Franklin to Receive Associates Award

36th Triennial Council to Meet October 17-20; Lederman Will Give Inaugural Hook Lecture

Phi Beta Kappa will hold its 36th triennial Council on October 17-20 in Washington, D.C., with headquarters for the meetings at the Mayflower Hotel. A highlight of the weekend will be the presentation of the first Sidney Hook Award to Leon Lederman, Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics, University of Chicago, and winner of the Nobel Prize in physics for 1988. Lederman will deliver an address at the banquet on October 19.

The triennial Hook Award is a $5,000 cash prize that recognizes a scholar who has had extensive and distinguished experience in undergraduate teaching, has published research that contributed to the advancement of his or her academic discipline, and has demonstrated leadership in the cause of liberal arts education.

On October 17 a reception for Council participants will be held at the George Washington University, cohosted by area chapters and the Washington, D.C., alumni association. On October 18, John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History and professor of legal history in the Law School at Duke University, will receive the fourth annual Associates Award at a reception hosted by the Phi Beta Kappa Associates at the National Archives, marking the 51st annual meeting of the Associates. Franklin is a past president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (1973-76) and of the American Historical Association (1979) and is the author of numerous publications.

As the legislative body of the Society, the Council will consider and vote on the Senate's recommendations for the establishment of new chapters at Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut; Loyola College, Baltimore; Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas; Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania; and Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

In addition, the Council will consider (continued on page 2)

A Profile of a Prominent ΦBK Member

'Most Powerful Judge of His Time' Continues to Serve on Circuit Court

At age 64, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. (Phi Beta Kappa, Washington and Lee, 1929), was persuaded to accept appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court—the oldest person ever appointed an associate justice—after having refused to consider serving on the Court two years earlier because he was “too old.” As he approached his 80th birthday in 1987, Justice Powell unexpectedly stepped down because he had decided he no longer had the strength to put in the six-day work weeks he had routinely experienced on the Court. He was, says Henry J. Abraham, James Hart Professor at the University of Virginia, “the most revered and popular member of the Court . . . very much his own man beholden only to his learning, his professionalism, and his conscience.”

Because Powell had cast the deciding vote in so many 5-4 decisions, Herman Schwartz, writing in The Nation, called him “the most powerful judge of his time,” and U.S. News & World Report noted that his “courtly manner . . . failed to disguise the immense power he wielded.” For more than 15 years Powell had sought, he said, to “decide each case on the basis of the facts and the law of that case”—a philosophy that led him to vote with the liberals in civil cases involving the rights of individuals and to side with the conservatives on business and criminal issues.

Nowadays, despite continuing health problems—he had a hip replaced and a (continued on page 2)

Stanford Instructor Wins 1991–92 Sibley Fellowship For Studies in Greek

Martha Caroline Taylor, a graduate student and instructor at Stanford University, has been awarded Phi Beta Kappa's Sibley Fellowship of $7,000 for the 1991–92 academic year. A 1983 graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she will use the award to complete her dissertation on the geographical dimensions of the polis: Salamis, Marathon, and Oropos. Her dissertation is a "study of the process by which the Classical state of Athens determined what was really Athenian and what was not with regard to men (the distinction between citizen and non-citizen) as well as with regard to land and territory." Taylor is the 43d winner of the award, which was established with funds bequeathed to the Society in the will of Isabelle Stone.

1992–93 Sibley Award Increased, Offered for Studies in French

In 1992 the Sibley Fellowship will be increased to $10,000 and offered for studies in French language or literature. 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 beginning September 1992. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the Sibley Fellowship Committee, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

Inside

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an amendment on extending voting privileges for association delegates and a statement on improving standards throughout the nation’s education system.

The Council will also elect officers and senators for the coming triennium. Nominated for president is Joan M. Ferrante, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and currently vice president of the Society. Nominated for vice president is Charles Blitzer, director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and currently a member of the PBK Senate.

Eight senators at large and four district senators will be elected for six-year terms. The Senate nominees are as follows (asterisks denote nominees nominated for reelection):

**John T. Casteen, III**, president and professor of English, University of Virginia; *Joan M. Ferrante; Vartan Gregorian, president, Brown University; Erich S. Gruen, Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, University of California, Berkeley; *Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History, University of Chicago; *Donald S. Lamm, president and chairman, W. W. Norton and Company, Inc.; David Levering Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of History, Rutgers University; Helen F. North, Centennial Professor of Classics, Swarthmore College; Arnold S. Belman, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, senior physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and editor of the New England Journal of Medicine; Peter O. Steiner, professor of economics and law, University of Michigan; Catharine R. Stimpson, University Professor, dean of the Graduate School, and vice provost for graduate education, Rutgers University; and Burton M. Wheeler, professor of English, Washington University.

One senator is to be elected from each of the following districts:

**Middle Atlantic**: James P. Lusardi, Francis A. March Professor of English, Lafayette College; and Charles E. Staley, associate professor of economics, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

**East Central**: *Virginia O. Ferris, professor of English, Purdue University; and Roy T. Matthews, professor of history, Michigan State University.*

**North Central**: *Judith Lynn Sebesta, professor and director of classics, University of South Dakota; and Mary E. Thompson, professor of chemistry, College of St. Catherine.*

**Western**: Gerald L. Alexander, Michael and Elizabeth Valeriote Professor of Science, Santa Clara University; and Carol N. D’Onofrio, associate professor, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., chaired the Nominating Committee of the Council. Other members were Nina Z. Baym, E. David Cronon, Adalade Kirby Morris, Emma C. Norris, F. Carter Philips, Aileen Ward, and Burton M. Wheeler.

Four persons are to be elected to the Nominating Committee for the 1991–97 term from the following slate:

- Anna J. Coble, assistant professor of physics and biophysics, Howard University; Joel O. Conarroe, president, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation; Kenneth M. Greene, retired secretary, PBK Society; Catherine S. Sims, dean emeritus and professor of history emeritus, Sweet Briar College, and a past president of the PBK Society; Svetlana K. V. Thomson, administrative operations analyst, San Francisco State University; and Helen H. Vендler, Porter University Professor, Harvard University.

Justice Powell is a man whose acute intelligence is matched by his strength of character and awareness of the duty that we all owe to our community. In the legal world, preoccupied as it must be by technicality, Lewis Powell has illuminated his writing and his decisions with a sense of warm humanity.

—Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress Emeritus

Headsed a boarding school for boys in Virginia, with considerable influence on him as a youth. In Richmond, Powell attended the McGuire School, which prepared boys for the University of Virginia. After a visit to Washington and Lee with his school baseball team, he was persuaded to enroll in the smaller college, which at the time had perhaps 900 students. Powell says he “couldn’t have made a better choice.” Washington and Lee offered many opportunities for leadership, and, says Powell, “I went out for everything.” Ironically, he didn’t make the baseball team (a left-hander edged him out as first baseman), but he did manage the football team, was managing editor on the newspaper, and became president of the student body. Perhaps because he had spread himself so thin, he says he was “totally surprised” to make Phi Beta Kappa. (One of his sisters also was elected to the Society at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College.)

Powell stayed on at Washington and Lee for his LL.B., which he earned in two years. After passing the Virginia bar exam, he was persuaded by his father, who had no college degree, to postpone practicing law and continue his studies at Harvard, where he took a seminar under Felix Frankfurter and earned his LL.M.

Powell then returned to Richmond to join one of the oldest law firms there, combining trial work with corporate law, which he was to practice over the next four decades, with time out for service as an intelligence officer in the Army Air
The Future of Kuwait: A Personal View by a Veteran of 'Desert Storm'  
By Thomas McNaugher

I

Kuwait headed toward civil war? Press reporting suggests as much. Kuwaitis want political change, soon; they see their country’s occupation and recent liberation as a watershed marking the end of autocratic rule, the beginning of some kind of participatory democracy. Kuwait’s resistance fighters, who stayed behind and fought Iraq’s occupying forces while the emir fled to Saudi Arabia, understandably feel that they deserve a much greater role in determining their country’s future.

Meanwhile, the emir talks a good line—he promised democracy well before his country was liberated, for example—but acts as if Iraq’s invasion and occupation changed nothing. His cabinets, both the one that returned with him in early March and the new one appointed in mid-April, feature the “usual suspects,” most of whom have for good reason lost the people’s confidence and few of whom represent new political forces unleashed by the occupation. The emir’s promise of elections in October 1992 places democracy too far off to satisfy his critics.

Most Kuwaitis have an abiding respect for the al-Sabah family, which has ruled what is now known as Kuwait since 1756. But many resent the arrogance with

which the emir has returned from the safety and comfort of Jiddah and points west to impose “business as usual” on Kuwait’s most unusual political circumstances. Iraq’s occupation has left Kuwaitis better armed and organized than ever before. How long can the emir believe this way before resentment turns to armed resistance?

Longer than many seem to think, I suspect. I recently returned from two months’ duty in Kuwait City, having been mobilized as part of an Army Reserve unit whose mission was to help provide emergency relief to the city just after Iraq’s troops fled. Meanwhile, as a civilian I have studied the Gulf region (albeit as a military strategist rather than an Arabist), traveled there (including a brief visit to Kuwait in 1987), and written a book about U.S. military strategy toward this oil-rich part of the world. None of this experience makes me confident about my or anyone else’s predictions about this volatile region; recall how many scholars (myself included) and political leaders failed to foresee Saddam’s invasion of Kuwait.

Still, I have a few insights into the situation that make me slightly less worried about civil war than current press reporting suggests we should be. My skepticism does not spring from faith in the emir’s willingness to move circuit courts of appeal. And his importance to the Court, where he was the least predictable of the justices, became even more evident during the long fight to fill his seat, first with Robert Bork and then with Douglas Ginsburg, before Anthony Kennedy was finally confirmed.

As to his current concerns, Powell notes that although he voted with the Court to uphold the death penalty (which he views as clearly constitutional), he believes that capital punishment does not deter murder and says that if he were a state legislator he would oppose capital punishment. He blames the high murder rate in the United States primarily on the unlimited sale and availability of handguns.

Powell also expresses concern about the extent to which unlimited television viewing on the part of America’s youth preempts their time for reading.

—Priscilla S. Taylor

Profile of Justice Powell  
(continued from page 2)

Force in World War II. He participated in the invasion of North Africa in 1942 and eventually became one of a handful of American “Ultra” intelligence specialists working in England. He ended the war as a full colonel and chief of operations for intelligence on General Carl Spaatz’s staff.

Education has always been one of Powell’s main interests, and after leaving the Richmond schools through the crisis of the 1950s he moved on to the Virginia Board of Education. He also was president of the ABA and the American College of Trial Lawyers, was a member of Lyndon Johnson’s National Crime Commission, and served as vice president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. It was doubtless this variety of experience, coupled with his judicial temperament, that recommended Powell to President Nixon when he most needed a candidate that could be confirmed for the Court.

Powell claimed at the time of his appointment that he would “rather play than be the umpire,” and he maintains today that he never had any desire to be a judge. He agrees now that he came to enjoy his work, as evidenced by his willingness to continue to serve on federal courts of appeal. And his importance to the Court, where he was the least predictable of the justices, became even more evident during the long fight to fill his seat, first with Robert Bork and then with Douglas Ginsburg, before Anthony Kennedy was finally confirmed.

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trials are benign, even humane, at least relative to the regional standard. After all, who else in the region holds trials at all? Thus I confess to some relief that Kuwait has (with few exceptions) chosen trials of any sort over the revenge attacks that many of us feared might occur in the early weeks after Kuwait's liberation.

Yet the fact remains that Kuwaitis and the world at large expect Kuwaiti government to observe higher standards of civil rights. The emir seems unaware that he is living in a fishbowl, where every action he takes is observed for its political content.

Kuwait's rulers had a chance to signal constructive political intentions when they introduced their new cabinet in mid-April. The old cabinet resigned in part because its unpopularity was obvious. Those of us plying the streets of Kuwait City every day had no trouble divining that Kuwaiti people, or at least those living there at the time (most Kuwaitis have yet to return to their native city), wanted fresh faces in charge, including members of the resistance, plus evidence of competence. What they got was mostly the same old faces in new cabinet positions, as if somehow incompetence would disappear with the assignment of a new portfolio.

All this suggests that the emir is seeking to place a lid on traditionalism on a pot that may be about to boil over—classic prerevolutionary circumstances, one might argue. Yet my experience makes me question just how close this pot really is to boiling. Kuwaitis eager to air their grievances seem neither disposed nor organized to fight over them.

No doubt Kuwaitis' citizens are better organized and armed than ever before. The emir can thank Iraq on both counts. Indeed, on the latter point, even if Iraq's forces had not consciously armed collaborators, they left behind such as huge arsenal that pillaged alone—and there was a lot of it—has probably made Kuwaiti population the most extensively armed in the world.

Still, resistance groups remain divided on the bases of neighborhood, religious, and political affiliations. In some neighborhoods, for example, the Kuwaiti army, such as it was, quickly established close working relationships with resistance members. Elsewhere, however, tensions between the army and resistance ran fairly high. The opportunity to divide and rule thus remains real. (Although I did not work directly with Kuwaiti tiny army, from a distance it too seemed to be fractured and only loosely controlled from the center. Divide and rule thus may work with the military as well as with the resistance.)

Nor is it clear that resistance figures are uniformly lionized by other Kuwaitis. To paraphrase the way one Kuwaiti who had been in the city throughout Iraq's occupation put it, "The resistance isn't all it's cracked up to be: it made many mistakes in the early months and some of those mistakes got people killed." One opinion isn't worth much, but this one reinforced the impression I had from two months' residence that the resistance simply wasn't operating as a coherent force in Kuwaiti society.

Another factor that leads me to question the political energy of Kuwaiti's opposition groups is the constant difference between rhetoric and reality in the country. For example, the resistance forces, who were in telephone contact with allied forces until just before the ground war began, exaggerated the extent of Iraq's destruction of their city. Although Iraq's capacity for cruelty and wanton destruction cannot be denied, the fact remains that Kuwait City was not the shambles we were led to expect. For example, we were told that Kuwait's hospitals had been stripped of most of their technology and were, by the middle of February, filled with Iraqi wounded. Yet we found Kuwaiti's seven major hospitals in remarkably good shape, functioning reasonably well under duress, and housing among them only 44 Iraqi wounded.

Press reports that the Iraqis had stripped Kuwaiti's hospitals of their equipment vastly overstated the case. Some hospitals (and many of the country's small clinics) had been stripped, but several went largely unmoled. Meanwhile, the Iraqis had completely overlooked the city's huge central medical warehouse. Thus we found only a few specialized supplies—distilled water and liquid oxygen—in short supply. In the absence of the expected medical emergency, both the U.S. Army and the International Committee of the Red Cross quickly set aside plans to bring major field hospitals into the city.

Similarly, in March before the ground war began, Kuwaiti's resistance fighters spoke with increasing urgency of dwindling food supplies, as hungry Iraq troops looted homes and grocery stores. Entering the city on March 1, however, we found homes stocked with literally months' worth of staples like rice and lentils. Sometimes these had been cleverly hidden, but often they were in plain sight. The city's cooperative grocery stores had begun to run out of supplies, although less as a result of Iraqi looting than of panic buying by Kuwaitis. We were surprised to find fresh eggs, and in some cases vegetables and fruit, on store shelves. We were told that these had been purchased in Basrah (in southern Iraq) only the week before the ground war began, suggesting that commercial trade between Kuwait and Iraq continued at some level even during the allies' devastating air interdiction campaign.

The resistance understandably may have exaggerated the situation in an attempt to trigger the ground war as soon as possible, yet exaggeration continued even after the city was liberated. We sought to verify countless tales of disappearances, torture, food riots, and so forth during our two months in Kuwait City. Some proved to be true; most evaporated as we neared the source. Food riots, in particular, normally turned out to have been mere jostling in food lines set up around the city.

Press reporting based on interviews with Kuwaiti's vocal dissidents thus is likely to exaggerate their unhappiness and their readiness for violence. Many of my military colleagues and I drove the streets of Kuwait almost daily looking for signs of impending violence, discontent, or whatever. We concentrated on suburbs like Hawalli and Farwanya, which are home to Kuwaiti's many Palestinians and third-country nationals. What we saw instead was a bustling, reawakening city whose people, while voicing fears and concerns, were mostly just happy to have the Iraqis gone. To the extent that one can feel the pulse of a city from walking the streets, visiting markets, and talking to people, this was not a population primed for violence.

Finally, of course, there looms the question of oil, revenue from which is the political narcotic of the Gulf sheikdoms. Oil money is not the only source of political cohesion in these states, to be sure; religious, traditional, and family ties have given them surprising resilience. There is no question, however, that oil revenues grease the skids to political complacency.

Oil is making a comeback after bottoming out in 1985; hence oil revenue will probably increase in the years ahead. Kuwait is not yet exporting oil, but will probably begin to do so this fall. In any event, Kuwait made more money in 1989 from investments abroad than from oil sales. There is an abundance of money even in this war-torn country. Whether the emir spends it wisely remains to be seen, but at high enough levels the wealth simply trickles down at a rate sufficient to diffuse political tensions.

If, as I suspect, political tensions in Kuwait are overstated in any case, the emir has a reasonable chance to succeed in returning his country to something close to the status quo ante. Alas, that would be a shame. For although we should (continued on page 5)

Thomas McNaugher, a West Pointer who is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a member of our Book Committee, wrote this article for The Key Reporter shortly after his return in May from five months' active duty in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with the U.S. Army.
The Future of Kuwait (continued from page 4)

not want to see civil war wrack this small and relatively humane country, neither should we want to see Kuwait slide back to its traditional politics. Of all the Gulf sheikhdoms, Kuwait probably has the best chance of making a transition toward more meaningful forms of political participation. It has a constitution and a parliament, albeit the latter has rarely had much power. It has political parties, albeit they are many and fractious. And it has always had a degree of political pluralism among its 20 or 30 major families. The al-Sabah may rule, but in many ways they are merely first among equals.

U.S. values rightly encourage our policymakers to push Kuwait toward democracy, while the dominant role the United States played in liberating Kuwait gives us moral and practical leverage to use in this effort. Such policy must of course be subtle; our policymakers understandably worry that too aggressive a push toward democracy may only encourage civil violence, or at least such the United States into domestic politics it only vaguely un-
derstands. U.S. policymakers must also grapple with the Saudis, who have always feared that steps to expand political participation in Kuwait will somehow spill over into their country, which remains a monarchy based on very conservative religious principles.

Yet to the extent that Kuwait is less prone to civil war than it may seem to be on the surface, there is correspondingly more room for U.S. diplomatic pressure for more democracy. And having just helped to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi tanks, the United States need not cater too eagerly to the Saudis’ call for a hands-off approach. Unless we find some magical alternative to oil as an energy source, we are going to be engaged with the sheikhdoms of the Arabian Peninsula for some years to come. There is no better time now, in the wake of a great military victory, to fashion a strategy that encourages the slow but steady opening of these political systems to the demands of their citizens. Kuwait seems to be the perfect place to start.

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Recommended Reading (continued from page 5)

with a taxonomy applicable not only to understanding the text of TV programs but also to "reconceptualising media effects as gradual, symbolic, and cognitive." Wittingly or not, politicians and advertisers are well acquainted with this jargon (minus the jargon), are the rest of us?


An impressive compendium of the evidence substantiating the view "among behavioral scientists, policymakers, and even taxpayers that timely intervention is a cost-effective method for combating against the sorts of poverty experienced early in life." The 55 contributors to the handbook are Americans actively studying and promoting the welfare of exclusively American and Canadian children. There is clearly no single, magical technique to intervene productively, but there seem to be ways to help most if not all children at "high risk," provided each child's somewhat unique problems and surroundings are taken into account. The knowledge of these specialists is not being fully used by a society with other concerns, and yet— isn't there some progress?


An impressive defense of the thesis that creativity and madness, although sometimes co-existing in the same person, are not inevitably related. Deservedly acclaimed personalities have been creative without being psychopathic; obviously the reverse is too true. On the basis of clinical and systematic experience, including interviews with contemporary men and women of note, even experiments, and an examination of archives, this research-oriented psychiatrist argues and concludes that creative thinking results from an ability to cope with antithetical elements, to integrate and differentiate narrative entities from discrete entities. Each reader will be impressed with the analysis or psychoanalysis of a particular writer, scientist, artist, or musician; recommended are those focused on Emily Dickinson, Eugene O'Neill, and Sylvia Plath. One challenging conclusion suggests that, in order to interpret and understand the behavior and the complete artwork is insufficient"; biographical data are needed. The author also believes that psychiatric treatment need not interfere with creativity.

Robert P. Sonkowski


Even if poorly edited, this translation from the 1987 French version will surely interest Classicists and students of social history and gerontology. The topic is an, as we learn, largely unexplored one. The book is a pioneering attempt to gather texts from ca. 2500 B.C. to the 16th century a.d. which still speak to the aging population—that is, to all of us. Besides literature and myth, some attention is also paid to palaeontological statistics about age at death. But even if the text is overdue, it was difficult for the author to master; it tries to distinguish the lot of, and societal attitude toward, the old in various eras. Because of the "progress" we have made, it may be difficult for us to grasp one of the conclusions—that, in general, old age, although for the most part viewed pessimistically, was even in those days generally preferred to death.

The Idea of the Labyrinth from Classical Antiquity through the Middle Ages. Penelope Reid Doob. Cornell, 1990. $34.95.

This is an excellent study, well-written and important. The author observes that the labyrinth in literature and art. Doob's analysis discovers for all Classicists and medievalists a concept that is powerful both for inspiring artistry and for interpreting it. She begins with the myth of the Labyrinth of Daedalus on Crete and analyzes the concept in Vergil, Ovid, Boethius, Dante, and Chaucer. A well-organized study, this work is of interest to literarians, art historians, and those interested in jargon, even to modern times.


The first three books are the first, second, and fourth volumes of the series on myth and poetics edited by Gregory Nagy to encourage the integration of literary criticism with cultural anthropology. The fourth book is an account of oral performance ranging over seven continents and from Homer to today.

Using comparative materials from other oral cultures, Martin gives many insights about the distinctive qualities of the speeches of the heroes of Homer's Iliad. Perhaps most important, he finds the voice of the poet himself in that of Achilles. Both the poet and the hero strive to surpass all competition. Martin's fresh approach goes far in the direction of lifting the text from the page and revealing it as a drama

The book by Nagy himself is a collection of closely related papers edited and organized to show his approaches to the Indo-European origins of Greek poetics, myth and ritual, and social ideology. It is a profound, yet magisterial work comparing different ancient languages and myths with the myths of our cultures. The arguments involving myths and etymologies are complex, but all ancient quotations are translated, with key words repeated in parentheses after the equivalent English word.

Scully also brings in comparative material, especially why the sacred nature of the Homer's poems, but the book is aimed primarily at illuminating the Homeric vision of the polis as at once architectural, human, and divine. Homer's vision is further seen as a poetic composition derived from combined elements from Mycenean to 8th-century Ionian times. This fictional polis is at the center of the tragic themes of the Iliad.

Sociolinguist Edwards and Classicist Sienkewicz compare several aspects of oral performance across many cultures. They discuss the dynamic characteristics of oral performers, their language, and their interaction with audieces. This work is of interest to modern times. From Homeric to Yugoslav singers, from Africa to Afro-America, Madagascar, Samoa, and the Caribbean. They explore the interrelationship of literacy and oral performance, as well as miscommunication between contemporaneous oral and literate cultures.


This is a highly technical study of different kinds of enjambment (the noncoincidence of verse-end and sentence-end) in relation to meter and the oral formulae of Homer's Iliad. Furthermore, the reading book requires some proficiency in ancient Greek, and very few applications of Higbie's conclusions are made to appreciation of content. They are chiefly statistical. Yet for students of Homeric Greek verse, this study is an indispensable summary of, and advance upon, our understanding of the meter and composition of Homer and our ability to analyze its hold upon us.


The second volume will complete this first comprehensive survey of the archaeology and history of the area from 3000 B.C. to the Islamic Conquest. The author's conviction that the commonalities perceived today among Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the other Gulf countries cover ancient underlayers that justify studying them as a unity was his original motive for the volumes, but he disclaims and avoids any suggestion that today's problems in the region are the result of unbroken historical continuity. The current volume is a clearly written synthesis of the palaeological, archaeological, and inscriptive evidence to ca. 300 B.C. The descriptions and commentary, the plates and drawings, maps, plans, and tables, along with convenient bibliographical references, are not only will receive the notice of scholars, but will convince the interested general reader that in this region, which has received recent attention of a different kind, there is "more beneath the ground than oil."


In this admirably wide-ranging discussion Cole argues that the true origin of Greek rhetoric is not as reconstructed by later antiquity (e.g., in the works of Corax) or by Plato and Aristotle (in the work of their predecessors), but in the intellectual revolution taking place in Plato's own generation. This was a gradual revolution, but one bit as dramatic and important as the replacement of classicism by romanticism in modern times. Platonism itself is largely responsible for this revolution, which depends on a new ability to divorce content from expression. This ability, in turn, is linked to the development of written over oral composition and the notion of permanent realities.

Lawrence Wilsson

The Library of America. The governors of this enterprise, operating under the aegis of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the original financial fathers, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation, are entitled to special treatment and as much publicity in this column as can, within the limits of editors' discretion, be allotted to them, for almost every one of the 50...

THE KEY REPORTER

Immured in an unhappy marriage (to the handsomest man in the Harvard class of 1873), Edith Wharton was advised, so it is said, by Silas Weir Mitchell, a neurologist of Philadelphia, himself a novelist of some fame, to take up the writing of fiction as a therapy. If the tale be true, Dr. Mitchell deserves more honor for his prescription than for his own fiction. To be the godfather of the unforgettable Ethan Frome is a sufficient justification for having lived; and Edith Wharton's failure in relationships with Teddy Wharton, Walter Berry, and Morton Fullerton—a failure not primarily of her own making—gave her the sympathy with women in comparable situations that permeates these novellas. A special feature of this volume is the appendix, a fragment of autobiography not previously published.


Readers who do not agree that Henry James wrote the Great American Novel are granted another option in Absalom, Absalom! a novel of suffocating power about the postbellum South with all its problems of a faded, fake, and discredited aristocracy. The Unvanquished is a series of stories introducing the Sartoris family before and after the War of the Secession, a chronicle dominated by two boys, one white, the other (smarter) black. If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem (Faulkner's preferred title for The Wild Palms) is a savage tale (a pair of tales, really) of the old restless manhood and humanity. The Hamlet is the first of three novels, together titled Snares, about another group of little foxes that eat the vines.


The sheer luminosity of Cather's prose, in which, as she said, it is not so much what is printed on the page as what is suggested there that tells the story, not only gives her an honored place among the writers cited earlier but explains and justifies her inclusion as one of the only four women (and the only American) among the 130 authors (of all history) represented in the newly revised Great Books of the Western World. It is more than possible that A Lost Lady, which explores the defeat of depth in the sentimental contemporary world (the world of the Snopeses), is another Great American Novel.


Hail! Hail! The gang's all here: Stephen Crane (briefly), Joseph Conrad, Ford Maddox Hueffer (later Ford, the inheritor of the mantle of Ananias), James Henry, and, for good measure, Harold Frederic (glancingly), Edith Wharton, and Howard Sturgis, the author's great-granduncle (who was more skilled at embroidery than prose composition)—the writers, American, Polish, and German, to whom H.G. Wells gave the sinister title of "a ring of conspirators" bent on stealing English prose and remolding it into some alien creation of their own.

They all foregrounded in the vicinity of Romney Marsh in the late 1890s, and Seymour makes the center of the group (although there never was, strictly speaking, a group) the aging James, the Master (who was Master only to Conrad), during the last years of his life. It is a gossipy chronicle of adulterous liaisons, Uranian crises, tea parties with elderly ladies, and the other pastimes of fin de siecle English gentry. The tales of envy (James's of Conrad, for instance, and of Wharton, who was rich to begin with and grew richer with every line she published) and duplicity (most notably Wells's vicious parody of James in Boon) have all been told before, but it is pleasant to have them retold in a post-Edelian era free of the heavy atmosphere of hagiography and Freudian innuendo.

Seymour has calm and sensible things to say about the homoeroticism of the times. "The Victorian and Edwardian hints are more obvious than they are today," she writes, "in understanding and accepting that a man can love... (continued on back cover)
and physically worship one of his own sex without seeking any closer contact than an embrace or, at most, a kiss." Foolish, to be sure, and in an elderly man silly, but not "worse" than that. The spirit was of Winkelmann and Walter Pater, not Oscar Wilde. "The context of the time" is what counts.


Edith Wharton was rich and she was formidable—to her friend Henry James she was at times "a meddling philanthropist" and an Angel of Devastation, and often the impression she made was by no means calculated to win friends. When she first met Mary and Bernard Berenson, they found her intolerably rude: "She sniffed, she sneered, she jeered, she lost no opportunity for putting in the wounding word." No wonder, then, that by her own testimony she never had "any warm personal life" until she was 48 years old and Morton Fullerton fell in love with her (or so she thought). Her lovers (understandably like the pusillanimous "heroes" of her fiction) always failed her; so she found solace at first with older men (James, for instance) and later with much younger men, with her servants (who became her family and stayed with her when they could no longer serve), and always with her dogs. Of the surface life was a glittering adventure, as her letters show—warm, charming letters, comparable to those of the great correspondents of the age in which she lived, James and his friend (hers, too) Henry Adams. Be it remembered, too, that the Berensons ultimately became her devoted friends, part of her circle of expatriated American triumphant. The character of the wretched exotics produced in a European glass-house, the most déploé and useless class on earth.

Because James, in an agony of despair in 1910 over the failure (financial) of the New York Edition, burned his personal papers, including Edith Wharton's letters to him, the book of James-Wharton correspondence is necessarily disappointing and lopsided. It contains only eight of her letters, written when he was near the end of his life and she was busy in her career as Lady Bountiful to the people of France in the Great War. Still, it is worthwhile and always with her dogs. Of the surface life was a glittering adventure, as her letters show—warm, charming letters, comparable to those of the great correspondents of the age in which she lived, James and his friend (hers, too) Henry Adams. Be it remembered, too, that the Berensons ultimately became her devoted friends, part of her circle of expatriated American triumphant. The character of the wretched exotics produced in a European glass-house, the most déploé and useless class on earth.

There are three classes of Phi Beta Kappa membership. Approximately 99 percent of all members elected each year are members in course, elected from candidates for degrees in liberal arts and sciences—as a rule, from the top tenth of the graduating class. Alumni members are elected from the alumni body of the sheltering institution; ordinarily they have been graduated at least 10 years and are thought to merit recognition for scholarly accomplishment after graduation. Honorary members are elected from outside the student and alumni bodies of the sheltering institution and are chosen on substantially the same basis as alumni members. In 1991 Phi Beta Kappa's 240 chapters selected a total of about 15,000 new members.

Jimmy Carter Granted Honoray Membership By Kansas State

Former president Jimmy Carter was granted honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa on April 26 on the occasion of his presentation of a Landon Lecture, named for Alf Landon, former governor of Kansas, at Kansas State University. Carter joins 10 other U.S. presidents who have received alumni or honorary memberships: Martin Van Buren (Union College), Franklin Pierce (Bowdoin College), Rutherford B. Hayes (Kenyon College), James A. Garfield (Williams College), Grover Cleveland (Princeton University), Woodrow Wilson (Wesleyan University), Calvin Coolidge (Amherst College), Franklin D. Roosevelt (Harvard University), Harry S. Truman (University of Missouri), and Dwight D. Eisenhower (Columbia University). Five other U.S. presidents were elected as undergraduates: John Quincy Adams (Harvard), Chester A. Arthur (Union), Theodore Roosevelt (Harvard), William H. Taft (Yale University), and George H. W. Bush (Yale).

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