Harvard Graduate Student Wins 2000–01 Sibley Fellowship

Jenny Lefcourt, a 1992 graduate of Cornell University, has won Phi Beta Kappa’s Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship for 2000–01. Now a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University living in Paris, she will use the award to complete work on her dissertation, “Keeping Watch on Leisure: French Cinema as ‘Parisian Populism,’ 1920–1939.” The fellowship, which was established by a bequest in 1934 to aid young women scholars, provides a stipend of $20,000.

In 2001 the Sibley fellowship will be offered for studies in Greek. Candidates must be unmarried women who are between 25 and 35 years of age and 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 their project during the fellowship year beginning in September 2001. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to the Sibley Fellowship Committee, Phi Beta Kappa, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

First ΦBK Poetry Contest Rescheduled for 2001

The Phi Beta Kappa poetry competition originally planned to be launched this autumn, with awards to be made at the ΦBK Senate banquet in December, has been rescheduled as a stand-alone event for next year.

Robert Farnsworth, poetry editor of the American Scholar, and staff of the national office will formulate award guidelines, with the assistance of a committee of distinguished poets. The award is being underwritten by a $75,000 grant from the Joseph and May Winston Foundation of Scarsdale, N.Y. Details will appear in a future issue of the Key Reporter.

Society to Change Schedule for Sustaining Membership Appeals

In order to save money and staff time by consolidating its mailings, Phi Beta Kappa will mail Sustaining Membership appeals to all members of the Society for the 2000–01 membership year in late September and October, regardless of previous membership renewal dates, Secretary Douglas Foard has announced. Contributions of members during the spring and summer months have been credited for the 1999–2000 membership year. Contributions received this autumn will keep sustaining members current until September 2001.

Sustaining Membership contributions provide more than one-third of the annual operating budget of the Society. The Visiting Scholar program, the publication of the Key Reporter and the American Scholar, and the work of the Records Department—adding 15,000 new member records each year and keeping current the addresses of our 500,000 members—depend, to a large extent, upon the success of the Sustaining Membership mailings.

Since the beginning of the Sustaining Membership appeals in 1939–40, the Society has mailed a single solicitation letter with a single follow-up piece, if necessary, but the mailings have been staggered through the academic year, on a geographic basis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Jenny Lefcourt
Princeton Professor to Give Banquet Address, Chicago Businessman to Receive Award at Triennial Council in Philadelphia

When Phi Beta Kappa holds its 39th triennial Council in Philadelphia on October 19-22, Natalie Zemon Davis, Henry Charles Lea Professor Emerita of History, Princeton University, will deliver the Sidney Hook lecture, a highlight of the banquet on October 21. Her topic will be “The Heroine in History.” The Sidney Hook Award of $7,500 underwrites a lecture by 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 liberal arts education.

The Phi Beta Kappa Senate’s Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities will be presented at the opening of the plenary session of the Council on October 20. The recipient is Richard J. Franke, a Chicago businessman who serves on the board of directors of the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Newberry Library and is one of the founders of the Chicago Metro Fair, a humanities and arts event.

The Phi Beta Kappa Fellows have scheduled their annual meeting to coincide with the Council in Philadelphia.

Opening Symposium

The Council proceedings will open with the late-afternoon symposium at which Leroy R. Rouner, professor of philosophy and religion at Boston University, and Catharine R. Stimpson, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, will speak. The full Council, the legislative body of Phi Beta Kappa, will meet in general sessions on October 20, 21, and 22. The Council consists of Phi Kappa senators, past presidents of the Society, and delegates from the chapters and accredited associations.

New Chapters and Officers

The council will vote on the Senate’s recommendations for the establishment of several new chapters and will elect officers for the next triennium. Nominated for president is Joseph Gordon, dean of undergraduate education, Yale University. Nominated for vice president is Niall W. Slater, professor of classics and director of the Center for Language, Literature, and Culture at Emory University.

Senate Nominations

Nine senators at large and three district senators will be elected for six-year terms. The nominees at-large seats are as follows (asterisks denote senators nominated for reelection).

Bruce R. Barrett, professor of physics, University of Arizona; Catherine W. Berheide, professor of sociology, Skidmore College; John P. Birkeland, senior adviser, Warburg Dillon Read; Allison Blakely, professor of European and comparative history, Howard University; Eloise E. Clark, vice president of academic affairs and professor of biological sciences, Bowling Green State University; Patricia A. Graham, president, the Spencer Foundation; Werner L. Gundersheimer, director, Folger Shakespeare Li-

New England District: Louis M. Gemin, lecturer on ethics in science in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard Medical School, and Don J. Wyatt, professor of history, Middlebury College.

South Atlantic District: Harvey E. Kiehr, Andrew Mellon Professor of Politics and History, Emory University, and John W. Kuykendall, professor of religion, Davidson College.

South Central District: Charles H. Adams, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas, and John Churchill, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, Hendrix College.

Nominating Committee

Four persons are to be elected to the Nominating Committee from the following slate for the term ending in 2006: Frederick J. Crosson, Cavanaugh Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Humanities, University of Notre Dame; Claire Gaudiani, president, Connecticut College; Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History, University of Chicago; David W. Hart, professor of English and associate dean of the graduate school, University of Arkansas; Free man A. Hrabowski III, president, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and Stephen J. Trachtenberg, president, George Washington University.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Virginia R. Ferris, professor of entomology, Purdue University.

Joseph Gordon, nominated for president

Niall Slater, nominated for vice president
What Made Pericles a Leader?

By Philip Stadter

Editor's note: Last November, Phi Beta Kappa sponsored a program on “Leadership and Character” for 1,200 high school students and advisers attending the annual conference of the National Honor Society in Washington, D.C. Historian Garry Wills opened the presentations with a brief discussion of George Washington as an example of leadership and courage. The following presentation by Philip Stadter (ΦBK, Princeton University, 1958), Falk Professor in the Humanities and professor of classics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was also popular with the audience.

This Phi Beta Kappa Forum is a special occasion to consider those indefinable qualities that we call leadership and character. However indefinable, both leadership and character are evident in George Washington’s life. By looking back at Washington today, we are trying to discover for ourselves how we can nourish leaders in our time. Despite the many good men and women in politics, in business, and in the professions, we know that our times, our problems, our dreams need more and better leaders. And so we turn to a great man of former times for some lessons in leadership.

The great Greek biographer Plutarch did the same thing, and I think the lessons he found are useful for us as well. Plutarch lived under the Roman Empire, and had seen the effect of disastrous leadership in the tyrannies of the emperors Nero and Domitian, and the savagery of civil war. He decided to look to the famous leaders of Greek and Roman history, not to escape his own times, but to see what they might teach. In the end, he wrote almost 50 biographies of statesmen, looking for their strengths and weaknesses.

One statesman described by Plutarch, Pericles of Athens, seems especially appropriate for our times. Pericles lived at the height of his city’s power, when the Athenian democracy dominated the Aegean with its navy, and built the beautiful buildings on the Acropolis from the tribute of their subject cities. Athens was a democracy, and Pericles had to be elected to office each year. He could be voted out at any time, and if the Athenians were really dissatisfied, they could put him on trial and dismiss him at once. As a leader, he had to stay in touch with the voters.

In setting out the life of Pericles, Plutarch saw two outstanding leadership qualities: honesty and self-control.

In the wealthiest state in Greece, we are told, he died no richer than his father. This integrity gave Pericles a credibility that no other politician of his day could match. Whatever his reasons for advocating one policy or another, the Athenians knew that he himself did not expect to gain financially from his policy.

Self-control is a less common trait, worth considering more closely. It might be called self-possession, or impulse control, or keeping cool. The self-controlled person feels emotions, but keeps them always under rational control. Great athletes have the gift of playing intensely and with great emotion, but always remaining in control. Every leader needs self-control, but especially in politics. How did Pericles show self-control?

First, he put up with criticism. Pericles’ self-control meant not becoming enraged and vindictive at the attacks of his enemies. Pericles was mocked unmercifully by the comic writers of his day. They called him “onionhead” (I don’t know what that means, but it can’t be complimentary). They claimed that he had sex with Athenian matrons who came to the Parthenon construction site, behind the scaffolding. They called Pericles’ mistress, Aspasia, a common prostitute. Yet Pericles did not allow these attacks to change his policy. He had the exceptional character to endure the slanders of political satire and invective, and even to respond with humor.

Second, Pericles didn’t try to destroy his enemies. Self-control means not pursuing political rivalry at the expense of the good of the people. Once, Pericles managed to have a rival temporarily exiled—at that time, a good way to get power in the city for himself. But when Athenian troops were called out to fight, and that rival’s supporters fought and died loyally and bravely, Pericles listened to the public outcry of sympathy for his opponent and proposed that he be recalled from exile. To avoid further political battles, he negotiated a deal whereby each man could work separately for the good of the city, he as political leader, his opponent as commander of the war against Persia.

The struggle to win, to get ahead, and to hold office is an essential part of politics; without winning, politicians cannot implement their policy. But true leaders put the good of their country above political rivalry and their own ambition. Good leaders don’t go for the jugular.

Third, self-control means using good means, not just any means, to win political power. Each leader appeals for popular support, but how they appeal distinguishes good leaders from bad. When pressed by his rivals, Pericles came up with a popular program to create jobs and beautify the city at the same time—the building program that created the Parthenon and the other wonders of Athens.

His opponents denounced this lavish spending of public money, but Pericles’ political maneuver created monuments of lasting beauty. Pericles was a good leader because he didn’t try to win at all costs, but won support in ways that would enhance his city, not simply pay off the voters.

Fourth, self-control means resisting irrational popular pressure—stronger perhaps in a democracy than in any other form of government. Pericles’ greatest example of refusing to bow to pressure concerned not his political enemies but his friends and supporters. It happened like this:

Athens’ success led to conflict with the traditional leader of Greece, Sparta, and a war broke out between the two cities. On Pericles’ advice, the Athenians decided not to engage the excellently trained Spartan army directly, but to use their own superb navy to land troops on undefended coasts in Spartan territory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
However, the Spartans tried to force the Athenians to fight by invading Athenian territory and ravaging it, to within a few hundred yards of the city walls, burning crops and hacking at vines. The Athenians, wealthy and poor alike, were furious. They wanted to protect their property, and demanded that Pericles lead them out to drive the Spartans from their farms and vineyards.

Pericles refused. He kept the Athenians bottled up within the walls for the month that the Spartans stayed in Athenian territory. Friends and enemies alike called him a coward and traitor. But he stuck to a rational policy—his words were, “It is better for trees to be cut down than men”—and he did not allow the Athenians’ emotion to move him. Pericles acted like an experienced sea-captain, Plutarch wrote, a captain who, when a storm strikes at sea, ignores the wailing of his terrified passengers and, with expert seamanship, steers his ship safely through the danger. Pericles kept his cool, and was able to resist irrational fears and desperate hopes, and for this, Plutarch considered him a leader.

Yet Plutarch recognized that Pericles was not perfect. He had divorced his wife and lived with a mistress. He drove distinguished men into exile. Most important, he supported the war against Sparta when it might have been possible to negotiate a peace. His opponents, angry at his power with the people, called him a tyrant. The Spartans denounced him for enslaving Greek cities. Moderns add that he, like most other Greeks, was a slave owner.

Pericles’ claim to leadership rests not on his private life or on any particular policy, but on his ability first, to control his personal desires and aim for the good of the community, and second, to resist mob feeling and chart a rational course. In the 20th century we have seen too many leaders who thought that only they had the right answers. Some of them even called themselves “Leader”: Fuhrer, Duce, Caudillo. Self-control based on a disdain for others can lead to a tyranny like that of Stalin, which executes enemies and represses all opposition. Instead, Pericles’ self-restraint allowed him to negotiate with political enemies, and when he was expelled from office by the Athenians, to leave peacefully—until they begged him to return a few months later. His self-control made him a true leader.

What was behind Pericles’ amazing self-control? For Plutarch, the answer lay in his association with philosophers, from whom he learned music and science, as well as philosophy. Such training taught him to appreciate harmony and proportion, to look beyond surface phenomena to underlying truths; to trust in reason rather than emotion.

George Washington learned his extraordinary self-control on the frontier, through setbacks in his career, and through rigorous self-discipline. We are told that he had a hot temper, which, like Pericles, he held tightly in check. His refusal to enter into party battles allowed him to persevere through the Revolutionary War and the struggles of founding a new nation, to emerge as a leader of the whole country.

Do we have such leaders now? Look at the leaders here in Washington, in our states, in our businesses. Look especially at yourself. Ask yourself how you are training yourself to control your emotions, to resist destructive rivalry, and to make your goal the common good, not your own success. If there is anything to learn from George Washington and from Pericles, it is that we should use our education, in school, in university, and in life, to gain the self-control necessary to a true leader.

Four More ΦBK Panelists Present Symposium for Presidential Scholars

In its continuing effort to familiarize high-achieving high school students with Phi Beta Kappa before they go to college, Phi Beta Kappa took another four-member panel to Georgetown University in late June to discuss leadership and character before several hundred students, parents, and teachers participating in the Presidential Scholars program. The program brings top achievers from high schools all over the country to the White House-sponsored events in Washington.

Remarks by panelist Catherine Rudder, executive director of the American Political Science Association, in defense of politics, politicians, and the art of compromise sparked a particularly lively colloquy with the students in the question period. Other panelists were Grae Baxter, dean at Mount Vernon College; Edward Smith, director of American studies at American University; and John M. Taylor, a biographer and historian.

Phi Beta Kappa has been invited to present another symposium for the Presidential Scholars next year.

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THE KEY REPORTER
Census 2000: Politics and Statistics
By Margo Anderson and Stephen E. Fienberg

The United States launched its 22nd decennial census this past spring amid much patriotic hoopla, a barrage of media coverage, and some very sharp political criticism. In late June, anticipating problems with the core enumeration, the bureau followed with its Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (ACE) survey, a program that has been the focus of political and legal controversy. Bureau officials plan to use the ACE results to adjust the 2000 census results. Will that effort be successful, and will the controversy over sampling and the census finally die down?

How Accurate Is the Census?

In 1990 the political officials who oversaw the census loudly trumpeted that the census accurately counted 98.4 percent of the residents of the United States. This misrepresentation of the accuracy of the 1990 census has taken on mythical proportions. The reality is that approximately 10 percent of the people in the country were not properly counted, with the omissions in some locations being “balanced” by erroneous enumerations and other counting errors elsewhere. Moreover, the burden of being missed in the census fell disproportionately on members of minority groups—blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and American Indians. Statisticians, demographers, and survey experts who evaluate census methodology expect errors of a similar order of magnitude in Census 2000.

Only once in the history of the Republic was the census so challenged that it was not used for its intended purpose.

The Census Bureau discovered the differential undercount of minorities in the 1940s and has meticulously documented it in every census since. The bureau has worked to develop methods to supplement the enumeration and improve the count using a carefully conducted and executed sample survey. After the census enumeration process was completed in June of this year, the bureau carried out the ACE survey of over 300,000 households in randomly selected blocks across the nation. It will use the survey results to correct the raw census counts for both omissions and erroneous enumerations.

Who could oppose better census numbers for the nation? The answer is, political officials who believe that their interests are not best served by a more accurate count. They point to the constitutional language demanding an “actual enumeration,” and claim that sampling is unscientific and can be manipulated. Yet every federal court that has reviewed the matter over the past decade has argued in support of this use of sampling, and every group of scientists assembled to review census methodology has supported the broad structure of the Census Bureau’s plan for the use of sampling to supplement the count. This use of sampling not only should produce more accurate census numbers for a wide range of purposes, but also serves to control census costs, which have almost tripled since 1990.

Politics and the Census

The technical debate over the best way to produce the most accurate census counts has been overshadowed by a political debate over who wins or who loses as a result of correcting the differential undercount of minorities. The curious feature of the current debate is the fact that the sampling methods that the Republicans in Congress now rail against were the product of Census Bureau planning in the Bush administration early in the decade. Moreover, Republicans who would otherwise demand fiscal responsibility are willing to expend billions of extra dollars on the census, even though there is scant evidence that increased spending will improve the accuracy of the count for “hard-to-count” groups.

Nor are the Democrats in Congress without blame in this controversy. They have exaggerated the effects of the census errors, large though they may be, in much the same way that the Republicans have tried to minimize them. By the time the census was officially launched in mid-March, there was evidence that the poisonous debate challenging the validity of “statistical sampling” was affecting public understanding and reaction to the census in new and unforeseen ways. Conservative commentators, especially those on radio talk shows, challenged the census, particularly the detailed questions on the census form long, as an invasion of individual privacy. The government has no right, in this view, to ask how many bathrooms a household has. Nor should the census inquire into income, or race, or disability status.

Census officials reacted with some surprise to this response to the census, because the actual questions on the census have been fundamentally the same for decades. The officials noted that the long form goes to only about one in six households. They explained that Congress approved the overall subject matter of the 53 questions on the long form and the 8 questions on the short form three years before the count, and the actual questions two years before the count. They assured the public of the strong procedures in place to protect the confidential nature of individual census forms.
None of this reassured the critics of the form. In late March 2000, Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush and Senate majority leader Trent Lott expressed sympathy with those who thought the questions were intrusive, and indicated that they opposed prosecuting people who didn’t answer the questions. The Senate passed a nonbinding resolution supporting the end of penalties for not answering census questions. Bureau officials warned that such criticism of the census would lead to lower response rates and could undermine the quality of the data. Political officials quickly responded that they wanted Americans to fill out the basic questions on the form and send it in, but the bureau reported that although the response rate was 67 percent for the short form, it was only 55 percent for the long form.

As census enumerators fanned out across the country to follow up with those households that failed to return their census forms, two questions stood out: Will the political furor over the census hamper the follow-up process and thus lead to greater errors than those in 1990? And will the Census Bureau be able to close the gap between the response rates for the long and short forms?

A Bit More Census History

Census officials have responded to claims that the census is an invasion of privacy before. In early 1940, for example, Sen. Charles Tobey challenged the new question on income on the 1940 census. He also claimed that census enumerators were political appointees who could not be trusted to protect the privacy of individuals, and encouraged people to refuse to answer the question. The Census Bureau responded by printing a separate form for the income question which the household could mail back rather than return to the enumerator. In the late 1960s, Rep. Jackson Betts introduced legislation and held hearings challenging the intrusiveness of the questions on the long form and proposed making the census voluntary. The proposed legislation was debated in Congress and discussed extensively in the media, but ultimately failed.

The long history of census taking has many such examples, but we no longer dwell on them because, like the framers, census officials and Congress realized how much was at stake. Because we can’t “constitute” Congress or the electoral college without the census, ways were found to maintain credibility in the census and get the job done.

Nevertheless, it remains to be seen whether we will as a nation agree that the 22nd census is successful. Only once in the history of the Republic was the census so challenged that it was not used for its intended purpose. That was after the 1920 count, when Congress let stand the 1910 House apportionment until 1932. The 1920 census provided strong evidence of demographic trends that were not to the liking of the Republican majority, and they could not muster support for any specific reapportionment bill. In the 1920s, Congress argued fruitlessly about apportionment formulas, counting procedures, the size of the House, and the population to be counted. Meanwhile, the population distribution continued to diverge from the distribution of power in boundaries for congressional districts and for state legislative districts. The two debates have been joined because politicians have looked to technical arguments to bolster their hopes for political gain.

The political paralysis that followed from the reapportionment stalemate of the 1920s ultimately led Congress to delegate authority over census taking to the bureau in 1929. Perhaps the time has come to do the same thing again.

Currently, authority for taking the census and for using sampling to improve the count rests with the secretary of commerce, a political official. In a political maneuver in June, the secretary of commerce announced a proposed regulation delegating authority over the use of sampling to adjust the census to the bureau director and his senior technical staff. The regulation is designed to keep the next administration from reasserting control over the adjustment decision after the November election. If the Republicans regain the presidency this fall, they would have to rescind the regulation if they wished to reassert the authority of the incoming commerce secretary over the adjustment decision in early 2001.

We need legislation to insulate the Census Bureau from efforts at political manipulation and restore to it the authority to manage the technical details of how to fulfill the constitutional mandate for a census. Census taking is an inherently statistical activity, and to do it well in the context of modern society may well require the use of sampling and other statistical tools. The use of sampling to improve the “traditional” census enumeration process should not be a partisan issue but a professional decision based on professional expertise and judgment. This expertise resides largely in the Census Bureau and in the professional groups that regularly advise it.

Allowing the Census Bureau to focus on its technical statistical job will not remove either the census or the census results from the public eye or from the political process. But if we did so, we truly could expect a more accurate set of census counts at a reasonable cost.
In our last year in Tallahassee, where Andy was attending Florida State University, we decided to apply to the U.S. Peace Corps. We were planning to be married after his graduation in May, and hoped to join the Corps late that summer. We wanted an adventure, we wanted to experience another culture, and we had a vague notion of doing something good in the world. Andy loved Russian literature and wanted to read it in the original.

Right before our wedding we were offered assignments in Russia in July, leaving us with a shortened honeymoon, a quick move, and long drives to visit our families before we left America. It was a crazy but wonderful few weeks, and we didn’t really have much time to think about what to expect. All we knew was we’d be going to the Russian Far East—a place we associated vaguely with tigers, snow, and the Russian mafia. Just before we left, we sat in Andy’s parents’ Miami house, with palm trees outside the window, looking at a picture of old ladies in wool shawls selling frozen blocks of milk in Irkutsk. It was hard to imagine ourselves in that picture.

After meeting with the 39 other Peace Corps trainees in Philadelphia, we drove to New York and caught a plane from JFK airport. After 19 hours in the air, our first sight of Russia was of uninterrupted fields and forests, looking a lot like pictures of Ireland—lush, green, and rolling. At Vladivostok airport there were no buildings in sight—and no little baggage cars and men hustling about beneath planes as we expect to see in America. In fact, it looked as if we had landed in a vacant lot. The only thing that reminded us of an airport was an overturned, rusted-out airplane decaying next to the runway.

On the bumpy bus ride from the airport into Vlad, we passed crumbled buildings, fallen fences, and cottages (dachi) made of odd scraps of tin and wood. We were all high on jet lag, bananas, and the carbonated water we’d been given at the airport. Our shock was heightened by the fact that we couldn’t read the signs, all written in Cyrillic.

At first our group stayed in a hotel on the outskirts of Vladivostok, to acclimate. We quickly attracted the attention of many kids who, having been raised on the images and music of America, were eager to meet us. They knew no English and we knew very little Russian. We spent evenings on the steps of the hotel singing songs together, learning how to communicate with each other. Andy and a few other guys played basketball with some of the young boys. Then, with some difficulty, we taught them how to play Frisbee, and they invited us to their discotheque.

A typical weekday of training began at 8:00 a.m. with three hours of Russian language training. From there we would go to the cafeteria and decide whether we would eat the soup and mystery meat (which was mostly onion), or go to the little shop and buy a typical American lunch (Snickers and Coke) for about 16 rubles. After lunch there were endless teacher training sessions. By the end of the day there was little time left for socializing. We would squeeze in time to play soccer with some local kids or head down to the bluff near the sea.

Vladivostok is often portrayed as a sort of mafia Wild West, and it’s true that New Russians, as they’re called, can be seen with their cell phones, SUVs, and conspicuously expensive clothes driving around the dingy apartment buildings and laundry-hung streets. For more of us volunteers, Vlad is as close to America as we can get for the two years of our service. It has restaurants and movie theaters, semi-reliable utilities, and the best range of food and clothing found anywhere in the Far East, aside from Khabarovsk and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Though the beaches are littered and the water is polluted and cold, our best memories of Vladivostok are of sipping

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We... have learned to work with what we had available. This means saving every scrap of paper, cardboard, and anything else for future projects. Because good texts can seldom be found, we have to write our own.

Wendy Clarke Pfrenger (ΦΒΚ, FSU, 1998) and Andrew Pfrenger (ΦΒΚ, FSU, 1999).
LIFE OUTSIDE ACADEME
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Baltica beer after classes and watching the sunset across the beautiful bay, with the purple and gray ridges lit softly over the deep-blue water.

After our two months in Vlad, we were sent out to our sites to begin work. Our assignments were in Arsenyev, a town about 300 kilometers northeast of Vladivostok, in a broad, flat valley between mountains of the Sikhote-Alin range. This is the heart of the Primoryan taiga, where the Ussurt (Siberian) tiger ranges. Arsenyev was once a "closed" town to which even Russians could not travel without family or business reasons. The town’s two factories produced military equipment, including the famous Black Shark helicopters that were used in the invasion of Afghanistan. They are still producing them today, although the factories work at a much reduced rate, making mostly consumer goods. Stalin built Arsenyev in the 1950s, and his telegrams are still displayed in the town museum.

Today, Arsenyev has a severe unemployment problem. Many residents work in Vladivostok, visiting their families on weekends when they can. Some have begun small businesses of their own; little stores constantly pop up and disappear again in town. Other residents have been unable to find work and can be seen on benches, in bars, in stairwells, passing time.

Upon our arrival in Arsenyev we were greeted by our landlords, Raisa and Pavel. As we attempted to adjust from the life of training, surrounded by other Americans, to our new life alone in Arsenyev, Raisa and Pavel gave us a good dose of Russian culture. Our first night they came in the door without knocking or ringing, and immediately began fussing over what we would eat, how we would live, and whether we would be warm enough. We fielded questions like, “Do American women really never cook? You only eat at restaurants, right?” and “Who won the Great Patriotic War?” [WWII] Correct answer: “Russia.” Forever burned in our minds will be the fiery taste of our first shot of samagon, the equivalent of moonshine. Pavel distilled a large batch of it in our bathroom to prepare for his 60th birthday party, which was to be held in our apartment. Sure, it was rough at first—and we had never expected to be drinking moonshine—but we got used to it, like everything else here (washing clothes by hand, eating potatoes for dinner almost every night, and experiencing sporadic hot water, brown water, and more potatoes). In Arsenyev samagon is the preferred beverage for all occasions, even at morning sports events.

We work at two different secondary schools, Wendy at School No. 7 and Andy at School No. 8. Both of us team-teach with colleagues as well as teach our own optional classes after school. We are pleased with the results so far. Aside from teaching ourselves how to teach and juggling a hectic and unreliable schedule, we have accomplished many things. Teaching in Russia is no easier for us than it is for the Russian teachers. There is a severe shortage of materials, good textbooks, warm buildings, and money. We, like our Russian counterparts, have learned to work with what we have available. This means saving every scrap of paper, cardboard, and anything else for future projects. Because good texts can seldom be found, we have to write our own. Because we have no photocopiers, we share books or write out copies by hand. All this is burdensome, but it doesn’t seem to stifle the enthusiasm of the teachers. They and the students are always eager to listen and learn from our experiences.

The first snow fell in October, and snow kept on falling until mid-April. . . .

We’ve begun a club for Arsenyev’s English teachers to foster cooperation and share knowledge among teachers at different schools, as well as to give them a chance to practice their English. Many were skeptical about the project, because the English teachers here are notoriously reluctant to speak around each other and protective of their own methods and resources. Prestige is gauged by student success in town and regional contests, and no teachers want to give away their secrets for success. But the club has had solid attendance so far, and those who come are very enthusiastic.

The first snow fell in October, and snow kept on falling until mid-April this year—a long winter even for this part of Russia. Snow didn’t affect city utilities, however, which turn on and shut off according to their own schedule. For example, the heat, which is centrally controlled and not adjustable, was not turned on until the second week of November. And when the factories ran out of fuel in mid-January, the coldest time of year (temperatures ranging from −25°C or so in the day to −35°C or so at night), everything was turned off: no hot water, no heat, and only intermittent electricity for the next two months.

Out of concern for our health, our friends and neighbors brought us fresh-baked pastries, jam, and preserved vegetables they had grown themselves. We wore four or five layers of clothes, drank lots of tea and borsch, and stayed muffled up in bed as much as possible. Our kitten constantly tried to be in the bed or in our clothes, and when we weren’t home she slept in a sweater. The winter holidays were prolonged to allow students to stay home, where it might be warmer (many people have wood stoves at their dachi); later, on days when too many students were too ill to attend school, school was canceled.

We were impressed with the commitment of those who did come to school, and who stayed after regular classes to attend our optional classes and write in notebooks with stiff fingers. We often taught in the dark, with fur coats and hats on. We won’t admit the condition of our laundry when we finally got hot water again in mid-March.

Aside from surviving, we’ve kept busy both visiting and having visitors. During our first three weeks in Arsenyev, we were invited out about three times a week. Although the invitations have slowed down a little, the pressure is still pretty steady. We also enjoy the custom of just dropping in on friends. Most people don’t have phones, so they just come by, drink tea, and chat. Friends and acquaintances often come by our house with guitars at odd hours of morning and night, and it’s been pleasant to learn to stop whatever work we’re doing and simply relax and listen to them sing. Russian can be a very melodic language, and in the minor keys of the music, whether one understands the language or not, the syllables themselves seem to embody the winter, birches, companionship, and human determination of which the songs so often speak.

We’ve celebrated the three biggest holidays of the year. For Russian New Year, the town square was decorated with several ice sculptures, a church, a dragon, a bear, a giant, all of them equipped with ice slides for children and adults to enjoy. Grandpa Frost (Russian Santa Claus) and his granddaughter, Snow Maiden, visited houses with gifts, and could be seen strolling on the town square together. New Year’s is a festive time in Russia, with lots of eating and gift giving, somewhat like our Christmas, but without the rush of shopping. There is simply a very good feeling in the air, and the normally somber Russian faces become brighter.

On Women’s Day, concerts were given at all the schools for the women teachers, and the male teachers served tea and
Squat? Not!!
By Morris A. Nunes


Cybersquatter. In American Law. [One who engages in] The registration, trafficking in, or use of a domain name that is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark of another. . . . Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, §2(1) (U.S. Congress, Aug. 5, 1999).

No doubt, many readers have heard tales of enterprising Web denizens who purchased domain names* expecting to resell the names at a profit. Some of the more diabolical bought domain names incorporating well-known and lesser known names of companies, celebrities, and organizations, apparently figuring that the names could effectively be held for ransom because all those companies, celebrities, and organizations would naturally want to have the URL that included their names, as well as the brand names of their products, publications, and services.

Imagine being an information systems vice president in a major company and discovering to your horror that www.yourcompanyname.com is not available for registration because someone else has registered it. Now imagine that, as you fire up your computer and plug in the URL that should rightfully be bringing people to your own home page, it takes you to a Web site filled with pornography, or worse, to the home page of your most virulent competitor or critic. Now imagine trying to explain all this to your company's president and board of directors.

Until the Anticybersquatting Act, being a vice president in such a position was at best a scary and frustrating prospect. Now, thanks to the act, the World Wide

*The domain name is the URL (Universal Resource Locator) address by which a Web site is accessed. For example, www.pbk.org is Phi Beta Kappa's principal domain name.

Morris A. Nunes is legal counsel to Phi Beta Kappa.

For Phi Beta Kappa, the new [Anticybersquatting] law has been a welcome instrument for maintaining the integrity of its name and trademarks.

town. There is much beauty to be found here. The nature of the taiga is unique and wonderful. But more than any natural phenomenon, the most beautiful aspects of living here are the people and culture that survive despite the hardships.

We have been welcomed in Russia and treated as honored guests. Our lives here are less and less about teaching, and more about learning. We own fur hats (shapki) and coats, and many pairs of wool and dog-hair socks, a couple of them the gifts of concerned students’ mothers. We are accustomed to doing our laundry by hand and watching it freeze on the line. Wendy knows the word for “raisin” now and no longer has to make a fool of herself describing the process of drying grapes to fascinated store clerks. We can drink moonshine without wincing and speak Russian without making others wince. We can sing Russian folk songs, but we still have to work on our dancing.

This is a rich and fascinating culture, with a complexity that we have only begun to explore. With another year left to us, we hope to further our appreciation and understanding of the Russian culture and character, and maybe leave behind a sense that Americans aren’t all like the people in the soap operas. We understand already that we’ll be leaving behind some of the most remarkable, warm-hearted people we know.

Summer 2000

www.pbk.org
SQUAT? NOT!!
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Web is a different and better place. Here’s how:

Fundamentally, if the domain name was chosen with a “bad faith intent to profit,” the act lets the trademark owner stop the use of the domain name and recover the greater of actual damages or statutory damages up to $100,000, as well as attorney fees and costs of suit. A “bad faith intent” can include the offer to sell the domain name for “valuable consideration” back to the trademark owner, or an “intent to divert consumers from the mark owner’s online location” to another site “for commercial gain or with the intent to disparage the mark, by creating a likelihood of confusion as the source, sponsorship, affiliation or endorsement of the site.”

If the errant domain-name registrant cannot be found to be served with a lawsuit (a not uncommon situation, especially with foreign registrants) the trademark owner can bring an in rem action, in which one literally sues against the domain name itself. The victorious trademark owner is then entitled to a court order for forfeiture or cancellation of the domain name, so that at least the damages will be halved, if not fully recovered.

From a historical perspective, this act is somewhat unusual and may break new ground. In the past, trademark rights were focused on a particular “stream of commerce” (a term also interpreted to include the fields of nonprofit activities). Multiple users of the same name could (and still can) get registrations for similar trademarks. However, if the users’ products or services are in the same stream of commerce, or if there are other reasons to find a “likelihood of confusion,” then only the first user is entitled to registration.

For example, the name Cadet could be registered by one company for a detergent and by another for a software program. The reasonable consumer would not anticipate that one company would both manufacture detergents and sell software.

This notion—that it is the view of the reasonable consumer that carries the most weight—is one of the unique attributes of trademark law. Although it is the organization that applies for protection of its trademark, the primary goal of trademark law is to protect the public from being deceived about who is really the source of the goods, services, or activities. Protection of that source is a secondary goal. But the beauty of the system is that the primary motivation of the source helps to make the system largely self-policing. Someone infringing on another’s trademark is then liable to the owner of the trademark for the infringement. (That someone may also be liable for fraud to all the consumers who were cheated, although such cases are rare.)

As the world plunged into the information age, Congress reconsidered protection of the public and the source and recognized that some trademarks were so well known that latecomers who adopted a famous mark for seemingly unrelated products, services, and activities created a risk of devaluation for the trademark owner and confusion for the consumer. The technical term adopted was that such latecomers “diluted” the famous mark.

Consequently, in 1995, Congress amended the trademark laws to permit owners of famous trademarks to enjoin others from using a confusingly similar mark, regardless of the stream of commerce. And if the latecomer’s adoption was with the intent to take advantage of the goodwill, reputation, or renown of the famous mark, attorney fees could be recovered, as well as any damages actually incurred.

The 1995 amendment was historic, first, for recognizing that times had changed to the point that deemphasis of stream of commerce as the touchstone of trademark law was at last warranted. It was then not such a radical step for Congress to recognize just four years later that further changes in the communications environment validated extending that concept to less-than-famous marks in certain circumstances.

It is also worth noting that the商标 infringement does not need to be a precise copying, only imitation to the point at which the threshold of likely public confusion is crossed. Hence, under the new law, www.FiBaytaKapa.org would be as open to attack as the correct spelling.

For Phi Beta Kappa, the new law has been a welcome instrument for maintaining the integrity of its name and trademarks. Just the prospect of a lawsuit under the act has been enough to bring cybersquatters to their senses. Even as this is written, that instrument is being wielded for the third time for the Society with apparent success.

For the moment, it looks as if the most obvious of cybersquatters have been stopped. But new suffixes are adopted from time to time, creating new opportunities for squatting and for parlaying a lack of scruples into a bounty of cash. If you discover someone squatting on a Phi Beta Kappa trademark, please contact the national headquarters.

Eternal vigilance is an imperative of trademark ownership. Cybersquatters may still be lurking, but just like squatters of old, they can never gain good title.

More Multigeneration Phi Beta Kappa Families

(people who have reported having at least three members of Phi Beta Kappa in their family)

Three siblings: Alan Elms, Pennsylvania State University, 1960; Vernon Elaine Elms, George Washington University, 1971; and Elena Elms, University of Kentucky, 1976; and Alan’s daughter, Heather Elms, University of California, Berkeley, 1988.

Russell Ranson and his nephew, John Austin Ryan, Duke University, 1931 and 1965; John’s son, William Stubbs Ryan, Wesleyan University, 1997; John’s cousin and Russell’s grandnephew, Ryan Patrick Allen, College of William and Mary, 1997.

Gertrude Tomson Fortna, University of Nebraska, 1924; her son, Robert Tomson Fortna, Yale University, 1951; and his daughter, Virginia Page Fortna, Wesleyan University, 1989.


www.pbk.org
Letters to the Editor

'Teaching in Oakland'

I would like to thank Molly Ness for her excellent article about her first-year teaching experience in Oakland, Calif. (Key Reporter, Spring 2000). The article is both poignant (it brought tears to my eyes) and inspiring. Poignant because I know many children in difficult families and living situations whose society too easily dismisses as lazy, criminal, problematical, and beyond hope; most teachers have given up on these children because the issues surrounding them can be so overwhelming. Inspiring, because I am reminded that there are still people with the strength, determination, and will to believe in these children.

I admire her courage and honesty in openly sharing her self-doubts, and agree that her questioning of her commitment will help her to persevere where others have failed. I encourage her to keep her faith in the innate desire and ability of all children to learn, as she embarks on her second year of teaching.

Some day I would like to see the pages of the Key Reporter graced with photos and stories of successful Phi Beta Kappa members who are from places like Roosevelt Middle School. This will never happen without teachers like Molly Ness.

Sarah Bland, Seattle, Wash.

Please let Molly Ness know how much I appreciate and empathize with her report on the realities, both about the world and about ourselves, that this type of volunteer work reveals to so many of us who, straight out of school, embrace such work but cannot realistically continue without support.

Whether I was a middle-school English teacher in Japan, middle-school Japanese-language teacher in the United States, or nonprofit volunteer in Asia, I felt the same frustration of being there to serve but having little means to do it.

I agree with Beate Sirota Gordon, quoted in the same issue (“Life Outside Academe”), that today’s graduates should work in such organizations, but by whom and how are we seriously taught what to expect and how to survive the inevitable disillusionment, much less fuel our passion into a profession afterwards? It’s the “what’s next?” for all of us Molly’s out there that I hope someone further along the same path will address.

Thanks for what you do for us.

Molly Baumgardner, Fair Play, S.C.

I found the article by Molly Ness heartwarming, in that at so young an age she has found what it has taken me decades to discover. Until my retirement two years ago, I was a staff member at the University of Arizona for some 30 years, taking time out when I turned 40 to enter the university as a freshman. The highlight of my undergraduate career was being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at the tender age of 44.

Now, as a member of Tucson Literacy Volunteers, I work two days a week at an accommodation facility tutoring high school students. The young people who attend this school are on parole under the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. They have found it impossible to attend regular public school for various reasons. Many of these adjudicated juveniles have little of the basic literacy skills they need to get a job. Getting a high school diploma is an important first step, and volunteer tutors can help.

Just as Ms. Ness found, there are frustrations chipping away at our idealism. I prepare lessons for kids who don’t show up, don’t care, or say “I can’t” or “I won’t.” However, there are also young people who leave the school with their diplomas and hope.

I urge those interested in the future of our youth to get involved with mentoring those who need it most. The more we can help at-risk children, no matter the grade level, the better the future for us all.

Betty Milleson Fink, Tucson, Ariz.

Two Key Stories

Can you stand yet another key story? As a transfer student at the University of Colorado, I had to make up a lot of credits that the university would not accept, since they were in music, a school separate from the College of Arts and Sciences. In June of my senior year, 1942, I had completed all my major requirements and honors courses but was still two credits shy. Two classmates and I were passed over in June but elected to Phi Beta Kappa in the summer. We were told that we had to be initiated wherever we were going next.

I arrived in New Haven to do my M.A. with every expectation that Yale would initiate me, but I was informed that because Yale College was all male, they were not ready for me to attend the ceremony. A few weeks later I received from Phi Beta Kappa a heavy package that contained all the keys for the entire Colorado chapter. I dutifully removed my key and shipped the rest on to Boulder. If there is a secret grip, I do not know it.

As time went on I entered the Japanese Language School in Boulder, not, as in so many cases, because I had read about it in the Key Reporter but because jobs in German were scarce and returning to Boulder had its appeal. There I met my future husband, D. Norton Williams (FBK, Haverford College, 1939), and we laughed over the possibility of having earrings made for me from our two keys. Now that I have inherited the key of my older sister, Nan Siegfried Doughty (Stanford University, 1930), perhaps a necklace?

Marylou Siegfried Williams, Wallingford, Conn.

The stories about FBK keys remind me of an unusual occurrence in the mid-1980s in the Boston area. My husband and I had stopped at an ice cream store after watching the annual running of the Boston Marathon. A teenager next to us in line wore quite a collection of gold chains and charms. My husband immediately noticed that one was a Phi Beta Kappa key. He asked the fellow where he got it and was told “pawn shop.” My husband asked if it had any printing on the back and was told “some name.” My husband thought, from a quick glance, that the name looked like “Amy Stoddard,” but the fellow flipped it back and left as the clerk called his number. I called Phi Beta Kappa and told them about the incident. I was told that no Amy Stoddard appeared in the Society’s records.

I subsequently stopped to inquire at two pawn shops in Boston, both of which gave me the same answer when I showed them my key: “We take them in but don’t display them. We give the kid $20 and then call the cops. They assume the keys were taken in a housebreak, so they take the kid’s address and phone number and give us back the $20.”

I’m curious as to whether the policy is the same at pawn shops in other parts of the country.

Ruth Pragnell, Malden, Mass.

Scholars’ Lecture Schedule

Thank you for keeping me informed about and inspired by the Society’s people and activities. I offer a suggestion to inspire even greater support: Include the schedule and location of Visiting Scholars’ lectures in the Key Reporter, so that members can attend lectures near our homes.

Karin Costello, Santa Monica, Calif.

Editor’s note: Each autumn, Phi Beta Kappa’s Web site lists the Visiting Scholars’ schedules; they are updated on the website as changes occur.
RECOMMENDED READING

BOOK COMMITTEE

Humanities: Svetlana Alpers, Michael Griffith, Robert P. Sonkowsky, Eugen Weber
Social Sciences: T. Thomas McNaught, Josephine Pacheco, Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman
Natural Sciences: Jay M. Pasachoff, Russell B. Stevens

Russell B. Stevens

As to the science-vs-religion issue, Gould argues that the two are best dealt with as distinct bodies of thought and thus of analysis and debate. For each he suggests the term magisterium and for both the acronym NOMA (nonoverlapping magisteria). Then, with characteristic erudition and appealing rhetoric, he goes on to defend the view that the two can, and indeed should, remain comfortably distinct from each other. In this respect, the reader is reminded, in some detail, that “the saga of attempts by creationists to ban the teaching of evolution, or to force their own fundamentalist version of life’s history into science curricula of public schools, represents one of the most interesting, distinctive and persistent episodes in the cultural history of twentieth-century America.”


Although substantial portions of this book will be of special interest mostly to those with a background in the social sciences, much will appeal to biologists per se and to general readers. As a bit of general orientation, it might prove helpful to start with the brief chapter 7, titled “Darwinian Genius: The Future of an Idea,” in which the author inserts a summary of the key issues addressed in the book proper. The body of the text includes a generous sprinkling of helpful anecdotes that exemplify the points being made, and a useful comparison of creativity in the arts with that in the sciences.


The helpfully informal flavor of the material in this book is reflected in such chapter titles as “Birds That Birds Eat,” “The Bugs Fight Back,” “Bugs That Eat Birds,” “The Birds Fight Back,” and so on. One finds here a wealth of straightforward information about both birds and insects, and their complex interactions with each other. For readers especially interested in insects, the author has provided a concise “Brief Guide” to insects generally. There is also a well-written commentary on the tragedy of the widespread loss of diversity throughout the world’s fauna and flora. And overall the reader is reminded of the staggering diversity and complexity of the organisms that have resulted from cons of Darwinian evolution.


In several ways Jolly has, in my view, fashioned here a rather remarkable book. She has, for example, authoritatively examined the full sweep of evolution over an incredible span of time without letting her own professional specialty, primatology, overshadow other aspects of the story. She has managed to enliven the text with good-humored asides without seeming to grope for them. And she has a writing style that leaves the reader with the feeling of having had an informal conversation with a remarkably erudite but unassuming friend. If it be true, as recently asserted elsewhere, that “the United States is the only developed country where a great many people who consider themselves educated dismiss Darwinian thought,” Lucy’s Legacy should help to remedy this regrettable situation appreciably.


A sprightly look at various aspects of our changing attitudes toward what we tend to think of as Nature, especially as our culture becomes increasingly mechanical and complex. As background, perhaps, the author reminds us of the incredible story of the passenger pigeon, of the decades during which “birds were hats,” and of the saga of the plastic pink flamingos. She gives us, also, good-humored yet perceptive critiques of present-day Nature as reflected in shopping malls, TV nature programs, and popular culture. If the reader, from time to time, feels just a bit foolish, so be it.


In sharp contrast to the current dominance of such technology-driven sectors of the research enterprise as molecular biology, Heinrich and his colleagues practice what might be called field biology. At what must often be considerable discomfort, even real risk, they study the behavior of ravens in the wild as well as in a variety of “hands on” experiments of their own contrivance. As for the book itself, in some two dozen comparatively brief chapters, Heinrich summarizes one by one his findings and interpretations on such topics as cooperation, communication, foraging, prestige, tolerance, recognition, and intelligence. He states his views forthrightly but doesn’t force the issue and, not infrequently, acknowledges that “your guess is as good as mine.” Whatever else, the raven comes across as a most remarkable bird!

Editor’s note: These reviews by Russell Stevens, a former staff officer at the National Academy of Sciences, are the last of more than 400 he wrote before retiring from the Key Reporter’s Book Committee in June after a quarter-century of dedicated service to Phi Beta Kappa. Upon retiring, he volunteered that his all-time favorite among the books he recommended is Garrett Hardin’s Living within Limits.

Our new reviewer of books in the life sciences is Germaine Cornélius, co-director of the Halberg Chronobiology Center, University of Minnesota. She holds several degrees, including a Ph.D. in physics, from the Free University of Brussels.

Jay M. Pasachoff

David Malin, the world’s premier astrophotographer, has used the telescopes at Siding Spring, Australia, to photograph the sky and the objects in it. In this oversize volume, he processes the images in three colors to reveal the beauty of the firmament better than ever.

An introduction by Timothy Ferris puts the work in context before Malin explains the types of astronomical objects in view. Each section begins with an ancient star chart showing beautifully engraved historic constellation figures from Johann Elert Bode’s 1801 Uranographia. Each of Malin’s descriptions is accompanied by a few lines of verse, such as, “Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising
through the mellow shade/Glitter like a swarm of fireflies tangled in a silver braid,” from Tennyson’s “Locksley Hall.”

Pope, Updike, Milton, Dante, and Spenser are among those represented. (I avoid quoting Whitman’s “Learned Astronomer,” because the attitude of the poem is so antiscientific.) Smaller historical illustrations, as far back as Piccolomini’s atlas of 1540 and as recent as an occasional Hubble Space Telescope image, are included.

The Orion Nebula, the Horsehead Nebula, the Rosette Nebulae, the Jewel Box star cluster, and many other objects from both northern and southern skies are revealed in tremendous glory.


When Galileo first looked at the Moon with his primitive telescope in 1609, he saw the same blotches that some others, notably Thomas Harriot in England, were observing. But Galileo was surrounded by the Renaissance in Italy and had artistic training. As the art historian Samuel Y. Edgerton has shown, Galileo used his understanding of chiaroscuro to interpret the shadings on the Moon as smooth regions, still called maria (“seas”), and as craters with rims that cast shadows.

Whitaker, a planetary astronomer, begins this masterly work long before Galileo’s day, with “man on the moon” descriptions from Plutarch in the first two centuries A.D. and Albertus Magnus in the 13th century. The book contains beautiful maps and over 100 black-and-white images made over many centuries from Galileo’s time to the present.

A fascinating final chapter shows how the Apollo missions to the Moon and related uncrowed missions required hundreds of new names for lunar features. This work was controversial, and the author, perhaps the world’s foremost expert on lunar nomenclature, was excluded from the power structure. His frustration still shows. Decisions taken then continue to reverberate, as space missions explore distant planets and their moons, all requiring new names.

As I write, the NEAR Shoemaker orbital mission is finding many craters on the asteroid Eros, and names must follow. The Cassini mission will surely find many new features to be named on Saturn’s moons when it approaches them in 2004. Whitaker’s book will appeal to planetary scientists, classical scholars, art historians, rare-book lovers, and readers interested in human interaction among scientists.

Josephine Pacheco


In 1873 the Smith sisters of Glastonbury, Connecticut, unlikely rebels, announced that because they could not vote they would not pay taxes. While legal challenges wound their way through the courts, one sister died and the remaining sister reported she was left with nothing except two cows, which she named Taxey and Votey. The Smith story is one of several that Kerber uses to illustrate a question of fundamental importance to all Americans: What is a right and what is a privilege? She discusses a woman’s right to own property, to vote, to serve on juries, and to serve in the military, and although she concentrates on women’s efforts to achieve justice, Kerber makes it plain that these issues are important for all Americans.

We are not likely to forget Abby and Julia Smith or Gwendolyn Hoyt or Paul Murray or Ruth Bader Ginsburg, or Kerber’s conclusion that, indeed, women have “no constitutional right to be ladies” but do have a right to be equal members of the body politic, sharing both the duties and the privileges of citizenship.


Mary Ann Shadd Cary, a 19th-century African American, was truly a trail-blazer. Born free in Delaware, she joined runaway slaves who had fled to Canada, believing it to be somewhat more accepting of blacks than the United States. There she opened a school and became the first African American female to edit a newspaper. Struggling to raise money to support both the paper and the school, she encountered prejudice so severe that only a woman of iron would have survived.

During the Civil War she returned to the United States and became an unlikely recruiter for black regiments. After settling in the District of Columbia, she served as a school principal and became a member of Howard University’s first law school class. Alas, she died in poverty.

It is good to have a biography of Shadd Cary, an important figure in American and Canadian history, but in chronicling her life, the author presents a distressing—and, I fear, all too accurate—picture of rivalry, infighting, and back-biting in the world of antislavery.


When Theodore E. Stebbins Jr. attended Harvard, there were no classes in American painting, reflecting a disdain for the development of an American culture. Fortunately, Stebbins persevered, and this beautiful book demonstrates his wisdom in championing the work of the 19th-century American artist Martin Johnson Heade. Heade painted haystacks as evocative of loneliness as any by French Impressionists. His seascapes showed increasing sophistication as he struggled with the problems of light on water and waves breaking on the shore. He found Latin America as fascinating as did Frederick Church, but his travels in Brazil produced not the vast panoramas of his contemporary but a series of detailed paintings of hummingbirds and orchids. It seems a shame that the plan for a volume of his bird paintings never became a reality. His flower paintings, especially of roses, magnolias, and apple blossoms, are unforgettable. Reproductions are never so exciting as the originals, but this volume does justice to the beautiful exhibit of Heade’s paintings that it celebrates.


Whether you call it political correctness or not, the extension of the study of history to formerly excluded groups has certainly enriched it, especially with regard to the role of African Americans in the story of this country. Since nothing is more difficult than discovering and portraying the life of an American slave, these books are unusually valuable, offering us glimpses into what it meant to be a man or woman in bondage. By using different sources, they offer different but equally valuable insights.

Runaway Slaves is based largely on court records throughout the slave South, which are incredibly difficult to use but reveal the startling frequency of slave flight, not usually to the free North but to places in the South that were easier for slaves to reach. The book is a response to the frequently expressed concern that American slaves did not rebel; they did, in an amazingly effective way.

The author of Soul by Soul has made excellent use of both court records and CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
RECOMMENDED READING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

slave narratives, piecing together what people in bondage felt about sale and separation. The “Acts of Sale” chapter is effective in showing how slaves dealt with the reality of slavery—an outstanding analysis. We shall never know what the institution was really like, but these two important books force us to think about the United States when 3 million Americans endured enslavement.


I cannot remember a book that I enjoyed more than this small volume of first-hand reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln by those who knew him, from his stepmother to his White House secretaries, and all sorts of people in between. An effective way to make the martyred president come alive.


Levy has distilled into a brief book a lifetime’s study of the rights that Americans enjoy under the Constitution. If you have ever wondered, for example, why prohibiting a bill of attainder is important, he tells you in a way that you will remember. Levy shares his vast learning in an easily accessible style.


Until a few years ago no one would have thought it necessary to defend the view that Robert E. Lee was America’s greatest general, but as some historians have subjected his career to searching examination and concluded that it was not perfect, we naturally have an examination of the critics. Taylor concludes that though Lee made mistakes, he “was the ablest commander of the Civil War and perhaps the greatest to come out of North America” (p. 256).

Robert Sonkowsky


Late antiquity is today a “hot” area in Classical and Mediterranean scholarship. This large, handsome book will make this field of study accessible to educated readers as never before. Pages 273-780 resemble the Oxford Classical Dictionary, with its encyclopedic entries by experts who provide concise, up-to-date information and bibliography. Preceding these short articles, however, are an initial introduction and 11 essays that cut in some depth, across various dimensions of the entire late-antique world. Together the two parts treat, in an interrelated and interdisciplinary manner, the Roman, Byzantine, Sassanian, and Islamic cultures of the third through the eighth centuries. The writing is consistently clear and interesting. There are several color and black-and-white plates. The articles can be browsed as interests dictate or as the index directs. The essays provide fascinating introductions and varying perspectives on the religions, philosophies, ethnographies, governments, wars, and architectures of the period.


This pocket-size paperback of one of the most influential works in all of European literature is a gem of craftsmanship and scholarship. It comes at a time of heightened scholarly interest in its author and need for a new translation. It will be useful not only to Boethian scholars and students, but also to the educated and educable public. The concise 50-page introduction outlines necessary background on Boethius’s life and literary, philosophical, and theological affinities, as well as on the controversies surrounding these, and cites the wide influence of the Consolation on subsequent centuries. The notes to the introduction and to the translation are pathways to further study. The translation is clear and engaging. Unlike the more literal Loeb, Walsh renders the metrically varying verses that alternate with the prose sections into English rhyme. This little volume even raises the hope that the Consolation with its towering female figure, Lady Philosophy, may one day again become an essential shaping influence upon the lives of poets, thinkers, and other educated persons!

Eugen Weber


Succeeding the ailing Franklin who left for home in 1785, Jefferson was American minister in Paris from 1784 to 1789, while his friends John and Abigail Adams held the fort in London. Jefferson lived through the preliminaries of the (rather unexpected) French Revolution, departing for home just before mobs and demagogues seized control of the capital; as a result he retained an image of revolution seen through tri-color glasses. Despite the heads he saw carried on pikes through the streets of Paris, the Virginian found no reason to change his mind about the beneficence of violently redemptory action. The tree of Liberty had to be watered with the blood of patriots, and of nonpatriots too. And this intriguing book leaves little doubt that even the most intelligent people will draw from experience only the conclusions their prejudices permit.

Adams sketches a polychrome panorama of Paris society and of the Paris scene, and of Jefferson’s intercourse with a host of characters familiar from our textbooks, his affairs with ladies (Sally Hemings to be approached with caution), and his undiplomatic meddling in the affairs of a foreign kingdom. Great fun to read, morish, and wonderfully unedifying, the book suggests that these titillating years must have offered a fine escape from the provincialism of Monticello.

Born Cicely Fairfield, but choosing to live under the name of an Ibsen heroine who dared to tell the truth, Rebecca West (1892–1983) knew everyone, went everywhere, did everything, read like blazes, and wrote ditto. The letters that Scott has selected with gourmandise and edited with care run from 1907, when Cicely was a talented teen, to shortly before Rebecca’s death at 91. They are a treasure trove of cheeky wit and of a very English seriousness frivolously presented, as well as of lapidary judgments. T. S. Eliot: I couldn’t bear him or his work. E. M. Forster: a self-indulgent old liberal with hardly a brain in his head. James Joyce: the one genius who invented a form and exhausted its possibilities at the same time. Wallis Simpson: smart, common, and trivial. Eleanor Roosevelt: a nice woman baffled by marriage to what must have been the largest known extrovert. H. G. Wells: he was a devil, he ruined my life, he starved me, he was an inexhaustible source of love and friendship for 34 years. . . .

Blithe, quirky, irreverent, wanton, glib, but never shallow, burning always with the hard gemlike flame that lighted her success, West found writing as exhilarating as shopping. Reading her is exhilarating too. Don’t miss it.


Now that Y2K has settled into everydayness, the next big anniversary to watch for should come in 2014. The run up to it is littered with centenaries of precursory crises in the Far East, Africa, Russia, and the Balkans: rebellions, revolutions, colonial clashes, and real wars between Japan and Russia, Turkey and Italy, Bulgaria and her neighbors, scattered at first, then coming thick and fast through 1911, 1912, and 1913. Nor should one forget the nervous weeks in 1905 and 1911, when German challenges to French imperialism in Morocco brought the two powers closer to war and persuaded many that the coming storm could be put off but not avoided.

Yet for a long generation the cause of peace had been on the ascendant, confirmed by the success of the World Peace Congress, which the Paris International Exhibition hosted in 1900. How did the celebrants of 1900 slither so swiftly into slaughter? How did at least one society, France, radically change orientation from peacefulness to bellicosity within a few years? What gusts fanned the embers of chauvinism, revanchism, and national self-assertion—and made the great-war-to-be first an exciting prospect, then a welcome festivity, before it revealed its sordid aspects?

These are some of the questions that Wesseling tackles in his study of French temper and French politics as these shifted during the fraught decade 1905–14. He examines changes in intellectual climate and in relations between the Republic’s authorities and its army; the role of international politics and internal cleavages as catalysts of militarism; and the shift from indifference to expectation and glorification of war, increasingly regarded as “an indefatigable poem of blood and beauty.” Thoroughgoing, scrupulous, and lucid—but overpriced—this is a model survey of an overdetermined and fatalistic concatenation of events.

Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items

The Society now offers members a collection of items bearing the Society’s key insignia. Shown here is a selection from the extensive line of products.

The wall display combines a membership certificate and a large gold-plated key, each engraved with the member’s name and chapter, in a walnut frame. The Phi Beta Kappa tie is 100 percent burgundy silk, woven with gold keys. The cherry-wood desktop box has a certificate plaque on the lid. The solid-brass Phi Beta Kappa keyring is personalized on the reverse.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment and your mailing label from the back cover showing your Phi Kappa membership number to Hand & Hammer, 2610 Morse Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. You may place an order or request a complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You may also order online at www.hand-hammer.com.

Wall display (key and certificate 12” x 16” frame) $79
Phi Beta Kappa tie (burgundy and gold silk) $39
Phi Beta Kappa desktop box (6” x 7” cherry wood) $75
Phi Beta Kappa keyring (solid brass) $10

☐ Check is enclosed. (Virginia residents add 4.5% sales tax.)
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American Scholar Celebrates 275th Issue With Readings by Authors in New York

On May 24 the American Scholar celebrated the advent of its 275th issue with a standing-room-only evening of readings at the Harvard Club in New York City. Nearly 300 people listened to nine writers, all of whom read from pieces published in the Scholar since Anne Fadiman became editor two and a half years ago. Stephen Jay Gould pledged his love for Gilbert and Sullivan, Hendrik Hertzberg read from the late Jervis Anderson’s memoir of growing up in Jamaica, Joan Acocella read from the journals of Vaslav Nijinsky, Michael Harper read two jazz poems, Sherwin B. Nuland speculated on the 21st century’s medical advances, Thomas Mallon pondered his position as an ex-poet, Peter Gay recalled his painful teenage years in Nazi Berlin, and Carlo Rotella told the tale of a bloody boxing match.

While introducing host Anne Fadiman, Scholar contributing editor Gary Shapiro noted that during her editorship the journal has won both a National Magazine Award for Reporting and an Utne Alternative Press Award for Writing Excellence. He also reported that the Scholar’s circulation has risen significantly. The average circulation in 1997 was 21,762; the current circulation is 27,430.

Six New Associations Seeking Members

Phi Beta Kappa members living in six areas of the country not previously hosting ΦBK associations are now forming new groups, to join the 58 active groups for which the secretaries’ addresses were listed in the winter 1999–2000 issue of the Key Reporter. (Associations are groups of ΦBK members in the community who join together to promote friendship and learning, offer stimulating social and cultural programs, and serve the community.)

If you are interested in joining one of these new associations, write to the organizer listed below:

Southwestern Pennsylvania—
Dr. Joseph E. Devine, Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Social Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Tucson—Dr. Bruce Barrett, Department of Physics, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210081, Tucson, AZ 85721.

New Orleans—Dr. Juliette W. Ioup, Department of Physics, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148.

Wichita—F. Marian Chambers, 3740 Sleepy Hollow Drive, Wichita, KS 67208.

Moore County, N.C.—Dr. Voit Gilmore, 1600 Morganton Road, D-11, Pinehurst, NC 28374-6842.

Columbus, Ohio—Mr. Patrick G. Callahan, 1029-A Ridge Street, Columbus, OH 43215.