Two Economies

CHRISTIAN GAUSS
Dean of the College, Princeton University; Member of the Editorial Board of The American Scholar
From recent addresses before the Tulane and Lehigh Chapters

There are two economies, essentially quite different, just as there are two worlds, the world of things and the world of the spirit; and there is nothing more important for the college to teach and indeed to exemplify than the essential difference between these two worlds and what I have chosen to call these two economies.

You can turn material wealth into the riches of the spirit. That is the function of the university, but the paradox of our two economies is that you cannot so easily turn the riches of the spirit into material wealth. These riches of the spirit for the truly civilized, the truly educated man or woman are alone ultimate, absolute, inviolate. The tragedy of our time is the tragedy of all materialistic ages. When material wealth multiplies, when it is easy to acquire (and lose), dollars go to a premium; and not only the masses, but those who should be the educated classes think only in terms of the materialistic economy. The very real wealth in the other economy goes to a heavy discount. That, if you like, is the tragedy of the industrial revolution of the 19th century, the tragedy of the economy of abundance of our own country and time. Some day, if you really wish to be blue, study the shifting enrolments in American so-called higher education. You will find that it is to our schools of commerce and business administration, to our courses in economics and banking, that the big increases in numbers have gone; and the losses will be found to have come out of those subjects, the humanities, which deal most directly with that other economy, with those other inner resources of the human spirit which cannot be minted into “thirty pieces of silver.”

We have pushed the economic problem forward to a position where it overshadows all else. That is why in universities the humanities are at a discount; why, if we honestly face the facts, we have to admit that culture even on the American campus has lost the ring of true gold, is a desolate word, and cultural courses in many of our colleges are taken only as a sideline. Our ideal, even our national ideal, has become one not of culture in its traditional sense but of what might be called “comfortism.”

It is an interesting thing that just at this time two of the ablest publicists of our contemporary world, Lucien Romier in France and Walter Lippmann in America, have begun to speak about the “New Imperative.” The new imperative in government is that it must protect the standard of living of the masses. If this is true and we are not to be overwhelmed by an age of materialistic “comfortism,” then the new imperative of the college graduate (Continued on page 6)

Builder of the New Wellesley

MARY E. WOOLLEY
President, Mount Holyoke College, 1900-36; ΦΒΚ Senator since 1907

In the spring of 1895 I spent a day at Wellesley College preparatory to “entering” the following autumn as a member of the faculty. In order that I might have some knowledge of the College and its ways, I was entrusted to a member of the department of mathematics, a dark-haired, attractive young woman, about thirty years old — which, at that time, seemed to me quite far along in middle life!

That was my introduction to Ellen Fitz Pendleton, over forty years ago. As a colleague on the Wellesley faculty for

In this Issue:
Reviews by Irita Van Doren, Howard Mumford Jones, O. R. Pilat
the next five years, I learned to know well the young woman whom I had admired at first meeting and to appreciate increasingly those outstanding characteristics of simplicity and sincerity which were the hallmark of an exceptionally "genuine" personality.

Miss Pendleton’s service to Wellesley College as administrator covered the years from the late nineties to the summer of 1936, first as Secretary of the College, then as Dean, and finally as President, a post which she held for twenty-five years. For fifty years at Wellesley as student, teacher, and administrator, she had an exceptional opportunity to know the college. But that does not fully explain her extraordinary administrative ability. I have never known an administrator who had so thoroughly mastered the technique without losing sight of the bigger issues, her warm human sympathy keeping her from any danger of becoming a human machine.

Her achievement on the material side was extraordinary and one who knew "The old Wellesley" might well feel that "The new Wellesley" is the Memorial of her. Beautiful buildings and campus, largely her work, are a Memorial, but even more truly is that which she built into human lives for nearly half a century.

It is the remembrance of Ellen Pendleton, the friend, even more than that of Ellen Pendleton, the President of Wellesley College, that I — with many others — shall treasure. Singularly free from self-centeredness, that foible of "little folks"; endowed with a keen sense of humor, a "delight in simple things" and a genuine interest in human beings and human contacts; possessing a charm of personality that her friends felt increasingly; above all, with a sincere and loyal nature that no one could question; — it is not strange that her friends rise up and call her blessed.

Editor’s Note: Miss Pendleton, a member and officer of the Wellesley Chapter, became a Senator of the United Chapters in 1910 and served steadily until her death on July 26, 1936. From 1928 to 1934 she was Vice-President of the United Chapters.

Edwin Arlington Robinson

Hermann Hagedorn (Harvard F B K) requests contributions of letters by the late Edwin Arlington Robinson (Harvard F B K) and clippings concerning him for use in a volume of letters, in a biography, and in a collection of clippings for the Widener Library at Harvard. They should be sent by registered mail to Mr. Hagedorn, 28 E. 20th St., New York, N. Y. The letters will be copied and returned promptly.

Tipsham Foreside

ROBERT P. TRISTRAM COFFIN

They call it Foreside since it had a Back, Years ago, before the times grew slack And men stopped having boys enough to pile The stones up into fences mile on mile. A bridge or two went down, and roads were lost, White pines marched in, and woodchucks and the frost. Now the Back is all but wholly gone, Among dark maples you may come upon Queen Anne doorways with their vacant panes And roofs that show their ribs and let in rains. But Tipsham’s Foreside half is still all there. It smells more like Arabia in the air Than Arabia itself, it is hot bayberry, Sweetfern, junipers, wild roses, and the sea.

The Foreside natives talk and think in what Literature is made of, gut by gut — Wisdom in the weather, eating dirt, Keeping in the feelings and the shirt, Putting two and two together to make five, Feeling your pants as well as hate alive, Allowing your siesta in slacks in statements, going Slow and steady, moving when you’re mowing. The Foreside men go on their spunky way, Living for longer than another day, Keeping limber backs for days of blow, Living like their people long ago, Having more than one nest for their eggs, Getting on well with their thoughts and legs, Taking time for loneliness and sorrow, Getting braced for squalls kicked up to-morrow, Staying put and growing into places, Working in their granite in their faces, And mayflowers sometimes, knowing north from south And how to smile at each side of the mouth, Allowing for the wind in all men say, Making their love brief when making hay, Looking at a horse at both his ends, Short with enemies and long with friends, Answering every question with another, Easier on a stranger than a brother, Taking up the acid of their soil, Taking time to come up to a boil, Trimming their speech to proverb sharp and tart, And turning like the morning-glory’s heart To their low sun, and making all their reasons Part of the lovely substance of the seasons.

Note. — The above verses are from a 343-line poem read at a meeting of the Tufte Chapter on May 27, 1936. The poem, which has been published earlier in the Typhonian magazine and in The Typhonian, will be included in Mr. Coffin’s forthcoming book, Saltwater Farm, poems on the Casco Bay (Maine) country and people. Mr. Coffin is Pierce Professor of English at Bowdoin.

S-ome P-unkins and Other Insignia

The general belief of F B K members has been that the letters S P on the reverse side of the key stand for Societas Philoephe. Professor Joseph Richard Taylor, however, at a recent meeting of the Boston University Chapter, put more light on the hitherto unromantic inscription. "Regarding the letters S P," he said, "There is an unfortunate difference of interpretation. The more erudite members correctly interpret them as meaning 'Some Punks.' The describable lower critics insist that they really signify 'Small Potatoes.' The truth probably lies between these extremes." Professor Taylor, in like manner, gave unique information on the Greek characters F B K: "There are two schools of interpretation of the key — the higher and the lower critics. Taking up first the mystic letters F B K, the higher critics (the fine old classicists) interpret them as meaning 'Few But Cute.' The lower critics . . . insist that the letters stand for 'Phine Brass Key.'"

Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees, Historian of the United Chapters, differs in some slight degree from this interesting point of view. He has made an intensive study of the key in all its known forms and has not only come to the conclusion that the S P stands for Societas Philoephe but that F B K stands for Phi Lambda Biaov Koepoepohip (Love of wisdom, the helmsman of life). Of the stars he writes:

Stars on the Key

That the original F B K medal bore three stars is well known. While the charters for Alphas at Harvard and at Yale provided for medals like that transmitted, "without any alteration whatever," this requirement was not interpreted literally, for early Harvard medals were larger and bore the Alpha’s date, September 5, 1781, and medals at Yale were of varying sizes and had ornamental tops.

A material change came when a well-to-do member secured a medal of gold instead of silver. Then a fellow member, perhaps, had a steel watch key soldered to the lower edge, forming a key, which, after the ring had been attached by a swivel, served a very useful purpose.
This development at Yale was passed on to Union when in 1817 the Alpha of New York was there organized. No member of that branch, so far as is known, ever wore a silver medal.

During the thirty years from 1787 when the Alpha of New Hampshire was organized at Dartmouth, until the chartering of the Alpha of New York at Union, there were only three active branches of the Society. Hence the three stars were given a new significance. When in 1825 the Alpha of Maine was organized at Bowdoin, nearly all the charter members being from Harvard, a silver medal was adopted, and by resolution it was provided that the Alpha's date, February 22, 1825, should be engraved upon it. The earliest medal extant shows two other changes not noted in the resolution. There were five stars instead of three, and Alpha of Maine was engraved above the script monogram, S P.

Shortly after the addition of this Alpha the brethren at Union, on July 27, voted "that the badge of the society be altered by the addition of another star."

Sufficient data are not at hand to determine the method pursued when additional branches were organized. A star could not well be added for each new branch, if the Betas and the Gammas were counted. So at Union recourse was had to the number of Alphas, for the Ritual passed on to the Alpha of New Jersey at Rutgers in 1869 contained this explanation: "The ten stars indicate the ten sister Alpha Chapters." And yet many early Rutgers members had only nine stars on their keys.

The question was not finally resolved until 1910 when the National Council, adopting a standard design of the badge, voted a return to the three stars of the original medal.

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**The New Format**

This new format for The Key Reporter offers more possibilities for the designing of attractive pages, particularly as regards illustrations. Moreover, it makes for economy in printing and mailing costs and is more attractive to advertisers. Further improvements will be made as funds warrant. Material for publication and general suggestions are invited.

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**From "Charity School" to ΦBK**

**VIRGINIA KINSMAN**

Secretary, College for Women Section, University of Pennsylvania Chapter

A **FIFTY-YEAR advance toward "female education"** at Benjamin Franklin's University was given the seal of excellent attainment when the last triennial Council authorized the establishment of the Women's Section of the Delta of Pennsylvania Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The ideal of liberal scholarship was notably exemplified in the ceremonies of the installation on May 16, 1935.

The erection of a building nearly 200 years ago at Fourth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, for use as a "Charity School" and as a "house of publie worship" may be taken as the acorn whence grew the University of Pennsylvania. In 1749 this "Charity School" was taken over by the trustees of the Academy. When in 1802 the Academy moved to the mansion built for the President of the United States the "Charity School" was still maintained. The College was closed for a period in 1777 and 1778 and the buildings were used first by the British troops and then by the Continental Army. In 1778 Congress met in the old College Hall. Congress with President Washington and his cabinet attended the commencement exercises.

"Female children" were undoubtedly accepted in the old "Charity School," but in 1877 the "Charity School" was given up and the Provost was requested to prepare a plan under which instruction might be made available to "indigent female students, so far as may be convenient and practicable in the University buildings." The passing and amending of statutes provided for the admission of "such a number of female children in indigent circumstances as they might deem expedient, to partial courses in arts, in the Towne Scientific School and in music." The general feeling of the time is amusingly reflected in the fact that the names were not to be published. In April 1878 the Auxiliary Faculty in Medicine was authorized to permit "ladies" to attend lectures. Finally in June 1880 one woman received a Certificate of Proficiency and one was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for work in the Auxiliary Department of Medicine. In 1881 the Law School was opened to women.

The first mention of a college for women parallel to that for men, "instruction to be given at hours that will not interfere with men," came at a meeting of the Committee on Arts October 18, 1882. In November of the same year there was adopted a resolution that the Trustees should organize a separate college department for women "as soon as sufficient funds are received." During 1889 impetus was given the movement by the request of the College faculty that the Board of Trustees admit students to the College without regard to sex and by the acceptance by the Board of property offered by Joseph M. Bennett "for a college for women." In February of 1933 the College for Women was established. Since that climax was reached, the School of Veterinary Medicine has been added to women's educational possibilities and the architectural degree has been granted to women.

No longer were "indigent female students" instructed "so far as may be convenient and practicable in the University buildings." A nucleus for the new ΦBK branch was made up of University alumnae who had followed undergraduate study by outstanding work in the Graduate School. The Charter members were women already members of ΦBK who were holding administrative, teaching, or research positions in the University of Pennsylvania. At the installation six honorary foundation members were initiated. They were women outstanding in different fields: Miss H. Jean Crawford, then Directress of the Women at the University of Pennsylvania; Lucy Langdon Williams Wilson, eminent in the educational world and receiver of the Bok award for 1934; Martha Tracy, Dean of the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia; Eleonor Lansig Dulles, economist; Agnes Reppier, essayist; and Olga Samarrof Stokowski, musician. Recognition by ΦBK is appreciated not only as an evidence of accomplished excellence in letters, arts, and sciences, but equally as an incentive to even higher attainments.
**Editors**

**AFTER 160 YEARS, WHAT?**

The penetrating insight of Princeton's Dean Christian Gauss has, as shown elsewhere in this issue, gone to the center of Phi Beta Kappa's problem, as it has of many other problems in American life, particularly in American college life. The economic problem, he says, is now made to overshadow all else and the humanities are at a discount—a paradox when compared with the status of the nation and the colleges at Phi Beta Kappa's birth 160 years ago.

Needed as never before is the contribution Phi Beta K can make to the strengthening of the four-year liberal college, the American institution in which should be found the love of learning for its own sake; the acquisition of that breadth and depth of knowledge and personality which make a man a man. But the invasion of "Made in U.S.A." minds seeking not enlightenment, higher satisfactions, and creative opportunities but techniques and shortcuts to success, may yet bury American culture in dark ages of meaningless bustle. The 75,000 members of Phi Beta K individually and in chapters and graduate associations can help protect the liberal college from its enemies and help improve its cultural nourishment for Americans in the making.

**Enemies**

Who are the enemy? As in international affairs, at least some of them are in fact friends when they are content with their own territory. Strangely enough, the most insidious threat to the realm of pure letters, arts, and sciences appears in the courses in pedagogy, curiously named "Education." The line and extent of encroachment are often dictated by state departments of public instruction, as Dean Gildersleeve states in "And Sadely Teach—State Requirements Designed to Prevent Educated Persons from Teaching," the Autumn American Scholar. Then there are hosts of rapidly multiplying courses in home economics, business administration, journalism, and a motley crowd of other technical or applied arts and sciences. Much of this vocational skill-training is good in its place, but tends to lead the student astray when offered as a substitute for any considerable part of a college education. Other enemies, perhaps often unwittingly such, are found in the extreme vocationalizing of secondary schools, in certain phases of the development of junior colleges, and in early specialization in higher education. Except in unfortunate individual cases, no justification can be found in psychology, biology, economics, or elsewhere, for so restricting the educative process as to crowd out the time and stiffness the spirit needed for broad, liberal enrichment and training. Phi Beta Kappa insists that such education is essential for the most effective specialization either in research or in a profession, as well as for the most satisfying and creative living.

**Fortifications**

The Key Reporter seeks to enlist in this case the 75,000 members who as parents, teachers, officials, and intelligent citizens can exercise a directive influence upon thousands of individual students as well as upon educational institutions and policies. The fact that Phi Beta K functions quietly without the glare of publicity does not prevent, but rather fosters, a potent influence for liberal culture. This influence is evident especially in the efforts of 200 or more colleges and universities to qualify for new chapters. Also revised methods of selecting members are a wholesome leaven in the general student attitude toward learning. The hundreds of lectures sponsored annually by the Society and the articles in The American Scholar constantly express or typify this ideal. These and others of the Society's present and potential contributions will gradually become known to the membership through the regular visits of The Key Reporter and will enlist more of the potential strength of Phi Beta K at a crucial period in the history of liberal education and democratic culture.

**AN INVITATION**

In hard times the far-sighted nourish the deeper as well as the immediate needs of personality and society. Although the work of Phi Beta K is carried on without great expenditure of time or money, unfortunately the Society must still look to fees from new members, mainly students, for its chief support. The quest for an endowment of $1,000,000 begun a decade ago has succeeded to the extent of $290,000. Special gifts and bequests will gradually lift this total towards its goal.

At present, in spite of reduced incomes from fees and endowment, the Society is weathering its eighth national financial depression. However, to prevent further serious curtailment in the service of the United Chapters, the Finance Committee—composed of President Frank A. Aydelotte, Mr. John Kirkland Clark, Professor Hollon A. Farr, Dr. John H. Finley, Dr. Will D. Howe, and Mr. Owen D. Young—has asked for the contribution of $12,000 to balance the budget for the next year or two until the sources of income further recover and the work is put again on a self-maintaining basis. A letter sent in July to a few hundred members had by September 22 brought in $4905.55 in 615 contributions ranging from $1 to $100 each. If you were not given an opportunity to contribute at that time, the Committee will be grateful for any assistance you can give now to enable the Society to maintain and improve its service to members and to the cause of liberal education.

Please send your contribution to the Treasurer, Dr. W. Randolph Burgess, 145 West 55th Street, New York, N. Y. Although this is in no sense a plea for subscriptions, The American Scholar will be sent for a year (for another year if you are now a subscriber) to anyone sending $10 or more. The subscription may be designated for a friend.

**Contributors in 1936**

To date 615 members have made financial contributions this year to the work of the United Chapters of Phi Beta K. The chapter and year of election are given in the following:

A Bereaved Association

E. R. HEDRICK
Professor of Mathematics, University of California at Los Angeles

The notable tradition of encouragement to liberal scholarship built during two decades by the Southern California Association of Φ B K, an achievement of the cooperation of hundreds of members, of several chapters and educational institutions not having chapters, stands primarily in the annals of Φ B K as a continuing memorial to Dr. Frank Charles Touton, whose untimely death occurred on June 1, 1936, at the age of 56.

The Association was founded as a result of a conference held in 1916 by several graduate students. Each year meetings are held at Pomona, Occidental, U.S.C., and U.C.L.A. Much interest has been aroused by an essay contest sponsored annually by the Association for the students in Southern California colleges. The several cash prizes must be converted into books by the winners with the assistance of the college librarians.

Dr. Frank Charles Touton

Dr. Touton was secretary of the Association from 1927 to the time of his death. His activity during these ten years has built up a spirit of cooperation and cordial relations among the members resident in Southern California. The founders, presidents and other officers, particularly the former secretary, Professor Shedd, also contributed to the growth of this spirit. However, it is not too much to say that Dr. Touton’s friendly spirit and his optimism and enthusiasm played the chief role in keeping up the morale of the entire group of about 400 members. His death may bring serious problems. However all of us, his friends, hope not only that this organization will go onward with his memory as a heritage, but that other organizations of like character may arise elsewhere.

Dr. Touton came to the University of Southern California in 1922 after an interesting and varied career elsewhere. He served as Vice-President of the University from 1929 until his death. In March 1936 the French Government awarded him the title of “Officier de l’Instruction Publique” for distinguished service in the field of education. An honor to Phi Beta Kappa and a power in education, Dr. Touton leaves not only a host of friends but an enviable record of achievement.

ΦΒΚ—AAAS Lecture

President James Rowland Angell of Yale will deliver the second annual address which Φ B K has been invited to sponsor in connection with the Winter Meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. These lectures are designed to emphasize the liberal or cultural motive in American life and in the progress of science. President Angell will speak on the evening of Wednesday, December 30, 1936, at Atlantic City, New Jersey. His address will constitute one of the general public sessions of the Association’s large winter meeting lasting from December 28 to January 2.

That President Angell, whose special field of scholarship is psychology, will be well received by the men of science present as well as by the members of Φ B K in Atlantic City and vicinity is evident in the comment of Dr. Henry B. Ward, Permanent Secretary of the Association: “President Angell is not only an administrator of wide fame but also a scientist of high standing, and members of the Association will be particularly glad to hear him.”

The complete address will be published in a future number of The American Scholar and excerpts will appear in The Key Reporter.

In connection with its meetings the Association will feature a Science Exhibition. Leading American scientists are contributing generously of their time and money to make this exhibition as significant as possible.

Ex-President of ΦΒΚ

Edwin Augustus Grosvenor, aged 91, President of the United Chapters from 1907 to 1919 and Life Senator (serving from 1901), died at his home in Amherst, Massachusetts, on the evening of September 15, 1936. A graduate of Amherst College (1867), Dr. Grosvenor returned as a professor in 1892 and at the time of his death was emeritus professor of history and international law.

In the early years of his senatorship and at the time of his presidency, Dr. Grosvenor was a cooperative and valued worker for the Society and its ideals. Although he was unable to attend recent meetings of the Senate and Council, a message never failed to bring some word of greeting.

As Others See Us

Some of the most unassuming and kindest people I have ever seen were Phi Beta Kappas. — Tyler (Tex.) Courier-Times

Kenneth Durant addressing the Amphi luncheon: “Material sent to Moscow is translated into 46 languages, the first being English.” Surprised voice from one of the tables: “Gosh! All them guys must have Phi Beta Kappa keys.” — Motion Picture Daily

The highest ideals of scholarship, leadership, character and service are embodied in this society whose name is known in school circles all over the nation.—Wilmington (N. C.) Star News

Phi Beta Kappa . . . whose famous “key” emblem stands the continent over for excellence in study and depth of knowledge. — Manchester (N. H.) Union
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Two Economies (Continued from page 1)
and of the university is also clear. The purpose of any education that deserves to be called higher, is to transmute our perishable material wealth into the lasting possession of human spirit.

Positions Wanted
If name is not given, address "Applicant No.—, care ΦBK, 145 W. 55th St., New York, N. Y."

BUSINESS AND LAW — See also 81, 82, 87

CHEMISTRY AND RESEARCH — See also 76, 79
74. Ferdinand W. Haasis, Box A, Carmel, Calif. B.S. agriculture, Rutgers '11; M.F. forestry, Yale '15; Ph.D. plant physiology, Johns Hopkins '28. Exp.—botanical, silvicultural, forestry research; translating German; supervising WPA writers’ projects; writing. Wants research, college teaching, editorial work, translating (German, French, Spanish), or botanical sketching.

TEACHING AND TUTORING — See also 71, 74, 82, 88
76. R.S., N. Y. U. '34; M.A., '35. Exp.—teaching high school English, typing. Wants teaching or literary work.
79. W. M. Speyer, Hanover, Va. Randolph-Macon '32; Ph.D. physical chemistry, Univ. of Virginia '36. Exp.—teaching college chemistry, chemical research. Wants teaching or research.
80. William T. Spoerri, Home de Bethanie, Avenue Dovel 11, Lausanne, Switzerland, B.A., Syracuse '39; M.A. 36; Univ. of Zurich '36. Exp.—teaching college French, German, English lang. and lit. Wants teach college French and German in United States.

TRANSLATING — See also 74
82. Harvard '34. Romance lang. major, knowl. German, English, Italian; minor, French. Exp.—retailing merchandising, boys' club work. Wants translating, tutoring, library or social work, use of languages in business.

MISCELLANEOUS
83. Princeton '15; Union Theological Seminary. Exp.—Congregational ministry, writing, teaching, research, pastoral work in ministry or allied activities.
84. William Horowitz, 265 E. 165th St., N. Y. C. Wichita, Kansas, 17. Finish college completed. Exp. as violinist. Wants to earn to complete medical course.
86. M.A., English, Univ. of Maine '26. Exp.—high school teaching, proofreading, monotype operating, typing, use of Burroughs calculator. Any work.
Books to Own

For the reader’s convenience orders for any books or magazines will be filled postpaid by THE KEY REPORTER. A free introductory personal or gift subscription to The American Scholar will be sent with any order of at least $6.00.

THE FLOWERING OF NEW ENGLAND


In one of his early books Mr. Van Wyck Brooks hinted that the pressing cultural need of the United States was the finding of a usable past. In the search for that usable past he has explored, among other matters, the history of literary personalities as diverse as Emerson, Mark Twain, and Henry James. In these studies he is never wholly second-rate, but on the other hand he has also never been wholly first-rate. It is as if none of these problems quite fitted his temperament or his interests.

But with The Flowering of New England Mr. Brooks comes triumphantly into his own. It is, he tells us, but the first of a series of studies in American literary history; but even though he never completes a second, he will, one surmises, have taken his place among the small group of American literary historians whom one can not ignore. In The Flowering of New England Mr. Brooks conceives of American literary history in its most fruitful aspect: the evocation of a culture out of which the literature springs. The cycle of New England development which he treats gives him the necessary cultural unity, into which he has sympathetically entered and which he analyzes with penetration and charm. He has read enormously, with a fine eye for revelatory detail; and against the changing decades of New England life he projects the personalities of the leading intellectual figures of the golden day.

The most debatable aspect of the volume is the mixture of scholarship and impressionism with which these literary personalities are pictured. Hawthorne is perhaps too introspective, Thoreau too completely the Concord naturalist, Holmes too persistently the extravered Bostonian. One can collect instances of the omission of pertinent facts or slips in statements. And yet the important value in the study is— to put it naively — the sense of respect which Mr. Brooks inspires for his materials. We have had altogether too much depreciatory comment upon the achievement of American literature, but Mr. Brooks very properly approaches his subject as if it were as valid as the age of Shakespeare. That it is so valid is true, but American scholarship and criticism have not always discovered this obvious fact.

There is no room for comment on the details—the excellent analysis of Lowell, the intelligent and manly discussion of Longfellow, the skill with which the historians and philosopher are marshalled. Historians of the national culture will welcome a book at once so solid and so excellent as prose.

HOWARD MUMFORD JONES

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK


Walter Edmonds’ Drums Along the Mohawk is a novel of the Revolution, but not the familiar Revolution of Valley Forge or Yorktown. This is the Revolution as it was fought in the Mohawk Valley by German and Dutch frontier farmers, miles away from settled regions, almost out of touch with that Congress whose decrees came to them rarely and often inopportune. And their leader was not Washington or any of his well-trained generals but their friend, old Nicholas Herkimer, giving his orders in English but talking in Low German to his neighbors in the ranks.

It is a tale of seven years of heroic existence in the wilderness, seven years of devoted defense of the land these men and women had cleared and cultivated by their own hard labor. And, at the end of these seven years less than eight hundred people were alive of the twenty-five hundred who had formed those courageous valley settlements.

The story centers about the lives of Gilbert Martin and Magdelena Borst who as bride and groom set forth upon the adventure of making a home on the newest frontier. But there is no single hero or heroine in a chronicle filled with heroism, and memorable people and scenes crowd the years: Old General Herkimer at the battle of Oriskany, his knee shattered, sitting on a knoll directing the battle, a cold pipe in his teeth; the widow McKennar, who could swear and drink with the hardiest, by the sheer violence of her indignation forcing marauding Indians to move her and her bed outside before they set fire to her house; Nancy Schuyler, the beautiful moron servant girl, who found happiness as the squaw of the greasy Indian, Gahota; the yellow haired scout, Adam Helmer, six feet five in his moccasins, outrunning the pick of Brant’s Indians in a twenty-four mile race to warn the German Flats of an Indian attack; smouldering ashes where unending labor had made a home; stockade life when children must not cry for fear of bringing on an Indian attack; the tragic young love of John and Mary who had come to boyhood and girlhood in the

Your Magazine

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IN THE AUTUMN NUMBER:

Mars Proposes Walter Millis
The Russian Theatre Norris Houghton
Who Are the Ignorant? Oliver M. Keen
The Open Door Stephen Duggan
Greatest Show on Earth Alvin Johnson

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midst of ear and destruction; the last muster; and, throughout, a tenacious courage which alone enabled these people to endure.

Mr. Edmonds does not romanticize his material; the facts themselves need no dramatization. And he tells his tale almost sparely with a reticence that somehow befits the inarticulate frontier men and women of whom he writes.

Irita Van Doren

THREE WORLDS

You approach a book like this with caution. Perhaps you know Carl Van Doren by reputation. You realize he is one of the inner editorial circle in New York. You have heard that as a Columbia professor, he trained many of our present college literary teachers. He has been literary editor of The Nation and The Century. He has been editor of The Literary Guild.

Add to these counts the title, Three Worlds, and you expect the Van Doren memoirs to be sober-sided, sugary or dull. They prove to be none of these things.

The three worlds of the book are pre-war, post-war and depression. They all are part of one pattern which Van Doren indicates by his own impressions at each stage.

Young Carl was brought up on a farm near Hope, Illinois, and as a boy he witnessed the passing of the frontier. As an adolescent he tried to be a poet. Not succeeding to his own satisfaction, he became "a teacher by inertia, like half the college professors in the United States." Only after the war did his widening interests wean him gradually from teaching.

Much of the charm of this autobiography lies in its chiseled impressions of other writers — of Sinclair Lewis' early career, of Edwin Arlington Robinson and Elinor Wylie and Mary Austin, and Rupert Hughes and many more. All these come into the post-war world. They are accompanied by shrewd, delightful generalities on creative writing and criticism.

Carl Van Doren lived with increasing awareness through the urge for individual freedom of the Twenties and through the preoccupations with poverty that characterized the early Thirties. The final chapters of his story show a gradual shift of interest from literature to politics. He puzzles over the world trend toward class struggle and bloodshed and finally takes refuge in a vague, but strongly felt, confidence that somehow democracy will solve its problems.

Carl Van Doren is only fifty now. His story sums up, without posing or false drama, half a century of American life. All it lacks is the postscript he should be able to write when he reaches sixty.

O. R. Pilat

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