Twenty-Five Years of The Key Reporter

THE BOOK BEGAN WITH A BATTLE

T WENTY-FIVE years ago a controversy raged between those members who favored a pure English pronunciation of ‘Phi Beta Kappa’ and those who thought the hybrid pronunciation most commonly used should be accepted. (There were also a few in favor of a pure Greek pronunciation.) As the first issue of The Key Reporter put it:

“The Book ‘Phee Bayta Beeta’ was awarded the Christian Gauss Prize for literary criticism. Story and pictures of other prize winners on back cover.

The Key Reporter, 1961, issue may be too. These five gentlemen are actors in the Warner Brothers film “The Adventures of Mark Twain,” playing the roles of nineteenth-century men of letters who were all members of Phi Beta Kappa. Standing, from left: Frederic March as Mark Twain, Burr Caruth as Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Harry Hilliard as John Greenleaf Whittier. Seated: Davison Clark as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Brandon Hurst as Ralph Waldo Emerson.

‘Phee Bayta Kappa,’ intoned a recent president of the Rutgers Chapter as he began the impressive ritual for the initiation of members. A former Secretary of the United Chapters rose to participate and spoke, ‘Phy Beeta Kappa.’ Then came the dean of the New Jersey College for Women with ‘Phy Bayta Kappa’—then titters from the initiates and unsatisfying official explanation.

‘The ΦΒΚ Senate, weighing logic, recommended that the last Triennial Council should decide to prefer ‘Phy Beeta Kappa.’ The Council, weighing usage, decided not to prefer ‘Phy Beeta Kappa.’ The Council of 1937 will probably be asked to prefer ‘Phy Bayta Kappa.’”

Under the title “The Bayta-Beeta Battle Booms,” the second issue of The Key Reporter carried three pages of letters on the subject. Some members were horrified at the thought that usage by the common herd should determine the pronunciation of the name of a society devoted to scholarship. Others pointed out that logic hardly applies in any matter of English pronunciation anyway. The final letter, introduced by.

Readers of the Summer, 1944, issue must have been startled by this picture, as indeed readers of the Winter, 1961, issue may be too. These five gentlemen are actors in the Warner Brothers film “The Adventures of Mark Twain,” playing the roles of nineteenth-century men of letters who were all members of Phi Beta Kappa. Standing, from left: Frederic March as Mark Twain, Burr Caruth as Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Harry Hilliard as John Greenleaf Whittier. Seated: Davison Clark as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Brandon Hurst as Ralph Waldo Emerson.
Twenty-Five Years of The Key Reporter

“DEAR MEMBER: DID YOU FORGET?”

Until recently, money has always been sadly lacking for the United Chapters. Not that even now the Society is in a position to echo the rich lady who said, "Where does it all come from, thank God"; but it is strong enough financially to sponsor the Visiting Scholar Program, for example, and to carry on its normal activities without undue strain.

During the thirties the problem was particularly acute. The investments of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, like everyone else's, yielded less and less. When the government increased the price of gold, the Society accepted a loss in royalty on the sale of keys so that the cost to new members would not have to be raised. Decreasing student enrollments resulted in fewer elections to membership, and therefore fewer registration fees.

In 1938, when things looked very black indeed, The Key Reporter made an appeal in two successive issues to the...
80,000 members to contribute $1 each—taking care to justify its own existence in these words: "The Key Reporter costs only about 1¢ a copy to print and mail in issues of 80,000; perhaps overhead costs add another 1¢." The response was not what had been hoped, and more dramatic measures were clearly required. The Senate passed a resolution at its 1938 meeting calling for an endowment drive with a goal of $300,000. Called the Phi Beta Kappa Defense Program for the Humanities and Intellectual Freedom, it began with a dinner in New York City, with much of the program being broadcast on the radio. Three hundred members had originally been expected to attend, but more than three thousand members and guests were present. Similar dinners were held in 1940 and 1941.

The endowment, however, did not thrive proportionately. The drive ended with only $80,000 subscribed. Other resources clearly had to be found.

The answer came in February of 1940 when a few members met in New York to form the Phi Beta Kappa Associates, a group limited to two hundred regular members, each of whom pledges to contribute $100 a year for ten years to the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation. When an Associate has completed his payments, he becomes a life member, and the vacancy in the regular membership is filled by a new Associate. By 1942 the founding membership had been completed, and the annual income of $20,000 has done much to put Phi Beta Kappa on a solid financial footing.

Immediately after World War II the Society began the practice of mailing a letter to every member once a year, inviting him to become a Sustaining Member by contributing $5 or more. The response has been increasingly generous, and now is responsible for the lion's share of the operating income of the United Chapters.

Not the least of the difficulties brought about by the scarcity of money was that of inadequate office space. Until 1921 the national headquarters were located wherever the Secretary happened to live. One evening in March of that year Secretary Voorhees answered the telephone, "Does Phi Beta Kappa still want headquarters?" The voice was unfamiliar. The caller, Francis Phelps Dodge, remained anonymous until his death in 1926, but his offer of an apartment, rent-free for five years, was accepted on the spot. By the end of April the Secretary and his small staff had moved in.

Office space that was adequate in 1921, when the living membership stood at 41,000, was scarcely sufficient in 1938, when it had grown to 80,000. Between 1939 and 1951 the national office moved three times in New York City, ending up in two rooms over a bakery on First Avenue. New York rents made it clear that Phi Beta Kappa would do well to find permanent quarters elsewhere.

In the spring of 1954 Phi Beta Kappa purchased the house on Q Street in Washington into which the national offices moved early in 1955. The house was fully paid for with funds in hand. The Phi Beta Kappa Foundation had in 1948 begun setting aside increment in its capital funds, so that money would be available when permanent offices were found. Thanks to the skillful management of the Investments Committee of the Foundation, the increment during those years was sufficient to buy and remodel the house—which had been a private residence—to conform with building code regulations for office use.

No longer does The Key Reporter, therefore, have to carry appeals reading, "Dear Member: Did You Forget?"

"Fire Ravages Phi Beta Kappa Hall"

The Society's headquarters were located in the north wing of the building when fire broke out in the auditorium on the evening of December 29, 1953, giving The Key Reporter the most dramatic story of its history. Shortly after the alarm was sounded, it became clear that the auditorium was a total loss, and the firemen battled for the next two hours to save the offices. Although smoke and water damage was considerable, Phi Beta Kappa's historic records survived.

WINTER, 1960-61
"The idea of the fun at the convention didn’t work out very well. Most of the people were very reticent about having their picture taken when they were drinking, running, riding on things at the fair..."

So reads a memorandum evidently written to his boss by the somewhat disappointed newspaper photographer who took these pictures of the 1937 Triennial Council in Atlanta, Georgia—the Council that declined to take action on the bayta-beeta battle. "I tried to get them to look lively but they hung back. I could hardly blame them for their caution, as so many of them were teachers, college presidents, deans, etc." In the pictures of four Phi Beta Kappa Senators at the top of this page, for example, are a clergyman, two college presidents, and the Commissioner of Education for New York State. At the left is the Reverend Oscar M. Voorhees, Historian of the United Chapters when the picture was taken. The face in the mirror is that of Theodore H. Jack, then President of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. Frank Pierrepont Graves, at that time President of the United Chapters and New York Commissioner of Education, was caught off guard in the third picture. At the far right is David A. Robertson, then President of Goucher College, waiting to be served from the barbecue. Even though the photographer was chagrined at not getting pictures for a “Life-Goes-to-a-Party” spread, The Key Reporter did not hesitate to use them. (All pictures courtesy of The Atlanta Journal.)

Whether he was reading to improve his mind, or to please the photographer, or simply because he was hungry, this delegate was evidently more absorbed in the newspaper’s Food Section than in any other goings-on. The ad in the lower corner of the page he is holding reads, "Dr. Dafoe Reports Dionne Quints Thriving on Quaker Oats!"

Seated on steps behind the rostrum, a delegate from one of the chapters acting as host to the Council examined his necktie while he waited for the end of what was perhaps a lengthy speech from the floor.
Humanities

G A C, John Kornos, Robert P. Helman,
George N. Shuster

(Philosophy, Literature, Fine Arts)

Social Sciences

Robert C. Angell, Frederick B. Allen, Robert K. Carr, asm, Count, Lawrence A. Crenin,

(History, Economics, Governance, Sociology, Education)

Louis C. Hunter, Roy F. Nichols, Norman J. Padel Ford

Natural Sciences

Ralph W. Gerard, Kirtley F. Mather

John Kornos

Theory of Film. By Siegfried Kracauer. Ox-
ford. $10. The specific principles, attributes, and nu-
ances of the film as an art are discussed by a scholar who analyzes famous examples, differentiating those that are authentic expression of the art from those that are merely impressive photography.

Stravinsky. By Roman Vlad. Oxford. $7. Translated from the Italian, this work is pronounced by Stravinsky himself to be "the best study of my music which has yet appeared in any country of the world."

Looking at Pictures. By Kenneth Clark. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. $10. The Arts of Man. By Eric Newton. New York Graphic Society. $5.95. It would be hard to think of two books better calculated to stimulate an interest and understanding of art. In each case, exquisite taste in the choice of reproductions, both in black-and-white and in color, has made a book to look at again and again.

Sean O’Casey: The Man and His Work. By David Krause. Macmillan. $4.50. The Irish playwright’s integrity as man and artist is stressed in this distinguished critical biography. Extensive analyses will stimulate readers to read the plays.


Ars Nova and the Renaissance, 1300-1500. The New Oxford History of Music. Vol-
ume III. Edited by Gerald Abraham and Dom Anselm Hughes. Oxford. $11.50. Impressive in scope, this volume deals with the development of secular and church music in the Renaissance.

The Hindu View of Art. By Mulk Raj Anand. Taplinger. $7.50. In art there are different realities, dictated by time and place. Here the Hindu aspect of the essential reality is stressed.

Motion Pictures. By A. R. Fulton. Okla-
homa. $5. A readable, history and intelligent analysis that discusses the elements in the art of the film differentiating it from the theater.

The Master Builders. By Peter Blake. Knopf. $6.50. Le Corbusier is discussed in relation to "mastery of form," Mies van de Rohe to "mastery of structure," and Frank Lloyd Wright to "mastery of space."

Mark Twain publication since the appearance of A. B. Paine’s irritating, indispensable "official" life in 1912. Cooper has enjoyed a vogue in recent years—largely because of our renewed national interest in self-definition—and the two volumes here mentioned (they cover 1800-33 and more are to come) are all the more welcome on that score. In view of the selective and rather inexact version in which Emerson’s more important papers were first edited, it was inevitable that they should be edited again. The present volume (1819-22) is the first of approximately fifteen.

The Singer of Tales. By Albert B. Lord. Harvard. $10. A fascinating and authoritative book about Homer and oral narrative poetry in general. Readers who know only the older answers to the "Homeric question" will have much to adjust to.

Thomas Wolfe: A Biography. By Elizabeth Nowell. Doubleday. $5.95. The author’s sympathy is for the most part kept in check by her common sense and self-mindness, she does not try to write like Wolfe, and she gives a wonderfully detailed account of the comedy and pathos of her subject’s surcharged life.

The Poets of Russia, 1890-1930. By Renato Poggioli. Harvard. $8.50. An excellent critical-biographical history of “modern” Russian poetry, ending with a section on Pasternak intended to explain the causes of the “twilight of poetry and art” in the Communist world.

Also Recommended:


Ralph W. Gerard

Fights, Games, and Debates. By Anatol Rapoport. Michigan. $6.95. A disarmingly casual treatment of difficult and important matters. Creative modern formulations and their underlying reasoning are made clear and interesting; and these intellectual tools are applied vividly to formal and to real conflict situations.


In comfortable and familiar terms, Colby sets forth the principles and problems of scientific research. An excellent primer in the behavioral sciences.


A discussion of many facets of life in the form of a conversation among half a dozen scientists of widely differing specialties and temperaments. Good reading.

The Process of Education. By Jerome S. Bruner. Harvard. $2.75. Spuntik sparked an interest in science teaching in this country. Groups of scholars and educators have revised courses and texts in
high-school science and mathematics. A year ago a conference of pioneers in these ventures met with psychologists to focus on the process of education rather than on the planning of courses. This exciting meeting is here reported by its chairman.


James's luminous prose, compassionate personality, and penetrating thought are again spread before us, here focused on the problem of psychical research. An introduction reveals the background for James's enduring concern with this field, and a "retrospect" sympathetically reviews his contribution to it. James clarifies many issues; few have been resolved in the decades since he wrote.


A literate and sound exposition of the manner in which science is grappling with the great problems of mankind.


Bryson's last—and outstanding—contribution to the education of the intelligent layman; a well-planned collection of expositions.

Also Recommended:


The Ethical Dilemma of Science. By A. V. Hill. Rockefeller Institute. $7.50.

Earl W. Count


Whereas Paleolithic Europeans painted in caves, Neolithic made rudimentary temples and tombs, with female fertility figures and ancestor-cult objects: art for religion's sake within the hard and silent relics of Europe's prehistory. Although American anthropologists are more hospitable to the thesis that anatomically men held some idea of a supreme being, Father Maringer's account is informative, lucid, and responsible.


East African socio-political systems are multiple and intricate. Probably nowhere has British colonial polity exercised an applied anthropology with greater insight and flexibility. The author analyzes the status and role of 1,156 chieffairs (1952-53) in fourteen tribes.


These studies are sober socio-political history, chronicling recent gropings toward a modus vivendi between the Bantus and the Europeans in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Gray sees little indication that European and African leaders will co-operate on a common edifice; Clegg foresees the breakup of the Federation as prelude to a redefined social equilibrium, with the white man fighting back-to-wall.

The Virgin's Children. By William Madson. Illustrated. Texas. $4.50.

Tonantzín, claved mother of Aztec gods, has been converted into, superseded by, and amalgamated with the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. This can stand for the whole tale of how the Aztec villagers of San Francisco Tecopoa believe and behave.

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.


Archeology has not stood still since the discoveries of the 1940's in Palestine were made known from W. F. Albright's accounts. This is an authoritative sequel.

Maya Cities. By Paul Rivet. Putnam. $5.95.

All readers will be happy with the Bonampak frescoes, here rendered in color, which in 1946 gave a new horizon to the pre-Cortes Mayan landscape.


Mr. Hibben tells the general reader not only what has been found of aboriginal man from Alaska to the Andes, but how; and how false trails have been identified, and what still remains unknown.


It is a rare and difficult thing to penetrate the distaff curtain of Moslem life; the disciplined empathy of a Moslem woman, American-trained in anthropology, raises this book to the unique.

Also Recommended:


Frederick B. Artz


The only good survey of the subject; a remarkable study.


The first good comprehensive study of the Second World War; interesting reading and excellent as a reference work.


A brief but very penetrating analysis of one of the greatest forces in the modern world by a leading American authority.


A spiced life of Charles II of England in the best style of one of the outstanding biographers of our age.

The White Rajahs of Sarawak. By Robert Payne, Funk & Wagnalls. $3.95.

A fantastic tale set forth in a vivid style.

King of Rome. By André Castelot. Harper. $5.95.

A biography of Napoleon's son that is both a contribution to scholarship and of absorbing interest to the reader.


Interesting biography of a Victorian radical who played an important role in English and American life.


One of the most skillfully constructed and most interesting biographies written in the last decade.


First attempt to write a formal history, on a large scale, of contemporary events; will interest those who have lived through this period.

In Search of Humanity: The Role of the Enlightenment in Modern History. By Alfred Cobban. Braziller. $4.50.

Now the best available short introduction to the thought of the eighteenth century.

Louis C. Hunter


From different, although at many points overlapping, viewpoints these volumes explore the widening and increasingly significant role of the business corporation in

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THE KEY REPORTER
economy and society alike. The Mason volume examines the corporation in different aspects of life of this and other countries. Eells's study is an ambitious and interesting attempt to provide a philosophic basis for corporate enterprise and is concerned chiefly with a discussion of goals, responsibilities, and rationale.


Brody's lively volume gives a vivid but solid account of the steel industry and labor in the half-century before the coming of the CIO, a period in which big steel ruled without effective challenge. Ruttenburg's many years with CIO and the United Steelworkers, followed by an independent business career, provide the backdrop for a widely ranging discussion in which national ideals and goals are related to a philosophy that seeks the peaceful resolution of social conflict both nationally and internationally.


Essays on significant post-1945 developments in this country by M.I.T. economists.


A dispassionate and well-ordered presentation, from the conservative viewpoint, of problems and trends in the American enterprise system by a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Viewing much the same facts as such economists as Keyserling, Means, and Galbraith, and sharing in a degree their criticisms of specific conditions and practices, Wallich distrusts all remedies that impinge on what he sees as the widely shared freedom of our economy.


The author traces the major advances in the materials and techniques of construction in varied structures. Abundantly illustrated.


A useful contribution to the growing literature that analyzes centrally planned economies within the Soviet bloc.


A valuable reference work, convenient in size and admirably executed.

Robert K. Carr


The third volume in Professor Schlesinger's monumental study of the New Deal, which easily maintains the high level of its predecessors. An always readable style, discriminating use of material, and penetrating judgments characterize the examination here of the rise and fall of the radicals of the left and the right during the mid-thirties, the reckless anti-New Deal decisions of the Supreme Court, and the 1936 Presidential election.


A scholarly analysis of the important relations that have come into being in recent decades between the Federal government and local governments in urban areas. More careful and systematic efforts by Washington to encourage the growth of sensible urban programs on a metropolitan basis are recommended.


An extremely useful study of the Supreme Court that seeks to estimate the influence of the personalities of its justices, its procedures and customs, and the external legal profession on the decision-making process. Particular attention is focused on the appointment of justices; many myths about the factors that make for "good" and "bad" justices are exploded.

Communism and the Churches. By Ralph Lord Roy. Harcourt, Brace. $7.50.

This carefully written, thoroughly documented study of Communist efforts to subvert American churches is the latest volume in the excellent Fund for the Republic Series on Communism in American Life. The verdict here: some few clergymen hoodwinked by Communists but the overwhelming majority remaining loyal to democratic principles; forces in the churches far more influential than Communists found exploiting the Communist issue to delay social progress.


This study of the 1958 Congressional election is also the third volume in a remarkable series: biennial studies of voting statistics in Federal elections arranged by states, Congressional districts, counties, and, for principal cities, wards. All three volumes are characterized by accuracy and intelligent organization.

Also Recommended:

American Communism and Soviet Russia. By Theodore Draper. Viking. $8.50.


PHI BETA KAPPA BOOK AWARDS PRESENTED

The three book awards of $1,000 offered annually by Phi Beta Kappa were presented at the Senate dinner on December 2, one of them for the first time.

- The Award in History, Philosophy, and Religion, established by the Senate a year ago, went to Albert William Levi for *Philosophy and the Modern World*, published by the Indiana University Press. A member of the committee of judges described the book in these words: "The author undertakes to place a number of leading professional philosophers and philosophically oriented natural and social scientists in the broad cultural setting of the modern age. He presents an analysis of the philosophical conceptions of these thinkers and shows how they both arose out of and contributed to the confusions and contradictions with which modern man is bedeviled. The interpretations are presented with unusual acuteness, with clarity and interest, and with a wealth of revealing illustrations and quotations."

- Marston Bates, Professor of Zoology at the University of Michigan, received the second Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science for *The Forest and the Sea*, published by Random House. "In a round-about way," Mr. Bates says of his book, "I am trying to answer the question about what good is the butterfly and what good is man; trying to look again at the ever-fascinating problem of man's place in nature."

- The Christian Gauss Award, offered since 1951, went to Reuben A. Brower, Professor of English at Harvard University, for *Alexander Pope: The Poetry of Allusion*, published by the Oxford University Press. A member of the award committee described it as a book in which "great learning and a subtle critical intelligence are brought to bear on a significant body of material."