Books on Archaeology, Fossils, and the Holocaust Win Phi Beta Kappa’s Prizes for 2000

At the annual Senate banquet, held at the Doyle Washington Hotel on December 1, 2000, the Society honored three authors of books that represent outstanding contributions to humanistic learning. Each author received $2,500 and talked briefly about his prizewinning book.


This year’s Gauss Award was presented by the committee chairman, Jerome Buckley, of Harvard University, who had himself won the Gauss Award in 1952 for The Victorian Temper. Buckley remarked that he was visiting Columbia University at the time, and that Marjorie Hope Nicolson, then the national president of Phi Beta Kappa, had presented the award to him over tea.

The Science Award went to J. William Schopf for Cradle of Life: The Discovery of Earth’s Earliest Fossils, published by Princeton University Press. Committee chairman Ira Hirsh, of Washington University, made the presentation. Schopf, director of the Center for the Study of Evolution and the Origin of Life at UCLA, has received awards at UCLA for research, teaching, and overall excellence.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award went to Peter Novick for The Holocaust in American Life, published by Houghton Mifflin Company. Robinson Hollister, of Swarthmore College, presented the award. [Eugen Weber’s review of this book for the Key Reporter appeared in the Summer 1999 issue.]

1927 Berkeley Graduate Gives $1.8 Million to Society

Phi Beta Kappa has been notified that it will receive $1.8 million from the estate of Gladyce Arata Terrill (ΦΒΚ, University of California, Berkeley, 1927), the largest gift in the Society’s 224-year history. The funds are to be used to support an endowment fund named for her and created “for the purpose of supporting specific Phi Beta Kappa projects designed to encourage excellence in American education.” Grants from the income generated by investment of the gift are to be made annually by the Society’s Executive Committee in consultation with the national secretary.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
By Jane Bowyer Stewart

Editor's note: A recent Kennedy Center concert program for the Vivaldi Festival of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) in Washington, D.C., noted that among the violin solo performers was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University. When the Key Reporter tracked her down, Jane Bowyer Stewart (class of 1978) readily agreed to tell us about her life in music, noting after she wrote this piece that, if we had attended the concert in which she played, we probably heard her five-year-old son, Timmy, "making his own kind of debut there. As the applause diminished after the soloists' entrance, he called out, 'Hi, MOM.' " Jane Bowyer Stewart is married to David Balton, a State Department official, whom she met through friends from Yale Symphony days, and they also have an eight-year-old daughter, Rebecca.

Like most sixth-grade girls in my Boulder, Colorado, elementary school, I wanted to play the glamorous flute. The music teacher cleverly suggested that all girls wearing braces (that was all but two of us!) pick another instrument, so I followed a family tradition of string playing and began to study the violin. My grandfather, a theology professor [Marshall Bowyer Stewart, PhB, Trinity College (Connecticut), 1902], had been a dedicated amateur violinist with a deep love of chamber music. My father, a professor of astrophysics, specialized in the most unusual and seldom-mastered instruments, including viola, double bass, and bassoon. My mother, now a literature professor [Rachel W. Stewart, FPhB, University of Colorado, 1967], was a cello soloist in high school. To complete the quartet, all they needed was a daughter with well-timed orthodonture!

Despite my parents' intellectual orientation, playing music was their preferred pursuit at home. From earliest childhood I would sit in my pajamas at the top of the stairs, listening as my parents and their friends, often colleagues from the university, devoted innumerable evenings to the earnest playing of string quartets, quintets, and sextets. Eagerly, tirelessly, they explored the masterpieces, pausing only to remark on passages of great compositional ingenuity or profound beauty. Occasionally, I also heard helpless laughter as mistakes snowballed and cacophony prevailed. For so many reasons, I yearned to be a part of that magical world.

Entering the Music World

I quickly exhibited talent on the violin. I gave a full recital, which included a Mozart duo with my dad, during my second year of study. Still, I always assumed that I would proceed comfortably to college, major in something like math, and move on to an academic life, with music a side passion. My father died suddenly just months after our recital, but I found a father figure in my beloved violin teacher, Abraham Chavez Jr. He let me play in the University of Colorado orchestra, which he conducted, and he introduced me to the beauty of orchestral literature and the thrill of being one of a hundred humble souls cooperating towards a spectacular common goal.

At the same time, I was a dedicated student at school, and it excited me to see my courses interconnect. I also began to glimpse how academic disciplines might enhance my musical appreciation and vice versa. When I played Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet overture just after I'd studied the play, I saw how music can capture the emotional essence of a great story. Similarly, my interest in foreign languages expanded when I began playing operas and wanted to appreciate a composer's word-painting. At the end of high school I was unwilling to abandon my study of liberal arts, so I chose to attend the Ivy League school with the strongest extracurricular musical life, Yale, rather than go to a music conservatory.

Some say that anyone with aspirations of becoming a professional musician should head straight to conservatory, bypassing liberal arts study. I have heard Dorothy DeLay, Juilliard's violin guru and the teacher of Itzhak Perlman, among others, assert that the teen years are best for mastering the violin. Physically and mentally, one must acquire a high level of technique before that peak of opportunity passes. In her view, four years of college study would prove an unwise and frivolous detour, an unrecoverable loss of key (pardon the pun!) time. In fact, in the National Symphony Orchestra today, only a handful of the hundred or so members hold bachelor of arts degrees from academic colleges.

By my junior year at Yale, I was spending an extraordinary amount of time absorbed in music. I not only played with the undergraduate Yale Symphony but also did professional work with the New Haven Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of New England. I explored every piece of chamber music I could get my hands on, practiced after midnight in sound-proof practice modules, and sought out so many music theory and history courses that I became a music major almost by default. Nonetheless, the violin was never what came most easily to me; my B's were in music courses. My study habits, furthermore, did not lend themselves to the steady mastery of an instrument. I routinely pulled all-nighters, a bad strategy in preparing for a recital because " cramming" Bach or Bartok doesn't work. Bursts of inspiration should be superimposed upon years of consistent hard work (never really my forte). Nevertheless, I was becoming addicted to music.

Because I did not follow the musician's conventional path, I eventually needed a stretch of focused practice time. I briefly inhaled the conservatory atmosphere when, after college graduation, I went on to the Yale School of Music to earn a master's degree. I also attended summer music festivals in Aspen and Norfolk with students from conservatories. I still felt, however, that I was a bit of a misfit in the performing world. I hadn't been playing the violin since I was four. I wasn't "always known." I'd be a musician. I hadn't resented academic coursework or shunned it in favor of scales and études. And most of my best friends were becoming lawyers or doctors.

Making a Living at It

Living music was one thing; making a living from music would be tougher. Once out of school, I lived in a group house in New Haven, free-lanced, reluctantly taught several beginning students, and went into New York City to take lessons. I did some part-time work screening applications for the Yale Admissions Committee (this was the only time in my life when being Phi Beta had the slightest effect on my getting a job), and I began taking auditions all over the country.

The orchestral audition process is a curious phenomenon, perhaps the closest thing to a pure meritocracy that the job
orchestra where 13 languages were spoken. I survive in an cliche about music as the international plane to sunny Maracaibo, eager to test that Venezuelan tenor known vaguely by the pieces, chatted in Spanish, and got the job! OSM conductor, I played a couple of solo the Manhattan apartment of a flirtatious achieving fluency in a foreign language. Handling a full-time orchestra job with spend a year in Venezuela and combine Orquesta Sinfonica de Maracaibo caught my age, race, gender, or appearance, not to market offers. Without knowledge of your orchestra vacancies, and like all "starving" committee didn't want the clicking of high heels to tip them off! You are identified by number only. Nobody cares who taught you, where (or whether!) you went to school, or what kind of performing reputation you enjoy. It's all about How You Play Today.

You play several specified excerpts from the orchestral repertoire for about 10 or 15 minutes—you hope. The Chicago Symphony darkly warns, in its audition notices, that it "reserves the right to dismiss immediately any candidate not demonstrating the highest professional standards." "Next!" Fifty or a hundred more violinists do the same. A handful are chosen to proceed to the next round, which is another alarmingly brief demonstration of everything you've learned in your many expensive years of violin study. Should you be "eliminated," you may well go home with no constructive comments in hand and no clue whether you were close or hopeless. Unlike most job hunters, the auditioner cannot rely on networking, writing samples, portfolios, references, recommendations, or face-to-face interviews. Playing music is usually an extremely subjective and emotional endeavor, but auditioning feels oddly impersonal and dry.

Having failed to make the finals at several auditions in the United States, I decided to look into performing opportunities abroad. The monthly union newspaper, The International Musician, advertises orchestral vacancies, and like all "starving" musicians I perused this rag intently. A notice of several violin openings in the Orquesta Sinfonica de Maracaibo caught my eye. I had a strong academic background in Spanish and thought it might be fun to spend a year in Venezuela and combine handling a full-time orchestra job with achieving fluency in a foreign language.

The OSM audition was most informal. In the Manhattan apartment of a flirtatious Venezuelan tenor known vaguely by the OSM conductor, I played a couple of solo pieces, chatted in Spanish, and got the job! A few weeks later, I found myself on the plane to sunny Maracaibo, eager to test that cliché about music as the international language. How else would I survive in an orchestra where 13 languages were spoken in the first-violin section alone? Actually, given the speed and inddistinctness of equa-torial Spanish, I found it easier to understand my colleagues' Polish-inflected or French-accented Spanish. The orchestra was packed with foreigners; in 1980, oil-rich Venezuela was buying instant cultural visibility by creating opera companies and orchestras beyond the scope of its resident talent. Caracas alone had three orchestras, heavily populated with Americans.

Handling the Maracaibo job was almost as painless as passing the audition. Each week we rehearsed four mornings, gave a Thursday-night concert, and had three days off. We got 14 weeks of paid vacation. The salary equaled that of a major U.S. orchestra (about $25,000 in 1980). After a few months, I won an audition to become assistant concertmaster. Never mind that the conductor made sudden program changes as a result of his hangover or that I had to bribe an airline official to get out of the country for the Christmas holiday. This was living—and a living!

Moving Back North

Still, the uncomfortable fact remained that no American from the OSM had yet landed a "real" job back in the States. I practiced a fair amount (for me) and did mock auditions for fellow string players. When I went home for a summer vacation, I took auditions for the Houston and National symphonies and, miraculously, won both. I had a few friends from Yale living in Washington and thus chose to join the NSO, where I'm now completing my 20th season.

I knew a serious job required a serious violin, and so I promptly embarked on my next big project, the violin hunt. Visiting the major violin dealers in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. I realized with amazement that if you walk in and play respectfully on a $50,000 instrument, they will let you take it home for a week's trial, or even mail you one later, no collateral required! At one point, I had six or eight such violins on loan in my apartment. I was scheduled to appear as one of four soloists in Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in an NSO subscription concert, and I was desperate to get an instrument comparable to those played by my three colleagues.

The finest one I tried was a beautiful 1691 violin by Matteo Goffriller, the Venetian who made the cello Pablo Casals played. I feared that it was beyond my means, but I decided to use it for the concert and then mail it back to the dealer. Instead, I fell in love, swallowed hard, took out a big loan, and promised to love, honor, and cherish that violin forever. Indeed, seeking the perfect instrument is something like looking for a spouse: appearance shouldn't matter, but it does (I love my violin's auburn-colored varnish); what thrills one person leaves another cold (violists and cellists tend to admire my violin's dark, rich sound, but fellow violinists often find it wanting); and no one violin "has it all." With this violin, worth more than a house, and my French violin bow, worth more than a car, I have partners for life.

Jane Bouyer Stewart
The Liberal Arts Choice

Twenty years ago, I chose a liberal arts education over conservatory training. How has that choice enhanced my life in music? Every time I research and compose program notes, I use skills developed in college. As I seek to create original performances, I call upon the critical thinking emphasized in my humanities courses; I question the "received" wisdom of traditional interpretations, analyze my logic, and examine transitions, just as I would when writing a paper. My literary background gives me a familiarity with composers' inspirational sources and keeps the music fresh for me. My fascination with languages helps me enjoy deciphering obscure musical instructions and libretti, and the contemporary repertoire taxes all my math skills. In the orchestra I've chaired two committees and closely followed our union's negotiations with the management.

In my travels with the NSO to some 25 countries, I have used knowledge gleaned in college courses to appreciate diverse cultures. Art history courses whetted my appetite for touring historic sites. Unlike some colleagues, I loved giving outdoor concerts while chalking on the dust in Pompeii or braving 40-degree weather in Red Square, where I played wearing gloves with the fingertips snipped off. Performing in Beijing's Great Hall of the People and at the base of the Acropolis really brought to life the learning I began on paper in school. In truth, I might have risen to a finer orchestra or been a finer violinist had I gone the conservatory route, but having developed a host of other interests gives me perspective when my trills are too slow or the piccolo is too loud.

In some ways, my life is opposite from the one my parents led. I read and study during my free time. I'm already out so many evenings, usually playing three or four concerts a week, that I don't belong to a traditional book group, but my husband and I will read the same books, then seek out criticism and discuss them. Chamber music, still my first love and a source of marvel (yes, sometimes helpless laughter, too!), is a less spontaneous, more pressured endeavor for me than it is for my former Yale Symphony cohorts who are now avid amateurs.

Ironically, my own children are not listening to my music from the top of the stairs. I practice and rehearse while they are at school, and I prefer silence when I come home from a day filled with sound. The violin probably feels to them like a rival; my son, as a toddler, poignantly called my violin the "bye-bye." My daughter has begun studying the piano and will occasionally allow me to play duets with her. Someday, I hope, they will embrace music as I have and carry on a family tradition.
Committee to Study Chapter-Association Cooperation

ΦBK President Joseph Gordon has appointed a committee to study ways to improve cooperation between chapters and associations. The committee consists of officers of the seven national districts, the national officers of the Conference of Association Delegates, and the chairman of the Senate’s Committee on Associations. The group will hold its first meeting on March 5.

Two small-group sessions on chapter-association cooperation at the triennial Council last October reported the following suggestions:

Chapters can:
- notify association members about lectures of interest on campus, particularly ΦBK Visiting Scholar lectures.
- invite association representatives to attend and speak at initiations.
- encourage members of the chapter to join the local association where one exists.
- provide locations on campus for association meetings.

Associations can:
- raise funds for scholarships for needy and foreign students in local ΦBK colleges.
- help publicize events and ΦBK in general through newspaper articles, television coverage, etc.
- suggest possible high school recipients for book awards and college scholarships.

Togethers, associations and chapters can:
- plan meetings for National Honor Society students, providing a keynote speaker and recognition certificates, as well as information about ΦBK.
- join each other for certain events.
- put together a speakers bureau for local high schools for NHS inductions and other purposes.

The Difference between ΦBK Chapters And ΦBK Associations Redux

Each member of Phi Beta Kappa is elected to lifetime membership by a chapter, each of the 262 chapters is located on a college or university campus. After graduation, members may join an association, in areas where such groups exist. Nationwide there are some 58 active associations, each of which offers social and cultural programs and serves the community.

The District of Columbia area association reported that the Key Reporter’s brief article last winter about the distinction between chapters and associations, accompanied by the list of addresses for associations nationwide and an application form, had resulted in at least 22 new members for the D.C. group. Heartened by that report, we are again publishing the membership application, which may be reproduced or clipped and mailed directly to the association nearest you. The amount of dues each association charges appears on the list of association secretaries’ addresses, page 6.

ΦBK Association Membership Application

Name ____________________________

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa at ____________________________ in ____________________________

Mailing address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ________

Phone (home) ____________________________ (work) ____________________________

E-mail ____________________________

Dues enclosed: $ ________

Make check payable to the association and mail it to the secretary listed on page 6.

Administration Support Makes a Difference at Rice

After some years of what he described as “gloomy lists of things Phi Beta Kappa is having a hard time accomplishing,” Rice University chapter president Robert L. Patten has reported that all 74 candidates in the class of 2000 accepted invitations to join Phi Beta Kappa. He attributed this success, in the face of the recently started and heavily promoted Golden Key chapter, to the following factors:

- The university president, Malcolm Gillis, has underwritten membership fees for initiates for three years while the chapter and the development office try to raise an endowment to pay most of these fees in perpetuity.
- For each of the past three years, the university president has also hosted a dinner for initiates, their college masters, the chapter officers and senators, and previous winners of the ΦBK teaching prize, which goes to the best assistant professor each year.
- The university president has supplemented the chapter’s contribution and that of the Houston association to the teaching prize.

The public information office has become involved, and for the first time the chapter planned to issue a press release for hometown newspapers of initiates.

- The relatively small scale of Rice allows the chapter to have better contact with students than at larger and more impersonal institutions. The chapter’s Web site is frequently consulted, and chapter members “do a lot of hands-on mentoring.”

Patten attributed some of the university president’s interest and the improved visibility at Rice to Phi Beta Kappa’s participation in the National Honor Society’s national conference in 1997.

Houston Association Raises $307,000 for Scholarships

The Greater Houston association’s 2000 scholarship dinner raised $307,000. It was chaired by H. E. McGee III (ΦBK, Princeton University, 1981), who, as a high school senior, had received one of the Houston association scholarships in 1977. The association, which has 537 members, gave 60 awards of $2,500 each and one $3,500 award to high school students in the Houston area. The remainder of the funds raised went into the Endowment Fund, the value of which exceeds $1 million.
Phi Beta Kappa Association Secretaries, 2001

(Annual dues follow each address.)

**Alabama**
- Northeast Alabama—Dr. George E. Whitesel, 907 Second St. NE, Jacksonville, AL 36265. $10
- Southeast Alabama—Dr. James Sherry, Department of Foreign Languages, Troy State University, Troy, AL 36082. $10

**Arizona**
- Phoenix—Mrs. Doris Krigbaum, 1230 E. Loyola Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282-3946. $10

**California**
- Northern California—Mrs. Jean Gossard James, 8 San Ardo Ct., Novato, CA 94945. $25
- San Diego—Mr. Hal K. St. Clair, 17187 Prado Pl., San Diego, CA 92128. $15
- Southern California—Mrs. Shari Dennis Nelson, 11525 Bellagio Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. $35

**Colorado**
- Denver—Ms. Barbara Berryman, 2068 Elm St., Denver, CO 80207. $20

**Connecticut**
- Greater Hartford—Ms. Marilyn Pet, 235 E. River Dr., #1061, East Hartford, CT 06108. $7

**District of Columbia**
- District of Columbia Area—Ms. Erin Metzler, 215 C St., SE, #402, Washington, DC 20003. $15

**Florida**
- Northeast Florida—Prof. John Garrigus, Division of Social Science, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL 32211. $12
- Sarasota-Manatee—Rev. Dr. R. E. Nygren, 1049 Greystone Ln., Sarasota, FL 34232. $25
- South Florida—Mrs. Edith Ann Gilson, 6701 S.W. 120th St., Miami, FL 33156-5453. $10
- Tampa Bay—Prof. James B. Halsted, 4024 Bell Grande Dr., Valrico, FL 33594. $25

**Georgia—Carolina**
- Atlanta—Dr. Linda Koenig, 2417 Watermark, University, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 69120. $10
- Coastal Georgia—Dr. George B. Praden, 13 Old Mill Ct., Savannah, GA 31419. $25
- Middle Georgia—Dr. Douglas Steeles, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207-0001. $25

**Illinois**
- Chicago—Ms. Lisa Godde Kerr, 7117 N. Keystone Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60646. $25
- East Central Illinois—Dr. Karen Taylor, Department of Foreign Languages, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920. $10

- Southern Illinois—Dr. Elizabeth Singleton Gammon, 11119 Adams Acres Dr., Marion, IL 62959-9362. $10

**Indiana**
- Eastern Indiana—Dr. Cheryll Adams, 2510 N. Morrison Rd., Muncie, IN 47304. $10
- Indianapolis—Dr. Carol Sue Stewart, 3001 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46220-2945. $20

**Kentucky**
- Kentucky—Prof. Scott D. Johnson, 1129 Brent Rd., Louisville, KY 40241. $10

**Louisiana**
- Southern Louisiana—Dr. Mary R. Meredith, Department of Management, U of LA, Box 43570, Lafayette, LA 70504. $10

**Maryland**
- Greater Baltimore—Dr. Murray Steinberg, 2429 Still Forest Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208. $35

**Michigan**
- Detroit—Ms. Carol Poosch Klein, 31720 Franklin Rd., Franklin, MI 48025. $15
- Southwestern Michigan—Dr. John Petro, 2521 Parkwyn, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. $5

**Minnesota**
- Minneapolis—Mr. George A. Warp, 1049 Greystone Ln., Sarasota, FL 34232-3946. $10

**Missouri—Kansas**
- Greater Kansas City—Mrs. Shirley W. Keeler, 2035 Drury Ln., Shawnee Mission, KS 66208-1229. $0
- Northeast Missouri—Ms. Carol Race, Rte. 3, Box 38, Kirksville, MO 63501. $5

**Nebraska**
- Omaha—Mrs. Erica Hawley, 11215 Decatur Blvd., Apt. 610, Omaha, NE 68154. $0

**New Jersey**
- Northern New Jersey—Mr. Clifford Brooks, 594 Forest St., Kearny, NJ 07032-3629. $10

**New Mexico**
- Los Alamos—Mrs. Rosalie Heller, 301 El Viento, Los Alamos, NM 87545. $0

**New York**
- New York—Mr. Michael D. Caratzas, 3117 Broadway, Apt. 62, New York, NY 10027. $20
- Providence—Dr. Frances C. Allee, 24 Providence St., Albany, NY 12203. $25
- New York City—Dr. Linda Cabe Halpern, General Education Program, 1201 Madison Avenue, University, 615 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405. $0

**Ohio**
- Cleveland—Mr. Richard D. Manoloff, 26522 Knickerbocker Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140. $20
- Toledo—Mr. Lyman F. Spitzer, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, 1000 Jackson, Toledo, OH 43624. $5

**Oklahoma**
- Oklahoma City—Mrs. Maria Thompson Abbott, 6508 N. Hillcrest, Oklahoma City, OK 73116. $15

**Pennsylvania**
- Wilmington Valley—Mrs. Evelyn S. Udell, 124 Annasmead Rd., Ambler, PA 19002. $20

**South Carolina**
- Charleston—Mr. Michael D. Caratzas, 2001 Broad St., Apt. 2, Charleston, SC 29401. $25
- Piedmont Area—Mrs. Charlotte Tinsley, 209 S. Fairview Ave., Spartanburg, SC 29302. $5

**Tennessee**
- Chattanooga—Professor Clinton Smullen, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Tennessee/Chat., 615 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405. $0
- Nashville—Mrs. Vicki Agee, 766 Rodney Dr., Nashville, TN 37205. $35

**Texas**
- Austin—Mr. Joyce Pulich, P.O. Box 5366, Austin, TX 78753-5366. $20
- Greater Houston—Mrs. Mary C. Craddock, 3024 Del Monte, Houston, TX 77019. $20
- North Texas—Miss America Schattman, 6220 Locke Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76116. $25
- San Antonio—Mr. Kurt G. Mayer, 1705 N.W. Military Hwy., San Antonio, TX 78213. $10
- West Texas/New Mexico—Dr. Heather Barkley, Dept. of English, MSC3081, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409. $10

**Virginia**
- Northern Virginia (see D.C. Area)
- Richmond—Mrs. Ellen H. Masse, 12283 Fieldcrest Ln., Ashland, VA 23005. $10
- Shenandoah Valley—Dr. Linda Cabe Halpern, General Education Program, 1201 Madison Avenue, University, 615 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405. $0

**Washington**
- Inland Empire—Ms. Amy Kelley, 721 N. Military Hwy., San Antonio, TX 78213. $0
- Seattle—Ms. Amy Kelley, 1049 Greystone Ln., Sarasota, FL 34232-3946. $10

**West Virginia**
- Charleston—Mr. Corey Palumbo, 600 Quadrant St., Charleston, WV 25301. $15

**Wisconsin**
- Milwaukee—Dr. Dran D. Tran, 1631 W. Edgerton Ave., Unit D, Milwaukee, WI 53221. $20

---

Chartered associations. Charters are granted by PBK Senate.
California Groups Continue To Set Fast Pace

The Northern California association has awarded some $300,000 in scholarships and more than $10,000 in Teaching Excellence awards over the past decade. (Twelve outstanding graduate students received scholarships of $3,500 each last year.) Memberships dues and donations provide most of the funds, but a variety of activities, including a backstage tour of the San Francisco Opera and a Culinary Academy brunch, foster camaraderie and raise money for scholarships. The association, which has 1,600 members, sponsors a Young Phi Beta Kappa group (ages 20-40), publishes a quarterly newsletter for 28,000 people, and maintains a Web site.

The Southern California association has attained a record 2,525 members by presenting distinguished speakers and taking advantage of the wealth of cultural and educational institutions in the area as program sites. Attendance has ranged up to 200 for a single event. In addition, the association last year gave 22 awards to international scholars, as well as 10 graduate fellowships of $2,200 each to Phi Beta Kappa initiates from 10 different chapters, and awards of $400 each to 16 outstanding students in local high schools.

The San Diego Association, with 293 members, maintains a similar three-tiered scholarship program under which it disburses a total of $10,000 to $15,000 annually as follows: Two or more graduate fellowships of $3,000 each are awarded to Phi Beta Kappa members, two or three new initiates at San Diego State University and UC San Diego receive $500 scholarships each, and outstanding juniors in each of 55 high schools receive book awards. The association’s Sunday Salons are held three times a year, and the association’s annual meeting takes the form of a Sunday brunch.

Atlanta Association Receives $10,000 to Endow Occasional Lectures

The Atlanta Phi Beta Kappa association recently received a gift of $10,000 from Stephen M. Berman, a Certified Public Accountant (Phi Beta Kappa, Tulane University, 1970), the income of which is to be used to bring a distinguished scholar or public figure to speak to a meeting of the association from time to time. The Atlanta association was established four years ago and received its charter at the 39th triennial Council in Philadelphia.

Phoenix Area Association Revamps Its Activities

Last year the Phoenix association abandoned its awards to high school students and the accompanying mentor program after finding it “extremely difficult and frustrating” to work with guidance counselors to find students who were interested in the mentor program. The association is now working with the financial aid offices at the three state universities in the area to find promising liberal arts and sciences students who need scholarship aid.

The association has also “borrowed a page” from the Northern California association’s “idea book” and has begun to offer tours and similar experiences for their members. “We aren’t really sure why it works, but it seems to,” comments the Phoenix group’s report. Each of the informal tours of parts of the Arizona State University campus arranged by the Development Office has been fully booked. In addition, a tour of the Phoenix Art Museum’s exhibit “Monet at Giverny” attracted 119 members and guests, and a tour of Taliesin West attracted 31. The association now hopes “to convert these people into enthusiastic, dues-paying, scholarship-supporting members.”

High School NHS Adviser Launches N.J. Association

For the first time ever, the initiative for starting a Phi Beta Kappa association has come from a high school teacher working as adviser to National Honor Society students. It happened in northern New Jersey, where Clifford J. Brooks (Phi Beta Kappa, Georgetown University, 1973), a media specialist at Emerson Jr-Sr. High School in Emerson, N.J., was joined by Patricia R. Castelli (Phi Beta Kappa, Fordham University, 1979) and Norman Sheikh (Phi Beta Kappa, Rutgers University, 1998) to organize the first Phi Beta Kappa association in New Jersey.

Some 48 Phi Beta Kappa members attended the organizational meeting of the association at the school’s Media Center on September 7, 2000, at 7 p.m. The meeting was followed by a concert of chamber music and a reception hosted by the school’s National Honor Society, Cultural Diversity Club, and Young Critics Program, for all of which Brooks serves as faculty adviser.

Since then, the Northern New Jersey Phi Beta Kappa Association has sponsored a trip to Lincoln Center to attend a concert by the American Symphony Orchestra. The group plans a community service project, another trip to attend a cultural event, and two educational symposia.

For the past several years, the national Phi Beta Kappa organization has been working to increase its ties with the National Honor Society, in order to improve awareness of Phi Beta Kappa among high school students.

Literature


“... Around the edges of this conversation, the usual family information, the real substance of the gathering, was being exchanged: who was pregnant, who was planning on getting married, who was Phi Beta Kappa, or had had stitches out or had ended an engagement.”

From Herman Wouk, Don’t Stop the Carnival (Doubleday, 1965), p. 234. (The book is now being made into a Broadway musical.)

Mrs. Sanders, the wife of the governor of the Caribbean island Amerigo [aka Kinja], “blinked at her husband with a dangerous, exasperated look in her wine-brightened eyes. ‘This is what I hate about Kinja, Norman. It’s all low-grade vaudeville and burlesque, it sickens me, and in other words I’m afraid Alton is going to become just like them if he stays here much longer, and to me I’m being a good wife by staying in Washington and keeping the children out of Ibis.’ She flung a hand at the island of Amerigo, and Norman noticed that the charm dangling from her gold bracelet was a Phi Beta Kappa key.”
Michigan Professor Named Romanell-ΦΒΚ
Professor for 2001–02

Kendall Lewis Walton, professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan, is the recipient of the Romanell-ΦΒΚ Professorship in Philosophy for 2001–02. The professorship carries a stipend of $7,500 and responsibility to deliver a series of lectures at the recipient’s home institution.

Yale Undergrads Organize ΦΒΚ Lunches with Faculty

On January 17, undergraduate members of Phi Beta Kappa at Yale sponsored the first meeting in a planned twice-monthly ΦΒΚ Faculty Lunch Series. Charles A. Porter, who retired from the French Department last year, talked about his career and led a discussion of the “ways that studying literature can shape our world views.”

According to Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, undergraduate vice president of the chapter, the series “represents an effort to develop the Yale ΦΒΚ chapter into an intellectual community that unites students and faculty.” The luncheons will provide a forum for undergraduate and graduate ΦΒΚ members to meet and explore “the role of academic pursuits in our lives.”

College Receives $1 Million to Upgrade Liberal Arts

Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, which has recently applied for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, has received a gift of $1 million from the son of an alumnus to help the college meet Phi Beta Kappa’s qualifications to be considered to shelter a chapter. The alumnus, O. Carlyle McCandless, had told the president of Georgetown in 1992 that he was “disappointed in the college’s library, faculty salaries, and ability to endow faculty departments,” and that he would help the president only if he would “demonstrate clear intentions to build a great liberal arts institution of Phi Beta Kappa quality.”

McCandless died last fall, and in December, Georgetown’s president, William H. Crouch Jr., received a call from McCandless’s son, Russ McCandless, donating the $1 million. “How thrilled and appreciative I am that people understand the significance of quality liberal arts education and the importance of Phi Beta Kappa recognition,” said Crouch.

Scholar Essayists
In Photo Finish

“No clear winner.” Where have we heard that before?

In the “Best Essay” category of The American Scholar’s third annual awards competition, a series of revotes failed to break a deadlock between Carlo Rotella’s “Cut Time” and Brian Doyle’s “The Soul of Phlarchos,” published, respectively, in the Spring and Summer 2000 issues. As a result, Doyle and Rotella shared the award; “Cut Time” was also chosen as “Best Work by a Younger Writer.”

Rotella is assistant professor of English at Boston University. Doyle is editor of the University of Portland’s Portland Magazine. Other awards went to:
• Michael Harper, University Professor and professor of English at Brown University, for “Release: Kind of Blue” (“Best Poem,” Winter issue).

The Scholar’s staff and Editorial Board meet together at the end of each year to honor the journal’s best writing.

Society Announces
Nondiscrimination Policy

The Phi Beta Kappa Society formally declares that it is the policy of its chapters to:
• elect individuals to membership;
• afford emoluments of membership;
• elect members to positions within the Society;
• make awards, grants, and gifts;
• conduct any program and allow access to any program;
• employ individuals on its staff;
• administer its personnel policies and procedures; and
• engage vendors, contractors, and consultants
all in accord with the qualifications, merits, and abilities of all persons seeking or applying for any of the same, without regard to and without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnic origin, military service, handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation, or on any other basis prohibited by law. The Phi Beta Kappa Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The national headquarters of the Society are located at 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

Six newly elected ΦΒΚ senators attending the Senate meeting in December are, from the left, Don J. Wyatt, Bruce R. Barrett, Catherine White Berbeide, Harvey E. Klehr, Arline Bronzaft, and Kurt O. Olsson. Olsson was appointed by the Senate to complete the term of David Levering Lewis, who has resigned.
Susan Howard Appointed \(\Phi BK\)’s Associate Secretary

In January, the Executive Committee appointed Susan Wells Howard (\(\Phi BK\), University of Kentucky, 1973) to be the Society’s chief administrative officer, with the title of associate secretary. She will also continue to work with Secretary Douglas Foard on programs, development, and long-range planning.

Howard, who studied in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1973-74, holds a Ph.D. in German literature from the University of Texas, where she also taught and held a variety of administrative positions in business, student, and academic affairs. She came to Phi Beta Kappa headquarters a year ago as a management consultant and was responsible for handling the arrangements for the triennial Council last October.

A First-Generation Phi Bete’s Story

Among the summa cum laude Phi Beta Kappa graduates at the University of Oregon last June was Raluca Negru, a history and French major who, with her mother, came to the United States in 1983 at age six to join her father, a sailor who had fled Romania in search of a better life. Negru told university staff that “there was barely enough money in Romania for food, and higher education wasn’t an option for those who didn’t join the Communist Party.”

The family, none of whom spoke English, settled in inner-city Los Angeles, where, Negru says, she “couldn’t believe the abundance. I loved American food—and the toys.” The first year of American school was especially difficult as she struggled to learn English, but today she speaks German and French in addition to her native Romanian and English.

After graduation she headed to Paris for graduate study at the American Graduate School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

Members of Phi Beta Kappa in the U.S. Congress, 2001
(Names in bold: New members of Congress.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
<th>State (Party)</th>
<th>College/University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas H. Allen</td>
<td>Maine (D)</td>
<td>Bowdoin College, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Bair</td>
<td>Washington (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Utah, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M. Barrett</td>
<td>Wisconsin (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Wisconsin, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Bereuter</td>
<td>Nebraska (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Nebraska, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Carson</td>
<td>Oklahoma (D)</td>
<td>Baylor Univ., 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Cox</td>
<td>California (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of S. Calif., 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eljah E. Cummings</td>
<td>Maryland (D)</td>
<td>Howard Univ., 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana DeGette</td>
<td>Colorado (D)</td>
<td>Colorado College, 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Deutsch</td>
<td>Florida (D)</td>
<td>Swarthmore College, 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barney Frank</td>
<td>Massachusetts (D)</td>
<td>Harvard Univ., 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil H. Goode</td>
<td>Virginia (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Richmond, 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Harman</td>
<td>California (D)</td>
<td>Smith College, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td>Illinois (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of Illinois, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Lantos</td>
<td>California (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Washington, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Pomroy</td>
<td>North Dakota (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of N. Dakota, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David E. Price</td>
<td>North Carolina (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of N. Carolina, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Ramstad</td>
<td>Minnesota (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of Minnesota, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam B. Schiff</td>
<td>California (D)</td>
<td>Stanford Univ., 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Sherman</td>
<td>California (D)</td>
<td>UCLA, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Shuster</td>
<td>Pennsylvania (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ike Skelton</td>
<td>Missouri (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Missouri, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John M. Spratt Jr.</td>
<td>South Carolina (D)</td>
<td>Davidson College, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Vitter</td>
<td>Louisiana (R)</td>
<td>Harvard Univ., 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin L. Watt</td>
<td>North Carolina (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of N. Carolina, 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Weldon</td>
<td>Florida (R)</td>
<td>SUNY, Stony Brook, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td></td>
<td>College/University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Collins</td>
<td>Maine (R)</td>
<td>St. Lawrence Univ., 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Corzine</td>
<td>New Jersey (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Illinois, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Feingold</td>
<td>Wisconsin (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Wisconsin, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Graham</td>
<td>Florida (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of Florida, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td>South Dakota (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of S. Dakota, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Kyl</td>
<td>Arizona (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of Arizona, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Lieberman</td>
<td>Connecticut (D)</td>
<td>Yale Univ., 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lugar</td>
<td>Indiana (R)</td>
<td>Denison Univ., 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Sarbanes</td>
<td>Maryland (D)</td>
<td>Princeton Univ., 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Schumer</td>
<td>New York (D)</td>
<td>Harvard Univ., 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlen Specter</td>
<td>Pennsylvania (R)</td>
<td>Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Wellstone</td>
<td>Minnesota (D)</td>
<td>Univ. of N. Carolina, 1965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members of Phi Beta Kappa Nominated for Cabinet and Subcabinet Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabinet</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>College/University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen P. Hughes</td>
<td>White House Counselor</td>
<td>Virginia Tech, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Lindsey</td>
<td>Assistant for Economic Affairs</td>
<td>Bowdoin College, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gale Norton</td>
<td>Secretary of Interior</td>
<td>Univ. of Denver, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoleeza Rice</td>
<td>National Security Adviser</td>
<td>Univ. of Denver, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Zoellick</td>
<td>U.S. Trade Representative</td>
<td>Swarthmore College, 1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ralph Nader (\(\Phi BK\), Princeton, 1955) is the only Phi Beta Kappa member who was a candidate for U.S. President on the ballot in 2000.

Harvard astrophysicist Margaret Geller explains theories of motion to students attending the annual meeting of the National Honor Society in Orlando last November. Geller was one of four panelists Phi Beta Kappa provided to discuss the conference topic “Imagination and Innovation.”
‘Gloriously Useless’?

Hats off to Leroy S. Rouner for his remarks [“Resolved: That Phi Beta Kappa Is Gloriously Useless,” Autumn 2000]. He reaffirmed my belief in a liberal arts education and compelled me to write this letter. Since 1987 I have worked in the field of law firm marketing and public relations, where I would be worth nothing had I not learned how to write, articulate, and become a quick study. My livelihood depends on my undergraduate choice, English. More important, my love of literature has enhanced my enjoyment of life.

As Professor Rouner so eloquently points out, we must learn what we love. How else can you explain the deluge of self-help books on how to be happy? “Do what you love and the money will follow” is a new thought to many who bought into this culture’s rhetoric on how we must declare undying allegiance, as undergraduates, to a field, whether it be business, accounting, medicine, or law. English, sociology, and history majors are left to contend with the question, “What will you be when you grow up?” The answer should always be, “I will know myself.”

Debra Scala, Sayville, N.Y.

I have never written to the Key Reporter before, but I was really inspired by Dr. Rouner’s article, which arrived in mid-December. I am not complaining at the lateness of its arrival since I have not sent in the money for a key, I got one only because a family physician who never got an opportunity for membership luckily did emphasize “love,” if not by that name.

If all this time Phi Beta Kappa was “never just about being smart; it was also about being good,” then now, at age 75 I can actually feel proud of my key, and not so discouraged about having been “useless.” Thank you so much, Dr. Rouner and Key Reporter.

Maria E. (Bihl) Mahoney, Phoenix, Ariz.

‘Horses Galloping’

Matt Cartmill begins his article [“Do Horses Gallop in Their Sleep?” Key Reporter, Autumn 2000] by discussing the possibility that a drug could abolish one’s consciousness while having no effect whatsoever on one’s behavior. That is, as observed by others, the drugged person would behave no differently than if he were not drugged. There is therefore an obvious difficulty in scientifically establishing the effectiveness of the drug.

The same difficulty obtains for all of Cartmill’s suggestions for scientifically studying consciousness: He does not allow it to be inferred from behavior, arguing, for example, that a computer cannot be conscious, no matter how intelligently it may converse with us.

The fact is that there is no observable phenomenon whose scientific explanation requires the postulation of consciousness (as Cartmill uses the term), save one: I am conscious. So, applying Occam’s razor, it is more parsimonious for me to suppose that I am solipsistically unique or to suppose that there are other conscious persons and creatures? If the latter, how are the conscious ones to be recognized; how much like me do they have to be? These questions seem beyond the reach of the scientific method and therefore in my view are undecidable.

John G. Fletcher, Livermore, Calif.
Matt Cartmill did a commendable job of writing an article about the soul without mentioning it once. It is frustrating that the rigid compartmentalization of academia forbids scientists from acknowledging that which exists outside their sphere. With his illustration that an egg collection that thought it was Elizabeth Dole was, in reality, nothing more than an algorithm machine, Cartmill adroitly stepped right up to the cliff. But instead of leaping into the comprehensive reality, he retreated into the mechanisms that regulate and produce consciousness. He overlooked the essential item without which consciousness could not exist.

If we could program an exact duplicate of the human mind (and possibly even some animal minds), there would still be something missing—something that science cannot explain. This is the realm of philosophers and theologians. But as science continues to grow in its capacity for genetic engineering and even programming the physical mind, it must recognize both the reality of the soul and the frightening ramifications of ignoring its existence.

Daniel M. Singleton, Orlando, Fla.

Matt Cartmill’s article was interesting and suggestive, but it seems to me that it missed the mark on the following points:

First, consciousness may not be “too metaphysical and subjective” for science to concern itself with, but may be too poorly defined. It is like saying that a dog barks because it wants to bark. “Wanting to bark” turns out to be based on behavioral observations rather than on understanding the causes of that behavior. When we know enough about conscious awareness to define and observe it, we can then begin correlating it with other observable variables.

Second, what we subjectively observe and describe as conscious awareness may be related, as others have suggested, to the fact that we respond not only to external stimuli but also to internal conditions of the body, including the neurological changes that occur with immediate and more distant memory and with various bodily states, including emotions. When we can build a computer that can respond to external and internal input in such a way that it can alter the external input, it may be difficult to say that it does not have conscious awareness.

Years ago I read of a battery-powered, wheeled device that roamed around a room avoiding obstacles until the battery power was low, when it would go to a nearby outlet and plug itself in. Conscious? Hmmm!

Finally, suggesting that the price of consciousness is the need for sleep is rather a leap. It may make more sense to say that the need for sleep arose with the development of emotional neural circuits and related organs. These can be observed and their activities correlated with other observables. Sleep and dreams may provide conditions for the emotional residuals of the previous day to move toward the normal state, i.e., self-desensitization.

James Straughan, Lopez, Wash.

Matt Cartmill replies:

Fletcher thinks that ontologically subjective phenomena are beyond the reach of scientific investigation, and that scientists shouldn’t talk about consciousness unless and until it can be defined in terms of publicly observable behavior. I suggest that a scientific approach to the world is perfectly compatible with accepting the reality of subjective experience. It had better be compatible, because all experience is subjective—or, to put it another way, all observations are necessarily from the standpoint of some observer. What science demands of experiences that claim the name of evidence is not that they be public but that they be replicable. Scientific experiments are simply experiences that any of us can have if we follow the directions. The fact that an experience is ontologically private doesn’t exclude it from scientific investigation.

For example, anyone with normal vision who stares fixedly at a glowing light bulb for about 10 seconds and then looks away will see a negative (dark gray) after-image of the bulb. Such after-images have intelligible physical causes; they result from the saturation of retinal photopigments. But the fact that we experience them isn’t something we can infer from what we know about photopigment saturation. After all, our visual system might have evolved to eliminate after-images by correcting for such saturation, as it eliminates and fills in the “blind spot” corresponding to the optic disk on the retina. In the present state of our knowledge, after-images are ontologically private phenomena. They are nevertheless perfectly amenable to scientific study.

Like Fletcher, Singleton wants to exclude consciousness from the realm of science, though his reasons differ. He thinks that consciousness can’t be explained without postulating the existence of the soul. I don’t think this clears anything up. It just piles additional mysteries on top of the ones we are already struggling with. In the traditional reading, the soul is supposed to be a nonmaterial substance that thinks. No one has ever come up with a plausible account of how such a substance can be causally connected to a body so that the soul can perceive images on the retina or make muscles contract.

The thing that does seem to have these kinds of causal connections is not the soul but the brain. We also know that things that alter the workings of the brain can alter or abolish consciousness, and that different states of awareness (waking vs. sleeping) are reflected in different patterns of brain activity. These facts strongly suggest that consciousness—our awareness of the world and ourselves—is a function of the brain. Positing an undetectable, immaterial consciousness-substance to account for human or animal consciousness doesn’t explain anything. It only expresses our ignorance more poetically.

As for Straughan’s arguments, an air conditioner is a machine that responds to internal input (thermostat setting) and external input (thermometer reading) in such a way that it can alter the external input, but I doubt very much that air conditioners are conscious. If we wish, we can of course redefine “conscious awareness” in an operational way that includes air conditioners, but we shouldn’t allow ourselves to be fooled into thinking that this represents an advance in our understanding of the world.

Books for Gambia

In your Autumn 2000 issue ["Letters"], Susan Mannon asked whether you might consider doing a piece on what others are trying to do about the lack of books for students in places all around the world. We can add another continent to the list of locations for which books are being collected: the English-speaking country of Gambia. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Shelby Tarutis, directs the nonprofit organization GambiaHELP, which works to create libraries in villages through the country. GambiaHELP’s address is 17043 Second Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98177; e-mail: GambiaHLTH@aol.com.

David and Barbara Sando, Seattle, Wash.

... and Jamaica

Another nonprofit organization, the Children’s Change, founded by Marilyn and Peter Gresser of Minneapolis, has been shipping books (500,000 so far) to schools and libraries in Jamaica for 21 years. For information, write bookmon@isd.net or telephone (763) 545-2708.

Karol P. Gresser, Burnsville, MN

Kami P. Gresser, Burnsville, MN

Peter Gresser of Minneapolis, has been shipping books (500,000 so far) to schools and libraries in Jamaica for 21 years. For information, write bookmon@isd.net or telephone (763) 545-2708.
The United States Capitol: Designing and artists who struggled to create a great building. As is always the case with any collection of essays, some are more interesting than others. I thoroughly enjoyed the story of the conflict between Montgomery Meigs and Thomas Walter, especially since later chapters provide a different view of Meigs. The account of the peopling of Statuary Hall makes clear the changing standards for greatness in American culture.


If you want to know why the Chinese distrust Western countries, look past the Communists and consider the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Although Americans were not major participants in the events that led to the uprising, they were there for the siege of Peking and Tientsin; future president Herbert Hoover and his intrepid wife, Lou, played important roles in the defense of the latter city. Christian missionaries, striking at the heart of traditional beliefs, had aroused intense fear and hatred among rural and village-dwelling Chinese who organized to drive foreigners out of the country. Westerners called them Boxers. The rulers in Peking worried that foreign nations, having established control of much of the country through spheres of influence, would continue to carve up China, leaving them powerless. Members of the government encouraged the Boxers to attack the foreigners, but the extent to which the Chinese rulers themselves were involved in the fighting is unclear. It is a classic story of brutality and bravery and an enlightening study of resistance to imperialism at the end of the 19th century.


Americans are inclined to believe that their war for independence was inevitable; therefore, all the events of the 18th century seem significant only if they led to revolution and constitution-making. The French

and Indian War, for example, has been perceived as a prelude to the American Revolution. Anderson, harking back to an earlier school of imperial historians, insists that we take a broader view and recognize that the English colonies in North America were only part of a worldwide struggle among European nations bent on expansion of their power and influence. We learn not only about frontier warfare but also about European politicking. It is a great story, Anderson tells it well, and if George Washington’s early reputation is somewhat diminished, that only makes his later career more impressive.


Interest in the Civil War only increases as we move further away from the actual conflict. It takes various forms: detailed scholarly analysis of battles, a passion for reenactments, belated recognition of the centrality of African Americans in the struggle, and emotional arguments over flags used by the short-lived Confederate States of America. Weigley, clearly setting forth his northern sympathies, has written a careful account of both the military and the political events of the middle of the 19th century. His knowledge of European wars and battles enriches his analysis, and he has not hesitated to take on some of the sacred heroes of the Lost Cause. This reviewer, bored with southern piety in spite of being the granddaughter of a Stuart cavalryman, finds Weigley’s approach refreshing. His most controversial conclusion is that the South gave up more easily than one might expect—hard to believe in view of the ferocity of the fighting.


For the reality of Civil War conflict, try Eye of the Storm, a memoir based on the diary of Robert Knox Sneden. A talented draftsman who endured both battles and imprisonment, Sneden wrote a detailed account of his ordeal and made fascinating sketches and maps. Take a look at pages 30–31 or 331; what you see there will haunt you. The book is beautifully edited and printed.


A university press provides a great service to a literate public when it reissues important books that have been out of
print. A noteworthy example is the first volume of Richard Slotkin’s trilogy on the mythology of the West. Through analysis of American writings Slotkin shows how the myths of the frontier became a vital factor in Americans’ perception of themselves.

**Germaine Cornelissen**


A “hot” topic, thoroughly discussed, starting with the work of Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier. *General Remarks on the Temperature of the Terrestrial Globe and Planetary Spaces*, published in 1824, and ending with the United Nations Conference on Climatic Change held in Kyoto in 1997. One great attraction of this book is to see scientific advances presented in their historical context. One learns not only about industrial pollution and how it may affect the Earth’s temperature, but also a great deal about the lives of the major players of the past two centuries, about Fourier’s travel on the Nile, about Eldeston’s discovery of the change in color of the “peppered” moth (at the very time Charles Darwin was completing his magnum opus *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* and Gregor Mendel was conducting his experiments on peas that would lead to the foundation of genetics) and how it was linked to industrial development in Manchester in the mid-19th century, and about the stunning CO$_2$ measurements of Keeling. These and many other facts are presented in a scholarly fashion, yet with a novelist’s storytelling skills.


Bioethicist Singer lucidly presents several arguments in answering the question whether the left can swap Marxism for Darwinism while remaining left. According to Singer, a Darwinian left would remain on the side of the weak, poor, and oppressed. It would not assume that all inequalities are due to discrimination or prejudice, but would seek a better understanding of human nature, so as to foster cooperation for socially desirable ends.


The emergence of a new discipline is the topic of Farber’s book, which traces the beginnings of modern natural history to the lifetime work of Linnaeus and Buffon. Collection of specimens and classification of animals, plants, and minerals were indeed essential first steps that established the foundation for the life sciences. The two men’s work inspired expeditions to expand the scale of specimen collection. The ground was laid for comparative anatomy, leading to competing interpretations of the living world by Georges Cuvier and Etienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, and to Cuvier’s fossil reconstructions of prehistoric animals, pioneering the science of paleontology. Technical innovations provided opportunities to bring natural history to the public. Natural history was reaching a point of synthesis. The theory of evolution was soon to follow. Drawing on the results of 19th-century research in embryology, Haeckel would formulate his argument that “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny.” Through the study of function, the life sciences were born, with Claude Bernard’s introduction of the experimental method in physiology. While still attracting enormous popular interest today, natural history remains central to advances in a number of fields, from ecology and agriculture to environmental science and medicine. This is a jewel of a book everyone can enjoy.

**Larry Zimmerman**


Anthropologist Cassell observed 33 female surgeons over three years, providing insight on how being female in a largely male discipline influences the way the surgeon is perceived by colleagues, nurses, patients, and superiors.


With both humor and empathy, Kaminer looks at how our society defers to spiritual authority and resists critical thinking.


A beautifully designed photographic essay. The authors examine human relationships with the bison from prehistoric uses to contemporary efforts to reestablish herds in North America.

**Robert P. Sonkowsky**


Each of these books treats the relationship of visual and spoken elements in Classical culture. Boegh­bold uses some visuals, such as Greek red-figure vase paintings, to illustrate his observations, but concentrates mainly on language and literature, genre by genre. The topic is by no means new to Classical scholarship, but has lately been quite neglected, and is in great need of this modern treatment, which incorporates some modern kinetic studies without using the jargon and includes evidence of gestural survivals in Modern Greek. Boeg­­hold also says much that is important about gestural clarifications implicit in certain kinds of Ancient Greek syntax, such as incomplete conditional sentences. The book stimulates especially the kinesthetic imagination and helps Ancient Greek literature to come alive.

Benediktson’s book is more theoretical in its conclusions and examines more theoretical evidence, focusing on questions posed by the Greek and Roman writers on the relationship between visual and spoken arts, such as in Horace’s dictum *ut pictura poesis* (“as painting, poetry”) in his Ars Poetica.


Both of these books discuss the importance of writing in the development of civilization, and both employ a broad approach to culture.

**Ancestor of the West** begins with artifacts, before history, before writing, before the Mesopotamian cultures of the Akkadians and the Sumerians, but concentrates on the written documents of these two peoples. Bottéro characterizes them separately and together in their cultural blending from about the fourth and third millennia B.C., stressing the intelligence, culture, and religion that Mesopotamia has bequeathed to the modern world. Herrenschmidt writes on the development of writing in Iran, Israel, and Greece. As she describes how pictograms replaced tokens and alphabetic writing replaced pictograms with the com-
RECOMMENDED READING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13


This book offers a feast for the eye and for the mind, encompassing hundreds of the finest drawings, engravings, rare books, and scientific instruments from the collection of the Adler Planetarium, on the Chicago shore of Lake Michigan. Although the format is small—9 inches square—the book is sumptuously reproduced, with irregularly shaped objects cut out and masked to make the book a design delight.

The instruments include globes of the Earth and sky, and astrolabes that, hundreds of years before today’s computers, located stars in the sky at different times. The star charts from the 17th century have still not been surpassed in beauty. The 18th- and 19th-century Chinese star charts show constellations unfamiliar to most of us. Time-keeping, navigation, and surveying join astronomy in the survey. The Adler’s collection and this display are worth visits.

Jay M. Pasachoff

The Universe is a varied place, and it has been discussed from all points of view. Danielson, a professor of English at the University of British Columbia, has provided a rich selection of short (3 to 10 pages each) pieces from the literature of cosmology. They range from the Bible (Genesis) and the ancient Greeks to the present. Names that might be expected, like Copernicus and Kepler, are joined by less obvious contributors like Milton, Poe, and Chesterton. Danielson provides helpful introductions and commentaries to appeal to students of the sciences and the humanities alike.


Devorkin’s thorough biography of Henry Norris Russell reveals the scientific and institutional progress of this first American astrophysicist. Russell dominated American astronomy in the first half of the 19th century. From his secure perch at Princeton, he influenced research and appointments at observatories as widespread as Harvard in Massachusetts and Mount Wilson in California. The reader comes to understand the rocky scientific and personal path that led to what is now widely known as the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, still the major organizing theme of modern astronomy. Readers interested in the structure of American research will find the march of great names of the past generation, from Harlow Shapley and George Ellery Hale on down, and see the roots of today’s graduate departments.

With the centenary symposium for Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin just past in October 2000 and the centenary symposium for Donald H. Menzel coming in May 2001, the abilities and discoveries of these and other major figures in astrophysics are placed in context. The prepared reader will benefit most from this book, which would have been even longer had the scientific matters mentioned been elucidated for nonprofessionals. Those interested in the role of women in science will particularly follow the analysis of the discovery and proof that hydrogen is the major constituent of the stars. In Devorkin’s analysis, Cecilia Payne’s thesis conclusion on this point was rightfully not accepted until subsequent analysis and discussion, especially by Menzel and Russell.

Eugene Weber

France at War is a kind of festschrift—the best kind, substantial and suggestive—for Columbia’s Robert Paxton. Twenty-three historians—French, British, and American—contribute brief but meaty, informative, and densely argued essays on collaboration, resistance, anti-Jewish politics, bureaucracy, continuities, discontinuities, memory, and history in the years of Vichy and Occupation. The rich potluck buffet of thought-provoking pieces provides a glowing tribute to a fine historian, but also to the practice of history, and to the variety, evolution, and possibilities of the complex issues that historians tackle. The title alone seems wrong or, at least, not explicit. Who was France at war with from 1940 to 1944? Only with itself.

A thoughtful historian's take on the moral, intellectual, and artistic legacies of Europe's past century: factors of economic, scientific, technological leadership; factors of cultural conflict, murderous politics, and horrific wars. Not just dead white men but dead white women too, and lots of what they stole, borrowed, and improved on from all over the world. Much unexpected information, plenty of common sense, and lots of opinions that you can accept, reflect on, or argue with.


There used to be two kinds of history: the sort inaugurated by Herodotus, who inquired into all aspects of human experience, including the lies we tell each other, and the narrower, explanatory sort associated with Thucydides: wars, treaties, personalities, politics, the stuff and source of events past and present. Call the one "cultural, social, and intellectual" and the other "drum and trumpet," or, if you prefer, pragmatic, political, and present-minded. The two genres are still with us. Kelley reviews all varieties, and their creators, in a critical survey of historical inquiry in the West from the pioneers of the 5th century B.C. to the 19th-century beginnings of "scientific history" (well past Herder) and even some of our 20th-century meanderings. Intelligent, dense, and demanding, this is not a bedside book, but it rewards amateurs of perception and perspective.


Louis-Sebastien Mercier's Panorama of Paris/Mudville in the 1780s, just before the great Revolution, is, as Popkin tells us, one of the forgotten treasures of French literature. Urban journalist, ethnographer, reformer, and moralist, Mercier sketched every aspect of city life from traffic jams to rag-and-bone pickers, through police (wholly corrupt), furnished rooms (sordid), markets (disgusting), fires (frequent), fashion (futile), streets (filthy and dangerous), pedestrians (ignoble), bureaucracy (arbitrary), cattle (no respecters of persons), sermons (prefabricated), sedan chairs (traps prone to overturn), husbands (uncivil race), cemeteries (health hazards), produce (half-frozen), garbage removal (inadequate), and lots more of the same. Popkin's Introduction is knowledgeable and savorous, his selection compendious, and the paperback an excellent value for students and tourists both.


There are many compendia of crime, most of them useful but all full of holes. Herbert's Companion must be one of the best, if not the best, to date. It does not aim at exhaustiveness, let alone exhaustion, but ambles knowledgeably from Abduction (see Kidnapping), Academic Milieu, and Academic Sleuth, to Zangwill, Israel, the Anglo-Jewish fictioneer whose Big Bow Mystery of 1891 came only five years after Sherlock Holmes's appearance and exactly 50 after Poe's Chevalier Auguste Dupin. On the way, the book touches on Revenge, Voyeurism, Wisecracks, Whodunits, Whydunits, White-Collar Crime, Music, Medicus, Fans, Farceurs, Cozyness, Computer Detective Games, and Authors' Politics, not to mention scores of scribblers, sleuths, villains, and archaeologists: 20 pages' worth of index. Most entries are followed by appetizing bibliographies, and the entries themselves are scrumptious. A tome to be treasured, read, and dipped into for guidance or sheer fun. No aficionado of the genre should miss it.


Dust we are and to dust we shall return. Meantime we breathe it, breed it, face it, flee it, ignore it. Not so Amato, whose pages carry it from muck to magic, from motes to metaphors, microbes and molecules. Scholar, but never dry-as-dust, explorer of the invisible and intrusive for whom no speck is too small, no mite beneath notice, Amato writes beautifully and absorbingly. The revelation that common household germs and dust bolster our immune system (New York Times, Aug. 31, 2000) has come too late to figure in Amato's tale. But he does mention the restorative power of crumbs from the Communion table, as of powdered spiders. Disease and cure, hygiene and sanitation, find room in his pages: so do darkness, benightedness, and light; plumbing; paint; pollens; bacteria; housewives and healing, rubbish and riches. Imaginative, poetic, and idiosyncratic, Dust is a compact quarry of engaging lore.
Secretary Douglas Foard commented, “I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Terrill several years ago and learned at that time of her good wishes for Phi Beta Kappa and her intention to help the Society expand its mission of excellence. I had no idea, of course, that she intended to put such noteworthy resources at our disposal. We mean to make the best possible use of every cent of this singular contribution to our future.”

Mrs. Terrill, a widow, died at her home in Marin County, California, in July 2000.

Phi Beta Kappa welcomes gifts from members, while living, by will, via trust, or through life insurance. The Society is able to provide assistance in coordinating arrangements with you and your advisers to help you maximize the value of your gift and preserve proper tax attributes. Gifts may be made using cash, securities, or other properties (although Phi Beta Kappa must reserve the right to approve gifts of assets other than cash or securities). Gifts may be made on an unrestricted basis to the Society, or restricted to particular uses or programs. Gifts are tax-deductible, as Phi Beta Kappa is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Society is grateful for all contributions.

**ΦBK Fellows to Hear Biggs, Present Award to Sondheim, Williamsburg to Host 225th Anniversary Meeting**

On April 4, at the Harvard Club in New York City, the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows will hear a talk about Andrew Carnegie and J. P. Morgan as founders of two pension systems. The speaker for the annual Couper Lecture will be John H. Biggs, head of TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund). The Fellows will also present their annual award to Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim.

The ΦBK Fellows were organized in 1940 to provide a financially secure future for Phi Beta Kappa. The current annual pledge for members is $500, for a total of $5,000. For further information about the Fellows’ organization, write to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The Phi Beta Kappa Senate will return to Williamsburg, Virginia, on December 6–8 to observe the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Society at the College of William and Mary. Details of the special events being planned in connection with the Senate’s meeting on the college campus as well as in Colonial Williamsburg will be announced in the next issue of the Key Reporter.