What Does Phi Beta Kappa Do?

Visiting Scholar Program, Now in Its Third Year, Gains Momentum

READERS of THE KEY,” began the final number of THE PHI BETA KAPPA KEY, “have cause for satisfaction. Their interest has forged a strong bond in the spiritual union of the chapters. The United Chapters have now moral and material resources which challenge Phi Beta Kappa not only to be but also to do.” With these words, the founding of THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR was announced in October, 1931.

If publication of THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, edited for the intelligent general public, was the first undertaking prompted by Phi Beta Kappa’s wish to make a truly tangible contribution to scholarship, the second was the establishment of an annual prize of $1,000 for the recognition of advanced learning. This was the Christian Gauss Award, first given in 1931 for an outstanding book of literary criticism. A Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science, established by the Senate at its 1938 meeting, is another in this series of prizes, and it is probable that at least one more will be authorized in the near future.

The Visiting Scholar Program is intended to extend the scope of Phi Beta Kappa’s activities still further: to make a contribution to the academic community as a whole. Under the auspices of the program, an eminent scholar visits a Phi Beta Kappa institution for at least two days. It is not primarily a lecture-ship program, because the Visiting Scholar is expected to do more than give a public address while he is on campus.

What does a Scholar do on a visit? There are many possibilities, although the participating chapters have to be careful not to overcrowd a Scholar’s schedule. Every visit includes a major address, open ordinarily to the general public, and always to the entire student body and faculty. Frequently a second, informal lecture is included in a visit, as are talks to classes and discussions with faculty groups and advanced students. Several Scholars have enjoyed—and even insist on—a discussion period with undergraduates from which faculty members are excluded. Any of these informal meetings can be held during coffee hours, at luncheons, or at dinners. (“But only,” specifies one Scholar, “at round or square tables where conversation can be general. Long tables starve the mind and fill the belly, as B. Franklin might have remarked.”)

In the first year of the program five Scholars were appointed. They visited twenty-six institutions, and only four requests had to be turned down because of scheduling difficulties. Fifty-nine visits were made by six Scholars during 1957-58. Again only a small fraction of the applications had to be refused. Harlow Shapley went to twenty-five colleges, an extraordinarily strenuous undertaking that very few Scholars—or non-Scholars, for that matter—would be eager to attempt. But for this third year ninety-three requests were received. Six Scholars had again been appointed, but two of them,

The Point has been Made

John D. Hicks, during the eighth of seventeen stops on his itinerary, regales students at Indiana University with a story that will clearly be just as good after nine more visits.
A student at Middlebury College serves another cup of tea to Edwin G. Boring.

John D. Hicks dines with faculty members and students in the dining hall at Kenyon.

"About six meals a day"

Meetings with classes are a regular feature of the visits. Above, from left, Louise Overacker, Edwin G. Boring, and Mabel Newcomer are shown in action in the classroom. Below, Mr. Boring gets ready for a seminar at Franklin and Marshall. John D. Hicks lectures at Kenyon.

"Talked for fifty minutes..."

as it later turned out, were unable to take on any visits. Three people on the list to be invited for 1959-60 were then persuaded to go out on the road during 1958-59 as well; but even then, neither Phi Beta Kappa's pocketbook nor the Scholars' combined funds of energy could cope with ninety-three visits, and twenty-nine requests had to be refused.

For next year, consequently, nine appointments have been made, and a new method of scheduling, which is the perennial administrative headache of the program, will go into effect. Instead of asking the Scholars to try to adjust their own calendars to the dates chosen by the applying chapters, each will set aside certain weeks, either together or scattered throughout the year, during which he will be available, and the chapters will have to take this into account in extending an invitation. Another experimental approach is being made with the appointment of one Scholar—Foster Rhea Dulles—with the understanding that he will give two months of his time en bloc. This type of appointment is designed for scholars of less than retirement age, who will be expected to secure leave of absence from academic duties in order to be free for the Phi Beta Kappa visits.

Of Chapels, Ghosts, and Sealed-up Notes

Some interesting lessons can be learned from the experiences of the Visiting Scholars. A chapel, for example, is a poor choice of site for a lecture. "In a chapel," Edwin G. Boring commented in a diary he kept of his visits, "you don't go up to congratulate a preacher; you walk out. I wonder if people do not expect just to listen in a chapel, whereas in a classroom they may expect to think." Another lesson: the subjects of classroom talks should be selected in advance. "At three o'clock there were about twenty advanced students in a small seminar room," the diary reports. "I sat on a table at the end and gave them a choice of two topics, holding up two envelopes that had different sets of notes in them. I talked for an hour. They seemed alert and interested, but had no questions. Then they asked for the other talk!"

Another problem that can arise is that of overscheduling the Scholar's time on campus. "I found a scrap of paper," wrote Mr. Shapley from Iowa on the letterhead of a hotel in Sweden, "and can save my conscience by reporting that this tour (if you will excuse an understatement) is something I talk, talk, talk. Every meal is a 'restive' occasion." And Mr. Boring's diary contains this entry for one day last fall:

"I wish I could shake off the ghost of Harlow Shapley. Everywhere I go, he has been, and everyone assumes that I will do what he did, that what he did..."
is what Phi Beta Kappa does. Now I am in for a heavy class-meeting schedule, with no other plans made, because that is the way Shapley did it. Is he to shadow me everywhere?

"Rose at 6 A.M. to be ready for being picked up at seven forty-five. 8 A.M.: Class in social psychology. Talked for fifty minutes on how abnormal psychology developed and how it came to be fused with normal. 9 A.M.: Class in introductory psychology. Talked for fifty minutes on prejudice and enthusiasm in relation to scientific progress. Pretty casual. 10 A.M.: Class in developmental psychology. Fifty minutes on the assimilation of concepts in abnormal psychology by normal psychology. 11 A.M.: Class in statistics. I talked for fifteen minutes on misuse of the normal law of statistics during last sixty years." Lunch with faculty people; forty-five minutes rest and privacy; "2:30 P.M.: Another introductory section. Talked fifty minutes on beginning of psychology and the early in-group in the Cornell laboratory. . . . Dinner with Phi Beta Kappa people, spoke to a larger group about the Cornell laboratory and Titchener. The shade of Shapley was heard murmuring off-stage throughout the day."

Fortunately—despite shades—days like that are unusual. More typical is one of the two days Miss Newcomer spent at Wilson College. The college was able to put her up on campus, which was in itself an advantage. The day began at 7:45 A.M. with breakfast being brought to her room; at 8:40 she met a class in elementary economics, during which she talked for fifty minutes on methods of taxation, the Federal income-tax laws, and sales taxes. Then she had two hours to herself, followed by a class in contemporary affairs, where she talked for fifty minutes about the causes of inflation, the problems created by it, and some possible methods of attacking it. She had lunch with members of the faculty, three hours to herself, and tea at the president's house. After dinner she gave her main lecture, and then talked with students for an hour.

Of Postage Stamps and Buns

In fact, if travel arrangements always worked out as scheduled by the airlines and railroads, it could safely be said that the Scholars enjoy their trips very much. The response of students and faculty is usually gratifying. "Played at all times to SRO, and not much of that available," (Continued on back cover)

"Couldn't roll 'em in the aisles—no place to roll"

Discussions with students, planned or not, are held in the course of most visits. Thomas S. Barclay is shown here being quizzed about Theodore Roosevelt by students at Rockford College.

Visiting Scholars, 1956-1960

Thomas S. Barclay, political science, 1958-59
Louise Bogan, poetry, 1957-58
Edwin G. Boring, psychology, 1958-59
Catherine Drinker Bowen, biographical history, 1958-59
Carleton Coon, anthropology, 1959-60
Herbert J. Davis, English literature, 1956-57
Foster Rhea Dulles, American history, 1959-60
Darryl Forde, anthropology, 1956-57
Theodore M. Greene, philosophy, 1959-60
Reuben G. Gustavson, biochemistry and atomic science, 1956-57
John D. Hicks, American history, 1958-59
Katharine Koller, English literature, 1957-58
Henry Margenau, physics and natural philosophy, 1957-58
Mabel Newcomer, economics, 1958-59, 1959-60
Edwin G. Nourse, economics, 1956-57
Louise Overacker, political science, 1958-59, 1959-60
May Sarton, poetry, 1957-58
Harlow Shapley, astronomy, 1957-58
Ernest J. Simmons, Russian literature, 1958-59, 1959-60
Hallett Smith, English literature, 1959-60
E. A. Speiser, Semitic studies, 1959-60
Elvin C. Stakman, botany, 1959-60
Lily Ross Taylor, Latin and Roman history, 1956-57
Frank Percy Wilson, English literature, 1957-58

"Some of them had very good questions"

After her address contrasting the entrepreneur of classical economics with the American businessman today, Mabel Newcomer discusses opportunities for women in business with students at Wilson College.
Medal of Society Older than Phi Beta Kappa On Display at College of William and Mary

A hand-made medal fashioned from a ground and polished coin and dating from the middle of the eighteenth century has been placed on loan to the College of William and Mary by Mrs. Marion Kendrick of Suffolk, Virginia. The medal was issued by the "F.H.C." now usually referred to as the "Flat Hat Club," a student society founded at the college on November 11, 1750, which is thought to be the first student organization in the New World.

For many years after its founding, Phi Beta Kappa was considered to have been the first society organized at William and Mary, although it was known that several organizations had been established earlier at other institutions. But in 1819 Thomas Jefferson wrote in a letter that "when I was a student of Wm. & Mary College ... there existed a society called the F.H.C. Society, confined to the number of six students only, of which I was a member, but it had no useful object, nor do I know whether it now exists." (It is presumed to have disbanded in the 1770's.) And in 1831 William Short, one of the first members of Phi Beta Kappa, wrote, "There had existed for a long space of time another society at William and Mary. The initials on its medal (P.D.A.) were understood to indicate Latin Words." If Short remembered the initials correctly, there were two societies in Williamsburg before 1776.

The F.H.C. Society's certificate of membership suggests that, at least originally, the organization had noble objectives: "Eagerly desiring to let Nothing pass that may look to this (End) especially, viz., that the Youth may learn thoroughly to cultivate Virtue, and that Studies may grow strong, that eventually it (the Youth) may be a great Ornament and Pillar of Things general and particular, to those whose interest it may be to know these Things, send heartiest Greeting. In order that due Rewards might not seem to be lacking to those who have borne themselves modestly and soberly (as befits the Youth) who have shown themselves well mannered, God-fearing and cultured Friends, to (name of member), a Youth of upright Character, who, though he has been among us, his Brothers, only a few Months, and yet has shown himself worthy of all Honors, this Testimony of the Friendship of our Society we deliver. That it may be happy and fortunate, and that he may continue ever to cultivate Virtue herself precious to him, we beseech God, thrice good and great."

According to The Alumni Gazette of the College of William and Mary, before the American Revolution the members of the F.H.C. drew up a list of volumes thought to be needed by the college library, grouped into categories that included moral philosophy, natural philosophy, history, and miscellaneous works. Some volumes of Shakespeare were among the "miscellaneous works."

The medal loaned by Mrs. Kendrick is the second of the F.H.C. to have been discovered. The other belonged to Colonel James Innes, who attended the college between 1770 and 1772. It is more ornate in appearance, and is also deposited in the William and Mary library.

The Innes medal bears the initials "F.H.C." on the obverse in ornate script, and the date—November 11, 1750—in roman numerals. On the reverse is a coat of arms and the motto "Stabilitas et Fides" (steadfast and true). The medal recently discovered is much simpler, with the initials and date in block letters. Because of its simplicity and home-made appearance, it is assumed to be the older of the two.

About 1881, Innes Randolph, grandson of Colonel Innes, made some notes about the F.H.C., basing them on family traditions. Although it may have been "semipolitical," he said, "the clasped hands and the motto indicated it as something more than a social club. It may, however, have been a mere college club or whist club. The tradition is that they met in an upper room of the Tavern and that laughter shook the house."

Loan and Fellowship Programs Launched

The U.S. Commissioner of Education has allocated $6 million in Federal funds to more than a thousand colleges and universities for the establishment of student loan programs authorized by the National Defense Education Act.

College students and high-school graduates wishing to obtain a student loan may apply to any of the institutions to which funds have been allocated, each of which will handle its own loan fund and will select the students who will be granted loans.

The Act requires that special consideration be given to students with superior academic backgrounds who intend to teach in elementary or secondary schools, or to those with superior capacity or preparation in science, mathematics, engineering, or a modern foreign language. Fifty percent of each student loan will be cancelled for five years of full-time teaching in a public elementary or secondary school, at the rate of 10 percent for each year of such service.
The Book Committee Recommends...

Robert B. Heilman


This very interesting biographical study restricts itself to James Joyce's days at Clongowes Wood, Belvedere, and University College, Dublin. Relying in part on new sources, it objectively recounts the history and principles of the schools, describes them in terms of tone and style, and identifies certain teachers and students, all with the intention of understanding more clearly the mind and attitudes of Joyce during his educational years. Sullivan convincingly argues the difference between Joyce and Stephen Dedalus.


Having defined Yeats as a visionary in the tradition of "heterodox mysticism," Mr. Wilson explains the poet's reliance upon inherited, archetypal symbols common to Platonic and occult sources which he studied. Wilson insists that a knowledge of these is essential to an understanding of Yeats' writing, and shows how they function in the late plays and a few poems. The book is tightly written, learned, unpretentious, quiet in argument; it should interest the general critical reader as well as the specialist.


A brief biographical account frames a chronological survey of the novels. Fielding criticizes discursively rather than with analytic interpretative, with precision and moderation rather than with special pleading. The book is limited but serves as a corrective to hyper-symbolical readings.


In this lively "story" of two extraordinary personalities the author strives for neither originality nor profundity of analysis; he is perceptive, sympathetic but detached, inclusive but not heavy, quick but not trivial; and without overplaying the fact that Bosque has an eye for all the pictorial high-lightes that create a sense of more than surface reality.

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS BETTERS. By R. C. Churchill. Indiana. $5.

THE PEELER FROM STRATFORD. By Frank W. Wadsworth. California. $4.50.

These two recent histories of attempts to "prove" that the plays attributed to Shakespeare were written by others (Bacon, Raleigh, Marlowe, various nobles, and even Queen Elizabeth) are written on different plans. Churchill's book, more than twice as long as Wadsworth's (and typographically less attractive) first presents the history of the various anti-Stratfordian heresies and then systematically demolishes them. Churchill is inclusive and documentary, he has the virtues, and an occasional vice, of encyclopedism. Wadsworth is more selective and light-footed; he relies on judicious quotation from the "heretics" to establish their frailties. Churchill starts by insisting that these literary detectives be taken seriously, but fortunately the subject itself soon converts him from impartial neutrality to enlivening irony.

Albert L. Guérard


The biographical approach to criticism is not inevitable: else how could we enjoy Job, Jonah or Homer? Here the process is reversed: the light is thrown upon the life. Dangerous also: Shakespeare was Dogberry, Bottom, Hotspur and Hamlet; the Moliere of Amphytrion is not the same as the Moliere of the Misanthrope. But, brushing aside theories, if the works are good, if the author's character comes over alive, the critic is able, there may be a delightful interplay. And Ramon Fernandez was good. Simple enough to intrigue veteran Molierian scholars, though over-subtle at times: Fernandez did not infallibly reach the degree of subtlety that clarifies: Ars est celare artem: the subtletest subtilere is perspicuous. Translation excellent.


Facts become historical only because of their significance—i.e., their symbolic value. Symbols may take two forms, which blend inextricably: myths and ideas. In both cases, they bring history (society) out of the welter of mere annals and gossip into consciousness. (Perhaps the French are right in using the same word for consciousness and conscience: cf. Paul Hazard.) Hughes studies the reorientation of Europe's social thought in the period 1890-1930. His headlines are Freud, Creoe, Weber (his favorite), Bergson, Durkheim, Sorel, Pareto; but he also includes writers: Gide, Mann, Proust, even such an oddity as Pégy and such a frail flower as Blain-Fournier. A work of extraordinary range, depth, and charm. Not to be missed.

MARCEL PROUST AND HIS LITERARY FRIENDS. By Laurence Le Sage. Illi- nois. $3.50.

First impression: detached essays about people best forgotten. Pattern soon emerges. Picture of Proust more sharply focused on dull or confused background. Personal portrait: damaging. Proust exposed as a snob, like Saint-Simon and Balzac, and fawning, as most others, not brooching. As a judge of literature: not more infallible than Sainte-Beuve, who failed to understand Stendhal, Vigny, and Balzac. Proust professed to admire most Montesquieu–Fénelon and Madame de Noailles. Giants of half a century ago—Proust, Gide, Claudel, Valéry—did not thoroughly appreciate one another. But book also brings greater devotion to his art, key to a reality inaccessible either to reason or science. Work reveals remarkable intimacy with modern French literature.


Albert Feuillerat was a searching scholar; Andre Maurois is an Old Master, and his world intersected that of Proust. Barker's biography does not challenge comparison with these basic works. The late materials (Jean Saneul, Contre Sainte-Beuve, letters, and recollections) do not alter our concept of Proust. But on its own level—a biography, a general introduction to a bewildering subject—the book is excellent. Only the chapter on the Dreyfus case is weak. Free from aesthetic, moral, psychological, social theories; makes us realize that they are irrelevant to a master's art or personality. Style inconspicuous, but very readable. Many lights turned on the most complex, the least credible character Proust ever conceived: viz. Marcel Proust himself.


Thirty-two essays by thirty critics. A couple of glaring omissions, a handful of questionable admissions, but on the whole acceptable and useful.

Norman J. Padelford


Exceptional skill in historical research, perceptive insights into Russian and American motivations, and rare qualities of fine writing are joined in this definitive account of the events leading up to the Allied intervention in Russia in 1918. This will rank as one of the "great books" on modern international affairs. Efforts to achieve workable relationships with the new Soviet authorities were "sacred to the slender and eva- nescent baubles" of military intervention. "Never, surely, in the history of American diplomacy has so much been paid for so little." Failure in American statesmanship is
credited to distortions of vision, shallowness of approach to world problems, and "pervasive dilettantism" in executing policy. A sobering critique of shortsightedness in high places.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. By Alan Moorehead. Harper. $5.

A highly readable account of the events producing the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the withdrawal of Germany from the war. The incredible follies of the Czarist authorities, public desperation bred of endless losses and lack of direction in the war, and the machinations of the revolutionary leaders stand out in stark relief. Fresh light is thrown upon German support of revolutionary activities. The book draws heavily upon studies of the German Foreign Office archives that have been conducted since 1955 by Stefan Possony.


Fifth volume of a distinguished history of the Soviet Union. This is the first of three volumes dealing with the key years of 1924-1926 when the lines of Soviet policy were firming and Stalin was moving to power. The author seeks here to clarify the motive forces of the new society. Extensive attention is devoted to economic issues and the struggle among personalities. Indispensable for understanding the roots of Soviet economic planning.


Acknowledging a paucity of first-hand data on much of Moscow's dealings with local elements in China, the author has worked his way through available Russian-language and other materials to examine Soviet policy toward the Chinese Communists from 1931-1946. The Moairos are found to have diverged in appoposite ways from the Moscow party line and consistently rationalized their activities in orthodox Bolshevik ideology.


A courageous effort to move the public and the Government to take bold steps to cope with America's weakened security position. Affirming that "we are in mortal danger" from the Soviet lead in missile development, the General calls for a new strategy, far-sighted planning and all-out effort for space security, the all-submersible navy, and a new Senior Staff Advisory Group. Deserves thoughtful reading.


An effort to unravel the tortuous politics of China's Far West Province in the 1930's and 40's. Using Chinese, Japanese, and other sources Mr. Whiting penetrates the cloak and dagger intrigue of Chinese, Soviet, and Japanese agents in inner Asia. An illuminating, though circumstantial, memoir of the Sinkiang Governor from 1938 to 1944 forms the second half of the volume.

THE POLITICS OF DESPAIR. By Hadley Cantril. Basic Books. $5.

Skillful probing of the motivations of "protest voters" who vote the Communist ticket in France and Italy. What variables underlie the state of mind of those who vote for "a change"? A "crisis in faith" is found to lie behind the actions of many—"I am fed up with everything"; "the workers trust nobody"; "what's that to me"; "I want a good life, that's all"—are among the attitudes revealed to interviewers. This is a mine of useful material for students of comparative politics; a trail-blazing work in political behavior.

Also Recommended:

PEACE OR ATOMIC WAR? By Albert Schweitzer. Holt. $1.50.

COMMUNAL WEALTH PERSPECTIVES. By Nicolai Masseberg et al. Duke. $4.

C. Vann Woodward

HENRY ADAMS: The Middle Years, 1877-1891. By Ernst Samuels. Harvard. $7.50.

The "middle years" from 1877 to 1890 were the ones about which Adams was most silent, enigmatic, and mystifying in his Education. They are the period of the writing of his big History, the suicide of his wife, his passion for Mrs. Cameron, and his flight to the South Seas. In this second volume of his biography, Professor Samuels discloses some new and fascinating aspects of Adams.


Nothing quite so startling as the title suggests is disclosed in this volume, but in the course of worrying several of the classical problems of Lincoln biography, Professor Current delivers some sound and judicious opinions and mediates skillfully and authoritatively between opposing schools of interpretation.


The most sobering work of historical criticism to appear in years, this book demolishes a landmark of American historiography—Charles A. Beard's An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution. The author marshals massive, detailed, and convincing proof that "economic interpretation of the Constitution does not work." No historian will henceforth embark on a venture of economic interpretation without prayerful contemplation of this work.

THE PRAGMATIC REVOLT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. By Carl Becker and Charles Beard. By Cushing Stout. Yale. $3.50.

Partly an essay in appreciation, partly a descriptive analysis, and partly a study in social thought, Mr. Stout's book explores relations between these two historians and the intellectual climate in which they lived. It is written with becoming humility and sympathy.


Our foremost naval historian writes of the greatest naval battle in our history and the biggest fight that ever took place on the high seas. He also covers operations in the Philippines before and after the great battle. Admiral Morison's account supersedes all previous ones and lends luster to his series on the naval war.

Robert C. Angell

UP FROM PUERTO RICO. By Elena Padilla. Colombia. $5.

THE PUERTO RICANS. By Christopher Rand. Oxford. $3.75.

Two excellent books. The first is a scholarly anthropological study of the largest Puerto Rican neighborhood in New York. The second, surveying the problems of the migrants more broadly, is sociological journalism at its best.

THE SHOOK-UP GENERATION. By Harrison E. Salisbury. Harper. $3.50.

A seasoned Moscow correspondent examines clinically but sympathetically the morose in our own eye—teen-age street gangs. Based on painstaking investigation, the book is a sobering indictment of our mobile, imper-sonal society.

SOUTH AFRICAN WINTER. By James Morris. Pantheon. $3.75.

Black African, Dutch Afrikaner and Britishe—thir strength and weaknesses unfor-getfully portrayed by a no-nonsense correspondent for the Manchester Guardian.


A distinguished social psychologist marshals science, philosophy, and wisdom to reveal the infinite possibilities for the growth of men and cultures in the generations to come.

IN EVERY WAR BUT ONE. By Eugene Kinkead. Nortan. $3.75.

An expansion of the famous New Yorker article, "A Study of Something New in History," a report of the Army investigation into loss of morale among our service-men taken prisoner in the Korean War. The shocking facts of collaboration are given and the experts' analysis of causes, both in Communist methods of treatment and in American civil and military life.

THE KEY REPORTER
ALGERIA: The Realities. By Germaine Titon. Knopf. $5.

An informed and penetrating analysis of the Algerian problem by a French anthropologist. She believes that if Point Four programs cannot produce a genuine social mutation, they should not be started at all.

Lawrence A. Cremin

A carefully designed survey of attitudes toward school desegregation in Guilford County, North Carolina. Professor Tumin's analyses yield some intriguing insights into the social factors which seem to condition attitudes on this thorny issue.


There is an old saw to the effect that university professors have studied everything in the world except themselves. These two books are part of a growing body of literature directed to remedying this lack. The Caplow-McGee volume is a breezy, quotable analysis of the whys and hows of power, prestige, and pay within the university hierarchy. The Lazarsfeld-Thielens volume is an elaborate attempt to assess the influence of McCarthyism on the teaching, research, behavior, and attitudes of social science professors. Both studies are based on questionnaire data.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE PRESIDENT. By Harold W. Stork. Harper. $3.50.

A thoughtful, frequently penetrating, and always good-humored account of the joys and trials of the college presidency.

ONE GREAT SOCIETY. By Howard Mumford Jones. Harcourt, Brace. $4.50.

REFLECTIONS ON LEARNING. By Howard Mumford Jones. Rutgers. $2.75.

Two eloquent pleas for a revival of human learning—human learning, Professor Jones tells us, aims at "the elucidation of what we quaintly call the human predicament"—in an America preoccupied with spunk, scientists, and engineers. One Great Society was prepared for the Commission on the Humanities of the American Council of Learned Societies; Reflections on Learning is the sixth volume in the uniformly excellent Brown and Haley series at the College of Puget Sound.

THE COLLEGE YEARS. Edited by A. C. Spectorsky. Harcourt. $7.50.

A thoroughly delightful anthology of fact, fiction, satire, humor, and reminiscence about college and university life. The authors range from Chaucer to Shirley Jackson; the illustrations, from prints of eighteenth-century Harvard to John Held's superb caricatures of flappers and Tin Lizzies. It's a wonderful book for browsing!

George N. Shuster

Designed to be a "source book" for serious students of the arts, Susanne Langer's collection of essays not readily available succeeds admirably by bringing together spokesmen for points of view which will by no means necessarily be approved but which in almost every instance suggest ideas or intuitions of unusual value. The editor's introduction leaves little to be desired.


A Swiss Protestant and scholarly journalist has reviewed in this book the lives and ideals of the principal founders of Catholic religious orders. He writes in a spirit of deep awareness of the values of Monasticism for contemporary mankind, and is also conscious as a scholar of what modern scholarship has contributed to the theme. Incidentally, this is one of the most beautiful books of the year.


Mr. Rieff says that he has written this book because Freud "taught us in a unique and subtle way to be sentimental about ourselves." It is difficult to believe that the author of psychoanalysis was a scientist rather than an artist cultivating an almost esoteric craft. Rieff's discussion is remarkably lively and, of course, likely to raise more questions than it answers.

THOUGHTS ON MACHIAVELLI. By Leo Strauss, Free Press. $6.

Professor Strauss professes "the old-fashioned and simple opinion" that "Machiavelli was a teacher of evil." He also says that the United States is "the only country in the world which was founded in explicit opposition to Machiavellian principles." These are challenging statements which may induce not a few to read a closely reasoned book.


This is probably the first work in English to deal with a significant French philosopher who bridged the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is therefore to be welcomed, although much more must be done before the significance of this notable French philosopher will have been made apparent to a potential audience in this country.

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.
Visiting Scholar Program Gains Momentum in Third Year

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Shapley wrote, "Fun to see professors sitting on the floor. . . . This a.m. there were 40 students sitting on the floor and 40 standing around the edges. I couldn't roll 'em in the aisles—no place to roll." And Mr. Boring's diary makes it plain that he liked his visit at the College of St. Catherine.

"Beautiful appointments for me: bedroom, study, and bath. Stationery and even postage stamps. About six meals a day: three regular ones plus coffee breaks with buns, orange juice—and much coffee. And surely these Sisters know how to disburse grace, charm, and human consideration . . . . The lecture was incomplete, yet I think a great success. Everyone is so responsible here. It is easy to feel successful. The hospitality—materially, socially, intellectually—was superb." Again (University of Maine): "I found a flock of undergraduates around the platform. Some of them had very good questions. I ended with enthusiasm and euphoria."

Comments about the program from the chapters has been almost unqualifiedly enthusiastic. "We think that the United Chapters is rendering a valuable service in sponsoring the Visiting Scholar Program, which is a very effective means of stimulating interest in learning and scholarship," reported the chapter at Drake University. From Washington University, St. Louis: "Mr. Nourse's visit was extremely beneficial and served to dramatize Phi Beta Kappa, which for the first time became an active organization on the campus. He made an extremely favorable impression on students, faculty, and administrative officials. Representatives of the business community were brought into contact with the faculty and the administration of the university under the auspices of Phi Beta Kappa. And this is no mean achievement."

Perhaps the most gratifying comment of all was what the student newspaper at Reed College had to say about Henry Margenau's visit:

"At this point freshmen are asking the upper classmen about quantum mechanics; the pols and sociology majors are vowing to take physics; and the philosophers and physicists are thinking over the new approaches they have been exposed to.

"Everyone has been given something to start thinking on; an approach rather than a subject matter, and one which is entirely new to our experience. It has been presented by a man who obviously believes it. He did not find complete agreement to all his points, he could not answer all questions to the satisfaction of his audience; yet he set all of us thinking—and that is what made him unique and important."

Readers of The Key Reporter, then, have cause for satisfaction. Phi Beta Kappa not only is, but does—and evidently with success.