NEW OFFICERS AND SENATORS

Robert M. Lumiansky, the current President of the American Council of Learned Societies, was elected to a three-year term as President of the United Chapters at the Council meeting in Williamsburg.

President Lumiansky, who succeeds John Hope Franklin of the University of Chicago, has been Vice President of the United Chapters since 1973. He is a graduate of The Citadel and holds a master’s degree from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He taught at Tulane, where he was also dean of the graduate school for nine years, at Duke University, and at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as chairman of the board of directors of the American Council of Learned Societies for fifteen years before becoming President in 1974. He is also currently a professor of English at New York University.

The new President is the author of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales in Modern English; Of Sondry Folk: The Dramatic Principle in the Canterbury Tales; and Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde in Modern English. He is nationally known as a devoted and successful advocate of support for the liberal arts and humanistic scholarship.

THE BICENTENNIAL COUNCIL DAY-BY-DAY

Adapted from the Report of Robert McCoy, Delegate from San Diego State Univ.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

First Council Session. The Council was greeted by Thomas Graves, President of the College of William and Mary, who confessed having trembled with a sense of inadequacy upon being initiated as an Honorary Member of Alpha of Virginia and attempted to persuade us, unsuccessfully, that he was awed to stand before such an august collection of national intelligence. [Many of us had already met President Graves on Friday afternoon when he had been our host at a reception in the historic Wren building. Another pleasant Council preliminary was the Senate dinner, served in colonial style, which followed the reception on Friday evening.]

The Credentials Committee reported that 229 delegates representing 152 chapters, 30 delegates representing 26 associations, 17 senators, and 103 non-delegates had arrived and that many more were expected.

The minutes of the preceding Council were accepted, as was the Report of the Senate. Following a presentation by Senator Edgar Shannon, several minor changes to the Constitution of the United Chapters were adopted as a bloc. The changes were designed to eliminate ambiguities and “desex” pronouns, to permit the Secretary to be elected by the Senate, to establish the post of Associate Secretary, to permit the Associate Secretary and Treasurer to be elected by the Senate upon the nomination of the Secretary.

NEW CHAPTERS

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, Waco, Texas
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT LONG BEACH
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO CIRCLE
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, Kent, Ohio
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT BATON ROUGE
UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS, Redlands, California
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, Kingston
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CLARA, Santa Clara, California
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, Blacksburg, Virginia
THE BICENTENNIAL DAY-BY-DAY (continued from page one)

to allow the Senate to set the terms and conditions of the service of the three principal officers of the United Chapters, and to clarify the classifications of associations. Further, the accredited associations were enfranchised to vote on amendments to the Constitution at future Councils.

Next, the By-Laws were amended with the vote being taken on a section by section basis. Changes in Article IV, Sections 3, 9 and 10 removed specific dollar amounts from provisions for the franchise fee, registration fees, and the transportation fee and charged the Senate with responsibility for setting the amounts of these fees. Section 10 also removed some of the limitations on the use of the Council Fund. Article IV, Section 5 removed the model Chapter Constitution from the By-Laws and provided that it be retained as a separate document of the United Chapters. Article V, Sections 1 and 2 restated provisions governing the status of associations.

The amendment to IV, 10, created the greatest debate, some of it impassioned in the best academic tradition, some of it otherwise, ranging from high wit to outright scorn. This was the amendment allowing the Senate to use the Council Fund for housing and feeding delegates as well as transporting them. Some delegates questioned the ethics of voting on financing their present pleasures, but they were reminded that they were delegates to a working convention. Others objected to taxing students for faculty members; they were reminded that many chapters provide this payment for their initiatives. The amendment passed 282-12.

Luncheon. The Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities was presented to Louis B. Wright of the Folger Shakespeare Library who commented on the declining state of the humanities in America by citing linguistic abominations that would have been funny had they not been so representative.

Afternoon. The Conference of Chapter Delegates discussed Grade Inflation and Academic Standards. The well-known story of grade inflation was told in chilling detail and there were a number of embarrassed admissions from panelists and discussants, including an anguished report that the GPA had risen 4.3 in three years at one institution, where it also had become possible to take a course in "Star Trek" in the Department of Romance Languages. However, Secretary Kenneth Greene pointed out that many chapters had reported instituting new procedures for insuring the selection of members whose qualifications meet Phi Beta Kappa's traditional high standards. Indeed, elections have declined during this triennium: 17,184 in 1974, 16,173 in 1975, and 15,754 in 1976.

Evening. Most delegates attended the premiere of the dramatic oratorio commissioned by the Society. It was a lively, colorful rendering of the American saga in which words and music successfully blended historical
material and modern idiom. Chorus, dancers and colorful slides were integrated into an effective production.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Morning. Delegates were given special tours of the Raleigh Tavern. Many of us came away convinced that the Apollo Room was surely misidentified as the place where the Society was formed since it is so open and public. Nevertheless, we toasted the memory of the five founders with pewter mugs of hot rum punch.

Afternoon. Robert Heilman of the University of Washington introduced Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, who addressed the delegates on the theme “Liberal Studies and the Values of a Free Society.” Boorstin returned to “The American Scholar” and found that much of Emerson’s advice had become obsolete. The aristocracy of letters has been superseded by the republic of letters; shared knowledge which has stood the test of time has been replaced by shared experience through modern technology. We have shifted our interest from time to space, he said, and values have been replaced by preferences. We are in danger of being crushed by a shifting perspective between what has always been valued and what everybody wants. Even so, much of what we believe to have been valued in the past we understand through the accidents of survival, which inevitably result in historical bias.

Initiation, Alpha Chapter, College of William and Mary. Many delegates attended the impressive winter initiation of the “Mother Chapter.”

Council Reception and Banquet. A group described as the largest ever assembled in the name of Phi Beta Kappa filled the banquet hall to overflowing. The round tables were set for ten each; the dinner was excellent. The program began with the playing of a tape of the Rosemary Park “Bicentennial Minute,” which was telecast nationally that evening. Professor Patrick Romanell, of the University of Texas, El Paso, was next introduced, and it was announced that he had made a gift of $100,000 to establish a professorship in his discipline, philosophy, to be rotated annually among institutions with chapters of the Society. Edward Levi, Attorney General of the United States, then delivered the principal address of the evening, which was greeted with great enthusiasm. Dr. Newsom’s earlier report of the success of the Bicentennial Fellows Fund also contributed to the atmosphere of good cheer.

(continued on page four)
Second Council Session. The Credentials Chairman reported that 191 chapters were now represented by 298 delegates. In addition to delegates eligible to vote on new charters, 34 delegates, representing 28 associations, 18 Senators and 169 non-delegates were present. Catherine Sims, Chairman of the Committee on Qualifications, presided. The Committee was present, ready to answer questions.

During this triennium applications for preliminary consideration were received from Phi Beta Kappa faculty groups on 76 campuses. Twenty-one campuses were invited to submit full applications. Twenty did so and were visited by teams of members of the Committee on Qualifications. Eleven campuses were recommended for charters by the Senate. Following questions and discussion, all eleven received the votes necessary for charters. The granting of a chapter charter requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the chapters represented at the Council meeting which must also constitute a majority of all of the chapters.

The Committee on Qualifications then reported that the chapters at institutions currently under AAUP censure had all reported that there was no decline in quality which would affect the identification and election of members-in-course, and the Senate recommended no action at this time.

Luncheon. Philip Handler, President of the National Academy of Sciences, spoke on "Science and the Values of a Free Society." He quoted Galileo, Franklin, and Jefferson, but noted that 90% of all scientific discoveries had been made in our lifetimes. Further, he estimated that fully one-quarter of the current GNP resulted from knowledge of the electron and the Maxwellian field force. Science has been so involved in research and development that no time has been given to assessment of consequences. How will we handle the realization which may be forthcoming that we do not like what we have made of ourselves but are powerless to change? Twenty-five percent of all the technically competent people in the world are engaged in preparing for conflict, yet the reduction of world poverty is the key to survival.

Afternoon. A Symposium was held on "Humane Learning and the Future of the United States," with David Mathews, Secretary of HEW, and Bicentennial Fellows Peter Cleck, Lawrence Levine and Leo Marx as discussants. Secretary Mathews suggested that societies, like people, must engage in a self-educating process which places a premium on deliberation and analysis if they are to make public policy which is responsive to the will of the people. He fretted that Watergate notwithstanding, we are too willing to accept the status quo, pretending that we have participated in its formulation.

Professor Cleck responded with guarded optimism, maintaining that his study had indicated that the bourgeois tradition of America has successfully intertwined strands of liberalism, conservatism, and socialism into a cable that would hold the country together. Professor Levine described his research into the Black experience, contending that perhaps much more of African cultural traditions had been preserved than many commentators have suggested. Professor Marx abandoned his prepared remarks to take exception to what he perceived to be an unwarranted willingness on the part of the other panelists to assign the future of the country to intellectuals. He said that classic American writers have warned us not to become imprisoned by beautiful ideas. He cited The Great Gatsby's commitment to the American dream, noting that it resulted in his destruction. The debate which followed was stimulating. While Professor Marx nodded appreciatively from time to time, he never abandoned his "healthy skepticism" about the effectiveness of scholars in improving the quality of life.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Third Council Session. The Finance Committee found the financial statement of the United Chapters as printed in the Delegate's Manual to be in good order. It shows the endowment balance of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation to be in excess of two million dollars. Income derived from this principal is used to meet the deficit in the annual operating budget.

Council elections followed; the results are reported elsewhere in the Reporter.

It was announced that Tulane University would host the Thirty-Second Triennial Council in October, 1979, and invitations for 1982 were solicited. There being no other business to be brought before the Council, the meeting was adjourned with a laudatory salute to President John Hope Franklin for his extraordinary service.
MADELINE R. ROBINSON

The Crucible of Europe: The Ninth and Tenth Centuries in European History. Geoffrey Barraclough. California. $6.95. The former president of the Historical Association of Great Britain and now professor of history at Brandeis is concerned with what he considers the formative period in Europe. For him the change in government and institutions, "The emergence, out of the Carolingian inheritance of the different institutions of the different European peoples...is the essence of the story." It is northern Europe, France, Germany, Anglo-Saxon England and Northern Italy under German rule, which is the object of his survey. Each of these areas responded differently to the collapse of the Carolingian Empire and the invasions of Saracens, Vikings and Magyars. It is to the resulting political stability that Barraclough attributes the opportunity for economic revival that begins in the tenth century.

The Commercial Revolution of the Middle Ages, 950-1350. Robert S. Lopez. Cambridge. $3.95. A reprint of the 1971 edition with an updated bibliography, brief, a mere 167 pages, this is a remarkable synthesis of the turn of the tide in medieval times, the population growth, the agricultural expansion, the rise of merchants and trade, which he calls the commercial revolution. It is primarily the commercial expansion, the dynamic for change of the Mediterranean world with some attention paid the "northern Mediterranean," the North and Baltic seas, that is dealt with here and its impact on a predominantly agricultural world.

The Last Emperor: An Intimate Account of George VI and the Fall of his Empire. Peter Townsend. Simon & Schuster. $10.95. Written by the personal aide, the equerry-in-waiting, to George VI in his last years, 1944-1952, this book is not a biography of the king. It is rather a first rate repertorial account of the ways in which independence was secured by India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, Ireland and Israel in those years. Using a combination of the best techniques of "in-depth" reporting and newscasting, Peter Townsend brilliantly illuminates the story by describing episodically and concurrently what was happening in these countries at crucial periods in their history.

Women of the Reformation in France and England. R. H. Bainton. Beacon. $4.45. Women of Power: The Life and Times of Catherine de' Medici. Mark Strage. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. $12.95. Henrietta Maria. Elizabeth Hamilton. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan. $9.95. These three books deal with outstanding women in the Reformation, some devout, some politically motivated, all emerging as strong and interesting personalities. The Bainton book is a sequel to the Women of the Reformation in Germany and Italy by the professor emeritus of Church History at Yale Divinity School and a very good book this is. Not only is it good history but her women come alive because of his judicious use of their letters, writings and other contemporary accounts. He poses the interesting thesis that the reformation contributed to the decline of family arranged marriages, that the "individualizing of faith made for the personalization of marriages." Dealing with the same period of the Reformation, Strage sees it more in political terms since his focus is the life of Catherine de' Medici and incidentally that of Diane DePoitiers, her husband's mistress, and of her daughter, Marguerite de Valois, the wife of Henry of Navarre. Strage is a skillful writer and treats his sources with respect, dispelling myths. The conflict between Catholic and Protestant is also the background for the life of Henrietta Maria, the wife of the ill-fated Charles I of England, and the daughter of Henry of Navarre and his second wife, Maria de' Medici.

ELLIOT ZUPNICK

The Twilight of Capitalism. Michael Harrington. Simon & Schuster. $10.95. The thesis of Michael Harrington's new book is that the welfare state, for all its mitigoratory tendencies, is fundamentally capitalist, "So long as private corporations remain the dominant productive institutions of society, no matter who is in power, the long run trend...will be to promote the corporate interest." Promoting the corporate interest was responsible for, among other things, the energy crisis, the urban crisis and stagnation. Moreover, it sets a limit to the structural reforms that can be tolerated by the system. The gross inequalities of incomes and wealth, to cite but one example, cannot be eliminated or even significantly reduced, as long as social welfare is dependent on the level of private investment which is, in turn, a function of the expected rate of profit. The Twilight of Capitalism is an intelligent critique of the welfare state by an urban and humane Socialist.

The Intellectual Capital of Michel Kalecki: A Study in Economic Theory and Policy. George R. Feiwel. Tennessee. $22.50. Although not widely known outside the economics profession, nor fully appreciated within it, Kalecki was one of the seminal thinkers of our times. In articles which were, unfortunately, published in Polish journals and hence did not immediately enter the mainstream, Kalecki anticipated by several years the major components of the Keynesian system. His contributions to the theory of planning and to the economics of growth and development remain relevant. Feiwel's book should help make Kalecki's thought more widely known and establish his rightful place in the intellectual history of the 20th century.

The Joyless Economy. Tibor Scitovsky. Oxford. $11.95. In the Affluent Society Kenneth Galbraith argued that Americans sacrificed public goods for private consumption. Now another prominent economist, Professor Tibor Scitovsky, maintains that we derive very little pleasure from this sacrifice. Why? According to Scitovsky, the American economy has shifted toward saving time and effort. Americans, however, do not know how to use time pleasurably and the expenditure of effort has been reduced to a point where it has become detrimental to our health. In large part this is a legacy of our Puritan tradition which has inherited us from acquiring the skills we need to be intelligent consumers. We suffer from an utter lack of interest in the pleasures of food; we are bored on weekends and vacations; and our educational system stresses the acquisition of productive skills and neglects those needed for the good life. Are these observations scientifically based? Probably not, but it does not really matter. Many of Scitovsky's observations are apposite. Read and enjoy.

Who Pays for Clean Air: The Cost and Benefit Distribution of Federal Automobile Emission Controls. David Harrison. Ballinger Publishing Co. $11. David Harrison addresses himself to two major questions: How will the blessings and burdens of the federal auto emission control program be distributed among groups in society? How will different...income groups absorb the costs and share the benefits of such a program? In addition he compared the cost effectiveness of the present clean air program with that of feasible alternatives. One of his more interesting findings is that an alternative approach — the so-called two-car scheme — would not only cost approximately one third less than the official program but would also have fewer social consequences. An important study.

GUY A. CARDWELL


More than 2800 entries by 375 scholars from sixteen nations describe sites from Britain to India to the Black Sea and the upper Nile. Authoritative; complete; indispensable.

The Oxford Companion to German Literature. Henry & Mary Garland. Oxford. $27.95.

Alphabetically arranged biographies, synopses, styles, schools, and movements from 800 to 1974. Highly useful.


A masterful survey and original interpretation of the rebirth of knowledge and the renewed dominion of man over nature, changes spurred on by Puritan millenarianism.


Poems from 600 B.C. to 1368 in Chinese, literal English, and more idiomatic English. A remarkably clarifying Introduction shows how syntactical freedom and tenuity operate in the verse. One side effect is to improve our understanding of such poets as Mallarmé, Pound, and W. C. Williams.


A straightforward, comprehensive account from prehistorical times to 1850. Scholarly and readable.


Artists for the Shores of the Late Sixteenth-Century Painting at the Imperial Court of Japan. Anthony Welch. Yale. $25.


Those diverse, richly illustrated volumes all relate art to some aspect of the personality of the artist or to traditions in art or to the social context. The splendid volume on American art includes essays by five specialists. Gay’s provocatively theoretical study stresses the psychosocial-historical perspective; Welch emphasizes the interplay of personalities and politics; Pevsner reveals ways in which architecture reflects the character of society; and Rice presents a detailed view of Paris as it was when seen by perhaps the most talented American who ever lived there.

Ludwig Wittgenstein. David Pears. Viking. $5.95.

One of an excellent series of introductions to such “modern masters” as Beckett, Jung, Yeats, and Chomsky. Under the general editorship of Frank Kermode.

VICTORIA SCHUCK


Free and Independent. Frank Smallwood. Stephen Greene Press. $10.50; p. $5.95.

Two Vermonter — one, native and the other, adoptive — write of politics.

Aiken’s swift-moving commentary, recorded weekly, views the Washington scene during the last three years of his thirty-four in the U.S. Senate. Smallwood’s plausurable memoir relates his adventures as a member of the Vermont Senate in 1973 and 1974 while on sabbatical leave from Dartmouth. Together the books reveal much about homin politicos Vermont-style.


A major and engrossing biography detailing the private and public man, ending with his first defeat for the presidency in 1952. His personal, professional, and political life are woven into national and international events. The author, a journalist who first encountered Stevenson as one of the “Elks Club” group of young speech-writers in 1952, is best at reconstructing Stevenson’s gubernatorial period and the drama and heartbeat of the presidential campaign.


Concentrates on the perceptions, strategies, and errors of Joseph McCarthy’s adversaries and convincingly argues that McCarthyism derived not from the cold-war but from within the Republican Party. McCarthy’s downfall initiated by Senate Republicans left the cold-war unaffected.


A timely little book by a well-known political scientist, not to be missed by Carter reorganizers. Kaufman’s pilot study corroborates the impression that most governmental units once born live on eternally, and offers little hope of organizational population control whatever the results of Carter’s efforts.

Managing the State. Martha Wagner Weinberg. MIT. $15.95.

An excellent piece of research and writing which challenges the contribution of traditional democratic theory to public sector management and provides a new understanding of leadership by publicly elected chief executives.


As Hoover himself saw his presidency. A history begun from conversations of Robinson with Hoover. In defending his presidency, the authors view Hoover as a prophet of a new scientific era whose programs resting on a philosophy of individual freedom and voluntarism were destroyed by intraparty battles of Senate Republicans.


A delightfully polished and admiring biography, based on careful scholarship, of the first woman cabinet member. From settlement work and the office of state Industrial Commissioner in New York, she became Franklin Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor. A tragic personal life did not preclude triumphs in administration or the display of political perspicacity in battles for social security and fair labor standards legislation.


A study of political, social, and economic change, employing the methodology of V.O. Key’s 1949 classic. The state by state survey is leavened by anecdotes. Especially pertinent now as a revelation of the political milieu from which Jimmy Carter sprang.

EARL W. COUNT

Farming in Prehistory: From Hunter-Gatherer to Food Producer. Barbara Bender. St. Martin’s. $18.95.

If ten years ago you were still up-to-date anent this cardinal cultural topic, it is high time to refresh. For, in measure as archaeology has gone beyond scratching for finds to fathoming problems, the problems have proliferated unbidden. Thus — food-producing and hunting-gathering life-modes drew no fateful line between them; sedentary living does not couple simplistically with producing; polished stone couples with neither; a “surplus” is not what it ordinarily is assumed to be. The author focuses upon southeastern Asia and Mexico-Pe; she writes a straightforward, textbook style — there is so much to convey, so little room. And it is good writing.


It is largely to this leading Cypro-Greek archaeologist that we owe any knowledge of the Biblical “Kittim.” It mediated between Aegean and Levant long before its Bronze Age heyday. The author writes but a minimum of formal narrative; the things he proffers as photographs (color, half-tone) and line drawings (of ground-schemes) are tale-laden, even spectacular. (Here was the largest temple to Astarte known from antiquity.)


The rovers of waterways will appreciate this from the Curator of the National (British) Maritime Museum. Know that boatbuilding has but four “roots”: raft and raft-boat, skin boat, bark boat, dugout; and — yes — the “root” of great ships is the dugout. Roots proliferate: shells are built up from planks, then braced within by strakes; conversely, a skeleton may be sheathed with planks; clinker-built, or edge-joined; round-hulled, flat-bottomed. Although the author touches almost every corner of the globe (including the ancient Mediterranean) his focus is Europe and North America and on Pre-Viking and Viking relics now so abundant.

THE KEY REPORTER

They are themselves a tribe apart, and so many things about them are records who whilom stumbled with their skirts behind them, and eases, later with wet-plate negatives, over a Western land-and-water as yet unbended by the oncoming Whites: time, they knew, was running out. Curtis' 6 archived volumes have never been matched. Here is a collation, appropriately in sepia, of portraits of that tremendous people — men, women, children whom our continent possessed before we came.

All Silver and No Brass: An Irish Christmas Mumming. Henry Glassie. Indiana. $10.

And why should not folk housing be Folk Lore, as genuinely as tale, song, nostrum? And "more human history" than written treatises are? From Chomsky's "generative grammar," Armstrong's "affecting presence," Levy-Strauss' "structural anthropology," there can be orchestrated a freshly meaningful scoring of a chthonic lore. (The metaphor has its point.)

The pearls of the north-Irish dew are also on the roaming feet of this remarkable young scholar as they were (and he knows it) on those of Yeats and Joyce. He remains the folklorist and social-scientist still; and always a friend of folk.

RONALD GEBALLE


An iron retox, the cyclothorn of the seventeenth century? Just so, argues the author of this book, in Newton’s hands (although she does not put it in these terms). Belted and new-fangled, she wrote, that all bodies need either "mass of one Catholic Matter" by "fermentation and condensation" and that these processes were mechanical in nature. Newton spent much of his life attempting to find more basic manifestations of matter and to integrate his mechanical philosophy and the chemistry of his day. He experimented under great difficulty, of course, for he (and those of his contemporaries who sought basic principles) had only the older alchemy, with its compulsion for obscure, symbolic, mystical terminology, as a starting point. Aiming to develop a scientific alchemy, Newton seems always to have believed that the ancients knew its secrets which they put in allegorical terms, and that a large part of his task was to interpret these allegories correctly and to carry out the experiments thereby revealed. He never made his own extensive alchemical studies public, neither the failures nor what he might have considered successes; the author explains this decision with a quotation from a pre-Nader letter Newton wrote to Oldenburg, maintaining that such knowledge was "not to be communicated without immense damage to the world" because of the likelihood of there being "other things besides ye transmutation of metals" involved. Dobbs' book, based on a careful synthesis of Newton's manuscripts and laboratory notes, together with the contents of his library, offers the first satisfying rationale for his long alchemical labors, commonly considered an irrational aberration of that most rational man.

Collective Phenomena and the Applications of Physics to Other Fields of Science. Eds. Norman A. Champagne and Edward A. Stern. Brain Research Publications, Inc. Fayetteville, N.Y. n.p. Papers and Abstracts from an international meeting that did not take place for an unred subject. One of the intents of its organizers was to expand and deepen the range of subjects covered in the series of Moscow seminars that brought together Soviet scientists who, for political reasons, had lost their jobs, normal professional contacts and access to the literature. Because of the small number of participants and the range of their professional backgrounds, the informal seminar took on a unique character. Automaton theory, economics, linguistics, chemistry, biology — all were seen to have the familiar outlines of an important problem in physics which remains incompletely solved: the problem of many interacting particles at non-zero temperatures and in an external field. The fifty-odd contributions from eight nations extend the range of concern with this problem into even other areas, altogether forming a remarkable cluster about the central theme of collective phenomena. That many of the manuscripts were not received by the editors and that the seminar was never held testify more to the power of free inquiry than to the strength of the political forces sometimes successful in restraining it.


Joe’s the first Soviet atomic bomb, exploded in Siberia on August 29, 1949, and triggered the debate that culminated in Truman’s decision, four months later, to proceed with the development of a hydrogen bomb. This book is about that debate. It details the opinions held by the main actors and traces the consequences up to and including the vote finding Oppenheimer a security risk.

JAMES C. STONE

The Shape of American Education. G. J. Clifford. Prentice-Hall. $10.95.

As education has grown in importance to individuals and to society itself, as the cost of the enterprise — preschool to graduate school — has grown, the need of citizens, parents, teachers, students to know more about our unique social institution also has grown. In course fashion, Clifford explains and documents the predominant and determining characteristics of elementary-high school and colleges/universities, which she identifies as "publicness, diversity, universality, and breadth."


This is a highly interpretive analysis of how our elementary and high schools shaped, and were shaped by, the transformation of this country into an urban-industrialized society. Tyack draws on previously unpublished anecdotal material and case studies to give life (and readability) to facts and generalizations. Thus, the reader hears directly from farm children, factory workers, Black parents, teachers, school administrators, and industrialists. Successes as well as failures are documented — "the opportunities offered to some, the injustices perpetuated for others."


Cheit examines the current controversy between vocationalism and the liberal arts. He treats four of the "useful" professions in some detail — agriculture, engineering, business administration and forestry — and describes how they have made the transition from Proctora Son to Model Child. Cheit concludes by suggesting that these vocational schools might well serve today as models for the University because they have struggled to define their purpose as liberal education is now struggling to do.

An article in the most recent issue of Change magazine headlines the "Eclipse of the Liberal Arts..." Finally, liberal education is no longer the unassailed heart of the academic enterprise. Cheit contributes a valuable historical perspective concerning the mood and developments in our nation’s history which led to the rise of professional education and its place in college/university curricula. The book does not adequately examine the deeper implications of vocationalism versus the liberal arts. Will the liberal arts survive as liberal arts? Must they accommodate themselves to the pressures of the marketplace? Is the current mix of classical and practical an unhappy and unhealthy hybrid? These are the critical questions. Cheit takes us to the brink, but not beyond.


This study is an outgrowth of the Marco DePunis suit against the University of Washington in the legality of preferential admission of minority students to American colleges and universities ("reverse discrimination"). Although the U.S. Supreme Court did not rule on the issue then, it now has before it a similar issue, the Bakke case from the University of California, filed on behalf of a white student not admitted to the Medical School on the U.C. Davis campus. NAACP and similar groups have urged the University not to push this suit for fear of losing it. This brings the O’Neil book to the forefront, for the author presents the entire argument for preferential admission — historically, socially, and ethically — in persuasive and practical terms.

WINTER, 1976-1977
NEW OFFICERS AND SENATORS (continued from page one)

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr. was chosen Vice President. A graduate of Washington and Lee University, he received his master's degree from Duke University, was a Rhodes Scholar at Merton College, Oxford and received his doctorate there.

After teaching English at Harvard, Vice President Shannon became a professor of English at the University of Virginia and was President of the University from 1959 to 1974. He then became Commonwealth Professor of English. He has been a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Senate since 1967.

Twelve Senators were also chosen for the term 1976-1982. Re-elected to the Senate are: Philip H. Abelson, President, Carnegie Institution; U.S. Representative John Brademas of Indiana; John Hope Franklin, John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of American History, University of Chicago; Hanna Holborn Gray, Provost, Yale University; and Mina Rees, President of the Graduate School and University Center, Emeritus, City University of New York. Newly elected members of the Senate are: Karen Brazell, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature, Cornell University; John Hurt Fisher, John C. Hodges Professor of English, University of Tennessee; Otis Singletary, President, University of Kentucky; Robert P. Sonkowsky, Chairman, Department of Classics, University of Minnesota; Ruth M. Adams, Vice President and Professor of English, Dartmouth College; Malcolm Lester, Professor of History, Davidson College; and LeRoy P. Graf, Distinguished Service Professor of History, University of Tennessee.

BOOK AWARDS FOR 1976

The three $2,500 Phi Beta Kappa book awards for outstanding books published during 1975-76 were presented at a dinner preceding the first session of the Bicentennial Council.

Elisabeth W. Schneider, Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Temple University, received the Christian Gauss Award in literary scholarship for her book, T. S. Eliot: The Pattern in the Carpet, published by the University of California Press. The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for studies of the intellectual and cultural condition of man was given to Paul Fussell, Professor of English at Rutgers University, for his book, The Great War and Modern Memory, published by Oxford University Press. William W. Warner, consultant to the Smithsoninan Institution, received the Phi Beta Kappa Science Award for Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay, published by Atlantic-Little, Brown.

In presenting the Gauss prize, committee chairman Philip Damon said, "With T. S. Eliot: The Pattern in the Carpet, Professor Schneider has once more put the discipline of literary studies in her debt by a masterly study of the life and work of an important poet and a discriminating analysis of the issues, historical and critical, which they present. Her fresh and consistently illuminating reading of Eliot's verse and her meticulous study of his career provide a new and satisfying view of the ways in which his work, especially after 1930, was shaped and directed by what she shows to have been a careful and deliberate effort to create a coherent poetic personality for himself. The demonstration moves vigorously, with an unfailing sense of proportion and critical tact. It is full of acute local clarifications and powerful general assessments. There are even, at this relatively late date, significant discoveries of a factual nature. The result is a full sense of the indissoluble links between Eliot's life and his poetry."

The Emerson Prize citation, by chairman Rolf Meyersohn noted that, "In his essay, 'History,' Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: 'Every history should be written in a wisdom which divined the range of our affinities and looked at facts as symbols.' Paul Fussell has achieved Emerson's prescription in The Great War and Modern Memory. He has evoked the common meanings of that first cataclysm in our cataclysmic century by tracing the literary associations of its participants. He has retold the tale through its poetic visions, and has documented their lasting imprint on our consciousness. Paul Fussell has succeeded in that enormously difficult task that Andre Malraux once assigned to education: to translate experience into conscious thought.'

The Award in Science was made by chairman Owen Gingerich. He stated that, "A book largely devoted to the vagaries of Callinectes sapidus, the edible blue crab, seems hardly destined to win a wide and appreciative audience. Yet William Warner has written with such first-hand knowledge and affection for the 'beautiful swimmers' (as their genuses translates from the Greek), and for the Chesapeake watermen who catch them, that his book will surely attract an enthusiastic following. The whole natural history of the blue crab is here, plus serious lessons of ecology and even some anthropology."