



The Key Reporter

VOLUME 55

NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 1990

NYU Graduate Student Wins 1990-91 Sibley Fellowship For Studies in French

Astrid I. Hustvedt has been awarded Phi Beta Kappa's Sibley Fellowship of \$7,000 for the 1990-91 academic year. A 1982 graduate of Lake Forest College, she is working on a doctorate in French at New York University. She plans to use the award to analyze the construction of femininity in late-19th-century France, focusing on Villiers de l'Isle-Adam's novel, *L'Ève future*.

She is the 42d winner of the Sibley award, which was established with funds bequeathed to Phi Beta Kappa in the will of Isabelle Stone. Next year, the award will be offered for studies in Greek language, literature, history, or archaeology. Candidates must be unmarried women between 25 and 35 years of age who hold the doctorate or have fulfilled all the requirements for the doctorate except the dissertation. They must be planning to devote full-time work to research during the fellowship year that begins September 1, 1991. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the Sibley Fellowship Committee, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

John Sawyer, Sidney Yates To Share ΦBK Award for Service to Humanities

Educator John E. Sawyer, retired president of the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and Representative Sidney R. Yates (Democrat, Illinois), chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees the operations of the National Endowment for the Humanities, have been selected to share Phi Beta Kappa's Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities. The award, which has previously been presented at the triennial Council meeting, will on this occasion be conferred at a luncheon during the meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Senate in Washington, D.C., on December 8, 1990.

John Sawyer has requested that his half of the \$2,500 award be forwarded in his name as a gift to the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C., which will be conducting a capital fund-raising campaign.

President Bush Sends Greetings

President George Bush (Phi Beta Kappa, Yale, 1947) sent the following message to a joint meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Executive Committee and Alpha Chapter of Virginia at the College of William and Mary on May 11:

I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to all my fellow Phi Beta Kappans as you gather in Williamsburg to celebrate the completion of Richard Current's historical documentation of the Society and to welcome its newest members.

It is fitting that you assemble on the campus of the College of William and Mary, the birthplace of Phi Beta Kappa. At William and Mary and other fine institutions of higher learning around the country, the rich traditions of this distinguished academic fraternity come to life.

Since the Society was founded over 200 years ago, it has recognized and encouraged excellence in American higher education. Honoring those students who embody the ideals of intellectual honesty and tolerance, scholarship, and hard work, Phi Beta Kappa has helped to set high standards of achievement in our Nation's colleges and universities.

As a Phi Beta Kappan, I have always cherished the fellowship of this fine organization, and I am honored to have worn the golden key that is its symbol. My congratulations go to all of the new members who are being welcomed to the Society today. All of you have my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and for every future success. God bless you.

John Dewey Foundation Endows New ΦBK Award

The Phi Beta Kappa Society has received a \$60,000 grant from the John Dewey Foundation to endow a triennial award in memory of Sidney Hook, the internationally renowned philosopher who died in 1989. The revenues generated from the grant will provide \$5,000

and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the next triennial Council meeting of the Society and present a lecture there. Nominations for the award are invited from all members of Phi Beta Kappa. The deadline for the 1991 award is October 31. The recipient will be selected at the December 1990 meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Executive Committee, acting in liaison with a representative of the John Dewey Foundation.

Potential recipients must have extensive and distinguished experience in undergraduate teaching, have published research that contributed to the advancement of their academic discipline, and



Sidney Hook

Phi Beta Kappa Receives \$382,000 from 1916 Graduate of Wisconsin

Phi Beta Kappa has received a bequest of \$382,000 from the estate of Irene Higgins, an attorney in Eagle River, Wisconsin, who died in 1982. She received her Phi Beta Kappa key at the University of Wisconsin in 1916. The money has been forwarded to the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, which underwrites the operations of the Society. The bequest amounts to one-third of the Higgins estate; the other beneficiaries were St. Peter's Catholic Congregation of Eagle River and St. Ann's Home for the Elderly in Milwaukee.

have demonstrated leadership in the cause of liberal arts education worthy of the memory of Sidney Hook.

Nominations and inquiries should be addressed to the Sidney Hook Memorial Award, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

Inside

Riding Circuit for ΦBK,

by Peter Davison p. 2
ΦBK Archives Yield 'Curiosities' ... p. 4
Recommended Reading p. 5
Letter to the Editor p. 5



Riding Circuit for Phi Beta Kappa

By Peter Davison

IT WAS STRANGE WORK indeed for an editor to return to the classroom, an editor who has spent most of the past 40 years in offices, seeing books through the press, or in a study, writing his own. Because I have never taught for a living, I wondered what would it be like to face live students and teachers on eight campuses scattered from central Maine to northern Illinois to western South Carolina? I had a few topics to discourse upon—some mysteries about Robert Frost, anomalies in love poetry, poetic abuses of the Present Indicative, the sociology of contemporary poetry, a “poetic revolution” in 1959—but no experience in classrooms since my undergraduate days, except for a now-and-then reading of my own poetry at colleges. To be billed as a “Visiting Scholar” seemed like sailing anxiously under the Jolly Roger. The actuality was a good deal more entertaining, and more encouraging, than the anticipation.

Two Liberal Arts Colleges

My first visit, to a southern acropolis that held a liberal arts college for women towering over a gem of an old southern town, began down below in a faculty member's house, with a supper attended by about 50 teachers and students, at which we were served no fewer than 24 separate North African dishes. Students, administration, and faculty alike turned out, not surprisingly, for this delectable banquet, after which I was expected to lead a parlor discussion on a topic nominated in advance: the abuses of the present tense in poetry. No one should be surprised to learn that more guests came for the food than stayed for the discussion; but about half, including the college's president, graciously partook of both.

The next morning an undaunted chemistry major, who had been many miles away the previous evening competing in volleyball against a neighboring college, took me from my room in an alumni house on the campus to breakfast in a college refectory. My breakfast companions were all eager chemists or volleyball players or both. Later in the morning, after a stroll around the lovely town, I addressed a sizable number of the student body on the subject of Robert Frost. After a lunchtime newspaper interview, an afternoon class, and an excellent dinner with three professors at a nearby restaurant, I spent an evening hour reading aloud from my own poetry to an audience of college students, fac-

ulty, some members of the public, and visitors from a nearby high school. I found these high school cohorts to be a frequent, and welcome, concomitant of my college visits: high school students are often more alive to poetry than their college counterparts, for the emotions in the teens run high, and skepticism has yet to harden. The younger faces are welcome in a poet's audience.

After a pleasant bus journey in a northerly direction, I found myself lodged in a remarkable guest house near another liberal arts campus. My host, manager of the comfortable bed-and-breakfast, had quite a career behind him in amateur theatricals in the Far East, made evident by a grand staircase of stage-action photographs; but his present calling was the perpetuation of the legend of Santa Claus in all its forms. After an hour or two in his company, classroom work seemed positively effortless.

This second campus was the architectural high point of my travels: old build-



Peter Davison

ings and new had been disposed in harmonious relation to one another, and the only discordant note was the relatively trendy library building, for which the trustees had turned to a New York firm, which, like other New York architectural firms, seemed bent on Making an Impression. They had made it.

Faculty and students at this visit were as harmonious as the remainder of the architecture: a group of us discussed the state of poetry in a cozy honors house while the autumn sun glistened through the windows. In the evening, after a dinner charmingly presided over by the college president, we entered a hall nearly as handsome as the old Senate chamber in Washington, and I read my poems to a full house, with a sense of full audience participation. The occasion could not have been more satisfying to a visiting poet.

Between these events I had a talk alone with a faculty poet. Each campus, I was to find, held at least one of these lonely artists, each with a secret manuscript which, after my departure, would be unearthed and sent my way in the hope of publication. Alas, I'm all too dependable a source of disappointment. As T. S. Eliot once wrote, only 10 percent of an editor's time is usefully employed: all the rest is rejection.

Two Large Universities

My third campus, which I visited a month later, lay not far from home, and I was able to return to my wife and bed each night after dinner. This was a big-city university of some 8,000 undergraduates, of whom 1,200 were English majors—as many English majors as my first colleges had total enrollment. Here the high members of the administration were attempting to encourage more campus visits by literary practitioners, and attendance at my public events had been assiduously and attentively urged upon the undergraduates. In the classes I visited I found what every teacher knows: unpredictability.

My first class, its professor murmured in an aside, was the most difficult group she had ever taught: I found, as luck would have it, these students easy to talk to and bring out of themselves; the second class, conversely, was said to be a model, but I could not get a word out of anybody, only strained but uncomprehending smiles. I could have stood on my head, though at my age I do not think it is right; yet the longer I stayed on this campus, the warmer the faculty became, and the more pleasant our meals together.

My fourth institution was a large state university of 12,000 students, where Phi Beta Kappa held only a toehold, but which yielded in some ways the most interesting visit of my entire year. One of this university's two campuses was given over to “untraditional” students, older persons who had spent time in the armed forces, or prison, or marriage, or other eddies of our society, rather than rafting from high school straight into college. I found these students open to the experiential concerns of poetry in ways that no other students had displayed: they were passionate, curious, responsive, even aggressive in their interest. Here, I thought to myself, must be the perfect locus for poetry.

Alas, when I addressed the “traditional” students on the central campus, they showed me the blank faces of the truly bewildered. Poetry for them clearly had no bearing on their experience. For discussion on that score I had to depend on my faculty companions. We dined at a pleasant local restaurant and assembled for an evening lecture on the poetry of Boston's “second renaissance” in a vast hall that contained 18 persons, traditional or not. I did my best to get them involved, but dark fell early at that time of the year, and many of the students had crept away to feed their children or steal a march on their Thanksgiving break.

The next afternoon, after a pleasant morning class, I read my poems, in another of the charming honors houses that decorate many campuses, to an extremely attentive group of 50 students,

THE KEY REPORTER



human public, faculty emeriti, and even, if memory serves, a dog or two. The reading received a pleasant reception indeed; and then, after dinner, my work being done, I returned to the airport motel to await the morning plane, only to strike up conversation in the bar with a judge of the state court of appeals. The judge and the visiting scholar discussed at length the psychology of Wilhelm Reich—a subject that I'll wager had never come up in that bar before.

On to the Midwest

The fifth college lay in wait for me in January in the Middle West—an all-male liberal arts institution in the “heart of the heart” of hoop country. I found myself, in the mornings, left to my own devices in a rather dank motel where another bar, doubling as breakfast room, was heavily populated for 18 hours a day by townies watching basketball—high school, college, professional, male, and female basketball—on cable TV.

The college itself was, during my visit, in the throes of deciding whether to turn coeducational, and the faculty seemed to be occupied all day long with the difficult deliberations related to this pending crisis. But the male students, seemingly indifferent to the fate of their successors, acted attentive, curious, polite, and took me under their wing without faculty interference, while their teachers, absenting themselves in meeting after meeting, gave themselves over to anxiety and debate. When the faculty emerged for a meal with their guest, they discussed faculty politics—the topic that an outsider, especially a nonacademic, finds about as interesting to discuss as comparing detergents.

Between sessions with students and faculty I wandered the streets of the town, which boasted classical midwestern architecture. I might have been any-

where in Middle America at any time in the past 50 years. The creaking boards of the floors in the elegant old college buildings; the huge shade trees of the quadrangle; the cordiality of the students and the self-concern of the faculty, who seemed always bound to some destination other than where their Phi Beta Kappa Visitor was performing, confused me. At a very early hour on my third morning a bright, articulate, and ambitious student drove me to an airport whence I emplaned for my sixth campus visit.

This liberal arts college, elsewhere in the Midwest, had a long coeducational tradition, and partly perhaps for that reason bore the marks of prosperity upon it. The library of the campus guest house offered plenty of interesting sets of books culled from the libraries of rich alumni. The buildings, several of them ingeniously renovated from older buildings, were easily approachable across long lawns, decorated here and there by contemporary sculpture. This college is located in a luxurious metropolitan suburb, and my faculty companion took me off on a tour of the visible affluences, to a rather grand dinner in one restaurant and a pleasant lunch in another.

On my last night, before I was to give my public lecture in the spacious chapel, the president of the college entertained me, with 30 guests from the faculty, trustees, and benefactors, at an excellent buffet in his home. After my lecture was over, I walked back across the campus in cold gleaming moonlight with a sense that the large crowd that had come to hear about Robert Frost regarded the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture as a sort of special event in the social season. It was good to have been able to satisfy them. Here again I had made friends with one of the faculty writers, who kindly shared some of his work with me after my departure.

Two More Liberal Arts Colleges

My last two visits took me once more to small liberal arts colleges, one in New England and one in the South. The first I had visited before more than once, having, 20 years earlier, delivered the commencement address, at the students' request, in the form of a group of poems selected to temper the harsh graduation climate of 1969. Here, more than at any other college I visited, the faculty and the students seemed to be on cordial terms with one another, able to communicate without embarrassment or chilliness. The Phi Beta Kappa dinner in a common dining room made for pleasant conversation; the classes I met with were responsive to the material we discussed; and the poetry reading I gave on my final afternoon was, for me, the most satisfying of the entire trip.

My last evening performance was the lecture on Robert Frost, during which my picture was taken. Only the presence of the photographer/news reporter, who described Mr. Frost the next day as “an 18th century poet,” jarred me slightly, in retrospect. Her face had been winningly alive as I spoke. Clearly I am still not equipped to evaluate the intellectual caseload of any listener from external appearances alone.

My eighth and final campus, deep in a southern state, was rich with flowering dogwood and houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Founded before the Civil War, which it had survived with great difficulty, the campus afforded handsome views, a group of restrained if not handsome new buildings, a vital and clearly highly popular dramatic program, and an attentive alumni tradition. The Phi Beta Kappa Lecture here—for which my subject was “The Love of Poetry and the Poetry of Love”—once again ranked high on the social calendar: parents had driven many hours to welcome their prized children into the Society. It was growing late in the academic year, the trees were lavishing their pollen, and my attempts to lead discussions or lecture were often interrupted by dreadful explosions of allergic coughing. Here again I learned about the deceptiveness of classroom appearances, for the heaviest cougher was also the most alert and attentive of students.

I hope that other nonacademic “scholars” may be drawn into the Visiting Scholar program. I learned a great deal about how colleges differ, how subjects are taught, and how they are learned, and how little I knew about either process. I grew very tired of the sound of my own voice and realized that this must be one of the occupational hazards of teaching. Some of my listeners seemed to brighten at the unorthodoxy of my naive attempts at teaching, and handled me with tender concern. I think we both, we all, learned a good deal, and I am very much the beneficiary of my travels. It is not for nothing that an old tradition sends magistrates of a certain rank out among the people in preference to summoning the people into court—especially if they go about to listen rather than to speak.

Author of nine volumes of poetry, the most recent of which is The Great Ledge (Knopf, 1989), Peter Davison is associated with Houghton Mifflin Company as poetry editor and as editor of “Peter Davison Books.” He is also poetry editor of The Atlantic, where he was director of the press from 1964 to 1979 and senior editor from 1979 to 1985. He has just completed his year as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar.

ΦBK History Order Form

Oxford University Press
Attn: Ms. Vera Plummer
200 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Please send me _____ copies of Richard N. Current's *Phi Beta Kappa in American Life* at \$25 per copy.

If you wish to have your book(s) autographed by Richard Current, check here _____.

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

(Offer valid through December 1990.)



Greene Finds 'Curiosities' While Culling ΦBK Archives for Transfer to Library of Congress

Under an agreement with the Library of Congress, Kenneth M. Greene, recently retired secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, has been selecting material from the Society's files for transfer to the Library, where the records will be included in the Library's collections and made available for use by qualified researchers.

Since moving to its present location in Washington, D.C., in 1954, the Society has maintained its inactive records in the basement of the headquarters building, where, as Greene puts it, "conditions for their preservation have been less than ideal."

The Phi Beta Kappa Senate engaged Greene to sift through the records and to recommend which should be sent to the Library now and which should remain in the Society's headquarters. Greene, who has now finished this task, has recommended that the contents of some 75 file drawers and storage boxes be given to the Library under the terms of the agreement.

The bulk of the archives that will go to the Library now consists of correspondence with chapters and associations, committee files, and papers relating to programs such as the book awards. These records date from the inception of the United Chapters late in the 19th century to 1980.

The papers to be retained include primarily financial records and documents relating to trademarks, copyrights, and other legal matters. In addition, all post-1980 records are being retained for the present in the active files maintained by the Washington staff and will be moved periodically to the Library as they age beyond 10 years.

Phonograph Records and Ads

Asked whether he had found any surprises in his examination of the archives, Greene said, "I wouldn't say that there were any surprises, but there were some curiosities and several items of unusual interest." Among the curiosities is a set of 15 phonograph records that contain the entire program of a mammoth fundraising dinner (attendance exceeded 3,000) held at the Astor Hotel in New York in 1939 by the Phi Beta Kappa Senate to launch the Society's Defense Fund for the Humanities and Intellectual Freedom. The Senate's aim was to meet "the threat [posed to] freedom of thought and breadth of scholarship at home and in other parts of the world."

Chairman of the sponsoring committee was Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes. Among the committee members from the world of the arts and sciences were Karl T. Compton, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Douglas Southall Freeman, Ellen Glasgow, Gilbert H. Grosvenor, George Lyman Kittredge, Henry R. Luce, Ida M. Tarbell, and Carl Van Doren.

The recordings, which are in mint condition, include the words of such featured speakers as Dorothy Thompson, Christian Gauss, and Roscoe Pound, as well as a version of the famed radio quiz show "Information Please," hosted by Clifton Fadiman and including among the participants Alexander Woollcott.

Also among the curiosities are files dealing with the chronic problem of misrepresentation of Phi Beta Kappa's name and infringements of its trademark registrations. A full-page advertisement in the *New York Times Magazine* of Febru-

ary 5, 1961, proclaims the merits of "Phi Bates"—men's brogues and moccasins manufactured by the Bates Shoe Company. Correspondence in the file reveals that Bates stubbornly ignored Phi Beta Kappa's demands to cease and desist and that the Society's fear of excessive legal costs kept it from going to court. The Society was more successful, however, in getting I. Magnin and the Jantzen Company to withdraw their ads, respectively, for "Phi Beta Capezios" and for "Phi Beta Jantzen" undergarments. The Jantzen ads featured representations of Phi Beta Kappa keys on items such as the "Student Body," a "long-leg panty that wins all honors for . . . firm control."

Chapter Files

Greene believes that the material of greatest potential interest to historians is in the chapter files, inasmuch as the exchanges between the chapters and the national executive body—the Senate—inevitably touched on many of the major educational and cultural issues of the past 80 or 90 years. Phi Beta Kappa's concern with the principles of academic freedom, for example, is illustrated in many parts of the archives. A thick file on the notorious loyalty oath controversy at the University of California in the early 1950s contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, formal resolutions, and other documents bearing on the effort of the University of California regents to require all faculty members, as a condition of employment, to take oaths denying that they were Communists. There are letters to and from a wide range of participants, including the university's president Robert G. Sproul, California's governor Earl Warren, some of the regents, and several of the many faculty members who refused to sign the oath on the grounds that the regents' action violated the principles of tenure and academic freedom.

Shortly before the controversy erupted, Phi Beta Kappa had issued a statement on freedom of inquiry and teaching and thus was quoted frequently in the press. On December 2, 1950, the Phi Beta Kappa Senate adopted a resolution supporting the faculty members who opposed the oath.

Although it cannot be said that the role of Phi Beta Kappa was decisive in resolving the loyalty oath difficulties, Greene says, the papers in its archives do illuminate the controversy in "highly interesting ways." He says that he finds it comforting to know that these papers, along with the rest of Phi Beta Kappa's unique and valuable archives, will have a secure home at the Library of Congress and that they will be accessible to scholars for a long time to come.

The American Scholar was recently described as "the only (magazine) that regularly delivers what it promises" (Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*). Our forthcoming Autumn 1990 issue is no exception, offering the serious reader a fine selection of feature articles, essays, poetry, and book reviews. If you subscribe now, you can look forward to reading these and other articles scheduled to appear: *The Cradle of Modernism: An Essay on French Verse*, by Jacques Barzun; *White Guilt*, by Shelby Steele; *Thornton Wilder*, by Paul Horgan; *Gerard Manley Hopkins at Oxford*, by Robert B. Martin.

To begin a year's subscription, just complete and return the coupon below. The Autumn 1990 issue will be mailed in early September.

The American Scholar / Department 14
1811 Q Street, NW / Washington, DC 20009

Please enter my subscription to *The American Scholar* (delivery of first issue 6-8 weeks.)

☐ 1 year \$21 (\$20 payment with order)

☐ 2 years \$38 (\$36 payment with order)

Add \$3 per year for Canadian and foreign postage.

☐ Payment enclosed ☐ Please bill me

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Recommended Reading

Book Committee

Humanities Frederick J. Crosson, Robert P. Sonkowsky, Jean Sudrann, Lawrence Willson
Social sciences Earl W. Count, Richard N. Current, Leonard W. Doob, Thomas McNaughter, Madeline R. Robinton, Victoria Schuck, Anna J. Schwartz
Natural sciences Ronald Geballe, Russell B. Stevens

Richard N. Current

Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People. Jon Butler. Harvard, 1990. \$29.50.

Preachers and priests have often lamented the decline of religious fervor among the American people, but there has been no such decline. A much larger proportion of Americans were church members and churchgoers in the 1980s than in the 1680s or the 1780s. Debunking the "myth of the American Christian past," Butler expertly and sympathetically interprets the "Christianizing" of the country from its earliest English settlements through the first half of the 19th century—to the point where Roman Catholics were just beginning to arrive in considerable numbers. Butler covers supernaturalism in a broad sense. He shows the persistence of magic and witchcraft while accounting for new forms of Christianity such as the Mormon and the Afro-American.

Benjamin Franklin: His Life as He Wrote It. Ed. by Esmond Wright. Harvard, 1990. \$25.

Franklin's autobiography is a classic, but it has gaps and ends in 1757, 33 years before his death. Now his most celebrated biographer, the English historian Esmond Wright, has taken selections from the autobiography, supplemented them with other writings of Franklin's, and arranged the pieces in a

chronological narrative. "It is *his* story," as the editor says. Though fragmentary, it provides an engaging introduction to one of the greatest Americans. "To meet him is to meet one of the shrewdest, wisest and most versatile of men, a great storyteller, with an infinite curiosity, and an infinite capacity for laughing at himself as well as others."

Liberty in Expansion, 1760–1850. Oscar and Lilian Handlin. Harper & Row, 1989. \$25.95.

This second volume of the Handlins' *Liberty in America: 1600 to the Present* maintains the high standards of the first. To the authors, liberty is not an abstraction to be sought primarily in the lucubrations of political philosophers. It is, rather, an ideal (or a bundle of ideals) that Americans have been working out in actual life. With that as a central theme, the Handlins give a fresh interpretation of American history. They comment, after describing the plight of American Indians and African Americans: "The situation of the people deemed completely human illuminated the qualities of men and women deemed whole, that is, endowed with volition and rights, whose liberty resided in the ability to act in accord with their own will and conscience."

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry. Priscilla Long. Paragon House, 1989. \$24.95.

Long started to prepare a biography of the legendary "Mother" Mary Jones, but the book "became a collective biography of her people," the coal miners and their families, on behalf of whom she labored as an early organizer of the United Mine Workers. This vivid account gives adequate attention to the role of class, ethnicity, and gender, and it clearly relates the history of coal mining to relevant trends in the history of the United States. The first half of the book deals mainly with the development of labor organizations in the Pennsylvania coalfields before 1900. The second half concentrates on Colorado and culminates in the Ludlow Massacre of 1914, when the National Guard opened murderous fire on striking miners and their wives and children.

Stanny: The Gilded Life of Stanford White. Paul R. Baker. Free Press, 1989. \$24.95.

It is as if there were two Stanford Whites. One was the famous architect, decorator, and designer of art objects who starred for the firm of McKim, Mead & White, "the most influential of all late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century American architectural concerns." The other Stanford White was a furtive playboy who wasted himself and his substance until shot (in 1906) by Harry K. Thaw, outraged husband of Evelyn Nesbit, "the girl in the red velvet swing." For years after that, White's noto-

riety overshadowed his fame. This new biography, restoring him to his place in architectural history, does justice to both his creative career and his dissipated life.

Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. Ed. by Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris. Univ. of North Carolina, 1989. \$49.95.

This encyclopedia "addresses those aspects of southern life and thought—the individuals, places, ideas, rituals, symbols, myths, values, and experiences—which have sustained either the reality or the illusion of regional distinctiveness." The book is indeed comprehensive, its topics ranging from "agribusiness" to "sexuality" and from "Wolfe, Thomas" to "Syrians and Lebanese." While a work of reference, it is also a book for browsing, a collection of mostly full and fascinating essays rather than merely factual snippets. It does not decide the question whether the uniqueness of southern culture is a "reality" or an "illusion," but it certainly has much of interest to say about a regional aspect of American history and civilization.

Madeline R. Robinton

Time's Reasons: Philosophies of History Old and New. Leonard Krieger. Univ. of Chicago, 1989. \$32.50.

That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession. Peter Novick. Cambridge Univ., 1988. \$49.50; paper, \$15.95.

For the historian and the philosopher *Time's Reasons* is an important book. Krieger is deeply concerned with what he considers the "challenge to the very substance of the historical approach to life," which he sees as more or less "synonymous" with the crisis of Western culture. He deplores the current cultural malaise of nonhistorians in regard to the value of history, but his emphasis here is on what he sees as the crisis within the discipline of history itself, "the crucial divergence between traditional and novel practitioners in their notions of what history is." To buttress his defense of critical history, he briefly surveys historiography from the ancient world to the present, analyzing the contributions of particular historians in their search for historical coherence.

Novick's very different book is a narrative history of the American historical profession from the establishment of the American Historical Association in 1884. This fascinating account of the thinking and writing of American historians of the 20th century is based not only on their published books and articles but also on their correspondence and personal papers. Novick is also concerned with their contributions to the professionalization of history: the development of departments of history, the selection of faculty, and the teaching of history in the schools and colleges, including the emergence of conflicts in ideas and interpretations. He portrays the questioning of "objectivity" in historical writing against the background of changes and conflicts in other academic disciplines and the growth of diversity and pluralism that characterize this *fin de siècle*.

(continued on page 6)

Letter to the Editor

I read with interest Sanford S. Pinsker's article in the *Key Reporter* (Spring 1990). I too believe that "The Virgin and the Dynamo" is a pivotal chapter in Henry Adams.

[He suggests] that "some editor . . . will welcome an updated version of 'The Virgin and the Dynamo.'" Such a work already exists. It is Thomas Pynchon's novel *V*, in which the title role of *V* is simultaneously the virgin and Venus, both sacred and profane love, yet at the same time is a piece of machinery.

As a physicist, I find *V* to be the most cogent representation in modern fiction of a society addressing the human meaning of technological change. When my son, David R. McIrvine (Phi Beta Kappa, University of Rochester), pointed out to me the connection between Pynchon and Adams, I felt I had received a real dividend from paying for his education. . . .

E.C. McIrvine
Rochester, N.Y.



Recommended Reading

(continued from page 5)

Marc Bloch: A Life in History. Carole Fink. Cambridge Univ., 1989. \$29.95.

This book is much more than a biography. It is a study of a brilliant historian's intellectual, professional, and political development within the context of the history of France in his lifetime. Internationally known and respected for his original work in social history and for his role in founding the *Annales d'Histoire Economique et Sociale*, Marc Bloch was professor of history at Strasbourg and then Paris. His career reflects the impact of rising anti-Semitism on a completely assimilated Jew. He served in the army in both world wars and was evacuated with his troops at Dunkirk. He returned to France but could not go back to Paris, then under Nazi occupation. He sought a position in Vichy France and experienced great difficulties because of the legislative restrictions against Jews. He was appointed to the University of Strasbourg in Exile at Montpellier, as one of 10 eminent professors who secured exemptions from the law. More and more disillusioned, he joined the Resistance and was captured by the Germans and executed in 1944. An absorbing study.

The Social Politics of Anglo-Jewry, 1880-1920. Eugene C. Black. Blackwell, 1988. \$27.95.

In this period of mass migration of people and emerging conflicts among ethnic and religious groups struggling for power within a society, Black offers an interesting study of how one group, English Jewry, faced the problem of mass migration of Polish and Russian Jews fleeing the pogroms in Russia in the late 19th century. Although divided between orthodoxy and reform, English Jews united in their philanthropic organizations—financed by extremely wealthy Jews like the Rothschilds, the Montagues, the Montefiores, and others in the aristocracy and middle class—to provide help in housing, education, and welfare as well as acculturation and Anglicization. They also gave financial help to Jews who wished to migrate further to the United States, Canada, Australia, and other places. The emergence of Zionism and its divisive implications are well treated.

Let History Judge: The Origins and Consequences of Stalinism. Roy Medvedev. Ed. and tr. by George Shriver. Columbia, 1989. \$59.50.

Although the author states that "within the framework of official Soviet history it is not yet possible to produce a scholarly biography of Stalin," this book will be a vital source for such a biography. This volume is an enlarged and much changed edition of a book written in the 1960s by the Soviet dissident historian Medvedev after Stalin's death and Khrushchev's revelations at the Twentieth Party Congress (it was published abroad in 1972). Based on oral interviews and published works and on published and unpublished memoirs of participants and victims, this book reveals the changing thinking of the author, as well as the influence of recent publications by novelists, playwrights, and journalists—but "not professional historians," because of the "con-

fusion that reigns among the leaders of the historical sciences" in the academic institutions. Fascinating if disturbing reading.

Ronald Geballe

Mathematics and the Unexpected. Ivar Ekeland. Univ. of Chicago, 1988. \$19.95.

In this small, elegant, prize-winning volume, Ekeland provides for the general reader some examples of strange outcomes from seemingly clear-cut situations. Thus, the picture of the solar system emerging from the work of Kepler and Newton, and polished in subsequent years by distinguished mathematicians, was a brilliant, fully deterministic Celestial Mechanics that could take into detailed account not only the attractive force of the sun, but also the small perturbations caused by the planets acting on one another. But the only way to handle the mathematics when more than two interacting bodies are involved is by using a scheme for approximation that depends on iteration—feeding an approximate solution back into the equations in order to obtain a more accurate next approximation, etc.

Faster computers help with this scheme, but do not offer escape from a fundamental flaw discovered by Poincaré at the beginning of this century. He showed that the iteration process can lead to a succession of interim solutions diverging further and further from one another instead of converging safely to a stable one, or in some cases, oscillating wildly between two sets of values or even more. Whether the progression leads to stability or instability depends on observationally found values of positions and speeds. Amazingly slight uncertainties in these initial values can drastically transform a solution from stability to instability. The basic equations of Newton are fully deterministic and indifferent as to the direction of time, but they contain solutions so irregular that they seem to portray uncontrollable randomness. Ekeland explains the origins of this and other kinds of unexpectedness hidden in seemingly determined situations, ending with reflections on the directionality of time as implied in Shakespeare and Homer as well as in physics.

Unrolling Time: Christiaan Huygens and the Mathematization of Nature. Joella G. Yoder. Cambridge Univ., 1988. \$42.50.
Christiaan Huygens' "The Pendulum Clock or Geometrical Demonstration Concerning the Motion of Pendula as Applied to Clocks." Tr. with notes by Richard J. Blackwell. Iowa State Univ., 1986. \$38.95.

These books deal with a major achievement by one of the preeminent figures of the Scientific Revolution: the theory and development of an accurate timekeeper, which resulted from Huygens's mastery of mechanics, gravitation (as then known), and mathematics during the period when calculus, which he did not accept, was still under challenge. Usually cited for his wave theory of the propagation of light, his work on centripetal force, and his ocular for telescopes, he has many other mathematical and physical advances to his credit. In the eyes of Leibniz, he was "the Incomparable Huygens." Blackwell provides the first English translation of Huygens's classic work, dedicated to Louis XIV, in whose court

Huygens served for most of his active life.

The Tradition of Science: Landmarks of Western Science. Leonard C. Bruno. Library of Congress, 1987. \$30.

The author, senior science specialist in the Library of Congress and curator of two Library exhibitions, takes the reader on an illustrated journey through Library holdings of first editions and other significant works in astronomy, botany, zoology, medicine, chemistry, geology, mathematics, and physics. Each section includes his account of the appropriate history. The illustrations are superb and the histories, not intended to be critical or comprehensive, are informative and interesting. A handsome volume, it is bound to create a desire to explore the rich holdings of our national library.

The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science Discovery and Invention. Robert Temple. Simon & Schuster, 1989. \$14.95.

This work makes accessible to the general reader highlights of Joseph Needham's prodigious 25-volume recovery (15 in print) of the magnificent scientific and technological achievements of ancient China. The array of these is staggering and surprising to Westerners and modern Chinese alike; the instances in which they antedate Western discoveries and advances extend far beyond the commonly attributed compass, printing, and gunpowder. The book is well illustrated and clearly written. Needham has contributed an introduction.

Boojums All the Way Through: Communicating Science in a Prosaic Age. N. David Mermin. Cambridge Univ., 1990. \$49.50; paper, \$16.95.

Mermin, a theoretical physicist, is well known for the wit and clarity displayed in his several essays aimed at obviating for nonphysicists and physicists alike some of what he terms the "atmosphere of verbal dreariness with which scientists seem unnecessarily to have surrounded themselves." In this collection he offers reflections on the pursuit of physics and explications (nontechnical) of the logical puzzles inherent in quantum theory and relativity.

Planetary Astronomy from the Renaissance to the Rise of Astrophysics. Part A: Tycho Brahe to Newton. Ed. by R. Taton and C. Wilson. Cambridge Univ., 1989. \$49.50.

This, the first part of vol. 2 of *The General History of Astronomy*, is addressed to a more general audience than professional historians. It contains, in nine sections, some 31 essays dealing with the transformation of astronomy that took place between the 16th and 18th centuries and with the persons who brought it about. The book contains much interesting narrative, detail, and explication and many clear illustrations. Although it contains technical matter, most of the treatment is readily accessible.

The Cambridge Atlas of Astronomy. 2d. ed. Ed. by Jean Audouze and Guy Israel. Cambridge Univ., 1988. \$90.

Larousse Astronomy. Ed. by Philippe de la Cotardiere. Facts on File Publications, 1987. \$35.

These translations from the French are encyclopedic collections of essays, photographs, and diagrams covering historical



astronomy, the mechanics of the solar system, contemporary developments in solar and planetary exploration, and cosmology and instrumentation. Either would be a useful source for the general reader.

Robert P. Sonkowsky

The Constraints of Desire: The Anthropology of Sex and Gender in Ancient Greece. John J. Winkler. Routledge, 1990. \$14.95.

Classics lost a unique and scintillating scholar and human being with the death this year of John Winkler. This book is one of his last, lively, elegant, inspiring gifts to us. It is about the deep, hidden social protocols of the ancient Greeks. Winkler's witty and brilliant insights will continue to enliven social, cultural, and literary studies of the ancient world. This book is written for the Greek-less as well as for Classicists. A portion of the profits from its sale will be given to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Greek Sculpture: An Exploration. Andrew Stewart. Yale, 1990. 2-vol. set, \$95.

A judicious, selective discussion (vol. I) of large-scale sculpture from ca. 1200 to 30 B.C., with skillfully photographed plates (vol. II). Stewart gives incisive stylistic descriptions but also notes the social and cultural context in which the art form developed and includes critical discussions of the ancients themselves. Sources are translated. There is a glossary of Greek and Latin terms.

The Institutes of Gaius. Tr. and intro. by W. M. Gordon and O. F. Robinson, with the Latin text of Seckel and Kuebler. Cornell, 1988. \$54.50; paper, \$22.50.

Roman Slave Law. Alan Watson. Johns Hopkins, 1987. \$18.50.

Slavery in Ancient Greece. Yvon Garlan. Rev. ed. Tr. by Janet Lloyd. Cornell, 1988. \$12.95.

Women and Law in Classical Greece. Raphael Sealey. Univ. of North Carolina, 1990. \$24.95.

Although we know next to nothing about Gaius himself, who lived in the second century A.D. and may have been a law professor, his *Institutes* is an important original Classical source for the Emperor Justinian's *Institutes*, the compilation of Roman law that served as a textbook for law students and influenced all European legal systems. Gaius's *Institutes* is even more important for understanding previous Roman law. This translation improves on that effort considerably because the translators try to use plain English instead of English derivatives of Latin legal terms, and they include a useful glossary. A very good book for legal scholars as well as legal history amateurs.

Watson's careful and compact description of Roman laws governing enslavement, manumission, the treatment of slaves as property, the master's acquisitions through the labor of slaves, freedmen, and the granting of citizenship is useful for scholars and students of Roman civilization. Technical terms and legalistic syntax pose a worthwhile challenge. The amorality and cruelty of ancient legal slavery are revealed almost without comment, as the evidence is made to speak for itself.

After benefiting from scholarly discussion of the 1982 French edition of his work on slavery in ancient Greece, Garlan revised and slightly expanded this work, and the translator has produced a readable English version. Garlan explicates this complex topic both from a careful inductive analysis of evidence and from an assessment of ancient and modern theories of slavery. He thereby avoids a priori views he associates with misunderstood Marxism and draws conclusions about ancient slavery within its social context and in its differing and particular forms.

Sealey lucidly describes ancient Greek law affecting women, especially in Athens but also in Gortyn and, as far as evidence allows, in Sparta and Hellenistic cities. He then contrasts the legal condition of women in Greece with that of women in the Roman republic, and investigates the more elusive evidence on women in Homer. Sealey concludes with an astute discussion of the causes behind the legal disadvantages of Greek women. An appendix credits Sealey's scholarly predecessors and corrects a sampling of errors in some feminist studies.

Ovid. Sara Mack. Yale, 1988. \$27.50.

This is, in my opinion, the best general book on Ovid. The content is based on sound scholarship. The style is clear, delightful, and perfectly paced. It would be an excellent introduction to Rome's great poet of *Metamorphoses*, *Art of Love*, *Heroides*, and "Loves," and a pleasant companion to advanced study as well.

Beyond Anger: A Study of Juvenal's Third Book of Satires. S. H. Braund. Cambridge Univ., 1988. \$39.50.

Criticism of Latin poetry increasingly profits from the study of books of a poet's *opera*, the order of books, and the order of poems within books. Through a detailed analysis of Juvenal's third book of *Satires*, Braund describes the progression of the different personae assumed by the poet from book to book. She shows in an erudite way, but with clear reasoning and style, the development from simple anger in Books I and II to irony in Book III. She traces this into an even more detached persona in IV and V. This persona is also somewhat Horatian in III and IV and becomes more cynical in V with a renunciation of anger. Requires some knowledge of Latin, but of wide appeal to students of literature.

Unruly Eloquence: Lucian and the Comedy of Traditions. R. Bracht Branham. Harvard, 1989. \$27.50.

A captivating, yet scholarly, study of the comic techniques of the great second-century satirist, Lucian from Samosata. Focusing on his dialogues, Branham takes the reader through the universes of Lucian's comic imagination and performances.

Leonard W. Doob

Arguing and Thinking: A Rhetorical Approach to Social Psychology. Michael Billig. Cambridge Univ., 1987, \$42.50; 1989, paper, \$16.95.

A valiant, refreshing effort to relate Classical and other forms of rhetoric to current social psychology. A rhetorician, for exam-

ple, uses oratory to move an audience, whereas a psychologist seeks to formulate principles concerning attitude change; both come to realize that "the ability to categorize presupposes the ability to particularize." Thus rhetoric, "the art of speaking well" and convincingly, pushes psychologists a bit closer to real life when other things are seldom equal and controlled: their ingenious experiments "should be taken as demonstrations of the infinite complexity of the rhetorical phenomena involved in persuasion." The use of "witcraft" (without the *ch* and not the author's neologism) adds more complications, as politicians and advertising executives very well know. Readers may force themselves to consider whether in some respects psychology and the other behavioral sciences have progressed very far beyond the likes of Aristotle, Protagoras, De Quincey, and of course William James.

Lewis Mumford: A Life. Donald L. Miller. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989. \$24.95.

A fascinating, conscientious, tangent-prone biography of this truly outstanding, intuitive, scholarly, egocentric generalist who survived almost exclusively as a self-supporting, penetrating, activist critic in the areas of architecture, regionalism, and cultural history with emphasis on the growth and decay of cities. National and international honors were most deservedly heaped on him although he chiefly influenced ideas rather than the course of events. This humanistic biographer has made a deliberate, sometimes successful effort to demonstrate how Mumford's personal life (notably, his magnificent wife, important in her own right; his profound affairs with intriguing women; and the death of his soldier son) affected his "genius for synthesis" and his ability to write and write and write. Miller describes in some detail the ideas of persons who influenced or were influenced by Mumford, including Copernicus, Herman Melville, Patrick Geddes, Frank Lloyd Wright, Benton MacKaye, and even Oswald Spengler. The author well portrays this struggling, gifted man and his penetrating, provoking ideas and ideals for this and the next century in this country and perhaps everywhere.

Michelangelo's Sistine Ceiling: A Psychoanalytic Study of Creativity. Jerome D. Oremland. International Universities Press, 1989. \$40.

Another contribution to the critical literature that seeks to comprehend this "greatest achievement in Western art" and thus to cast light on human creativity and our "awareness, being, and relating." The author, a devout, critical Freudian physician, admits that it took him "nearly twice as long" to arrange his own thoughts and write the book as it did for Michelangelo to complete his frescoes. This scholarly analysis of the Ceiling's "powerful visualization of the man-God dialectic" attempts to show how the cycles of creation and human metaphor in the parallel versions of the Old and New Testaments require treatment similar to that employed in the interpretation of dreams;

(continued on back cover)



Recommended Reading

(continued from page 7)

hence they can be understood by reference to the artist's milieu and its problems as well as to the artist's own development. Michelangelo apparently was markedly influenced by his mother's death when he was only six and by the selfish, unstable character of his father. The book's 121 full-page illustrations, almost all black-and-white reproductions, provide historical and psychological guides to this incredible Ceiling—guides that readers may accept or reject as they struggle to comprehend the manifest and latent content of what they perceive there.

Sexual Science: The Victorian Construction of Womanhood. Cynthia Eagle Russett. Harvard, 1989. \$25.

A historian's incisive, competent documentation of the specific ways in which Victorian scientists (particularly biologists and psychologists) and other scholars promulgated the "doctrine of feminine inferiority" and thus reflected and reinforced beliefs of ancient origin. With not always restrained indignation, this remarkably interdisciplinary, detailed analysis hurls substantiated criticisms at Welles, Geddes, Spencer, Ellis, Lombroso, and above all Darwin—and their fellow thinkers—by means of declarations and data concerning female and male writers then and now. For example, Does ontogeny recapitulate phylogeny? What inferences can be drawn from the size of skulls and brains? Is it true that



Author Richard N. Current is pictured in the Apollo Room at the College of William and Mary, holding a copy of his new history of the Society. He is flanked by four members of the Society's Executive Committee: (l. to r.) Norman F. Ramsey, immediate past president; Otis A. Singletary, president; Catherine S. Sims, senator and former president; and Joan M. Ferrante, vice president. At the far right is Ludwell H. Johnson, historian of the Alpha Chapter.

the average capacities and abilities of females and males may be approximately equal but that the variability of the latter exceeds that of the former? How important was and is the cultural setting in determining gender differences? Two "fundamental issues" confront us: have we really been able to free ourselves from the biases of the 19th century and what will our descendants be saying about us—and this gifted author—in 2990? And there is a challenge: can those who analyze persons, groups, and gender ever escape their zeitgeist?

Whose Keeper? Social Science and Moral Obligation. Alan Wolfe. Univ. of California, 1989. \$25.

This book is a clean-cut, reference-oriented struggle to comprehend the moral principles that guide the judgments and policies of modern Americans and Scandinavians concerning themselves and future

generations. "It is not difficult to understand," the author states after his own exposition, "why markets and states have become the preferred moral codes for modern liberal democracies." He then "argues" ethnocentrically, ethically, and perhaps convincingly that such values are not thereby effective and wholly respected. Essentially, we too often fail to recognize "society" as conceived by sociologists and perceived by people as "a gift" to be appreciated and to serve as a way of recognizing personal and community interests that range from abortion and AIDS to parenthood and voluntarism. On that lofty plane the relationship of social science to morality is forcefully pursued; hence the way in which particular individuals pass judgment and act is deliberately and necessarily neglected. Bravo, an ancient and respectable problem, but where, concretely, do we go from here?

The Key Reporter

volume 55 □ number four □ summer 1990

Editor: Priscilla S. Taylor

Consulting Editor: Douglas W. Foard

The Key Reporter is published quarterly by the Phi Beta Kappa Society at the Garamond/Pridemark Press, Baltimore, Maryland. Send all change-of-address notices to *The Key Reporter*, Phi Beta Kappa Editorial and Executive Offices, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. (Note that the ZIP Code for incoming mail is different from the 20077 code used only for postal returns.) No responsibility is assumed for views expressed in articles published.

For nonmembers, single copies are \$1.00; one year's subscription is \$3.00.

Copyright © 1990 by the Phi Beta Kappa Society. All rights reserved.

ISSN: 0023-0804

THE KEY REPORTER

PHI BETA KAPPA
1811 Q Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20077-8936

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Org.
5-Digit ZIP + 4
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5353
Riverdale, MD

