



PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

SPRING 2007

PARMELE RIDES AGAIN

PHI BETA KAPPA SENDS
A LEGEND TO THE RESCUE

THE PHI BETA KAPPA COLLECTION AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BY HISTORIAN AND CURATOR BARBARA BAIR



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The spring and fall issues are mailed to every ΦBK member for whom the Membership Records office has an address. Newly initiated members receive all four issues for one year.

ParmeLe Rides Again

Most members of Phi Beta Kappa could date the Society's founding to 1776. It's a hard year to forget. But you have to dig a bit deeper into the lore to know that the original chapter at the College of William and Mary lasted — in this first incarnation — only a little more than four years. By the winter of 1781, General Charles Cornwallis was positioning the British army on the York peninsula for what became the climactic siege of the American Revolutionary War, and the college closed. When William and Mary reopened a year later, Phi Beta Kappa was in eclipse at Williamsburg. Thus would have run the brief history of another club for intellectual talk and genteel conviviality.

That would have been the end of Phi Beta Kappa had the group at William and Mary not acceded to the proposals of their only non-Virginian member, to establish chapters in New England. Elisha Parmele, a native of Connecticut who had studied at Yale and graduated from Harvard, was authorized to carry founding documents to those institutions, where he established a chapter at New Haven, Conn., in 1780 and at Cambridge, Mass., in 1781. Then, with new chapters at Dartmouth, Union, Bowdoin and Brown over the next 50 years, Phi Beta Kappa established its historic base in New England. From there, the Society expanded across the country into truly national scope, with soon-to-be 276 chapters.

Without Elisha Parmele, none of this would have happened. Therefore, as we undertake to assist our chapters in becoming even more successful at recognizing and advocating excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, it is proper that we call our effort the Parmele Project.

As I reported to the 41st Council of Phi Beta Kappa in Atlanta, the Society is doing very well. But, like any organization, we have room for improvement. A small number of our chapters induct too few of the students they invite. While the arrival of Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars is a major event on many campuses, at some institutions they get lost in the noise of competing activities offered to students. Too often the functioning of the chapter is sustained by too small a number of the chapter's members, who labor largely without sufficient support. And, in many colleges and universities, the institution's pride in sheltering a Phi Beta Kappa chapter is not matched by adequate provision of support in budget, staff and recognition.

Across the board, the picture is not dark; most chapters are doing fine. But the national office has a responsibility to assist the chapters that are challenged by one or another of these issues. So we are launching the Parmele Project. As Elisha Parmele carried the charters that made the Society's survival possible, we want to encourage the best practices that will help every chapter to flourish.

Eighteen months ago, we began a concerted effort to develop an understanding of those best practices. Since the fall of 2005, representatives of the national office have visited more than 60 chapters, asking about conditions, gathering ideas, hearing about problems and solutions. The upshot is a document called "The Chapter," a guide to the practices and conditions that seem most likely to produce a chapter with the greatest success in every dimension of its activity. A late draft of this document was discussed at length by chapter delegates at the 41st Council, and we are ready for implementation. As part of a pilot project, about 20 chapters have agreed to assess their situation and practices in light of the recommendations. Among this group, some are already doing very well indeed, while others may find useful ways toward improvement.

The recommendations address the issues noted above, and at every turn, these principles are embodied: that sheltering institutions have the responsibility to match their pride with support, that the national office needs to do everything possible to ease the burden on chapter officers, and that the conditions of success must be tailored to local circumstances. We will not urge anyone to fix something that is working well. Our aim is to assist chapters as they seek to recognize and advocate excellence, and we continue to be open to advice as we structure that assistance.

Let me note that a best practices document for Phi Beta Kappa's associations is in preparation, and I will soon be discussing here our initiatives to assist our associations in their effectiveness.

Above, I left the chapter at William and Mary in eclipse. It was re-established in 1851, but closed in 1861, showing again that proximity to history has its risks. Opened again in 1893, the mother chapter flourishes and merits our affection. Without the original group in Williamsburg, Elisha Parmele would have had nothing to carry home to New England.

John Churchill
Secretary

SPOTLIGHT



"As director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, I have the enormous privilege of fostering scholarship and research, helping to preserve and grow the world's largest Shakespeare collection, and overseeing a vigorous public outreach program of concerts, plays, poetry readings and Shakespeare festivals for children. The aspirations of Phi Beta Kappa are exemplified and celebrated every day in the myriad activities of this great library."

— Gail Kern Paster

Gail Kern Paster took office as director of the Folger Shakespeare Library on July 1, 2002. She continues as editor of *Shakespeare Quarterly*, the leading scholarly journal devoted to Shakespeare, published by the Folger Shakespeare Library in association with The George Washington University, where she was a professor of English and had taught since 1974. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, *magna cum laude*, at Smith College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a doctoral degree at Yale University. She has won many national fellowships and awards, including fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation. She is the author of numerous scholarly articles and several books, including *The Idea of the City in the Age of Shakespeare* (University of Georgia Press, 1985) and *The Body Embarrassed: Drama and the Disciplines of Shame in Early Modern England* (Cornell University Press, 1993), as well as the co-editor of Bedford Books' *"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Texts and Contexts* (1998) and editor of Thomas Middleton's 1607 comedy, *Michaelmas Term* (Manchester University Press,

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ON THE COVER

Harvard University

Alpha-Iota of Massachusetts,
1781 and 1914

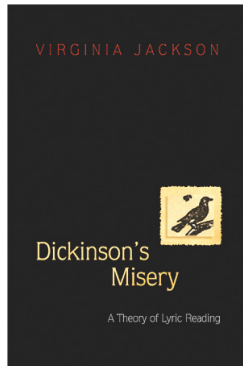
Pictured left to right: Jennifer Morse, Chief Marshal Dr. James Wilkinson (center) and Kobey Shwayder lead the Phi Beta Kappa procession across Harvard Yard during spring commencement, June 6, 2006. Photo Credit: Jon Chase/Harvard News Office.

The 2006 Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards

Phi Beta Kappa's book awards are given each year in December to outstanding scholarly books published in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences and mathematics. In addition to a cash prize, the winners are recognized by the ΦBK Senate at an annual awards dinner held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C.

Christian Gauss Award

for literary scholarship or criticism



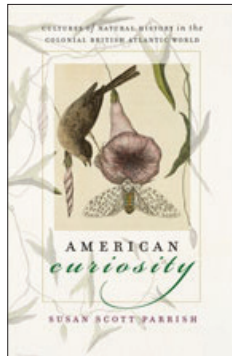
Dickinson's Misery
A Theory of Lyric Reading

by Virginia Jackson

Princeton University Press, 2005

Ralph Waldo Emerson Award

for interpretation of the intellectual
and cultural condition of humanity



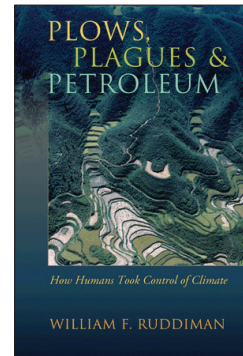
American Curiosity:
Cultures of Natural History
in the Colonial British Atlantic World

by Susan Scott Parrish

University of North Carolina Press,
2006

Science Award

for outstanding contribution
to the literature of science



Plows, Plagues and Petroleum:
How Humans Took Control
of Climate

by William F. Ruddiman

Princeton University Press, 2005

ΦBK in the News

♦ **Bradley T. Sheares** (Fisk University, 1978) has been appointed CEO of Reliant Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Prior to joining Reliant, Sheares was president of the U.S. Human Health division of Merck & Co., Inc. He also serves on the board of directors of Honeywell International and on the board of trustees of Spelman College. ("Reliant Pharmaceuticals Names Bradley T. Sheares, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer" PR Newswire 16 Jan. 2007.)

♦ "Scooter and Me: Professing Liberal Doubt in an Age of Fundamentalist Fervor" by Nick Bromell from *The American Scholar*, Winter 2007, has been covered by the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Los Angeles Times*. In 2006, the *Scholar* won a National Magazine Award for outstanding feature writing. (Warren, James. "Ideology Confuses Friendship for Childhood Pal of Libby's" *Chicago Tribune* 25 Dec. 2006: Lifestyle. "Found Object; Scooter's Parable" *Los Angeles Times* 17 Jan. 2007: A17.)

♦ **Michael Lomax** (Morehouse College, 1968), president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), returned to Tuskegee, Ala. to receive a honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Tuskegee University and speak at the university's Charter Day and Homecoming Convocation in November 2006. His mother, Lena Lomax, a journalist from California, moved to Tuskegee with her children in the 1960s to cover the unfolding Civil Rights Movement. Prior to joining UNCF, Lomax served as president of Dillard University in New Orleans. ("UNCF President Returns to Tuskegee for Charter/Homecoming Convocation" Tuskegee University 13 Nov. 2007 www.tuskegee.edu/Global/story.asp?S=5680822.)

ΦBK in Popular Culture

♦ Garrison Keillor, author and host of "A Prairie Home Companion," used Phi Beta Kappa in his Dec. 13, 2006, *Chicago Tribune* column to illustrate an example of the impossibly accomplished children described in family

Christmas letters. For a college student who is a star athlete, performs "Antigone" in Greek, has an essay published in *Fortune*, volunteers at a homeless shelter and is a model for *Vogue*, he writes: "How she does what she does and still makes Phi Beta Kappa is a wonderment to us all." (Keillor, Garrison. "The Season of Letter-Perfect Families" *Chicago Tribune* 13 Dec. 2006: C31.)

♦ **Yul Kwon** (Stanford University, 1997) won the \$1 million dollar top prize on the Dec. 17, 2006, finale of CBS' "Survivor: Cook Island." The show was controversial for dividing teams by race, but Kwon said the contest was "an amazing platform to raise the issue about racial identity, segregation, different issues that need to be addressed." (Young, Susan. "San Mateo's 'Survivor' Winner: Show's Setup Made Him a Reluctant Contestant." *MercuryNews.com* 17 Dec. 2006.)

♦ In July 1956, **Alice Denham** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1949) launched her liter-

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Romanell-ΦBK Professorship in Philosophy, 2007-2008

Marilyn Frye, professor and associate chair of the philosophy department at Michigan State University and one of the founders of feminist philosophy in the United States, is the Romanell-ΦBK Professor in Philosophy for 2007-2008.

The recipient of this professorship gives a series of three special lectures open to the academic community and the general public. Frye's lecture series will be titled "Kinds of People: Ontology and Politics."

Frye's first book, *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* (The Crossing Press, 1983), is considered a classic in the field. She has been a Rockefeller Fellow and a National Humanities Center Fellow and was named Distinguished Woman Philosopher of the Year by the Society for Women in Philosophy in 2001.

Awarded annually, the Romanell-ΦBK Professorship recognizes both distinguished achievement and the recipient's contribution to the public understanding of philosophy. ΦBK provides a \$7,500 stipend to supplement the professor's salary. ■

Walter J. Jensen Fellowship



Thomas Tilden Daniels

Thomas Tilden Daniels, currently completing his doctoral degree at the University of Pennsylvania, is the winner of the 2007 Walter J. Jensen Fellowship for French Language, Literature and Culture.

ΦBK's Jensen fellowship is awarded for six months of study in France. The purpose of the award is to help educators and researchers improve the study and teaching of standard French in the United States. The fellowship, awarded annually, has a stipend of \$10,000 and includes a

round-trip, economy-class ticket for the recipient to travel to France.

Daniels' studies in France will support research for his dissertation, "Acts of Resistance: Visual Arts and Textual Practices in the Works of Henri Michaux, Francis Ponge and Michel Butor."

"Daniels has for some years been engaged in highly original work on the intersection of visual art and poetic literature in late 20th century authors," observed Charles Porter, professor emeritus of French at Yale University and a judge for the Jensen award. "The intellectual acuity and critical imagination that he has already demonstrated in his graduate dissertation promise thought-provoking work during his fellowship year that will illuminate important writers and characterize a fundamental component of French artistico-literary post-modernity." ■

ΦBK Joins with the Carnegie Foundation and CASE to Honor U.S. Professors of the Year

Sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the U.S. Professor of the Year awards recognize professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students.

This awards program is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. ΦBK supports the program by funding a reception on Capitol Hill following the annual awards luncheon. The four winners in the categories listed below were selected from a pool of nearly 300 nominees.

The Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor is **K. E. Brashier** (University of Missouri, 1987), associate professor of religion and humanities, Reed College, Portland, Ore.

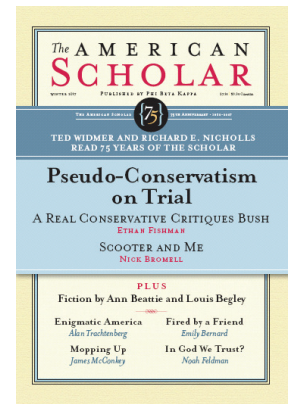
The Outstanding Community Colleges Professor is **Mark Lewine**, professor of anthropology, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland.

The Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor is **Alex Filippenko** (University of California, Santa Barbara, 1977), professor of astronomy, University of

California, Berkeley.

The Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor is **Donna C. Boyd**, professor of anthropology, Radford University, Radford, Va. ■

The American Scholar Turns 75



ΦBK has published *The American Scholar* since 1932, and rarely has the magazine seen better days than these. Still glowing from its 2006 National Magazine Award, the *Scholar* has launched a delicious new design with the 75th anniversary issue as well as a new Web site located at www.theamericanscholar.org. In the "Editor's Note" for this issue, Robert Wilson states that the *Scholar* site will eventually house a free online archive of all 75 years of the publication.

The 301st issue begins with an irreverent history of the quarterly by Contributing Editor Ted Widmer, who doggedly read the first 300. He discovers that the magazine has always been an odd combination of the serious and the idiosyncratic. In addition, Richard E. Nicholls has gathered a selection of excerpts from *Scholar* articles by some of the distinguished writers who have contributed through the years: Aldous Huxley (1945), Archibald MacLeish (1950), George Santayana (1963), Arthur Schlesinger Jr. (1974), Barbara Tuchman (1980), John Updike (1998), and Rita Dove (2004).

The 75th anniversary issue includes Ethan Fishman's essay, "Not Compassionate, Not Conservative: A Real Conservative Critiques Bush," and Nick Bromell's "Scooter and Me," as well as new short stories by Ann Beattie and Louis Begley.

To order, call 1-800-821-4567. Don't miss this landmark issue! ■

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars, 2007-2008

For 50 years, Phi Beta Kappa has been sending distinguished scholars in the liberal arts and sciences to colleges and universities where our chapters are located. These men and women serve as ambassadors for the Society and make a substantial contribution to the intellectual life of the campus. The following scholars have been selected to participate in the program for the coming academic year. If you are interested in having a ΦBK Visiting Scholar come to your campus, write to visitingsscholar@pbk.org or call (202) 745-3231.

Michael J. B. Allen, Distinguished Professor of English, UCLA

President, Renaissance Society of America; former director, UCLA's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Faculty Research Lecturer, UCLA, 1998; recipient, Eby Award for Undergraduate Teaching; major research contribution in the field of Italian Platonism.

Roger S. Bagnall, Professor of Classics and History, Columbia University

Sather Professor of Classical Literature, University of California, Berkeley, 2005; recipient, Distinguished Achievement Award, Mellon Foundation; author, *Reading Papyri, Writing Ancient History* (Routledge, 1995) and *Egypt in Late Antiquity* (Princeton University Press, 1993); co-author, *The Demography of Roman Egypt* (Cambridge University Press, 1994).

Lori F. Damrosch, Moses Professor of Law and International Organization, Columbia University

Author, *Enforcing International Law through Non-Forcible Measures* (Hague Academy of International Law, 1997); co-author, *International Law: Cases and Materials* (Schachter and Smit, 2001); co-editor, *Beyond Confrontation: International Law for the Post-Cold War Era* (Westview, 1995); former resident fellow, U.S. Institute of Peace; counselor, American Society of International Law.

Morris P. Fiorina, Wendt Family Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Senior fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford; member, National Academy of Sciences; recipient, Miller Prize, American Political Science Association, 2006; co-author, *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America* (Longman, 2nd ed. 2006), *The New American Democracy* (Longman, 4th ed., 2005); author, *Divided Government* (Macmillan, 1992).

Alejandro García-Rivera, Professor of Systematic Theology, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Author, *A Wounded Innocence: Sketches for a Theology of Art* (Liturgical Press, 2003), *The Community of the Beautiful: A Theological Aesthetics* (Liturgical Press, 1999), *St. Martin de Porres: The "Little Stories" and the Semiotics of Culture* (Orbis, 1995); Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley; charter member, Society of Theology and the Arts.

Sandra Harding, Professor of Education and Women's Studies, UCLA

Director, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA, 1996-2000; co-editor, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 2000-2005; author, *Science and Social Inequality: Feminist and Postcolonial Issues* (University of Illinois Press, 2006); *Is Science Multicultural? Postcolonialism, Feminism and Epistemologies* (Indiana University Press, 1998); *Whose Science? Whose Knowledge?: Thinking from Women's Lives* (Cornell University Press, 1991).

Daniel Huttenlocher, Neafsey Professor of Computing, Information Science and Business, Cornell University

Named Cornell Weiss Presidential Fellow in recognition of teaching excellence; recipient, Excellence in Science and Technology Award, Xerox PARC; research interests: computer vision, online social networks, electronic collaboration tools, computational geometry, and financial trading systems.

Lawrence M. Krauss, Swasey Professor of Physics and Professor of Astronomy, Case Western Reserve University

Director, Center for Education and Research in Cosmology and Astrophysics, Case; author, *Hiding in the Mirror: The Mysterious Allure of Extra Dimensions from Plato to String*

Theory and Beyond (Viking Penguin, 2005), *Atom: An Odyssey from the Big Bang to Life on Earth . . . and Beyond* (Little Brown, 2001), and *The Physics of Star Trek* (Basic Books, 1995); recipient, awards from the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the American Institute of Physics.

Eric Mazur, McKay Professor of Applied Physics and Professor of Physics, Harvard University

Fellow and Centennial Lecturer, American Physical Society; recipient, National Science Foundation Director's Distinguished Teaching Scholar Award; research interests: optical physics, science education and policy, public perception of science; author, 188 scientific publications and *Peer Instruction: A User's Manual* (Prentice Hall, 1997), a manual on reaching large lecture classes interactively.

Saskia Sassen, Lewis Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago

Centennial Visiting Professor, London School of Economics; author, *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton University Press, 2006), *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (Princeton, 1991), *The Mobility of Labor and Capital: A Study in International Investment and Labor Flow* (Cambridge, 1988); former project director for UNESCO on sustainable human settlement; member, Council on Foreign Relations, National Academy of Sciences' panel on cities.

James J. Sheehan, Dickason Professor in the Humanities, Stanford University

Senior fellow, Institute for International Studies, Stanford; president, American Historical Association, 2005; recipient, awards for excellence in teaching; Berlin Prize Fellow, American Academy in Berlin; author, *The Eclipse of Violence: The Transformation of Twentieth-Century Europe* (forthcoming), *German*

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Massey's Mentorship Creates Network of Mathematicians

by Teresa Riordan

In decades of mentoring minority and women mathematicians, engineering professor William Massey has done more than foster a new, more diverse generation of mathematical scholars. He has created a community of colleagues who support and inspire each other's research, including Massey's own.

"His mentorship is more than just one-on-one," said Otis B. Jennings, a member of Princeton's class of 1994 who is now an assistant professor at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

"It's sort of a meta-mentorship," said Jennings, who was advised on his senior thesis by Massey. "He creates the environment where people can make connections for mutual benefit. As a mentor, you may help someone get a Ph.D., but in the end you have a new colleague. And Bill is building a family of colleagues."

On Nov. 3, Massey, the Edwin S. Wilsey Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering and a 1977 Princeton ΦBK, received the Blackwell-Tapia Prize at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications in Minneapolis.

The prize is in recognition of his outstanding record of achievement in mathematical research and his mentoring of minorities and women in the field of mathematics. In a tribute to Massey's distinguished career as a pioneer in the field of applied mathematics called queueing theory, the institute has organized a two-day conference on topics related to Massey's research.

In addition to Jennings, minority and women Princeton alumni Massey has mentored include Andrea Bertozzi,

a 1987 undergraduate and 1991 graduate alumna who is currently a full professor in mathematics and director of applied mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles; Arlie Petters, who attended Princeton as a graduate student from 1988 to 1991 and is now a full professor of mathematics and physics at Duke University;



William Massey (foreground) gathered with some of the people he has mentored over the years, including (from left) Robert Hampshire, a current graduate student in operations research and financial engineering who will join the faculty at Carnegie Mellon this spring; Arlie Petters, a graduate student from 1988 to 1991 who is now a professor of mathematics and physics at Duke University; and Otis Jennings, a 1994 undergraduate alumnus who is now an assistant professor in the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

and Robert Hampshire, a current Princeton engineering graduate student who will begin a teaching position at Carnegie Mellon in the spring.

Massey, the first African-American Princeton undergraduate to have become a full professor at the university, also founded and continues to provide leadership for the annual Conference for African-American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences, now in its 12th year.

Playing with Numbers

Massey grew up in St. Louis, the son of a high school counselor and a home economics teacher. He loved numbers as a small child, and his mother playfully encouraged his talent by cutting up calendars for him and

creating games. His mathematical abilities became fully manifest in a predominantly black public school for gifted students and later in high school.

When it was time for college, his parents brought him east to visit Harvard, MIT and Princeton. "It certainly helped having parents who were educators," said Massey. "They were encouraging of me wanting to do mathematics. At the time, I didn't know that other black people even worked in math."

Massey remembers his own mentors as an undergraduate at Princeton with great fondness: mathematicians W. Stephen Wilson, Ralph Fox and Bernard Dwork; and physicists Cyrus Hoffman and Aaron Lemonick.

"I was lucky in who taught me," said Massey, who remembers that Wilson advised him to do something non-intuitive when he arrived at Princeton.

"I saw myself as a math major and

had placed out of freshman math," Massey recalls. "Wilson told me to go ahead and take a freshman honors-level calculus class but sophomore-level physics. This turned out to be the best advice I could have gotten because I had been for the most part self-taught in math. [By taking the calculus class] I learned that my understanding of math was really cookbook mathematics; I was familiar with various formulae and how to manipulate them but not with the more sophisticated understanding of how to prove theorems."

Massey said that an early course with Lemonick imbued him with a love for physics. "I was thinking I didn't want to be that involved in physics, but he actually got me excited about it. So,

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PHI BETA KAPPA

at the Library of Congress

by Barbara Bair

“How could you do it?” wrote a playful Christian Gauss in a July 7, 1946, cover letter to editor Hiram Haydn at *The American Scholar* offices in New York: “How could you . . . Send me those summonses upon summonses and insist that . . . I provide you with the essence of all philosophy, jurisprudence, science and theology, plus the heart of black magic, the secret of homunculus, the Cabala and the Upanishads, with the final solution of the staggeringest riddle that ever flabbergasted man in all the tide of times.

“Do you think I’m Plato, Solomon, Prometheus, Oedipus, Sordello and all the Quizz Kids?” he asked. “And you knew my age,” he admonished. Gauss was 68 at the time. He put the retirement card on the table, reminding Haydn that he was in “this Eden of Vermont where men live in the blessed state of nature, without indices, fiches, learned journals or even a Clifton Fadiman set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. How could you do it?” he repeated.

Nevertheless, Gauss delivered a 2,500-word manuscript (he could have used 50 more words, he editorialized in a pencil postscript, as he sent it in). The final paragraph of his letter to Haydn was made up of kind words to relay to Irita Van Doren, illustrious member of the journal’s editorial board. After quoting a line from Alfred Lord Tennyson’s “Tears, Idle Tears” (from *The Princess*, part IV, 1847), “The casement slowly grows a glimmering square” (the full stanza of which reads “Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns / The earliest pipe of half-awakened birds / To dying ears, when unto dying eyes / The casement slowly grows a glimmering square; / So sad, so strange, the days that are no more”), he entreats Haydn to “tell her, I implore, that to me, she only, remained sweet Argos and that in fond remembrance my soul *S’exhale dans un son triste et melodieux*.”

The article Gauss delivered was

“Is Einstein Right?” “Gosh, what a letter! Gosh, what an article!” Haydn gushed in his July 30, 1946, reply. “I don’t mind being all the brutal things that you call me if I can elicit such responses by being brutal.” On Aug. 10, Gauss responded to a request from *The American Scholar* for biographical information about himself. Reporting ruefully that his Princeton undergraduates sang in his Faculty Song: “Here’s to Gauss called Christian / A most encyclopedic man,” he observed that “encyclopedic is excessive, but I have been interested in many phases of thought and action. Have always believed humanists should be.” He went on to describe that when Albert Einstein delivered his first series of lectures on relativity in the United States at Princeton in 1919, it fell to Gauss to see to it that the lectures, delivered in German, were properly “translated and reported to the press.” It was popular to say at the time that there were “only four people in the world who understood Einstein,” Gauss recalled, and he confessed that “[i]n spite of the most Herculean efforts,” he was not one of them. But his interest in Einstein was born. Einstein, Gauss observed, was “at once the greatest and most modest scientist and the most public spirited citizen that I have known.” Gauss then proceeded in his letter to argue for humanism in science, citing the article he wrote for *Scribner’s Magazine* in 1930 (“The Threat of Science”), which was a plea for the unity of scientific discovery and “social and moral welfare,” particularly when it came to the development of instruments of mass destruction. Writing his letter little over a year after the bombing of Hiroshima, he debunked the idea that there was such a thing as “pure” science or, if there was, that the meaning of purity would need qualification, as science itself was amoral; evils, such as they were, would lie in the application. Gauss confided that he was “just mean enough” to say now to the critics who had assailed him

earlier for his *Scribner’s* piece, “I told you so.”

These spirited letters and other papers of Christian Gauss, who served as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, are among the almost 200,000 items in the Records of Phi Beta Kappa and some 70,500 items in the Records of *The American Scholar* available for public use in the collections of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

The Records of Phi Beta Kappa and of *The American Scholar* are clearly of great value as a resource for intellectual historians and biographers. In the hundreds of boxes at the Library of Congress, they can find insight into the personalities and opinions of key movers and shakers in American cultural, historical and scientific life. Represented in the records are members of the Senate (John Hope Franklin and Dorothy Kenyon, to name two), members of committees who deliberated over awards (and those whose books they considered), presidents and leaders of the organization, the myriad intellectuals and professors who served as visiting scholars on campuses across the country, and those who went out on qualifications committee missions, traveling to and observing campuses eager to establish new chapters of the Society.

The records are made up of minutes, reports, speeches, thorny internal debates, drafts of orations and articles, whimsical correspondence, and frank evaluations and surveys of colleges and universities. These last may be of particular interest to current deans and faculty members of campuses, or to those writing histories of the academy or particular institutions. Records stem back to the Society’s founding in Williamsburg in 1776, with a copybook of meeting minutes from 1776 to 1781. There are rosters from 1913 to 1982, registration books and handbooks. Records of *The American Scholar* begin with the creation of the magazine and its formative years. They

include the periods of time when Van Wyck Brooks, Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Robeson, Alain Locke and others were among the editorial board members, and include author correspondence, reader reports, and a log of articles submitted.

There are rich things here as well for those in the fields of social history, the history of education, and for gender theorists and students of equality. Lest one fear administrative papers might be staid, these, the bulk of which stem from the 20th century, include many documents that shed a light on large questions of our times: the nuclear bomb, civil liberties, African-American rights, women's rights, responses to World War II, McCarthyism, the Vietnam War, and the women's liberation movement among them. Initiatives calling for Society action stem from grassroots chapters and individual members, necessitating official and personal responses — or non-responses — and sometimes stirring frank discord. A file from 1978-1979, for example, documents the Society's response to a petition sent to all chapters and the national office by the California State University at Long Beach chapter, calling on the Society to boycott states that failed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment by refraining from holding meetings in those locales. Files from the Committee on Policy records include documentation of the City College of New York chapter's urging that, in response to the new Brown v. Board of Education ruling, the Society deny charters to applying institutions barring students on racial grounds. Racial discrimination was the topic of letters to the editor of *The Key Reporter* in files stemming from 1945-1947, including heated dispute of stereotypes regarding, as one Society member from Rye, N.Y., put it, "Negro-White difference" and the question of environmental factors and measurement of mental ability. The Rye resident, a graduate of Columbia and an officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force, spoke out strongly for desegregation, based on his experiences in the military. "I think Phi Beta Kappa should take a stand on this issue. Democracy, and equal education acceptance, is either applicable to all students, Negro and white, or it is not applicable at all."

Files on debates on censure for reasons of morality in athletics are followed by folders containing statements

on First Amendment rights and academic freedom.

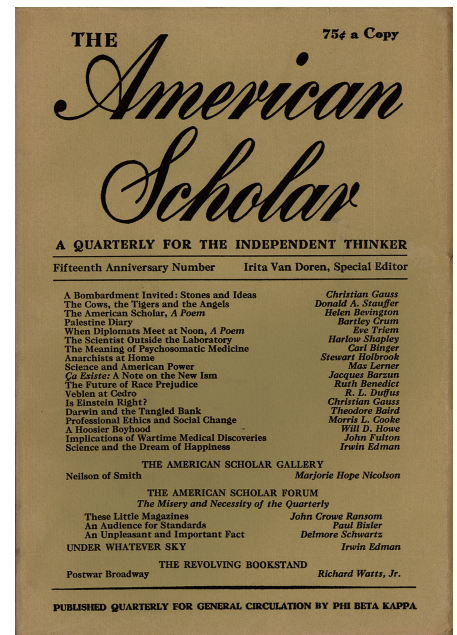
These include behind-the-scenes information on the drafting of the Society's 1949 statement on freedom of teaching, which was a response to intimidation of individual teachers and the demands made by some campuses for loyalty oaths. Another file reveals the process by which a member suggested that honorary membership in the Society be extended to a president of the United States, and how attorneys, members of Congress, and White House staff featured in the mix. The subject of false claims to the merits of Phi Beta Kappa status by celebrities strikes a light note in the collections, with folders questioning whether comedian Joan Rivers was, or was not, a member of the Society at Barnard, as had been reported in a newspaper doing a story on her career. Lack of possession of a ΦBK key could also prove the downfall of beauty queens, as one Miss Virginia learned in 1995, when she was stripped of her crown for exaggerating her credentials.

The collections also yield much on the issues of women's intellectual attainments, their status in the academy, and the struggle for equality in admissions to colleges and professional schools. Ten oversized scrapbooks in the Records of Phi Beta Kappa, for example, record the visits of scholars to many different campuses. There is substantive cultural history to be gleaned from their pages. Opening a scrapbook from the 1940s would spark interest from scholars of women's history. On one page appears an amusing article clipped from the *Ladies Home Journal* of April 1941 (pages 18-19, 61-65). It is a fiction story entitled "Nobody Loves a Phi Bete [sic]" by Margaret Craven. "Judy had a professor for a parent and brains for her head.

Continued on 15



Christian Gauss was president of Phi Beta Kappa from 1946-1949, after serving for more than 20 years as a college dean at Princeton University. Photo courtesy of Princeton University Archives.



The 15th anniversary issue of *The American Scholar* from 1947 features two essays by Christian Gauss. The *Scholar* published its 75th anniversary issue earlier this year.

rather than thinking of it as fulfilling a requirement, I took physics throughout my four years.”

Graduating *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in mathematics, Massey continued on to graduate school in mathematics at Stanford University, earning his doctorate in 1981. While at Stanford, he became friends with Erhan Çinlar, who was then at Northwestern University and is now Princeton’s Norman J. Sollenberger Professor in Engineering. Çinlar, who delivered the plenary address at the conference in honor of Massey, tried to hire Massey right out of graduate school, but Massey demurred. Instead he went to Bell Labs, then in its heyday as one of the nation’s premier research institutions, and stayed for 20 years.

Creating a Legacy

Massey credits his time at Bell Labs with not only fostering innovative research but also creating an environment that allowed minorities to flourish. He first worked there the summer after he graduated from Princeton and felt inspired by the sizable cadre of black scientists.

“Bell Labs of the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s was to black scientists what Harlem of the 1920s was to black writers, artists and musicians,” said Massey. “It was a true renaissance.”

Massey was in the mathematical sciences research center but rubbed elbows with researchers in electrical engineering and physics and many other fields. On a given day, he might have bumped into Jim West, co-inventor of the modern day microphone, and then the next minute have run into the physicist Shirley Jackson, now president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

“There was no shortage of black individuals who were high-achieving in their respective fields,” said Massey. “But they were also dedicated collectively to creating a legacy for the next generation.”

Massey said that his mentoring philosophy grows out of the Bell Labs approach — and out of the notion that small steps cumulatively will lead to momentous change.

Bell Labs hired its first African-American scientist, W. Lincoln Hawkins, in 1942, but it would be 20 more years before it hired another African-American researcher. By the time Massey first worked there, Bell

Labs had a critical mass of black scientists.

“We see what happened at Bell Labs with Lincoln Hawkins,” Massey said. “Imagine what could have happened at Princeton or any other research institution for that matter” if someone of Hawkins’ stature had been hired back in the 1940s.

Massey, his protégés say, may well become to Princeton what Hawkins was to Bell Labs: a fulcrum that tips the institution into becoming a mecca for African-American scientists.

“The more soldiers you have, the more soldiers you can train,” Jennings observed.

Massey and his protégés Bertozzi, Jennings, Petters and Hampshire all received graduate school funding from Bell Labs fellowships. Massey served as a mentor in the Bell Labs fellowship programs for minorities and women, the same programs in which he participated as an undergraduate. He conducted joint research with students funded by these programs over the summer, publishing seven papers with students as co-authors. In addition, he included his students as speakers at telecommunications conferences.

Queuing Up

Çinlar, who came to Princeton in 1985 and served as the founding chair of the Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering, continued his efforts to tempt Massey back into academia for two decades. Finally, in 2001, Massey relented and came to Princeton as a full professor.

“One thing I learned from my experience with Bill Massey is that you have to keep after valuable people,” said Çinlar. “You have to pursue them over quite a long period of time and get used to being spurned.”

At Bell Labs, Massey had begun to make his mark in queuing theory by analyzing it from a dynamic rather than a static point of view. At Princeton, he has continued that research and has taught courses in queuing theory and Monte Carlo simulations.

Queuing theory is a key mathematical tool used to solve many problems of providing communications services, from the old-fashioned telephone service to Internet phenomena like Napster and YouTube. The success of a business model for a wireless telephone provider, for example, might hinge on how efficient that provider is at applying queuing theory.

“Even simple queuing theory involves a lot of complex mathematics

and statistics, and understanding the type of queuing systems that arise in modern communication systems requires new mathematics and new analysis,” said Douglas Arnold, director of the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications and an organizer of this year’s Blackwell-Tapia Conference at which Massey received his award. “This is where Bill Massey has made outstanding contributions.”

A much cited paper of Massey’s showed how to create a mathematical description of wireless networks in which calls are being placed and received from moving vehicles. In 2005, *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* named Massey the second most frequently cited black mathematician in the world. Massey also has a patent on an optimal server staffing algorithm for call centers that is based on his research in queuing.

A few days after receiving the Blackwell-Tapia Prize, Massey (along with Robert Vanderbei) was inducted as a fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, an honor accorded to fewer than one percent of the institute’s membership and made in recognition of significant research contributions.

Coming Full Circle

In addition to carrying on his research from Bell Labs, Massey has built upon the mentoring efforts he began there. He has served as a board member for the National Association of Mathematicians, a mathematics organization for underrepresented minorities, and has hosted its annual presentations by doctoral recipients that provide students with an opportunity to showcase their research at a major international conference.

“Bill always coupled his mentoring with a lot of mathematical discourse,” said Arlie Petters, who moved on to MIT after three years of graduate work at Princeton and earned his doctoral degree there. “It created an ideal setting for addressing a variety of ideas and techniques. I enjoyed those grad school days largely due to his mentoring style.”

Massey also has been an active participant in the Blackwell-Tapia Conference, held every other year in honor of David Blackwell and Richard Tapia, two mathematical scientists who inspired many African-American, Hispanic and Native American mathematicians. In receiving the third bienni-

Continued on 11

al Blackwell-Tapia Prize at this year's conference, he follows in the footsteps of Petters, who was the first recipient of the prize in 2002.

During the 1980s and '90s, Massey was also a driving force in the Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA). "The reason ABPA is one of the best organized and largest affinity groups among Princeton alumni is due in part to his legacy," Jennings said. Massey served as moderator of a panel discussion about careers in academia at Princeton's recent "Coming Back and Looking Forward" conference for black alumni.

One former Princeton student who attended the Princeton conference described Massey's mentoring as a kind of "tyrannical affection." "If Bill takes a liking to you, you are in for a rigorous friendship," he said.

Jennings acknowledged that Massey can be tough on his mentees. "Bill holds himself to a very high standard, and if you are going to do business with him, you had better hold to that standard as well. Bill likes to brag that I had never worked hard until I met him. He is a refreshing combination of brilliance, perseverance and concern for others."

But, Jennings emphasized, Massey is in the business of creating peers, not acolytes.

"As I mature as a researcher, my appreciation of Bill continues to grow," said Jennings. "I have always been able to confide my research dreams and aspirations to him. But our relationship has experienced an evolution. Now I have an independent perspective that I hope he benefits from as much as I benefit from his insight. We have come full circle." ■

Theresa Riordan is a senior writer for the Princeton University School of Engineering. This article originally appeared in the Princeton Weekly Bulletin on Oct. 23, 2006, and is reprinted here with permission from Princeton University.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Continued from 6

Liberalism in the Nineteenth Century (ACLS History E-Book Project, 2001), *Museums in the German Art World: From the End of the Old Regime to the Rise of Modernism* (Oxford University Press, 2000).

Pamela S. Soltis, Curator, Laboratory of Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida

Past president, Society of Systematic Biologists; president-elect and former secretary, Botanical Society of America; member of council, Society for the Study of Evolution, American Genetics Association, American Society of Plant Taxonomists; associate editor of the journals *Evolution* and *Systematic Biology*.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, 300th Anniversary University Professor, Harvard University

Author, *The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of an American Myth* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2001), *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1990) which won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1991 and became the basis of a PBS documentary, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in*

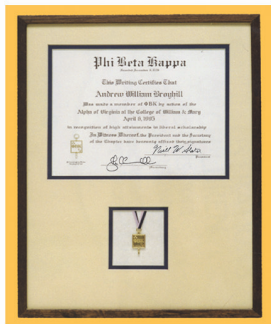
Northern New England, 1650-1750 (Alfred A. Knopf, 1982), essays and articles on early American social history, women's history; recipient, MacArthur fellowship; member, American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. ■

POPULAR CULTURE

Continued from 4

ary career by writing the lead piece of fiction and posing for the centerfold in that month's issue of *Playboy*. Her recent memoir, *Sleeping with Bad Boys* (Cardoza Publishing, 2006), was reviewed favorably in *The New York Times* as a "feminist critique" of her early life and ambitions. The book describes her encounters with the likes of Hugh Hefner, James Dean, Norman Mailer, and other luminaries of the New York literary scene in the 1950s. (D'Erasmus, Stacey. "Where the Boys Were" *The New York Times*, *Sunday Book Review* 19 Nov. 2006: 16.) ■

New Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items



Phi Beta Kappa's distinctive key design, the symbol of membership in the Society, is featured on two new additions to the collection of member items. The new Jefferson Cup and traditional Julep Cup are made in solid polished pewter and engraved with the Phi Beta Kappa insignia. The Jefferson Cup is 2 1/2 inches high and the Julep Cup measures four inches.

Also available is the handsome brass key ring with the Society's emblem on the front and the member's name, year of election, and chapter on the reverse. The popular membership display includes a personalized certificate and a large gold-electroplated key, double-matted in an attractive 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 can also place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You can also order on line at www.hand-hammer.com. A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.

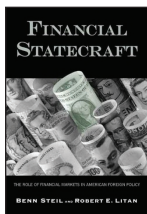
- Phi Beta Kappa Jefferson Cup (pewter 2 1/2" high). \$25
- Phi Beta Kappa Julep Cup (pewter 4" high).....\$45
- Phi Beta Kappa Key Ring (brass, personalized).....\$12
- Wall Display (key and certificate framed 12" x 16")...\$89

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From Our Book Critics

By Anna J. Schwartz



Financial Statecraft: The Role of Financial Markets in American Foreign Policy. Benn Steil and Robert E. Litan. Yale University Press, 2006. A Council on Foreign Relations-Brookings Institution Book. \$38.00

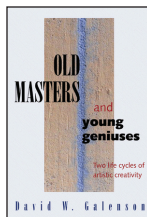
Multum in parvo (much in little) is an apt description of this book. It affords readers a conspectus on worldwide financial flows during the past quarter century that involved the American government in “harnessing financial institutions to achieve certain foreign policy objectives.” The authors distinguish financial from economic statecraft.

Economic statecraft, concerned with aspects of international trade, is traditional. Trade in goods and services, however, has been outstripped by trade in securities. Financial statecraft accordingly, concerned with capital flow guarantees and restrictions, is a new phenomenon. Policymakers in general favor the growth of financial flows, but at times, for political purposes, they seek to constrain certain cross-border capital movements.

The book is in two parts. The first deals with efforts to fight terrorism, drug trafficking, weapons proliferation, and human rights abuses by stopping cross-border financial flows through bank and stock exchange regulation.

The second part of the book focuses on financial statecraft in dealing with financial crises, mainly in countries that borrow sums denominated in a major foreign currency. If investors come to fear that the country will be unable to meet its foreign currency obligations, foreign capital will take flight, local currency will collapse, and financial crisis ensues. The solution the authors offer “is to ditch the national currency entirely and to adopt the dollar or another major currency in its place.”

The positions on the issues are forcefully argued. This review has covered only a few of them. Readers will find observations on the flaws in the theory of Optimal Currency Areas and the problems of the International Monetary Fund, among many others, all highly relevant.



Old Masters and Young Geniuses: The Two Life Cycles of Artistic Creativity. David W. Galenson. Princeton University Press, 2006. \$29.95

The aim of this book is to determine how and why the quality of artists’ work varies with age. The analysis is based on the theory that artists can be distinguished by whether their approach is experimental or conceptual. Both types have been prominent in every era among the greatest artists, whether they were modern art painters, painters of the past, or practitioners of other kinds of expressive art.

At early ages in their careers, conceptualist artists have made major innovations — in subject matter, composition, materials and technique — that influenced other artists. Even if conceptualists continue to innovate over the course of their careers, the most important innovations will be the earliest. Because experimentalists require trial and error over long periods before making influential innovations, these tend to occur at later ages in their careers.

Galenson uses the number of text-book illustrations of paintings, or experts’ lists of the best work in artistic fields other than painting, to quantify artistic success. He tabulates the results for important artists of each genre and identifies each of them as either an experimentalist or conceptualist, based on the artist’s own words about his approach and the remarks of other artists.

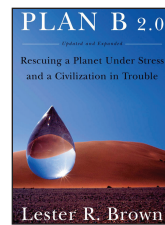
Galenson notes that he did not originate the distinction between experimentalists and conceptualists, but art historians who have recognized it rarely go on to associate the distinction with the difference in the creative life cycles of the two groups of innovators.

He believes art historians romanticize artistic enterprise instead of perceiving the parallels among scholarly, artistic and scientific innovations, which are often based on identification of a previously unrecognized problem or recasting a known problem in a novel way.

Editor’s Note: The two reviews by Anna J. Schwartz in this issue will be her last for us. The Society is grateful for Dr. Schwartz’s contributions to The

Key Reporter and for her many years of service to Phi Beta Kappa.

By Rick Eden



Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble. Second Edition. Lester R. Brown. W.W. Norton, 2006. \$29.50

Plan B 2.0 is a powerful and important book that is by turns terrifying and inspiring.

Lester R. Brown believes that we are headed for environmental disasters that will lead to the collapse of civilization if we do not shift to an ecologically sustainable model for the global economy. He argues we need to abandon Plan A: the wasteful economic model that depends on nonrenewable energy sources, inefficient sources of protein (e.g., beef), and disposable products — all subsidized to hide their high indirect costs.

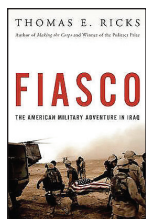
Plan B is based on sustainable environmental practices. Its major elements are reliance on nondepletable energy sources, such as wind and sunlight, products that are more energy efficient and recyclable, farming practices that preserve soil and water, more productive crop strains, polyculture fish farms as major sources of food protein, and land and marine preserves.

To support his case, Brown documents a perfect storm of inconvenient truths.

The world has reached the peak of its dependence on fossil fuels. It is running out of fresh and potable water as demand has tripled in 50 years and rivers, lakes and aquifers are depleted. Worldwide, forests are shrinking while deserts are expanding. Rangelands are deteriorating through overgrazing. Fisheries are collapsing through overfishing. There is a mass extinction underway both of plants and animals.

Brown outlines how to transition from Plan A to B. The outlays required are surprisingly affordable — for example, just \$10 billion per year to stabilize water tables worldwide. Moving quickly to Plan B depends on governments effectively steering market forces. Among the approaches that Brown advocates are shifting taxes, shifting subsidies and eco-labeling (e.g., “green” power).

The book indicates that readers can download *Plan B 2.0* free from the Web site of the Earth Policy Institute.



Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq. Thomas E. Ricks. Penguin, 2006. \$27.95

Why does the United States face the prospect of losing the war in Iraq when we thought we had won years ago after just a few weeks of combat? This excellent book is a detailed answer to this question by a distinguished defense journalist. Thomas E. Ricks answers primarily from a military perspective, but he also provides insight into the contributions of President Bush and his advisors, the Congress, and fellow journalists. He offers compelling accounts of what has gone wrong militarily, why it has gone wrong, and who is responsible.

Ricks divides the book into three historical sections. Part one, "Containment," deals with the period from 1991 to early 2003. It helps to explain the flawed assumptions, miscalculations, deceptions and naive arrogance that led the U.S. to abandon a very cost-effective strategy for containing Saddam Hussein and to replace it with preemptive war that threatens to become one of America's longest, most expensive and least successful.

Part two, "Into Iraq," deals with the period from the invasion in March

2003 to the winter of the same year. It shows how the U.S. fueled the counterinsurgency in Iraq through a series of political and military missteps that provided the insurgents with the financing, arms, recruits and popular support they needed.

Part three, "The Long Term," covers the period from the winter of 2003 through mid-2006. It describes the fatal slowness with which U.S. political and military leaders came to acknowledge the war in Iraq as a counterinsurgency, a type of war that typically lasts about 10 years, and to adapt its goals, strategy, operations and tactics accordingly.

Is the U.S. prepared to remain at war in Iraq for many more years? *Fiasco* ends by considering the implications of alternative courses of action now open to us, none of them attractive.



Beautiful Evidence. Edward Tufte. Graphics Press, 2006. \$52.00

As fans of Edward Tufte know, *Beautiful Evidence* is the fourth in a series on graphic design from Graphics Press that began in 1983 with *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Acknowledged as a masterwork, that first book, nevertheless, left some basic questions unexplored. The second in the series, *Envisioning Information*

(1990), took up the challenge of how to depict change over time. The third, *Visual Explanations* (1997), explored the use of color and other artistic elements. *Beautiful Evidence* addresses the integration of graphics and text.

The central lesson here is straightforward and familiar: "integrate words, images and diagrams." What sets Tufte's message apart from the standard pedagogy is his fervor, insight and inventiveness. To "integrate" he adds "completely," and he demonstrates what he means. He wants words integrated into graphics as they are on maps: "all serious analytical graphics should be so good" as the best maps. Conversely, he wants graphics integrated seamlessly into sentences. He shows how high-resolution graphical displays permit syntactic use of word-sized time series that he calls sparklines. For historical examples, Tufte points to Galileo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Albrecht Durer and, more recently, Richard Feynmann as brilliant technical communicators (among their other, more obvious talents) who integrated word, number, diagram and image in their notebooks and published texts.

Despite textbook chapter titles such as "The Fundamental Principles of Analytical Design," *Beautiful Evidence* is best enjoyed as an art book. It reproduces a wide-ranging collection of wonderful graphics that we would not ordinarily have occasion to encounter. Like a docent, Tufte pro-

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vides companionship and guidance to help us study and enjoy them. It is a pleasure to be in the presence of someone so deeply fascinated by a topic that is at once omnipresent and arcane. *Beautiful Evidence* teaches us to see the technical graphics that surround us with heightened pleasure “as fine art.”

By Jay Pasachoff



Is Pluto a Planet? A Historical Journey through the Solar System. David A. Weintraub. Princeton University Press, 2006. \$27.95

People the world over were astonished when the International Astronomical Union, meeting in Prague in August 2006, changed the status of Pluto, known to most since 1930 as the ninth planet. The change was not a surprise to those in the know, since Pluto had long seemed very odd — a tiny, solid body (only 1/500 Earth’s mass) out beyond huge gas giants and an object in an orbit more tilted and out of round than any other. The change was precipitated by the discovery of at least one (and soon to

be dozens) of similar objects that are larger in size. Should school children have to make mnemonics to help them memorize, say, 53 planets? Or should we cut back to the initial letters of “My very educated mother just sent us nothing?”

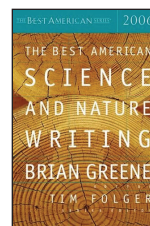
David Weintraub, a professor of astronomy at Vanderbilt University, seizes the opportunity of having the world’s attention to teach about the solar system. He describes how our understanding of what we now call the solar system has changed over the millennia. The astronomers meeting in Prague changed Pluto and objects like it (round, or almost so, and “clearing its neighborhood,” whatever that means) to “dwarf planets.” The fight was essentially over whether the answer to the question “Is Pluto a planet?” should be “Yes, a dwarf planet,” or “No, but it is a dwarf planet.”

Weintraub introduces us to the discoveries of planets starting with William Herschel’s of Uranus in 1781. He shows us how some asteroids first were planets and then were demoted. In a chapter called “Goldilocks,” he defines criteria for planethood and uses moons of the gas giant planets and Pluto/Charon as examples. So Weintraub takes us up to the promised land but doesn’t take us in. His book was in press at the time of the epochal Prague meeting, and the publisher chose to go ahead with the book as it already was without providing an update. So it hit the shelves of bookstores (physical and virtual) already slightly out of date.

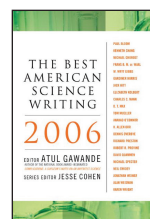
So, though Weintraub gives an excellent and thorough background to how we might define “planet” and whether Pluto is one, the book about Pluto’s current status and the “dwarf planet” category and controversy remains to be written. So far, I’ve done a pamphlet on the topic, and a variety of astronomical magazines have treated it, with at least one refusing to accept the new category. Whether the new status of Pluto will survive remains to be seen.

In the meantime, a body larger than Pluto has been named Eris after the classical Greek goddess of discord. Its moon has been named Dysnomia, after the goddess of lawlessness, something of an inside joke given that Lucy Lawless played Xena, Warrior Princess on television, and Xena was the nickname given to Eris by its discoverer, Mike Brown of the California Institute of Technology, before its official naming by the International Astronomical

Union. It’s funny that Adrienne Outlaw was Weintraub’s artist for illustrations in this book.



The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2006. Edited by Brian Greene. Houghton Mifflin, 2006; paper \$14.00



The Best American Science Writing 2006. Edited by Atul Gawande. Harper Perennial, 2006; paper \$14.95

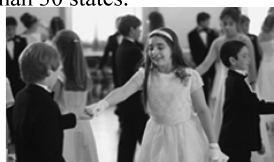
Several magazines bring scientific topics to the general public. *Scientific American* and *Discover* are all science, while *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Wired* and *The Atlantic Monthly* are examples of magazines with occasional articles on scientific topics, as is the newspaper *The New York Times*. In the yearly Houghton Mifflin series, the series editor provides a couple of hundred possibilities to the guest editor, this year to Brian Greene, who is well known for his rapturous and lively book, *The Elegant Universe* (Vintage, 2000), about string theory and cosmology. Greene chose 25 articles for this collection, and he chose well. The book is a delight to read, either in short bits or in lengthy sittings.

Topics range from autopsies on mummies to conservation to the scientists who conceived of NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory. I learned, in an article from a recipient of a cochlear implant, that “[w]hile my friends’ ears will inevitably decline with age, mine will only get better.” In an exposé of flaws in “intelligent design,” I learned that, given that “the retina is inside out” with the nerve fibers on the far side from the brain, “no intelligent designer would put such a clumsy arrangement in a camcorder.” I learned that the declining number of autopsies, among many other things, means that “other things [than Alzheimer’s], like this multi-infarct dementia, can produce the same symptoms,” meaning that some people who are left untreated could, in fact, be helped.

In anticipating this year’s start of the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN atom-smasher in Switzerland,

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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This was bad,” begins the lead-in for the story, closely juxtaposed to an illustration of the attractive but pensive Judy, a black bow in her hair and an enormous Phi Beta Kappa key lurking just behind her, as if in her mind’s eye. Apparently Judy’s Phi Beta Kappa status would be a barrier to romance, unless she could find an exceptional mate. A facing page features a news clipping with photographs of three female students from one locale, all recently named to Phi Beta Kappa at Barnard, and another clipping with news of the dismissal of a female professor from her job at another leading women’s college, after she testified in opposition to a wire-tapping bill before a Congressional subcommittee.

Whatever your scholarly interest, I invite you to think imaginatively regarding what the Records of Phi Beta Kappa and the Records of *The American Scholar* might yield for you. You can explore the finding aid for the Phi Beta Kappa collection online at www.loc.gov/rr/mss/text/phiбетak.html. The Library of Congress also has over 200 published titles related to Phi Beta Kappa, as well as sound recordings. The Manuscript Division is also home to closely related collections of documents. We hold the records of other professional organizations in the humanities and the sciences, and of other organizations in which Phi Beta

Kappa members have taken part. We are also the repository for the personal papers of individuals who played important roles in the Society’s history. Among these are papers of Irita Van Doren — Christian Gauss’ Argos, the inspirer of Tennyson quotations — who was the renowned literary editor of the *New York Herald-Tribune* in addition to her stint on the board at *The American Scholar*.

The Phi Beta Kappa and *American Scholar* collections are also reminders to Phi Beta Kappa members everywhere to evaluate whether they, too, should be archiving their personal papers. Professors should consider leaving a legacy to their university libraries; members of all walks of life should discuss with family members plans for organizing historical materials they may have in their possession. Make arrangements to donate these items to local historical societies, church or synagogue archives, or special collections at libraries in your states, cities or towns. If you are an active member in a Phi Beta Kappa chapter or an alumni group, see to it that records of its activities are archived. If you are a veteran, or have a veteran in your family or circle of friends, consider recording an oral history and submitting it to the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project. Your history matters. And don’t forget, whether you live far from Washington, D.C., or in its vicinity, to utilize the great store of scholarly resources in the

sciences and the humanities at the Library of Congress. Many microfilm and print materials are available to you from afar through interlibrary loan. And millions of documents, maps, broadsides and historic photographs have been digitized and are accessible to you online via the Library of Congress Web site at www.loc.gov. You can find virtual exhibitions on the Web site as well. And don’t be a stranger to visiting us in person, either to tour our grand Jefferson Building, whose ornate muraled walls pay tribute to the ideals of learning and knowledge Phi Beta Kappa represents, or to read and ponder the wealth of information and beauty in our collections. ■

Barbara Bair, Ph.D., is a historian and manuscript curator in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

PASTER *Continued from 3*

2001). Her newest book is *Humoring the Body: Emotions and the Shakespearean* (University of Chicago Press, 2004).

Paster has been a trustee of the Shakespeare Association of America and served as president of that organization in 2003. She served two terms as a public member of the Folger Shakespeare Library committee. She is married to Howard Paster, executive vice president of WPP Group, plc, and has two children, Emily and Timothy. ■

BOOK REVIEWS *Continued*

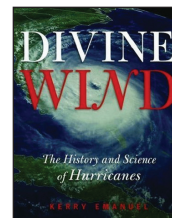
we read what it’s like to test how mass becomes attached to elementary particles, providing the substance of our world and our universe. (In this and several other stories, one wonders what the high-quality magazine illustrations that are missing from this unillustrated collection might have added in comprehension.) My skepticism from when I first saw mummies in Arica, Chile, near the Atacama desert is dispelled by the report of these natural mummies much older and better preserved than the more familiar mummies of Egypt. And I read the story of how X-rays were found coming from Scorpius X-1 in outer space with a Geiger counter on a military rocket decades ago when NASA (whose scientific interests have long been suspect) declined to send such an instrument into space.

I was glad to see Greene cast his choices in terms of C. P. Snow’s still-significant *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*, a 1959 publica-

tion that asked why scientists know some Shakespeare while those in the humanities are unlikely to know the second law of thermodynamics. Greene also decries the “myth that the sciences, especially the hard sciences, are cold and aloof.” Those reading this collection will be encouraged toward his goal of improving the situation “in the realm of popular science writing” to “connect the sciences and the humanities.”

Though clearly two books with different choices can’t each really have the “best” science writing, the Harper Perennial series edited by Atul Gawande (who provides the definition that “the best science writing is science writing that I think is cool”) is a more recent addition to the yearly collectivity urge. The yearly set of editors since 2000, also including James Gleick, Timothy Ferris, Matt Ridley, Oliver Sacks, Dava Sobel and Alan Lightman, shows the desire of this newer series to match the older one in quality. The

only overlap in the 21 pieces is Michael Chorost’s “My Bionic Quest for Boléro” about the cochlear transplant; it appeared in *Wired* (though the collection doesn’t give the month of its 2005 publication for this or any of the pieces). *The New York Times’* article about Caltech’s Michael Brown and the object now known as the “dwarf planet” Eris is another of the pieces. One piece, an anthropological story from *Harper’s* about which peoples first populated America, is allowed to far exceed the average length, and rightly so. Primatologist Franz de Waal has a different piece in each book.



Divine Wind: The History and Science of Hurricanes. Kerry Emanuel. Oxford University Press, 2005. \$45.00

A book this magnificent can only be the result of years

of both scientific study and the collection of *à propos* materials. Kerry Emanuel, an MIT professor, truly unites the two cultures by bringing scientific aspects of atmospheric physics together with relevant artworks, poetry, fiction and history. Roberta Olson and I published something along these lines about comets, her years of collecting artworks providing the base, so I am particularly respectful of how much concentrated attention over a lengthy period of time is needed to provide the basic material for such a book. Further, Emanuel's hurricane book is beautifully produced, in 8.5- x 11-inch trim and illustrated in full color.

Now that essentially all scientists agree on the looming crisis of global warming, Emanuel's exceptionally clear description shows how the greenhouse effect is joined by effects of convection and evaporation to explain surface temperatures. And he shows how future hurricanes will be affected by Earth's global warming. Politics comes into the book at early stages, too, in explaining how the U.S. Weather Bureau botched the forecast of the 1900 Galveston hurricane through a not-invented-here bureaucratic mentality. The devastation of Galveston killed perhaps a half-dozen times more people than August 2005's Hurricane Katrina and the next month's Hurricane Rita. Unfortunately, this book reached stores just before the two major 2005 hurricanes, therefore without being able to provide information about the effects of those two major storms. I hope for a second edition with such information, including suitable illustrations as well as Emanuel's own more recent conclusions that hurricanes are intensifying because of global warming. I wonder when and whether Katrina will lead to art and

poetry that match the wonderful examples that Emanuel has provided for earlier storms.

From the poetry of Emily Dickinson to Shakespeare's "The Tempest" (and the proof that it wasn't written by the Earl of Oxford, who died before the major hurricane of that time), to a full-page movie poster of Dorothy Lamour and others in *The Hurricane* — "Another Samuel Goldwyn smash hit!" — and an oil by Joseph Mallord William Turner, readers will be enthralled with Emanuel's masterpiece. Emanuel's "not altogether implausible" second scenario (of three) was for flooding to result from a hurricane passing over New Orleans, which has come to pass. Let us hope that his third scenario, with a 25-foot storm surge over Manhattan, does not.

By Eugen Weber



Lowering the Bar: Lawyer Jokes and Legal Culture. Marc Galanter. University of Wisconsin Press, 2005; paper \$26.96

What's black and brown, and looks good on a lawyer? A Doberman. What do you need when three lawyers are up to their necks in cement? More cement. Justice? How much justice can you afford? And so on.

Between 1965 and 2000, the proportion of lawyers in our population tripled, spending on legal services soared and so did their share of the national income. There were more lawyers, there was more law and more litigation, more propensity to sue, more prime-time and paperback sensationalism, less reticence about legal maneu-

vers, less respect for the legal profession, and more lawyer jokes. Did these qualify as hate speech, as the president of the California Bar Association argued in 1993? Did flames of animosity need to be fanned? At any rate, Marc Galanter believes that, by the 20th century's end, law and lawyers had "joined race and sex as one of the great staples of joking in the United States."

Many of the jokes Galanter quotes can, with slight modifications, be told about golfers or mothers-in-law. Many, though, turn on specific aspects of the lawyer's trade and testify to roles and prominence more significant than those of, say, teachers. "How can you tell if a lawyer is lying? His lips are moving," could easily be applied to spouses or politicians (and has). But "litigants are innocent until proven broke" could not. Nor "weather so cold that lawyers put their hands in their own pockets."

Some jokes reconcile more than one prejudice: "Where do the wicked go? They practice law a while, then move on to the legislature." And litigation fever is contagious. A *New Yorker* cartoon shows a little girl querying her mother: "When will I be old enough to start suing people?" Mother does not answer.

Positive responses to the question whether most people can be trusted fell from 58 percent in 1960 to 37 percent in 1994. They may be falling still. Like the politicians into whom they morph, lawyers are central to life and society: scorned, mistrusted, but appealed to in need. Galanter's *tour d'humor* could drive you to the bar. Have one on them.

Our critics select books for review and are not limited to ΦBK authors.

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