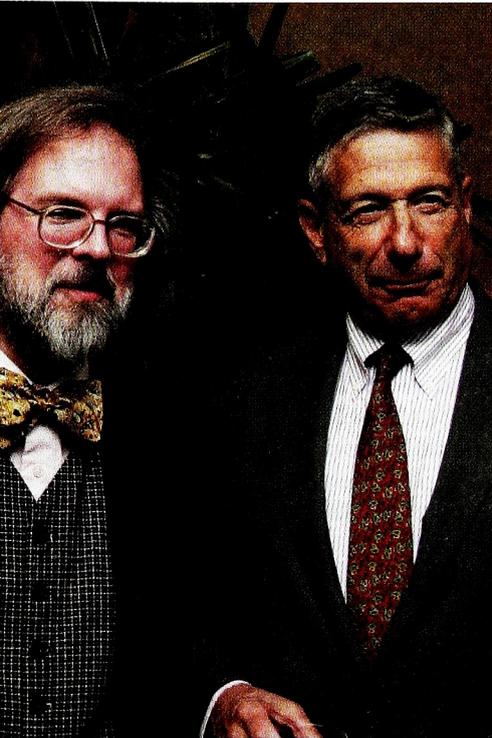




The Key Reporter

Phi Beta Kappa
Foundation
Special Triennial
Council Issue

Fall 2003 Volume 68, Number 3



Niall Slater, Donald Lamm Elected To Lead Phi Beta Kappa Society

The Phi Beta Kappa Society elected new officers at its 40th Triennial Council last month in Seattle. Niall W. Slater is the new president, and Donald S. Lamm is vice president. They will serve three-year terms. Slater, formerly ΦBK's vice president, succeeds Joseph W. Gordon, who will remain in the Society's Senate for three more years.

Slater is professor of classics at Emory University. He earned his doctorate at Princeton. A 1976 graduate of Wooster College, he taught at Concordia College and the University of Southern California before joining the Emory faculty in 1990. He was an officer of the Phi Beta Kappa chapters at both USC and Emory. He has been a visiting fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies and the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, St. Andrews, and Konstanz. He is immediate past presi-

dent of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and serves on that organization's executive committee. He lives in Decatur, Ga.

During the last Triennium, Slater served on Phi Beta Kappa's Executive Committee, the Committee on Associations, the Policy Committee, and the Investment Committee.

In a statement published in the *Manual for Council Delegates*, Slater said, "My goals as president would be two-fold: enhancing cooperation among our constituencies and strengthening our financial security. On the Committee on Associations since 1994, I have resolutely worked for cooperation and understanding between associations and chapters, and for greater national outreach to associations, chapters, and the Fellows. As Phi Beta

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Niall Slater, left, has been elected president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and Donald Lamm is the new vice president.

Eight New ΦBK Chapters Approved

Phi Beta Kappa faculty at eight institutions were granted Phi Beta Kappa chapters at the Society's 40th Triennial Council. This brings the total nationwide to 270. Applications were received from 41 institutions.

The new chapters are being established at Alfred University, Alfred, N.Y.; Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Fla.; the State University of New York at Geneseo; Roanoke College, Salem, Va.; Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vt.; the University of San Diego, Calif.; Texas A&M University at College

Station; and Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.

The Phi Beta Kappa members at each institution are responsible for organizing the chapter. The Society will present the charters and install the chapters in ceremonies during the current academic year.

The recommendations for new chapters were made by the ΦBK Senate's Committee on Qualifications after a lengthy and rigorous process. It began in 2000 when the application materials

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

In This Issue

From the Secretary	2
New Senators Elected	3
Five Associations Chartered	3
Pinsky and Spence Receive Awards	4
Associations Choose Officers	4
Inaugural Chapter Awards Given	5
First Association Awards Presented	5
Holmes Wins Sibley Fellowship	6
Initiation Speech: Th. Emil Homerin	6
Fadiman Receives Magazine Award	6
Among Our Key People:	
Wendy Schwartz	8
From Our Book Critics	10
Letters to the Editor	12



The Conversations in Focus: A Symposium

By John Churchill
Secretary, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

Every three years a Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society meets for a few days to act on fundamental questions about the Society's structure and governance. The Council authorizes the formation of new chapters. It elects the president, the vice president, the Senate, and the Nominating Committee. It initiates and completes the process of amending the Constitution and Bylaws. But, of course, the business of these sessions does not come into existence *ex nihilo* when the president gavel the Council to order. The voting on new chapters, for instance, is the culmination of a process that began three years earlier in the Committee on Qualifications and occupied that Committee, its visiting teams, and the Senate for much of the triennium. The elections are the culmination of a constitutionally prescribed process that began more than a year in advance.

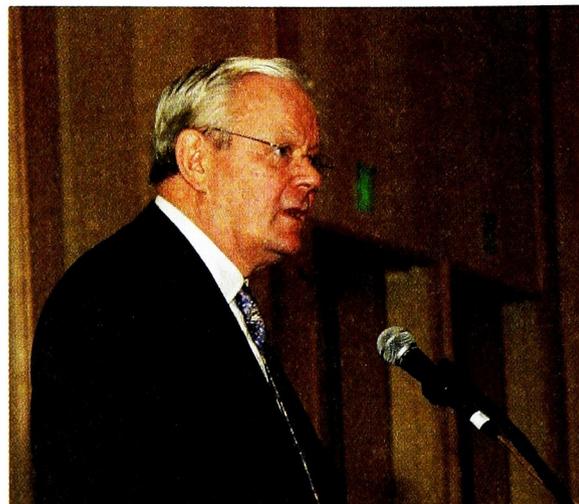
Important as these activities are, there is more to a Council than the conduct of business necessary to the Society's institutional continuity into the next triennium. The Council is also an occasion for celebrating the liberal arts and sciences by exercising the values that animate them: free inquiry, sound analysis, and open expression. And in parts of the 2003 Council in Seattle, these values were deployed in exploring the central question that has shaped so much conversation among Phi Beta Kappa constituencies across the country this year: "What is the social value of education in the liberal arts and sciences?"

Thus, like other Council business, the Symposium dealing with this question had a long run-up. The keynote speaker was David Alexander, president emeritus of Pomona College, vice president of the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows, and former American

Secretary to the Rhodes Scholarship Trust. He had at his disposal reports from the conversations that had been held around the country, along with other material, such as William J. Cronon's widely praised "Only Connect," a reprint from *The American Scholar*. Alexander's task was to summarize and assess the material, to give his audience a sense of what had been said at those regional conversations, and to say what he made of it.

The result was a great moment in the long history of Phi Beta Kappa's articulation of its purposes. With wit and elegance, Alexander catalogued the elements of education in the liberal arts and sciences as reported by its beneficiaries. Most noteworthy is the fact that the conversations had emphasized the characteristics of liberally educated persons as an answer to the question of social value. An overwhelming emphasis was placed on the acquisition of habits of mind, capacities of thought and expression, and dispositions for engagement, leadership, and caring. These characteristics were coupled with breadth of perspective, celebration of diversity, and tolerance for uncertainty and ambiguity.

David Alexander summarized for the Triennial Council the content of the regional ΦBK conversations, and discussed the participants' views on what makes a liberally educated person. Secretary Churchill calls Alexander's presentation "a great moment in the long history of Phi Beta Kappa's articulation of its purposes."



Implicit in this answer is the idea that a culture shaped by such persons will be better than it would be otherwise.

Alexander went on to note the secular nature of the discussions, even when matters of moral development and outlooks on questions of ultimacy came to the fore. And so he raised the issue of religion as a subject for liberal studies and as an ingredient in some of our many visions of human flourishing. He spoke to the impact of technology upon all aspects of our lives, and especially on styles of teaching and learning. And finally, he cited the challenge of convincing a pragmatic world of the value of learning pursued as if for its own sake.

After David Alexander's remarks, four ΦBK members—Jay Freyman of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Pamela Macfie of the University of the South (Sewanee), Christel McDonald of the Washington, D.C., Association, and Joseph Poluka of the Delaware Valley Association in the Philadelphia area—gave brief responses. Discussions in four groups followed the next morning. So the convergence of the country-wide conversations has been completed.

Now our task is to assess the material again, in light of these Seattle speeches and discussions, and to carry the conversation to the chapters and associations. How should the value of education in the liberal arts and sciences be understood? Our aim is to equip Phi Beta Kappa for even more effective advocacy.



Seven ΦBK Members Win Election to Senate

Seven Phi Beta Kappa members were elected to the Society's Senate at the 40th Triennial Council.

Those who will represent geographic districts of chapters and associations are: John E. Doner of Goleta, Calif., representing the Western District; Theopolis Fair of Philadelphia, Pa., representing the Middle Atlantic District; and Carol A. Race of Kirksville, Mo., representing the North Central District. Doner is a Pomona College graduate and teaches mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Fair, a graduate of Fisk University, is in the Department of History at LaSalle University. Race graduated from Indiana University, and after 25 years as instructional technology director at Truman State University, became an author, producer and director of multimedia pieces, websites, and digital films.

Senators elected at large are: Kathleen F. Gensheimer of Yarmouth, Maine, a Pennsylvania State University alumna, who is state epidemiologist in the Bureau of Health at the Maine Department of Human Services; Madeline E. Glick of New York, N.Y.,



Secretary John Churchill gave gifts of appreciation to outgoing President Joseph Gordon and cited his leadership in "a period of significant change, growth, and improvement. He works with a gentleness born of strength, a consideration of others rooted in deep humanity. He has given to this Society clear vision, good judgment, and firm guidance."

a graduate of Washington Square College of New York University, who left a career in finance to study for a master's degree in literature and philosophy at NYU.

Also Anthony Grafton of Princeton, N.J., a University of Chicago alumnus, who is the Henry Putnam University Professor of History and chair of the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University; and Catherine E. Rudder of Washington, D.C., a graduate of Emory University, who is a professor at George Mason University and director of its Master's in Public Policy Program.

All the new senators will serve six-year terms except for Grafton, who will

serve the three years remaining in the term of a senator who resigned.

Charters Awarded to Five Associations

Charters were granted to five Phi Beta Kappa associations at the Society's 40th Triennial Council. Chartered associations may send voting delegates to the Councils.

The newly chartered associations include the Greater Boston (Mass.) ΦBK Association, the Maine ΦBK Association, the Palm Beach (Fla.) ΦBK Association, the Greater Pittsburgh (Pa.) ΦBK Association, and the ΦBK Association of Greater Wichita (Kan.).

Among the requirements for chartered status are a documented history

of continuous activity; a minimum of 25 members; at least one general meeting each year; and at least one annual activity that promotes the Society's ideals, such as academic awards and scholarship programs. If there is a ΦBK chapter at a college or university nearby, collaboration between the chapter and association is encouraged.

Any Phi Beta Kappa member who lives in an association's community is qualified to join. Contact information is available on the Society's website.

THE KEY REPORTER

Volume 68, Number 3
Fall 2003

Editor: Barbara Haddad Ryan
Consulting Editor: John Churchill

The Key Reporter (ISSN: 0023-0804) is published quarterly by the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington DC 20036. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional addresses. IPM #1213423

This newsletter is distributed free each quarter to every member of Phi Beta Kappa for whom we have a current address. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors or the officers of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Circulation: 480,000.

For nonmembers, single copies are available for \$2; one year's subscription is \$5. Design by A&L Communications. Printed by Cadmus Specialty Publications, Richmond, Va.

Copyright © 2003 by the Phi Beta Kappa Society. All rights are reserved. The Phi Beta Kappa name, key, and *The Key Reporter* name are registered trademarks of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Postmaster: Send change-of-address notices to: *The Key Reporter*, Phi Beta Kappa, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington DC 20036. <http://www.pbk.org>

Pinsky and Spence Receive Society Awards

Two outstanding leaders in their fields were honored at Phi Beta Kappa's 40th Triennial Council: poet Robert Pinsky and China scholar Jonathan Spence. The presentations were made at the Council banquet by Senator Don Wyatt, who chairs the Senate's Committee on Awards. The material below is from his introductions.

Pinsky received the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the

A graduate of Rutgers University, Pinsky earned a doctorate at Stanford in 1966. He told the Phi Beta Kappa audience that he was "in the dumb class" in eighth grade, but "even in those days, I did love learning. I'm grateful to the teachers and others who helped me learn—it was a form of rescue."

As poet laureate, Pinsky created the Favorite Poem Project, which became familiar to millions of PBS viewers who

Culture, and the Voice of Poetry." He recited two of his poems at the banquet.

Jonathan Spence received the Sidney Hook Memorial Award, which was created in 1990 with a grant from the John Dewey Foundation. It honors the legacy of Hook, a Phi Beta Kappa member, who died the previous year after a long career as an influential philosopher and teacher.

Born in Surrey, England, Spence studied at Winchester College, served two years in the British Royal Army, and in 1959 earned a degree in history at Cambridge University. That year he came to the United States. He was awarded a doctorate at Yale University in 1965, and joined its faculty a year later. Today he is Sterling Professor of History at Yale.

This year Spence was elected president of the American Historical Association. His honors have included MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships, appointment to the Library of Congress Council of Scholars, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Queen Elizabeth II made him a companion in the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, the highest honor given to a non-citizen of the United Kingdom.

Spence drew wide public attention in 1978 with his fourth book, "Death of Woman Wang." It describes, with vividness and insight, the daily life of a humble woman in 17th-century China. In addition to attracting general readers, it helped turn Chinese history scholars toward "history from below"—the lives of the most marginal figures, not just the most prominent ones.

Every edition of Spence's textbook, "The Search for Modern China," has become a best-seller. Among his other acclaimed publications are "The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution, 1895–1980" and "The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci." His most recent volume is "Treason by the Book," a true 18th-century tale of sedition by commoners and retribution by the emperor, which has been described as having the force and flair of the best detective fiction.

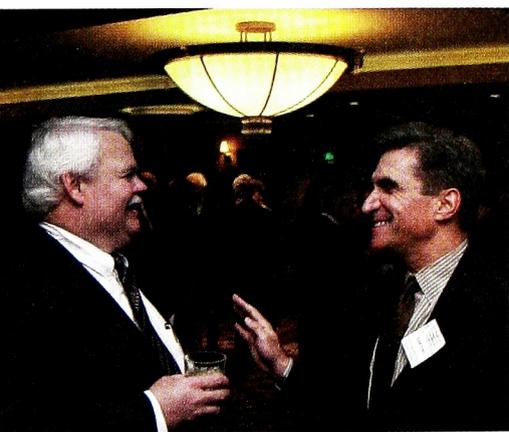


Senator Don Wyatt, center, congratulates Robert Pinsky, left, winner of the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities, and Jonathan Spence, right, who received the Sidney Hook Memorial Award. Wyatt presented the awards at the Triennial Council banquet.

Humanities, which was established two decades ago by Mr. and Mrs. William Jaffe of New York City. The first U.S. poet laureate to serve three consecutive terms, Pinsky is professor of English and creative writing at Boston University. He also has taught at the University of Chicago, Wellesley College, and the University of California at Berkeley.

watched fellow Americans recite poetry on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." The project continues on a website that often gets 10,000 hits a day. It also inspired "Poems to Read: A New Favorite Poem Project Anthology," which Pinsky co-authored.

Among his other books are "The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1966–1996," and "Democracy,



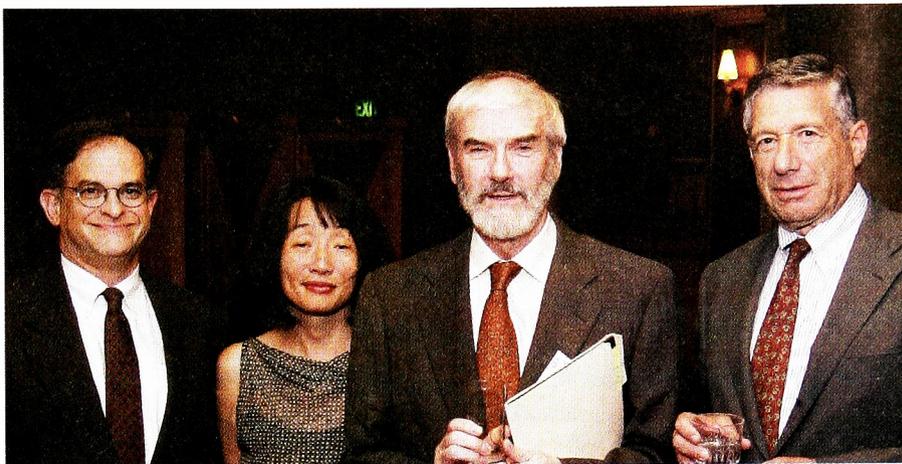
Award winner Robert Pinsky, right, chats with Secretary Churchill before the 40th Triennial Council banquet.

The Conference of Association Delegates, which meets at each Triennial, elected three officers during the Council in Seattle. Barbara Marmorstein of Philadelphia, Pa., was elected chair, succeeding Aubrey Farb. Michael Gauger of Milwaukee, Wis., was elected secretary, succeeding Marmorstein in that position. In addition to the officers authorized in the Phi Beta Kappa Society Bylaws, the Conference for the first time also elected a vice chair: C. Scott Littleton of Pasadena, Calif.

New Award Honors Chapters for Excellence

Three Phi Beta Kappa chapters received new awards for excellence at the Society's Triennial Council. The awards, covering the past three years, were presented by Senator Harvey Klehr, co-chair of the Senate's Committee on Chapters, which created them. They were given in three categories, and each winning chapter received \$1,000 and a certificate.

Baylor University won in the category for private universities. Among the factors in its selection were initiating all but one of the students invited to join; sponsoring campus visits by three Φ BK Visiting Scholars; hosting an annual reception for National Merit Scholars in the Waco, Texas, area; sponsoring an endowed lectureship; sponsoring an annual essay competition; awarding a grant to the top juniors majoring in liberal arts disciplines; and presenting an award to the winner of the Central Texas Science and Engineering Fair.



Sidney Hook Memorial Award winner Jonathan Spence and his wife talk with outgoing Φ BK President Joseph Gordon, left, and incoming Vice President Donald Lamm.

The University of Idaho won in the category for public universities. Among its achievements were initiating 96 percent of the students invited to join in the last three years; bringing three Φ BK Visiting Scholars to campus; presenting academic awards to outstanding sophomores; participating in a Parents Weekend honors convocation; inviting all Φ BK members who live nearby to attend chapter events, including initiation ceremonies and banquets, and Visiting Scholar lectures. These invita-

tions also go to Φ BK members at Washington State University.

Williams College won in the liberal arts college category. Its accomplishments included initiating 99 percent of the students who were invited to join; sponsoring an annual "thesis fair" that displays the research of students doing honors work; hosting dinners where students and faculty can discuss education in the liberal arts and sciences; and bringing two Φ BK Visiting Scholars to campus.

Three Associations Receive Inaugural Award

The Φ BK Senate's Committee on Associations introduced a new award for excellence at the Society's Triennial Council. Three inaugural awards were presented by Senator Judith Krug, the committee chair. The categories are based on membership size, and each winning association received \$1,000 and a certificate.

The Lowcountry Association of Charleston, S.C., was honored in the category of associations with 100 or fewer members. Among the factors in its selection were hosting four lectures or similar events in the past year, and sponsoring a scholarship program with three awards for graduating seniors.

The Sarasota/Manatee (Fla.) Association won in the category of associations with 101 to 300 members. Its achievements included presenting

seven speakers or other events; awarding commendation certificates to 230 seniors at 15 high schools; supporting the high school Academic Olympics program; awarding scholarships to five students for Sarasota's Youth Opera Summer Workshop; and donating funds to a library to buy encyclopedias.

The Northern California Association was recognized in the category of associations with more than 300 members. Among its accomplishments were presenting 15 speakers and other events in the past year; organizing an annual retreat at a state conference center; presenting honoraria for teaching excellence to four area professors; awarding scholarships to nine graduate students at area institutions; and producing a newsletter and a website.



Senator Judith Krug congratulates Mary Hanel, the Northern California Association president, on winning one of the inaugural association awards.

Brooke Holmes Wins Sibley Fellowship for 2003–2004 to Finish Dissertation

Brooke Ann Holmes of Mount Vernon, Wash., has been awarded the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship for 2003–2004. Established in 1934, the \$20,000 award is designated for young women scholars who have earned a Ph.D. or are completing their doctoral dissertations. The fields of study alternate each year between Greek and French.

Holmes is a doctoral candidate at Princeton University, where she earned a master's degree in 2002. She is studying in its Department of Comparative Literature, focusing on classics.

She explains that her dissertation "combines work in the history of science and the history of ideas with literary criticism." She has completed research on the emergence of medical symptoms as diagnostic tools in the context of the new secular medicine in Greece in the fifth century B.C., "and as a breakthrough in semiotic reasoning that complements the contemporary interest in language by interrogating the signs of the body as indices of truth guaranteed by the recurrence of

natural phenomena." Now she is examining "how the symptom as an epistemological model influences the representation and interpretation of the body in certain literary genres."

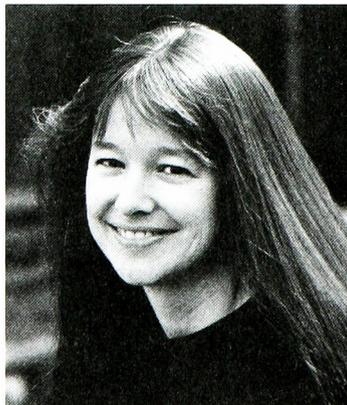
Holmes graduated *magna cum laude* from Columbia University in 1998 as a comparative literature major, with a concentration in Russian and ancient Greek literature. Her largest independent research project was a thesis she wrote as a graduate student at the Sorbonne (Paris-IV) on the "Sacred Tales" of Aelius Aristides, a second-century orator and member of the cult of Asclepius.

Holmes studied Russian at Columbia and at the Center for the Study of Russian Language and Culture at St. Petersburg State University on a U.S. State Department grant. After earning her B.A. degree, she learned Latin independently and continued to study it at Princeton. Last summer she did research in Turkey on a Princeton fellowship, which took her to major centers of Greek literary production in the Roman empire.



Brooke Ann Holmes

Anne Fadiman, editor of *The American Scholar*, received a 2003 National Magazine Award for her essay, "A Piece of Cotton." It appeared in the quarterly's Winter 2002 issue, under the nom de plume *Philonouë*. The essay category "honors the eloquence, perspective, fresh thinking and unique voice that an author brings to bear on an issue of social or political significance." The American Society of Magazine Editors sponsors the annual awards in association with the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The Phi Beta Kappa Society publishes *The American Scholar*.



Homerin Offers Wisdom To New ΦBK Members

By Th. Emil Homerin
Professor Homerin is chair of the Department of Religion and Classics, University of Rochester. This text is excerpted from a ΦBK initiation address.

Police, firefighters, and health professionals responded on 9/11 to 911, and college faculty and students must do their part. For just as doctors and nurses take the Hippocratic Oath to help others in any time and place, many of us in higher education have implicitly taken a Socratic Oath to help others ask relevant and probing questions in times of personal and national crisis. As a scholar of Islam, I have tried to help Americans understand Islam in general and contemporary Muslim movements in particular, so that they will be better equipped to unravel the dense weave of current events.

Similarly, as we face the violence and tragedy in our world, it is crucial to recognize the essential nature of undergraduate studies. The aim of a liberal education is to learn how to read closely, think critically, and write cogently. These goals share much in common with the scientific method, which requires that we observe, theorize, test, and revise. This method is also essential to the social sciences and, above all, to the humanities.

All of us must probe the humanities if we are to be active participants in today's world. No matter how strange things may seem at first, nothing human is incomprehensible given our shared biological makeup and human condition. The real work of critical inquiry is to examine what we think we know in order to learn about what we do not know. We must question our givens and opinions. For it is far easier to label than to understand, and intellectual laziness undermines our studies with the deadly inversion of the scientific method: "I'll believe it when I see it!" becomes "I'll see it when I believe it!"

The primacy and urgency with which religious traditions address human and spiritual concerns drew me to study religion at the University of Illinois. The beauty of the Persian and Arabic languages then led me to focus on Islam, and I went on to graduate studies at the University of Chicago and abroad for several years of study in Egypt, most recently in 2000. This time in Egypt broadened my view of the world and impressed upon me the enduring power of religion in people's lives. Just as important, living in Egypt confronted me with the dismal economic, social, and political conditions of the vast majority of the world's population.

Therefore I believe that presenting students with Third World issues enables them to integrate their knowledge of vital human concerns with a heightened perception of peoples whose values and ways of life differ from their own. This in turn may empower students to seek solutions to such pressing problems as religious, ethnic, and racial intolerance, over-population, and poverty. These are global problems, and they must be faced—if not now then later, which may be too late.

The present world crisis may be unprecedented in scope and severity, particularly regarding the use of ideas and ideology to rationalize unfair economic and social privilege, and to justify political oppression and murder, whether we call it terrorism, revolution, or national security. This grim situation calls for radical solutions, based on an understanding and appreciation of other people as human beings. And this motivates the central focus of my work, namely poetry.

For when we are overwhelmed by talk of "fundamentalists" and "terrorists," or when we grow tired of creeds, poetry can help us sense a religion's deeper dimensions. Much poetry aims to evoke feelings and the intensity of experience. In contrast to more traditional texts and historical documents, poetry does not tell us about life so much as it moves us to participate imaginatively in the experience of it. Reading poetry by other peoples can



Photo by Mary Elizabeth Drabkin

Murray Drabkin, right, introduced Neil L. Rudenstine when he presented the annual Richard W. Couper Lecture to the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in New York City. Drabkin is president of the Fellows. Rudenstine was president of Harvard University from 1991 to 2001. He spoke on "Higher Education at Home and Abroad: The Liberal Arts, International Studies, and Science."

make us more aware of their beliefs by helping us to feel more sharply, and with more understanding, some of what they have felt and believed over the ages. I urge students to go beyond romantic notions of poetry as the product of an artist's lonely struggle with emotion. Because as we read it, poetry can give us a culture's view of itself, and so become a window into the world of others, and perhaps a mirror of our own.

Religious verse often has the task of accounting for mortality, of interpreting human existence and making transparent the spiritual significance of life by constructing a universe with order, purpose, and sense:

We can't help being thirsty,
moving toward the voice
of water.

Milk-drinkers draw close
to the mother. Muslims, Christians,
Jews,

Buddhists, Hindus, shamans,
everyone hears the intelligent sound
and moves, with thirst, to meet it.

Clean your ears. Don't listen
for something you've heard before.
Invisible camel bells,
slight footfalls in sand.

Almost in sight! The first word they
call out
will be the last word of our poem!

Here the 13th-century Persian poet
Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī [translated by

Coleman Barks] gives us good advice: "Don't listen for something you've heard before." This is especially relevant for us today in a world saturated by corporate-speak, disinformation, and political spin. At stake are not only the stock market, health care, and jobs: Our very humanity is at risk as intelligence is divorced from rationality and empathy.

Yet hope lies in education, which is a long-term endeavor. Like love, it requires passion, devotion, and sacrifice for others, as the great Muslim mystical poet of Egypt, ʿUmar Ibn al-Fārīd (d. 1235), once declared [translated by Homerin]:

It's love, so guard your heart,
passion is not easy;
wasted by it, would you choose it,
if you had reason? ...

But if you want to live well,
then die love's martyr,
and if not, well,
love has its worthy ones.

Not to die in love
is not to live by love;
before you harvest honey,
you must surely face the bees.

You can be these "worthy ones."
Over the last four years, you have
enriched your lives intellectually, emotionally,
and spiritually. Perhaps tomorrow
you will do the same for others.





Among Our Key People

Editor's note: *Wendy M. Schwartz was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1969 at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and received a magna cum laude degree in English. She earned an M.A. degree in English and a teaching certificate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. She works at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty as assistant to the director of broadcasting/production, and has just concluded her second term as president of the multi-national European Unitarian Universalists. She can be reached at wendyisadancer@hotmail.com.*

The views expressed here are hers, and do not reflect those of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty or its management.

By Wendy M. Schwartz

When I tell people I work at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), the inevitable question is, "Do we still need it? I thought the Soviet Union and communism were dead." The answer? Yes, perhaps now more than ever.

Radio Free Europe's mission, when it was created in 1951, was to get behind the Iron Curtain and help "defeat" the Soviet Union. The USSR was a scary behemoth but a more or less known quantity. The now-separate entities are more diverse, some more threatening to human and civil rights than the USSR was. At the recent 50th anniversary of Radio Liberty (the non-Europe part of RFE/RL), President Tom Dine pointed out that lack of respect for the individual, political and economic murders, corruption, censorship, poverty, and suppression of minorities did not disappear with the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Although human rights are included in the constitutions of Russia and many other countries, they are often ignored, the laws do not define them clearly, or means are not provided to ensure compliance. Justice is arbitrary, and civil society (i.e., public participation in government and public issues) nonexistent.

In Turkmenistan, for example, virtually everything is controlled by the cult-dictatorship of Saparmurat Niyazov, and its citizens live in fear. In Uzbekistan, police treat citizens pretty much as they wish. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenka has cracked down on nonstate media, by either shutting them down or making the price of paper and ink impossibly expensive. When one newspaper turned to Internet publishing, its site was closed. Moreover, journalism in these countries can be a high-risk profession. RFE/RL and other journalists have been beaten, arrested, kid-

napped, even murdered. Examples are endless.

Thomas Jefferson said that, given the choice between a free press and democracy, he would choose the former. Democracies can elect nondemocratic leaders. The media in most RFE/RL countries are tightly controlled, by either governments or private interests. Only with free media can information and ideas circulate and outcomes be influenced.

The Radios' audience and aims have evolved since the "fall of the wall" in 1989, however, with less broadcasting to Europe and more directed toward the East. The mission now is primarily to provide local, regional, and international news and analysis, and to promote democracy and market economies, potentially reaching 35 million listeners from Slovakia to the eastern tip of Russia.

RFE/RL's 34 languages include Albanian (to Kosovo), Arabic (to Iraq), Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bashkir, Belarusian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Crimean Tatar, Croatian, Dari and Pashto (to Afghanistan), Estonian, Georgian, Kazakh, Kurdish (to Iraq), Kyrgyz, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Moldovan, Persian (to Iran), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Tajik, Tatar, Turkmen, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and Avar, Chechen and Circassian to Chechnya. It has been both fulfilling and an honor to work in this multi-cultural environment.

So how did I get here? After a bicycle trip around the Czech Republic in 1992, I moved to Prague in January 1993, for what I thought would be a year or two, just after the "Velvet Divorce" separated the Czechs and Slovaks. I had been ready for a career change, having already made a couple of segues.

After graduate school, I taught English at junior high and high schools in Needham, Mass. I loved teaching, but the take-home work wore me out. I started learning radio broadcasting at WMBR-FM, the community radio station of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I wrote and produced news, created a children's radio program (which stayed



Wendy Schwartz discovered that the fall of the Iron Curtain did not mean the end of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In 1995, two years after moving to Prague, she helped "the Radios" relocate there from Munich. Today it has more than 600 employees and 2,000 freelancers in 30 bureaus. Schwartz's duties range from training new staff to writing and producing programs.

on the air for 10 years), and learned how to run studio boards. After this last step, I came to believe that most people can achieve almost any goal they choose.

From WMBR, I crossed the Charles River to announce classical music and news, and work on nationally broadcast radio dramas, at public radio station WGBH-FM. Then my brother convinced me that I should transfer my skills as a producer to the world of advertising—that television commercials were an art form. After two years learning TV and film production, working without pay at cable TV stations, and being poor, I became a one-person broadcast production department at a Boston ad agency. A six-year career in advertising was blessed with creative people, exciting projects, and several awards.

By the early 1990s, I had topped out in creative opportunities just as the U.S. economy was taking a dive and clients were cutting back on their advertising budgets.

And so, to Prague. I had a Three-Part Plan, a little bit like “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny.” I started by teaching English as a second language. Then I produced commercials in the newly opened market. Part Three was to find the next career.

When I heard that Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty was moving lock, stock, and reel from Munich to Prague, I knocked on the door, eager to be involved in radio again. Of my 10 years in Prague, eight have been at the Radios.

My own mission was to help get the Radios up and running in its new location. Some of our journalists come fresh from the field, unused to such tools of Western society as computers, electronic news sources, and digital audio systems. As production advisor, I identified needs and designed workshops ranging from “Writing for Radio” to the fundamentals of obtaining audio clips, using music in news programs, and even how to keep sound levels consistent. Happily, this role combined my teaching and broadcasting skills.

I continue to review programs for their production quality, offering ad-



Colorful outdoor stalls in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, attract Wendy Schwartz and a colleague from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The Uzbek bureau is in Tashkent.

vice and encouraging a more contemporary, dynamic sound. While once limited to squawky shortwave broadcasting, the Radios now uses a full range of possibilities, including shortwave, but also FM, AM, and live and on-demand Internet audio. These days, RFE/RL produces many daily and weekly electronic periodicals, and some television programming as well (www.rferl.org). Most employees come from the target countries, with 600 based in Prague, 36 in Washington, D.C., and 2,000 freelancers contributing from our 30 bureaus in the field.

I have been privileged to visit a few of those bureaus (Sofia, Bulgaria; Kiev, Ukraine; and Tashkent, Uzbekistan). In the former Soviet republics, journalists were taught to represent a “side” and tell listeners what to think, often in a haranguing, oratorical style. In Kiev, we focused on obtaining and using actualities (sound clips and recordings taken at the scenes of news events); and in Tashkent, on natural-sounding deliveries and maintaining balanced reporting. Despite trying to provide alternatives to limited or one-sided local media, it is essential that the Radios not function or be perceived as an “opposition” broadcaster.

Occasionally, I also write and produce. You can read and listen to my 13-minute history of the Radios, created for RFE’s 50th Anniversary, at <http://www.rferl.org/50Years/history/audiomix.html>.

Meanwhile, 10 years on, I’m still bicycling, with trips across Austria, through parts of Russia and the Baltics,

and in New Zealand for the dawn of the millennium. Much has evolved for the better in Prague, but not without a few difficulties along the way. Here are a few thoughts, if you are thinking of traveling this way.

- It is often assumed that, in former communist countries, the younger people would be receptive and forward-looking. But in my experience, attitudes are more a function of education than years. I find young and old alike to be open-minded, welcoming, and helpful. The grouchy or cynical cannot be categorized by age.
- Taking initiative and responsibility are slowly becoming more accepted. Under the communist regime, such behavior was not only discouraged, it was considered suspect. Students still tend to be passive. But this is changing. In a recent demonstration, disabled citizens protested against a new method of distributing social services funding. In “old” times, the disabled were seldom seen, much less heard speaking out.
- Some “tunneling”—individuals siphoning off company resources—has occurred during privatization of state industries, and foreign investment has not always been fully protected.
- Locals are not as star- and celebrity-struck as Americans. The legacy of communism as an equalizer, although imperfectly applied, is not totally devoid of value.
- It is considered polite, if not mandatory, to say hello and good-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



From Our Book Critics

BOOK COMMITTEE

Humanities: Svetlana Alpers, Michael Griffith

Rebecca Resinski, Eugen Weber

Social Sciences: Rick Eden, Josephine Pacheco

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

Natural Sciences: Germaine Cornélissen, Jay M. Pasachoff

By Rebecca Resinski

Horace, The Odes: New Translations by Contemporary Poets. Edited by J.D. McClatchy. Princeton University Press, 2002. \$24.95

It isn't every day that gifted and celebrated poets bring their talents to bear on a collective project. When they do, the rest of us should take notice, and this splendid new translation of Horace's odes is a case in point. Thirty-five poets offer translations of all 103 odes plus the *Carmen Saeculare* ("Centennial Hymn"). The variety of poetic voices we meet matches the variety of the odes themselves. With our translators as our guides, we encounter a Horace who is wise and witty, friendly and bittersweet, sly and sensuous, a consummate artist.

Translators (and readers) of Horace face considerable challenges. Although a universalizing strain runs through the odes, another strain is particular, rooted in Horace's contemporary political and literary context. The odes are thus replete with the names of contemporaries, social and political references, and mythological or literary allusions. You will find no footnotes here, but don't be dismayed: Although knowing the references can unlock further facets of the poems, we can trust the translators, who themselves trust Horace and the belief that the poems give us most of what we need.

Horace also poses technical challenges, since many of his virtuoso techniques are difficult to replicate in English. His famous "mosaic" word order is impossible to copy, given the difference between English and Latin syntax, and his metrics may or may not be workable in English. The translators draw on their own technical skills and sensitivity to English. Enlisting alliteration, assonance, rhyme, and formal structures (sometimes adapted from Horace's own), they deliver poems whose polish matches their insight.

Two extra delights are in store. The volume—part of the Facing Pages series—provides the Latin text on the left side of the page, so readers who want to compare the original and the translation needn't go far. And J.D. McClatchy maintains that resonances are to be found in the pairing of translator and ode: It's no mistake, for instance, that Robert Pinsky translates the first ode, to Horace's patron Maecenas.

Imperial Projections: Ancient Rome in Modern Popular Culture. Edited by Sandra R. Joshel, Margaret Malamud, and Donald T.

McGuire Jr. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. \$45

Many Americans derive their picture of the Roman empire primarily from popular culture. Most influential is Hollywood, with its legacy of Roman epics, but we also encounter images of imperial Rome in parodies, comedies, novels, television, and architecture. This volume of essays cogently explores various representations of Rome in British and American popular media since World War II. The goal of the essays is not to show where and how popular culture "got Rome wrong"; instead, the authors are interested in suggesting how popular depictions of Rome reflect the circumstances of their creation. Each essay can stand confidently on its own, but together they gain force, responding to and deepening each other's arguments, and convincing a reader that a sustained exploration of Rome's representations in popular media reveals much about our modern appetites, anxieties, and sense of self, both individual and collective.

Three authors in this volume analyze Roman epics such as "Quo Vadis," "Ben Hur," and "Spartacus" within the context of post-World War II America and McCarthyism. Although Roman epics seemed to have played themselves out by the mid-1960s, the genre gave rise to a number of parodies; we learn of these and their campy, comic function within a "newly declined" British empire.

But Rome doesn't belong to epic and its offspring alone. We find that Jewish-American humor meets Plautine comedy in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." And Derek Jarman's "Sebastiane"—filmed after the decriminalization of homosexual practices in Britain—infuses homoeroticism into its cinematic tableaux. Television rather than cinema provides the perfect medium for the soap-opera content of "I, Claudius," a British series that gained extra resonance in the United States after the Vietnam War and Watergate. An essay on the novels in Colleen McCullough's *Masters of Rome* series brings us closer to the present day, as we consider the personal and commercial forces that shape the production and promotion of McCullough's continuing series. The volume ends with a tour of Caesars Palace: The architecture of the Las Vegas casino allows its visitors not merely to gaze at Roman grandeur but even to participate in Roman greatness (by spending money).

This is an insightful and cohesive collection, displaying fluency with a variety of media,

background materials, and interpretive vocabulary. Ultimately, this volume aids and abets a reader's own meditation on the empires of Britain, America, and Hollywood, and the ways in which the Roman empire has been an abiding vehicle for simultaneously manifesting, indulging, interrogating, and critiquing the ambitions of these more recent empires.

Ariadne's Thread: A Guide to International Tales Found in Classical Literature. William Hansen. Cornell University Press, 2002. \$45

In "Ariadne's Thread," classicist and folklorist William Hansen leads readers through a maze of about 100 migratory stories with versions in ancient Greek or Latin sources. Hansen thus connects stories from Greco-Roman antiquity with a wealth of tales found in locales ranging from China and India to Scandinavia, Africa, and the United States. The result is both fascinating and fun, as Hansen repeatedly demonstrates the versatility and vitality of the stories he treats.

A description of this book's organization is in order. The volume takes the form of a series of brief essays, in each of which Hansen discusses a particular tale type and its classical renditions (e.g., "Youth Who Bathed Himself in Blood / Achilles's Heel"). Hansen first summarizes the tale in general terms; recounts some specific, illustrative versions; and emphasizes its basic features. Turning to a tale's Greek or Latin manifestations, Hansen summarizes and examines particular sources in detail. He then establishes similarities and discusses differences between classical incarnations of the tale and its other versions. Each essay closes with notes and bibliography. Hansen concludes the volume with a full bibliography and multiple indices to help locate his treatment of a particular story, salient feature, or ancient source.

Throughout his essays Hansen provides even-keeled analysis. He judiciously weighs evidence to determine what we may presume about the genetic relationships (if any) among stories. He often incisively characterizes and accounts for variations of form and focus in different versions of a tale. He even elegantly shows how a classical tale may manifest features of an international one in unexpected ways (e.g., "Our Lady's Child / Gyges and Kroisos"). Many times he demonstrates how comparison and contrast may clarify aspects of a classical story (e.g., "Golden Ram / Trojan Horse," "Sailor and the Oar / Odysseus"). Avoiding rationalizations of a story's content and other reductive approaches, Hansen never sells a story short.

When Hansen gives so much, it seems greedy to ask for more: more scrupulous proof-reading, more introductory materials, more interpretation of content and context when possible. In most of these cases, Hansen aims to awaken these very desires, and their fulfillment falls outside his book's stated scope. "Ariadne's Thread" should delight and stimulate while encouraging educated awe at the manifold nature of stories.



By Rick Eden

Holocaust: A History. Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt. *W.W. Norton, 2002.* \$27.95

This book is one of a number of recent attempts to distill the history of the Holocaust into a single readable volume that is suitable for any adult layperson, Jew or non-Jew. Truthfully, the state of knowledge still seems insufficient to support such efforts fully despite what has been sometimes disparaged as a “factory” of research on the Holocaust, conducted by scholars in many countries. But while we wait for the definitive one-volume overview, readers can benefit from the imperfect beauty of this book. For Dwork and van Pelt have confronted with great ingenuity—and even artistry—many of the conundrums facing anyone who chronicles the Holocaust.

One of these is simply: where to begin? Dwork and van Pelt avoid some of the obvious launch points—Christian anti-Semitism, the Jewish diaspora. Instead, they begin with key notes sounded at the close of the Great War. One in particular set the tone for a century in which 100 million people would die in genocides. This was Turkey’s attempt to exterminate its Armenians—a large internal civilian population distinguished by ethnicity and religion.

Another challenge is how to present the scale of the Holocaust while preserving respect for the suffering of individual victims and their families. If this rhetorical problem is not solved, an author risks becoming complicit in the Nazis’ attempt to turn murder into a cheap, mass-produced commodity. Here is where Dwork and van Pelt are particularly adroit. They do marshal the statistics that so many researchers have labored to compile—how many died here, how many there, how by this method, how by another. But the chief strategy is to quilt together narrative snippets from hundreds of individuals, often in their own (translated) voices. By way of such mosaics, the authors are able at once to create large thematic contours, and to convey in very fine detail the diversity of those who suffered. No stereotypes emerge. Rather, we are continuously confronted with examples of the richness of the millions of lives that were destroyed. For instance, the book opens with the tragedy of the poet Miklos Radnoti, who was enslaved and murdered despite having won Hungary’s highest literary award.

Other questions facing Holocaust chroniclers also have to do with balance. How narrowly should the Holocaust be defined? Will the telling be complete if it neglects victims who were not Jewish? The racialism of the Nazis was rabid: What of the persecuted and slaughtered Slavs and Gypsies? And what of Nazi attacks on other groups, such as homosexuals, dissidents, persons with disabilities? Conversely, will the telling be complete if it ignores perpetrators who were not Nazis? What of the culpability of so-called “ordinary

Germans”? What of the atrocities committed by the soldiers and civilians of other European nations? Finally, what of those extraordinary persons who undertook the rescue not only of threatened friends and neighbors but often of strangers with whom they shared neither religion nor language?

Dwork and van Pelt manage all these sensitive choices admirably. Their mosaic style enables them to integrate many strands with great subtlety. In a one-volume history, many readers will judge something essential to have been omitted. Survivors and researchers may detect errors that eluded a reader such as myself. Nevertheless, if you are looking for a single book on the Holocaust, to read or to give, I recommend this one highly.

Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millennium. Dirk Hoerder. *Duke University Press, 2002.* \$100

At the end of “Paradise Lost,” Milton construes the basic existential question facing the expelled Adam and Eve, not as what to do or what to become, but simply where to live: “The World was all before them, where to choose Their place of rest.” How their descendants have answered this question for the past 10 centuries—why and with what consequences—is the vast subject of Dirk Hoerder’s “Cultures in Contact.”

This book will change the way you think about human mobility. It is one of our species’ distinctively strange behaviors that groups of all sizes and compositions migrate large distances around the globe. Moreover, many human movements are “micro-migrations” of individuals, couples, and families who undertake dauntingly difficult and dangerous journeys to establish new homes. (Women, Hoerder notes, move more than men. And much of migration is driven by marriage.)

According to rabbinical lore, moving is one of the five ways to change one’s fate. Hoerder is always attentive to the changing life courses of the men and women who choose to move to a new place to live. But he also shows how their movements resulted in the continuous cross-pollination of civilizations. A subtext of this book is that human mobility has driven cultural change, including artistic innovations and scientific advances. Even the modern conveyances that facilitate our movements are creations to satisfy the urge for mobility, not the causes of it.

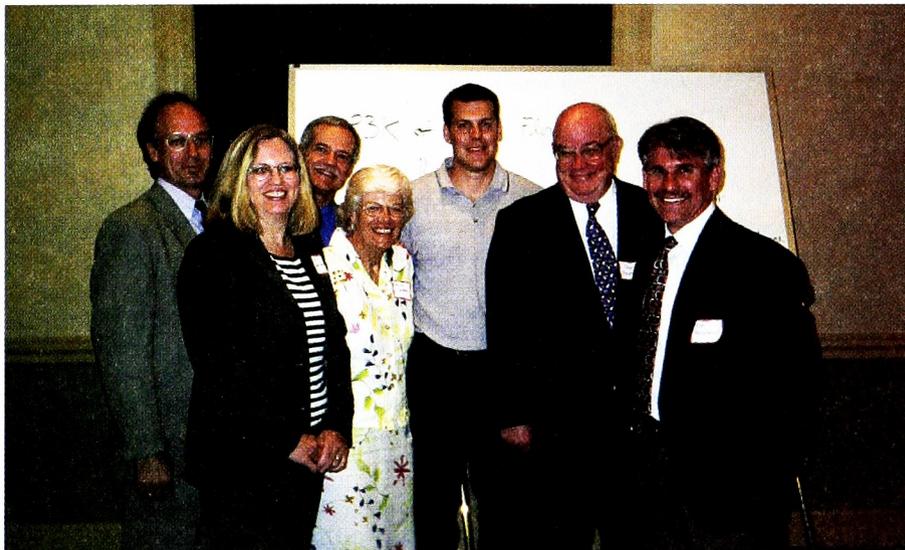
Hoerder is relentlessly disciplined in his focus, but he cannot prevent this book from seeming at times to be nothing less than 10 chapters in the history of the world. Migration touches inescapably on many of the great historical themes—conquest and trade, persecution and pilgrimage, slavery and genocide, famine and plague. It touches also on the fundamental psychosocial themes—gender roles and generational relations, marriage and family formation, and of course, identity itself.

As a result, “Cultures in Contact” is a very large book, even encyclopedic. It is so dense with demographic and geographical detail that it strains the physical limits of book technology. Reading it is not a leisurely float; it must be like a searching dive into deep, clear waters. Pick a place, a time, a people of meaning to you—then plunge in. You will be amazed at what you learn about how you came to be where you are.

By Eugen Weber

The Modern Gentleman. Phineas Mollod and Jason Tesauro. *Ten Speed Press, 2002.* \$21.95; paper \$14.95

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



The ΦBK Association of Southwest Florida held its first meeting in Bonita Springs. From left: Michael Haymans, Katherine Wahlberg, speaker Stephen Sapp, Jeanne Gullahorn, Scott Campagna, Donald Routh, and James Wohlpart.



Letters to the Editor

“Mad in America”

I was disappointed by Germaine Cornélissen’s review of “Mad in America” by Robert Whitaker. She believes the book “paints a gloomy picture of psychiatric practices” and that the author’s conclusion is “overly pessimistic.” It seems she has missed Whitaker’s message. “Mad in America” reveals how psychiatry and drug companies dominate the mental health system, and why they fail to offer effective treatment.

Cornélissen should talk to someone who was given seven “treatments” of electroshock therapy at age 13, and was forced to take massive doses of every antipsychotic drug ever invented for 40 years, if she wants to know how accurate Whitaker’s book is. Weight gain, diabetes, heart problems, memory loss, cognitive dysfunction, and constant muscle spasms (tardive dyskinesia) are some of the side effects experienced by people who spend a lifetime on neuroleptics.

Cornélissen needs to read deeper if she believes research that links schizophrenia with seasonality of birth, or pharmaceutical companies pushing new drugs, marks a “promising shift” towards compassionate care. Whitaker’s book leaves one questioning the integrity of psychiatry, the drug companies, and the entire medical model for mental illness. Mistreatment of the mentally ill will continue until psychiatry begins searching for ways to heal people instead of treating their very human symptoms.

Andrew Black, Eugene, Ore.

Germaine Cornélissen Replies:

The frustration of patients and their families who must deal with a disease that is not completely understood from a scientific viewpoint is understandable, and I truly sympathize with them. Precisely because the ailment involves the mind and not just the body, the lack of a cure must be especially hard to bear.

Certainly, the scientific community has a duty to address ethical issues when research is sponsored by a pharmaceutical industry that can gain from the sale of a new drug. Ethics committees routinely perform this task.

This principle applies also to other chronic conditions, such as diabetes and other autoimmune diseases, for which there also is no cure, only palliative treatment. As a member of the research community, I can attest to the dedication, scientific honesty and integrity of many colleagues who work in the field.

In the June 20 issue of *Science*, an article on glutamate receptors reported new findings that could lead to treatments for schizophrenia (300:1866-8, 2003). It may not be the ultimate answer, and compassion is always an important factor, whatever the treatment. But compassion alone will not provide a cure. However disappointing the results may be at first, our best hope lies in further research.

Lingua Franca

In the first paragraph of “Initiation Speaker Links Past and Present” in the Spring *Key Reporter*, Prof. Thomas Willard provides Latin etymologies for “initiation” and “education.” Unfortunately, both are incorrect.

“Initiation,” he says, “... comes from *inire*, meaning ‘to lead in.’” This is incorrect for several reasons: *Inire*, the infinitive of *inire*, means “to enter or go into” (*inducere* means “to lead in[to],” as in “induction”); whereas “initiation” comes from *initiare*, viz., “to [cause to] begin or enter,” which in turn is [probably] derived from *ito, itare*, “to go.”

The paragraph continues, “It has always seemed an interesting contrast to ‘education,’ which comes from the Latin verb *educare*, ‘to lead out.’” There are two distinct verbs in Latin that both have the form *educo* in the first person singular present tense; but “to lead out” is *educere* (as in *educer*), whereas *educare* belongs to a different conjugation and means “to bring up, raise, rear, educate.”

The paragraph concludes, “As educated people, you have been led out of darkness and all that it represents, including confusion, ignorance, and isolation.” Indeed...

Mark Kowitz, Columbia, Md.

Editor’s note: Charles Henderson Jr. of York Harbor, Maine, made the same points as Kowitz, adding that “*educare* displays the weak grade of the root of which *educere* is the strong grade... There are a few instances where *educere* does mean ‘bring up, rear,’ but English ‘educate’ does not come from it.” Timothy Coleman of Cleveland, Ohio, also offered the above corrections. In addition he noted that in the phrase *collegium invisibilis*, the noun *col-*

Have a Seat!

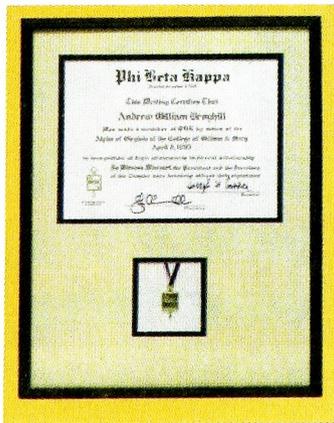


The Phi Beta Kappa Society now offers a special chair to its members. Phi Beta Kappa’s new chair features a hand-stenciled gold key insignia and is made from solid maple hardwood. The black lacquer finish is accented with gold beading and cherry arms. Each chair is personalized on the back with the member’s name, chapter, and year of election. Delivery of each chair by UPS takes four to six weeks. Also available is an extensive line of other membership items including the popular membership display of a membership certificate and a large key, double matted and framed in a 12- x 16-inch walnut frame.

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

- Phi Beta Kappa Chair (black maple and cherry)... \$325
 - Shipping for chair (east of the Mississippi)..... \$25
 - Shipping for chair (west of the Mississippi)..... \$35
 - Membership display (key and certificate framed).... \$79
- Name, chapter, and date for personalization _____

Check made payable to Hand & Hammer is enclosed.
Charge my Visa MasterCard (VA residents add 4.5%)
Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ Phone _____



legium is neuter, so the adjective should be *invisible* to agree in gender.

Thomas Willard Replies:

Cuisvis hominis est errare. I shall persist in my errors only long enough to express my enthusiasm for “The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology,” on which I relied, and to concede that it notes the connection between *educare* and *educire*. For my purpose, as an English teacher welcoming new initiates, it was enough to remark the difference between “in” and “out.” I thank Mr. Kowitt for drawing us deeper into the language of our *Societas Philosophiae*.

The Secretary's Column

I enjoyed John Churchill's ruminations on reading Tolstoy and Isaiah Berlin [Spring *Key Reporter*], but was amused to see his reference to a supposed “cocktail party game” in which literature professors dare to confess the major gaps in their reading. I seem to remember a story in *The New Yorker*, perhaps 15-20 years ago, that had such a game as its core, ending with professorial humiliation and tragedy. I doubt that anyone ever really played this game, but the story is memorable and provides an incisive comment upon academic pretensions. Perhaps another reader will remember its author and the date of its publication. Maybe it's been reprinted somewhere?

H. C. Erik Midelfort, Charlottesville, Va.

John Churchill, in “Of Foxes and Hedgehogs” [Spring *Key Reporter*] doesn't mention that Archilochos is the one who first said: “The fox knows many things; / the hedgehog, one big thing.” See “Sappho's Lyre: Archaic Lyric and Women Poets of Ancient Greece” (California, 1991) for more of his fable poems (pre-Aesop).

Diane Rayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Duk Soop [sic]?

Yoo can reed this. Of cors yoo can! It's all riten in simpl American Sound Speling—the lojical speling developept by eminent skolars in 1910, but never implemented becauz we had no computers to usher it in cumfortably.

Milyons of kids in skool wil never lern to reed and riet properly. Whi? Larjly becauz we ar unwiling to spel our werds as *thae sound*—az English-speaking peepl did a thousand years ago, and az peepl speaking uther langwejes do todae.

The sounds A, E, I, O and U must be speld ae, ee, ie, oe and ue. The rest is duk soop.

Much of our foolish speling cumz from a “vowel shift” in English speech 500 years ago—a chaenj in speech but no chaenj in speling to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

ΦBK Officers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kappa Foundation chair, I see firsthand recent markets' effects on our endowment and our ability to sustain such landmark efforts as the Visiting Scholar Program and *The American Scholar*. I am eager to continue working with Secretary John Churchill on our new development campaign to reverse that trend.”

Donald Lamm graduated from Yale in 1953. He joined W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., as an editor in 1956, and retired in 2000 as chairman and president. From 1984 to 2000 he was chairman of Yale University Press. Today he lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and is a literary agent with Carlisle & Co. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has been a fellow at Yale, the University of Iowa, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He is a former trustee of the Columbia University Press, and currently is a University of California Press trustee.

A member of *The American Scholar's* editorial board, Lamm served during the last triennium on the Society's Executive Committee and the Visiting Scholar Committee, and chaired the Audit Committee and the Publications Committee.

Lamm's statement in the *Manual for Council Delegates* said: “The Phi Beta Kappa Society is poised to achieve a new era of national prominence under the adroit leadership of our secretary, John Churchill. I would be honored to draw on my 14 years of service in the ΦBK Senate and experience on the Executive Committee to further the initiatives the Society will be taking in the immediate future to promote excellence in the arts and sciences and to secure recognition for the crucial values of a liberal education.”

Secretary Churchill praised the election of Slater and Lamm. “These are two of our outstanding members,” Churchill said, “and both have distinguished records of service to Phi Beta Kappa. I look forward to working with them as they bring their wisdom and experience to the leadership of the Society.”

Phi Beta Kappa members can go online to update their e-mail and postal addresses in the Society's records. The process is fast and easy. Go to <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm> and follow the link to logon. You will be asked for your login, which is your first name, last name, and the last two digits of the year you were elected to the Society, with no spaces in between. Your password is the six- or seven-digit ID number on your *Key Reporter* label. If you have any questions, contact Membership Services at info@pbk.org or call the national headquarters at (202) 265-3808.

Wendy Schwartz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

bye when entering and exiting elevators, offices, and buildings. I once saw a woman say goodbye to the door as she left.

- Get out of the city. There are more than 400 castles and 1,600 chateaux in the Czech Republic, an area smaller than South Carolina.
- When I first arrived, there was no orange juice, broccoli, dental floss, or numerous other goods we take for granted. Now, most Western desires can be satisfied.
- While Czech can be a difficult language to learn, master “hello,”

“please,” and “thank you” at all costs.

- The culture, magic, and potential of the city far outweigh any limitations.

Parting thought: I wish we Americans—in our schools, families, and nation—would be more inquisitive about, and tolerant of, the full scope of the world's cultures. Getting along may not be easy, but we all need to try, starting with education about others' lives. To borrow a phrase from the book by William Schultz, executive director of Amnesty International USA and a Phi Beta Kappa, it's in our own best interests to do so. If the gentle readers of this publication can help further the effort, it would be a boon.

From Our Book Critics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In an age of attitude, when manners of survive as mannerisms and tact is simply tacky, Mollod and Tesauro affirm themselves as contrarians, trusting that a *vade mecum* for gentlemen will find an audience. And their paranachronistic "Guide to Essential Manners, Savvy and Vice" turns out frivolous, frolicsome, flippant, and frequently amusing. Sauciness ebbs at times into what they say about bad dates that vary from innocuous to intolerable. On the whole, though, they are fun to read, informative (especially for students of society and oenology), and even sensible.

They're good on music and collateral sounds; on floral proficiency; on judicious use of profanity and avoiding clichéd curses; on the distinction between umbrellas that you leave in taxis and cherished *parapluies*; on preferring quality footwear, though less so about wearing rubbers or spats (spats?) when it rains, which is surely gauche; on fast foods; on toilettetiquette, hatiquette, petiquette, flaskmanship, and e-manners (don't spam your friends); on fortune cookies and other unexpected theophanies.

Their pages about reading abound with sage advice; their spread on spirits that improve the spirit is practicable and practical about booze-craft and boozetact. They skirt long-windedness at times and brandish banalities as if they were revelations. But Wagner, too, inflicts barren stretches of recitative redeemed by glorious pleasure.

As the Walls of Academia Are Tumbling Down. Edited by Werner Z. Hirsch and Luc E. Weber. *Economica*, 2002. Distributed in the U.S. by the Brookings Institution. \$19.90

Dynamo of the knowledge economy and remedial agency for an inglorious K-12 system, Higher Education, so-called, is increasingly viewed as a machine for delivery of desirable products and services. But the multibillion dollar industry that, we are told, accounts for 10 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product is confused. Is it about scholarship, teaching and research, or about production and marketing of techno-instructional provisions? Is it about cultural activities, or infotainment, or jockeying for profits in a digital age? Shall it be ruled by market forces, by consumer demand, or by intellectual and collegiate standards?

Four-year colleges founder, corporate entities like McDonald's Hamburger University sketch new expectations. If a K-Mart Chair graces Wayne State, why not a Yahoo! Professorship at Princeton or, at least, at Santa Cruz? How far will corporate creep infiltrate research, color teaching, affect budgets and policies? How will shared governance endure when almost half the faculty consists of exploited adjuncts with low pay and less say?

Predictions are hard to hazard, especially about the future. In the papers here collected, a constellation of scholars, scientists, administrators, and other academic figures predict mostly

the present, and mostly in bleak shades. But universities have been around longer than parliaments, and have borne up rather better by changing with the times. The good news is that if we age fast, we may be spared exposure to the "new, improved" model of the edbiz.

The New History. Maria G. Lúcia Pallares-Burke. *Polity Press/Blackwell*, 2003 \$59.95; paper \$27.95

The nine historians whom Professor Pallares interviews with tact and imagination speak in different voices and write different kinds of "New History." Some are more interested in ideas, others in society and material culture; all have somehow been marked by the anthropological approach and also by Marx—even when they reject marxism. But all have in common intelligence, curiosity, and a taste for intellectual adventure. They come from Britain, France, Italy, and the United States; they are eminent and influential, lucid, accessible, and fascinating—not just because of their talent but because they are fascinated by what they do and, however discreetly, passionate about it.

So is their informed interviewer, whose nine brief introductions to her subjects and their work are models of compact reporting. This is a constantly engrossing collection, never trivial, always substantive—rich in the issues it raises, the insights it offers, or the perspectives it opens, and the stereotypes it forces us to question. Historians will not want to miss it. Nonhistorians should give it a chance: it cannot fail to grip them.

Fashion Under the Occupation. Dominique Vellion. *Berg*, 2002. Paper \$14.99

Homeland of elegance and of the fashion industry, the France of 1940-44 became a land of scarcity, restrictions, rationing, and black marketeering. To cope with shortages and cold, ordinary people scoured drawers and cupboards for worn clothes and woolies; dressmakers turned curtains, bedspreads, rugs, and animal hides into garb. Yet *haute couture* marched on and prospered. Fashion and fashion-makers adjusted to new necessities; resourcefulness enlisted new materials from rayon and cork to woodshavings; imagination turned out new styles, from clogs and bike-friendly skirts to exuberant headgear. Veillon's dense account of "Fashion Under the Occupation: has been a minor classic since its first publication in 1990. This translation makes it available to English-language readers, and a rich read it is.

By Svetlana Alpers

Black Mountain College: Experiment in Art. Edited by Vincent Katz with essays by Martin Brody, Robert Creeley, Vincent Katz, and Kevin Power. *MIT Press*, 2003. \$75

The artist as a lone genius at work in his or her studio is somewhat suspect these days. A

positive result of this negative view has been a revived interest in the phenomenon of artists studying or working together in groups. Black Mountain College in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina was fabled for just that. Painters, weavers, potters, poets, musicians, and dancers came together to teach and be taught over its 23-year existence (1933-1956).

Like many art books these days, this one began as the catalogue for an exhibition. Illustrated with an array of works by the participants, as well as snapshots of them *in situ*, it conveys a strong sense of the period styles of the place. Everyone familiar with the arts in America knows the names of artists who were nurtured by Black Mountain. Among them were Rauschenberg, Twombly, De Kooning, Frankenthaler, Lippold, Noland and Peter Voulkos, the composer-dance pair Cage and Cunningham, and the poet Robert Creeley. But it is less a matter of numbers (there were only 50 students there at any one time) than the sheer quality of those who came and went that astonishes.

The college was at first a kind of good-natured camp. Edgar Rice, a former Rhodes Scholar and an acquaintance of John Dewey, bounced back from being fired from Rollins College in Florida for his innovative educational ideas to start a different institution. Josef Albers, a former Bauhaus member who had escaped from Germany, was its first director. He was succeeded in 1949 by the American

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

New Chapters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were developed and distributed. The 41 preliminary applications were reviewed by the committee, which selected 10 for further consideration. After more extensive documents were submitted, teams of committee members made campus visits early last year. They talked to faculty members and students, interviewed administrators, and examined credentials, curriculums, financial statements, and athletics policies. They inspected the libraries and campus facilities.

After reviewing the visiting teams' reports, the committee decided which institutions to recommend to shelter ΦBK chapters. These were submitted to the Senate, which voted to present to the 40th Triennial Council the eight that were approved by delegates representing all chapters and chartered associations.

poet Charles Olson, who stayed until things wound down.

In the major essay, Katz—himself a poet, translator, and critic—walks us through the artists grouped by style and/or medium. Shorter essays deal with music and poetry. In general, the participants are permitted to speak for themselves through direct quotations, letters, and so on. Not the least of what one discovers are lesser-known talents who contributed to the critical mass of people and practice.

The presentation might have benefited from a more analytic stance. How what was made there actually got made is passed over too lightly. But the publication documents a remarkable place, where an avant-garde in the best sense of experimentation and cross-fertilization between people working in different media was nurtured. The book ends with the words of some survivors—a Creeley appreciation of Olson, and three unpublished poems by them and by John Wieners.

New Material as New Media: The Fabric Workshop and Museum. *Marion Boulton Stroud. Edited by Kelly Mitchell, designed by Takaaki Matsumoto. MIT Press, 2002. \$50*

The Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia is a different kind of collaborative venture in the making of art. This beautifully designed volume celebrates the 25th anniversary of an institution that encourages artists in the use of fabric of every conceivable (and inconceivable) kind.

William Morris is an obvious model for pursuing design in the framework of a studio undertaking. The inspiration and driving force behind this unique venture has been its director, Marion Boulton Stroud. She had the wit and intelligence, and found the means, to entice resident artists and apprentice students (aided by skilled staff members) to experiment with new materials and new practices in the making of art. Art and craft are treated as one. The site has now expanded to include a museum exhibiting some of the work.

The book is an elegant potpourri. It is lavishly illustrated with artworks, intermixed with essays on different aspects of the project. The international artists who have been residents at the Workshop include the likes of Lichtenstein, Hodgkin, Kiki Smith, and Rachel Whiteread, but also members of the Maisin Tribe from Papua New Guinea. The essays include an inventive Arthur Danto on tapestry and loincloth, and a playful Robert Storr on his encounters with (a) objects made there and (b) Louise Bourgeois.

Although hands-on artistic practice is what is encouraged, this is not a school like Black Mountain but a workshop. What emerges from it is a common ingenuity with materials rather than a common artistic culture. Particular institutions are suited to particular moments in time.

How Fra Angelico and Signorelli Saw the End of the World. *Creighton E. Gilbert. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003. \$85*

Artists working together have a long history. It goes without saying that many hands were

needed to paint a Renaissance mural cycle. Indeed two crews of painters, a Fra Angelico team (1447) followed by a Signorelli one (1499), painted the splendid frescoes in the Capella Nuovo of the cathedral at Orvieto, which is the subject of this fine study.

Entering the spacious chapel, actually the right transept of the church, one is surrounded by an array of astounding nude figures. Resurrected ones joyfully break through the crust of the earth and ascend to Heaven, while a terrified crowd of the damned descend into Hell. A scene of Christ in Judgment extends across the divided fields of the vault above, and the wainscot below is decorated with images from secular literature, including portraits of Dante and Virgil. It is an extraordinary ensemble. How did it come about? How is it to be understood?

Gilbert, professor emeritus of art history at Yale, takes one deftly through the construction of church and chapel, Fra Angelico's approach to the situation, his drawn plan, getting down to work until money ran out and, after a hiatus of 50 years, Signorelli's hiring and his working out of the original Fra Angelico plan to produce a masterpiece. The aim is to consider the ins and outs of the production process of the chapel as a whole.

Gilbert is traditional in his attention to working methods, context, texts, iconography, and civic and church interests. But he gives reasons for each interpretive move. The explanatory tenor of the writing makes the book a primer of its kind. He ends with a brief account of the afterlife of the chapel. From Raphael and Michelangelo to the German Nazarenes, to Cézanne, Jackson Pollock, and Paul Cadmus, artists have been drawn (often through reproductions) to the hard vitality of Signorelli's nudes.

It is a pity that the illustrations are so insufficient. But it is no pity that the curious will be tempted to go to Orvieto to see Signorelli for themselves.

Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French North Africa 1880–1930. *Roger Benjamin. University of California Press, 2003. \$49.95*

Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13
match it. Let's keep kids from getting branded dum or dislexic when it's not the kids that are dum, but our dum spelling.

How wil chaenj cum about? Yoo alreedy can reed it. For rieting, we hav proegramd computers to taek yur normal tieping and convert it, automatically, into sound-speling. Computers ar reedy to leed the wae, but not if yoo drag yur feet. It wil taek the wil of meny peopl to bring about this chaenj—a chaenj that's biterly needed bi 1 in evry 7 hoo speak English.

So cum join in smoothing the ruf path to

Benjamin, an Australian art historian who once specialized in Matisse, aims to bring into view a fuller range of images responding to the French colonial politics of North Africa. He points out how commonplace the trip there was for French painters. We think Matisse, but Renoir and many others also went. His concern is also institutional. He gets us to look at works made by members of the French Society of Orientalist Painters, like the ethnographic realist Dinet, but also at native Mahgreb painters such as Mammeri, who assimilated mainstream French painting, and Racim, who did not. He casts new light on the orientalism-impressionism dichotomy concerning the painting of light.

A book that deals broadly with the pictorial record of French North Africa and the circumstances of its production has to be a hybrid: part history, part cultural studies, part history of art, part criticism. The tension between these concerns is evident and accounts for some of the book's interest. Is noting and attending to the peculiarities of African light a colonizing aesthetic because it avoids the realities of the colonized people? If Matisse's art assimilated the conventions of the "lesser" anecdotal and picturesque Orientalist painters, does that change our perception of his modernism?

The writing of the cultural anthropologist Nicholas Thomas is a model for this kind of work. But unlike Thomas's New Zealand and Australia, North Africa did not have as strong and consistent an indigenous art to counter or interact with the colonizers' view. On the evidence of Benjamin's book, the "awkward if not antagonistic intimacy between cultures" that Thomas speaks of in his "Possessions" did not flower between the French and North Africa—at least not yet.

By Larry J. Zimmerman

Twelve Millennia: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. *James L. Theler and Robert F. Boszhardt. University of Iowa Press, 2003. Paper \$27.95*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

English literasy. Let's heer yur vois *now*, whiel an oeld reformer is stil around and stil pepy enuf to help get things started.

Edward Rondthaler, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
Editor's note: Rondthaler, who was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1929, is chairman of the board of the American Literacy Council, www.americanliteracy.com. He can be reached at edrond@bestweb.net.

The Key Reporter *welcomes letters to the editor. Those that are published may be condensed. Please send letters to Barbara Ryan by e-mail at bryan@pbk.org, by fax at (202) 986-1601, or by postal mail to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.*

From Our Book Critics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

I'm always delighted when my archaeologist colleagues make a determined effort to cut through our usually jargon-larded prose to write for nonspecialists. Theler and Boszhardt have done this very well, summarizing the work of their long experience in the area. Starting at the end of the Ice Age and ending with the fur trade, they follow human habitation along the Upper Mississippi River, focusing on the area between Dubuque, Iowa, and Red Wing, Minn., but looking at the larger region. This so-called Driftless Zone, not touched by glaciation, has deep-cut valleys that, along with the Mississippi, provided bountiful resources for the tribes that lived there. Groups evolved from small bands of hunters to settled villages of maize farmers, who supplemented their diets through annual buffalo hunts. The people created and left behind exquisitely made stone tools and pottery, along with a wide range of other utilitarian implements.

Theler and Boszhardt have provided a very readable and useful book that doesn't just describe artifacts and sites: It tells something about the lives of people in the region. Along the way, they also show how archaeologists do their work and how they think. My only complaint is that some, but not all, of the artifact pictures are so darkly printed that a reader won't find them of much use except to see their general shapes.

Behind the Burqa: Our Life in Afghanistan and How We Escaped to Freedom. *"Sulima" and "Hala" as told by Batya Swift Yasgur.* John Wiley, 2002. \$24.95

Reading about the suffering of others gives you perspective about your own circumstances as much as it does an understanding of theirs. Usually, you find that your complaints are trivial by comparison. Similarly, their courage in the face of overwhelming situations can uplift you. Such are the stories of two sisters whose lives in Afghanistan under the Mujahidin and Taliban were imperiled by poverty, starvation, and brutality from regimes bent on obliterating all Western influences. Their thirst for freedom pushed them to take desperate, incredible risks, defiant at every turn, always fearing reprisals.

Theirs is a story shared by most women in Afghanistan, but eventually they were able to make their way to the United States, where they faced another sort of torment as asylum-seekers at the hands of the government. You will read of things only hinted at in the U.S. media, and

A new highway marker near Heathsville, Va., honors John Heath (1758–1810). As a student at The College of William & Mary, he was one of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's five founders and its first president. Northumberland Preservation, Inc., sponsored the marker, which the Virginia Department of Transportation installed on Route 360 in Northumberland County. Heath served in the Revolutionary War and later became a lawyer and member of Congress.

they will make you angry. Their stories are extremely self-revealing and painful; at the same time, they are a tribute to the human spirit.

Athena's Daughters: Television's New Women Warriors. *Edited by Frances Early and Kathleen Kennedy.* Syracuse University Press, 2003. \$39.95; paper \$19.95

The 1990s saw the development of the television woman warrior hero, with origins in the female action heroes of the 1960s and 1970s such as "Wonder Woman" and "The Bionic Woman." These were American culture's efforts to come to terms with feminism and a need to portray women in positions of authority, and "as commanding and heroic." The 1990s women warriors are different, a reaction to the perceived limits of feminism in 1970s and 1980s conservatism. Presenting "Xena, Warrior Princess," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Le Femme Nikita," and the women of "Star Trek: Voyager" as "a solution to women's oppression reproduces the tired closed image of white middle-class heterosexuality as the desirable norm for authentic liberated women" (p. 6).

Nine authors examine these television series and "offer the reader several entry points into examining the sometimes contradictory meanings of the new woman warrior's appropriation of both violence and the male heroic narrative" (p. 10). All the essays are challenging and thoughtful, but I especially appreciated Sobstyl's essay on character Seven of Nine in "Star Trek: Voyager." There is a tendency in the analysis of popular culture to stretch a bit too far the linkages between the TV shows and the culture from which they derive. They are, after all, fiction. As products of imagination they are not reality; they only reflect it. But I don't find too much of that tendency in these measured and fascinating essays.

Photo by Virginia Department of Transportation



America Before the European Invasions. *Alice Beck Kehoe.* Longman, 2002. \$20

As Kehoe notes in her first sentence, "... it has been conventional to treat American history as if it were identical with United States history." She suggests that such a view takes away at least 14,000 years of evidence generated through archaeology. People who lived on the continent affected the landscape just as the European invaders did. Kehoe provides that evidence in ways that are very understandable for general readers. Her approach is to use cultural areas (e.g., the Southwest, Alaska), and she follows a linear sequence of cultural developments for each.

When Kehoe turns to the East, however, she shifts to cultural periods, an approach that may confuse some readers. Chapters end with what she calls "research puzzles," key questions that remain to be answered about particular problems that trouble American archaeologists. Interspersed are boxes with segments of interesting accounts by or about Indians, but her choices are sometimes puzzling. Her final two chapters are where the book really shines. "Overview: the United States, 1600" compares Europe and North America and makes you understand "that there were no trackless wildernesses." Everywhere "the landscape reflected human technology, if one knew the signs. The significant difference between Europeans and American Indians in 1600 was invisible, microscopic" (p. 227).

What happened next was the result of invasion, colonization, and fortune. The final chapter pulls together issues and puzzles, especially the question of whether American Indian archaeological pasts are the American Indians' pasts or those of all Americans; that is, who owns the past?

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY
1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Fourth Floor
Washington DC 20036
Tel: (202) 265-3808
Fax: (202) 986-1601

Periodicals Postage

PAID

at Washington DC
and at additional mailing addresses