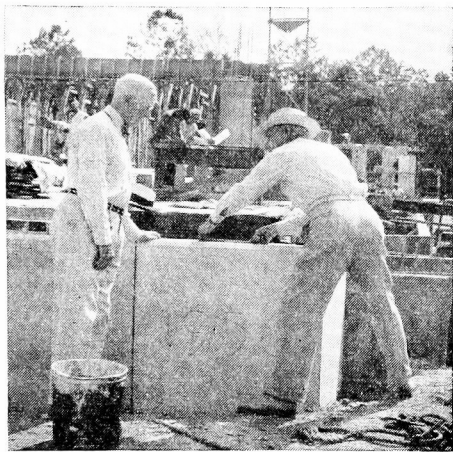


Visiting Scholar Edwin G. Nourse in action at the University of Arkansas



# New Memorial Hall Dedicated

WE'RE building too fast to take time for a cornerstone ceremony," said President Alvin Duke Chandler of the College of William and Mary when construction began on the new Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall somewhat over a year ago. So on June 11, 1956, the college archivist, the college architect, and a former vice-president of the Alpha of Virginia chapter quietly laid the cornerstone. In it they placed a box containing documents and publications that included a program of the dedication of the old building on November 27, 1926, news accounts of the fire that destroyed it in



Professor A. Pelzer Wagener and College Architect Charles M. Major laying the cornerstone

1953, and two Phi Beta Kappa keys. President Chandler was certainly right, for on May 18, 1957, the new Memorial Hall was dedicated.

The first hall was originally proposed in 1920 as a memorial to the fifty founders of the Society, and was built with funds solicited from members of Phi Beta Kappa. It was dedicated as a part of the ceremonies commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

The new hall, which cost over a million dollars to build, was paid for with funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as with a gift of \$250,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., contributions from other members of Phi Beta Kappa, and insurance on the old building. It houses an unusually well-equipped theater, with an elaborate stage-lighting system, a hydraulic orchestra-lift, trap doors on the stage, a counterweight system for scenery sets, and cushioned comfort for the audience. Dressing rooms and a lounge for the actors, a shop for painting sets, a sewing room with ample storage space for costumes, a laboratory theater, and offices are also provided.

The lobby of Memorial Hall is designed for fine-arts exhibits, and the building

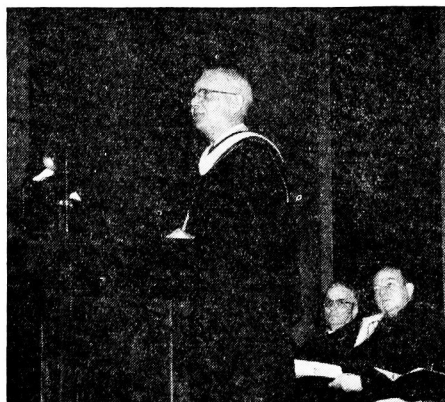
contains television and radio studios for speech students, a large reception room, a kitchen, and office space and a meeting room for the Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

The 1957 dedication featured an address by John Crowe Ransom, Carnegie Professor of Poetry at Kenyon College and editor of *The Kenyon Review*. Greetings to the College of William and Mary were also presented by chapter president John Garland Pollard, Jr., from the Alpha of Virginia, by Governor Thomas B. Stanley from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and by President William T. Hastings from the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa.

"If Phi Beta Kappa has grown from one chapter to 163, and from the 'fifty founders' to its 150,000 living members, if it has maintained and increased its national prestige," Mr. Hastings said, "it is not because of any superficial or adventitious qualities. It is because it has remained firmly grounded on the principles here enunciated by its founders, because, in the words of Chief Justice Hughes, 'It holds aloft the old banner of scholarship, and to the students who have turned aside from the easier paths and by their talent and fidelity have proved themselves to be worthy, it gives the fitting recognition of a special distinction.'

"A special distinction! Yes! But if that were all, if we merely wore the badge of a mutual admiration society, I should not care to belong. It is a distinction which imposes a public and a private duty—*sagesse oblige*."

"In bringing to the College of William and Mary, then, the greetings and felicitations of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, I am particularly happy in the thought that this new structure is a monument not only to a happy accident of 180 years ago but more significantly to the ideals of a freely shared and liberal education, without the support of which our Society—I mean, our civilization—will not survive."



John Crowe Ransom

## Key Note

"Some sort of record,"

we ill-advisedly suggested in the January issue, had probably been set by the 1956 initiates at Goucher, who had secured a fine array of fellowships and scholarships. A 1955 Wabash graduate challenged this statement, pointing out that at least eight of that year's thirteen members had won similar awards. Turning to the chapter secretary for further information about the group, we learned that the 1956 members had surpassed them: eleven of twelve had bagged fellowships or scholarships. Meanwhile, our hasty generalization had prompted research at Reed, where ten of the eleven 1956 initiates had won graduate awards. In both cases, the seemingly unlucky man had entered medical school, where scholarships rarely go to first-year students.

Not only are we chastened, but we confess that if members of Phi Beta Kappa failed to "set records" like these, we should feel "some sort of alarm."

### Address Changes

Members are requested to use a KEY REPORTER stencil if possible in notifying Phi Beta Kappa of a change of residence. Otherwise, the address to which Phi Beta Kappa mail was previously sent, as well as chapter and year of initiation, should be included in the notice. This information should be directed to Phi Beta Kappa, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C. Please allow at least four weeks' advance notice.

## To the Editor

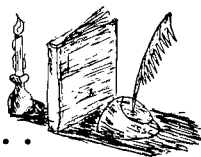
### Effective Use of Faculty Resources

If Clarence Faust could save faculty time by letting college students do more unsupervised, unscheduled scholarly work, it would be like teaching a group of neophytes to swim by throwing them into deep water. Even with a full prior explanation of the processes to be followed, it is to be feared that a certain number would drown, and that few would develop the best form. The fact is, I believe, that students "on their own" take more faculty time, not less; for every school that has experimented with honors courses and independent study has found it the most expensive, if probably the best, form of education. This is not to say that under other cultural conditions, with a different tradition or selectivity of students, what Mr. Faust wants might not work—but presumably he is talking about college students, in America, now, as at present trained and picked.

PRISCILLA ROBERTSON  
Editor, *The Humanist*

THE KEY REPORTER

# The Book Committee Recommends . . .



**Robert K. Carr**

**THE PRESIDENCY IN THE COURTS.** By Glendon A. Schubert, Jr. Minnesota. \$5.50.

This book fills a long-standing need for an authoritative and comprehensive study of judicial review of acts of the President. It is well organized, interestingly written, and easy to use. Students of the American political system will long be indebted to Professor Schubert for this scholarly work.

**SOLDIERS AND SCHOLARS.** By John W. Masland and Laurence I. Radway. Princeton. \$7.50.

An intelligent and discerning analysis of the education of American military officers, particular attention being paid to the adequacy of preparation of military personnel for an ever-widening range of power and responsibility in civilian affairs.

**THE CRISIS OF THE OLD ORDER.** *The Age of Roosevelt, Vol. I.* By Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.

The author of *The Age of Jackson* now turns to an equally challenging era in our own time. This first of several projected volumes examines the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover period which set the stage for F. D. R. and the New Deal. Well-written, challenging in its insights, and provocative in its conclusions, this and succeeding volumes are certain to provide one of the leading interpretations of the Roosevelt period.

**Albert L. Guérard**

**DEBATES WITH HISTORIANS.** By Pieter Geyl. Philosophical Library, \$7.50.

A collection of lectures, broadcasts, and essays—yet a *book*, with a strong unity of theme, thought and style. What is history? Three sections: a group of great figures in the now-remote past: Ranke, Macaulay, Carlyle, Michelet; four essays devoted to Arnold Toynbee—a courteous, respectful but fearless and devastating critique of his system; then, with the American Civil War as one of the examples, the problem of inevitability in history: the humanistic attitude, man free and responsible, against the fatalistic, deterministic, or Providential. Extremely readable: Geyl, a thorough scholar, has the qualities of the essayist and the lecturer, but is not lacking in depth.

**THE SEA DREAMER.** *A Definitive Biography of Joseph Conrad.* By Gérard Jean-Aubry. Doubleday. \$4.50.

Aubry, a personal friend of Conrad's, spent twenty years in the preparation of this lucid and unpretentious book. Read it in connection with Conrad's own autobiographical works (and the romanced autobiographies, like *Youth*, *The Arrow of Gold*, *Heart of Darkness*), and what more do you want? Aubry resolutely eschews criticism and interpretation. With one exception: he suggests that the ship from which Lord Jim jumped into safety and dishonor was a symbol for Poland, the doomed nation that Conrad cherished and abandoned.

**THE DARK SUN.** *A study of D. H. Lawrence.* By Graham Hough. Macmillan. \$4.50.

Lawrence as a writer: major novels, tales, poems. In such a passionately egocentric author, the biographical element cannot be ignored; but it is brought in only to elucidate certain points in the works. "The Doctrine," discussed in the last—and best—chapter, is no doctrine at all: Lawrence was the reverse of a systematic philosopher. He belongs to the Obscurantists (hence *The Dark Sun*), the enemies of the Enlightenment, the believers in forces of primeval night, deeper than thought.

Free from levity, but not heavy-handed.

**THE ELIZABETHANS.** *Introduced by Allardyce Nicoll.* Cambridge. \$5.

A very pleasing formula: the Elizabethans self-portrayed, in words and pictures. But A. N. is more than a deft wielder of scissors and paste (treacherous materials). The brief introductions are good, especially the general introduction, "The Paradox." What are the Elizabethans? Chimeras. Inconsistency is their name; conflicts, contradictions, confusion their Way of Life. This is scrupulously the same conclusion as that of John Dodds in his fine book *The Age of Paradox* (the biography of an early-Victorian decade). Why not recognize that this is true of all ages, periods, civilizations, cultures?

## The Key Reporter

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**C. Vann Woodward**

**THE MIND AND ART OF HENRY ADAMS.** By J. C. Levenson. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.

In spite of the great flood of books on Adams since the war, Mr. Levenson has something significant to add. His contribution is perceptual rather than factual, for he adds nothing in the way of new information or bold new interpretation. His study is based on the assumption that "the story of a serious artist's work tends to be the essential story of his life."

**THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN COMMUNISM.** By Theodore Draper. Viking. \$6.75.

The first book in the series on "Communism in American Life," and the first of two volumes by Mr. Draper on the history of the Communist party in the United States, the present work deals with the background, birth pains, and developments to the mid-twenties. Written with detachment, free of clichés, full of astute analysis and characterization, it is the sort of study we should have had long ago.

**JAMES K. POLK, JACKSONIAN, 1795-1843.** By Charles Greer Sellers, Jr. Princeton. \$7.50.

The work of a thorough and careful young historian, this life-and-times study reveals much that is fresh and new about the first forty-eight of President Polk's fifty-four years. It is also richly informative about Tennessee and national politics during the Jacksonian era.

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON.** *Youth to Maturity, 1755-1788.* By Broadus Mitchell. Macmillan. \$8.75.

The first really thorough and authoritative biography of Hamilton we have had, this study is aggressively revisionary and intelligently sympathetic with the subject. One target is the legend of Hamilton as strategist of the moneybags. An important book.

**AMERICAN NATIONALISM.** *An Interpretative Essay.* By Hans Kohn. Macmillan. \$5.

Professor Kohn employs his wide learning in the history of European and Russian nationalism to try out some comparisons and analogies with American counterparts.

**AMERICA AND THE BRITISH LEFT.** *From Bright to Bevan.* By Henry M. Pell-ing. New York University. \$3.50.

An Oxford historian of the British Labor Party who knows American life and historical sources at first hand has combined these resources to write an illuminating chapter of international, intellectual, and social history. A rewarding book.





**The Book Committee  
Recommends . . .**  
(Continued from previous page)

**Clyde Kluckhohn**

**BASIC PSYCHOLOGY.** *A Study of the Modern Healthy Mind.* By Leonard Carmichael. Random House. \$3.95.

The best overview of contemporary psychology for the lay reader. Factual, cautious, sensible. An amazing amount of information is compressed into clear and informal pages which cover every significant aspect of academic psychology and some features of medical psychology, though Dr. Carmichael is a sceptic as far as psychoanalytic psychology is concerned.

**ORIENTAL DESPOTISM.** *A Comparative Study of Total Power.* By Karl A. Wittfogel. Yale. \$7.50.

A lifetime of massive learning has gone into this important and highly provocative book. Wittfogel's thesis is that the control of waterworks in economies based on irrigated agriculture gives a special cast to the ruling bureaucracies which tends to prevail in spite of differences in the various traditional cultures. Some readers may feel that Wittfogel pushes this theory to the point of strain in some instances. Nevertheless, this major work is a "must" for all serious students of human societies.

**EASTER ISLAND.** *A Stone-Age Civilization of the Pacific.* By Alfred Métraux. Oxford. \$4.

The mysteries of the world's most enigmatic island treated in the light of the icy facts available. Will not be very comforting to the adherents of the Kon-Tiki theory, but limited truth can be as fascinating as romance. Excellent illustrations.

**THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF ISLAM.** By Reuben Levy. Cambridge. \$9.50.

This book is required reading for all interested in comparative religion, the history and anthropology of Islamic civilizations, comparative social structure. Exceedingly detailed and fully documented, yet very interesting reading.

**George N. Shuster**

Twenty years ago, Howard Mumford Jones described French influence on the culture of the United States. Now Henry A. Pochmann, hitherto known as a compiler of bibliographies, presents a lengthy scholarly outline of *GERMAN CULTURE IN AMERICA, 1600-1900*, which throws a good deal of light on the indebtedness of New England Transcendentalists to German philosophers and historians (*Wisconsin*, \$7.50). The book is a kind of encyclopedia, written with adequate dedication, but leaving room for much more comment and therewith suggesting still another treatise. Over a period of years,

Hoxie Neale Fairchild has been writing a series of volumes on *RELIGIOUS TRENDS IN ENGLISH POETRY*. These cannot be dubbed literary criticism because their primary concern is to chronicle religious conviction in Britain as reflected in verse. Volume IV, just published, deals with the period between 1830 and 1880, which in Fairchild's opinion reflects the departure of thought influenced by Romanticism from orthodox Christian belief (*Columbia*, \$7.50). The Romantic goats are sternly separated from Christian sheep, but the second are also shorn with something akin to gusto. A third work of portly mien and significant content is Arthur M. Wilson's *DIDEROT: THE TESTING YEARS* (*Oxford*, \$10.50). This is an unusually judicious and sprightly written introduction to a major author of the "Enlightenment." To this we in America may be less enthusiastically dedicated than the author fancies, but the story of his hero is carried to 1759 with an enthusiasm which suggests that a second volume may be in the offing. By way of addendum attention may be drawn to *THE ORDER AND INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE*, a reflective essay on the ways in which things are known, by William Oliver Martin (*Michigan*, \$6.50) and *EXISTENTIALISM AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF*, a book left unfinished by David E. Roberts, which Roger Hazelton has edited (*Oxford*, \$5).

# AMERICA'S MOST VITAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF IDEAS

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International Geophysical Year *Laurence M. Gould*  
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**Kirtley F. Mather**

*THE MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND THE MIDDLE AGES. A History of Technology, Vol. II. Edited by Charles Singer et al. Oxford. \$26.90.*

*SIX WINGS: Men of Science in the Renaissance. By George Sarton. Indiana. \$6.75.*

Two utterly different but equally valuable books which together cover the history of science and technology from about 700 B.C. to about A.D. 1600. The large, almost encyclopedic publication from Oxford deals exhaustively with the technologic procedures and the nascent science of the classical civilizations of the Mediterranean region and northwestern Europe during the millennium ending in 1500. It contains a wealth of information concerning the nature and evolution of processes, techniques, and devices that provided material amenities, and is abundantly illustrated with reproductions from numerous medieval sources.

The late George Sarton's book deals with the history of science during the century and a half from 1450 to 1600. With characteristic skill and charm he makes the founders of modern science come alive, including the lesser men for whom the search for knowledge was a mission to be carried through at any cost.

*THE MODERN UNIVERSE. By Raymond A. Lyttleton. Harper. \$3.50.*

*ATOMS AND THE UNIVERSE. By G. O. Jones, J. Rotblat and G. J. Whitrow. Scribner's. \$4.50.*

Two non-technical surveys of the modern concepts of the nature of the physical universe. The first was written by an outstanding English astronomer who marshals the arguments in favor of the theory of continuous creation. In the second, three other English scientists deal more extensively with the structure of matter before reaching out to the solar system and the stellar galaxies. Both books are well designed for the layman and are thoroughly trustworthy.

*SCIENCE IN THE MAKING. By Joel H. Hildebrand. Columbia. \$3.*

These 1956 Bampton Lectures deal lucidly with the methods used by scientists in their search for knowledge and include cogent comments on educational procedures in American schools as well as on the limitations of science.

*THE VALIDATION OF SCIENTIFIC THEORIES. Edited by Philipp Frank. Beacon. \$5.*

In this book of basic importance are a score of papers that run the gamut from "Operationalism in Physics" to the "Influence of Philosophic Trends on the Formulation of Scientific Theories."

*ANIMAL NAVIGATION. By J. D.Carthy. Scribner's. \$3.95.*

The secretary of the (British) Association for the Study of Animal Behavior considers in this interesting book many of the ways whereby animals find their way in their movements from place to place. He concludes that all animal navigation may be explained in terms of sensitivity to sources of stimuli familiar to man.

**Louis C. Hunter**

*DREAM AND THOUGHT IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, 1860-1900. By Edward C. Kirkland. Cornell. \$3.*

Professor Kirkland here presents some of the results of his research during recent years on the larger economic developments of the age when big business first came into full flower. In a series of essays the author shows that business men had not only minds but sensibilities in matters other than the pursuit of profit. He makes clear that the hopes and ideas of the captains of industry do not always conform to the stereotypes established by the older school of historians working in this era. His volume will appeal to those who are interested in the attitudes of business men on such issues of the Gilded Age as business fluctuations, politics and politicians, upper-class housing, philanthropy, and education.

*STERLING-DOLLAR DIPLOMACY. Anglo-American Collaboration in the Reconstruction of Multilateral Trade. By Richard N. Gardner. Oxford. \$6.75.*

Here is an extraordinarily able and thorough exposition of the problems of economic relations and adjustment faced by the two leading "free world" powers in coping with the changed conditions and needs of the era after World War II. Mr. Gardner has given us, as he insists, not another book on the principles of international trade nor a description of postwar trade patterns. Rather he has described the hammering out in numerous conferences and meetings and in tireless negotiation, discussion and correspondence, of international economic policy and the institutional arrangements to make policy effective.

*IRONWORKS ON THE SAUGUS. The Lynn and Braintree Ventures of the Company of Undertakers of the Ironworks in New England. By E. H. Hartley. Oklahoma. \$4.50.*

A detailed and exhaustive account of an important pioneering enterprise in American heavy industry in the 17th century. Many readers may wish to by-pass some aspects of the story described in meticulous detail but the several chapters on management, technology and labor will appeal to all having an interest in industrial history. The study as a whole throws much light on the organization and conduct of business of the time.

*WINDMILLS AND MILLWRIGHTING. By Stanley Freese. Cambridge. \$4.75.*

What small waterpowers were to rural America in the pre-electrical age, windmills were to rural England. In this small and admirably illustrated volume, an English engineer describes with skill and in practical detail every feature of the design, construction and operation of the most widely used type of English windmill.

**John Cournos**

*ROCK PICTURES OF EUROPE. By Herbert Kühn. Essential Books. \$7.*

This is a fascinating book, with dozens upon dozens of illustrations, both pen-and-ink and photographs, revealing the fact that human beings sought to create art thirty or forty thousand years ago, and quite probably earlier. Truly astonishing examples are shown of cave paintings and engravings of all periods in southwestern France and northern Spain; these are related and compared with prehistoric art found in Russia and Scandinavia. As in our own time, there are both realistic and stylized. The former show a truly remarkable liveliness; as for the latter, they might well give a pointer or two to our own abstractionists. This is a magnificent piece of research; the text well matches the illustrations.

*THE CLASSICAL THEATER OF CHINA. By A. C. Scott. Macmillan. \$6.75.*

Mr. Scott gives us not only an historical survey but also all manner of fascinating detail as to plays, actors' roles and technique, the musical accompaniment, etc., all related to Chinese life and sentiment. Excellent photographs and many charming drawings by the author.

*A HISTORY OF RUSSIAN MUSIC. By Richard Anthony Leonard. Macmillan. \$6.*

A direct, unpretentious, well-informed essay by one who loves Russian music and wants others to do likewise. As a handbook it is invaluable, yet at the same time readable. It is adequately illustrated and has an admirable index.



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# Phi Beta Kappa Today

(Continued from page 3)

a professor's "take" (as high as \$18,000, with winter sunbathing at Sarasota thrown in), and now the professional teams reaching down into the colleges and signing up sophomores two years ahead of time. Read for a devastatingly objective analysis the report last fall of an investigating committee of the Big Ten. Phi Beta Kappa may not have a stone in its sling that will slay Goliath. But I believe its voice will be heard farther than doubters think. It gives me pleasure to know that an increasing number of colleges are seeking to duplicate the Ivy League pattern, refusing individually to professionalize and seeking to form groups to cherish sport for sport's sake. Perhaps still more colleges and universities will some day refuse to pay a coach more than a professor and choose to make larger subsidies for student brains than for brawn. Meanwhile, of course, it hurts the feelings of some of these institutions to look in over the fence and see X and Y universities in our lovely garden. But they can do two things. They can get a sense of sin, and reform, or they can evangelize the luckier sinners. And perhaps our Society can find a David after all.

THERE is another issue that some day will confront the Society, the race question. Up to now it has merely cast its shadow before it, in the form of a resolution, adopted by the Council of 1955, urging the chapters and members of the Society to support the

carrying out of desegregation in public education. At the last meeting of the Senate one member asked what if anything was being done about it. The reply was made that in accordance with our general policy no program in support of desegregation would be undertaken. On the other hand, if and when the subject came up in the course of the regular activities of the Society, it would be dealt with. The bridge would be crossed when we got to it. Now, of course, we may well get to the bridge in the next triennium. If an applying institution has removed from its staff a dean or professor who had publicly favored integration, that may well be considered a violation of academic freedom. Equally serious, though more difficult to prove, is the situation where the climate of opinion in the community or on the board of trustees intimidates members of the staff, who in consequence do not say what they think. If the laws of the state in which an applying public institution is situated have been drawn so as to bar Negro students, the Society will have to face the fact. I do not myself pretend to pass judgment, to say what should be done or predict what will be done. There will clearly, however, be a moral issue before the Society, quite aside from the legal one. And the fact that public institutions now having chapters do by choice or by law bar students on racial or religious grounds will be regarded as irrelevant. In this connection I cherish in my thoughts some other words written by the boys at William and Mary, when they issued their first charter to Elisha Parmele: "Whereas it is repugnant to

the liberal principles of Societies that they should be confined to any particular place, Men or Description of Men, and as the same should be extended to the Wise and Virtuous of every degree, and of whatever country. . . ." Even if they were thinking mainly of white Protestant males of Anglo-Saxon ancestry, as was probably the case, the words are generous and comprehensive, and I fear put us all to shame. For no one of us is without sinful discriminatory thoughts—no, not one.

SO this is Phi Beta Kappa today: an honor society, yes; but also an association of groups of like-minded people—alike in their basic assumptions, though differing in their tastes in clothes, interior decoration, and candidates for the Presidency—each group having its own private life, and annually renewed (in the often quoted words of the Brown Charter of 1764) by a succession of youth "duly qualified to perform the offices of life with usefulness and reputation." And it is also a defender of liberal education against such threats as come within the realm of its primary responsibility. The individual chapters should be in little what the national Society is on a larger scale; indeed, unless they are so, the character of the national Society will suffer change. Happily there is no sign of this. There is every reason to look forward optimistically, for our principles are as eternal as the flame in the heart of man, and each generation of Phibetians will take up the leadership, as persistent in well doing in the next as in the last one hundred and eighty years.

Faribault, Minn.

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Dr. N. W. C.



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