

# Announcement

## NACBS Endowment Fund

Forty years ago, a cadre of prescient scholars convened in New York to promote a revitalization of British studies in this country. They created an organization that gradually evolved into the national Conference on British Studies. A decade ago, on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary, the NACBS was reconstituted as the continentwide North American Conference on British Studies, and a whole series of fresh initiatives were undertaken. Today, as the NACBS approaches its golden jubilee in the year 2000, the organization has over a thousand members, affiliation with seven regional conferences, association with like-minded organizations here and abroad, and a panoply of meetings, prizes, publications, and visiting scholars. In their wisdom, the founders of the NACBS realized long ago what needed to be done, and they responded decisively by laying the foundation of the vital society that we have become. In each decade of our history, members and friends have advanced British studies. Today there is an opportunity for us to do the same.

In 1985, the NACBS Council created the annual Dissertation Year Fellowship to be awarded to exceptional doctoral students whose research in the United Kingdom is essential to the completion of their dissertations. Last November the council concluded that the current resources of the NACBS were insufficient to support this \$5,000 award much longer. Accordingly, the council established the Endowment Fund Committee consisting of Ronald M. Berger, Joseph W. Donner, Bentley B. Gilbert, Standish Meacham, Linda Popofsky, Reba Soffer, and myself, with the NACBS vice president and the regional conference presidents as *ex officio* members. The council charged this committee to raise in over two years the sum of \$100,000, which will be invested to provide income sufficient in and of itself to underwrite the annual award in perpetuity. This plan has the advantage of sustaining the award without draining the ordinary operating funds of our non-profit organization or curtailing our other activities.

Those of us who are directly involved in this campaign realize the difficulties we face in discharging our task even as we are entirely confident of ultimate success. That success depends, however, on the individual support of all our members and other friends, and that is the reason for this notice. The committee will spare no effort in representations to corporations, foundations, and other sources. Such representations, we know from the experience of fund-raisers, must demon-

strate to benefactors that as an organization we are committed to the program for which we seek their assistance. Nothing can send a clearer message than raising much of the money required among our own members and close friends.

The NACBS has never before launched such an ambitious venture on behalf of an activity that is so entirely consistent with the fundamental purpose of advancing British studies on this continent. The committee believes in concert with the council that the fellowship awards represent an investment in the future, a way to ensure the continued vitality of British studies through the entry of fresh talent into the profession. We believe that you share that conviction.

Please consider this appeal and respond as generously and as promptly as you can. Some of you may be in a position to contribute stocks and bonds or to work out a plan of deferred giving through will or trust. If your employer provides matching funds, please arrange for them. Gifts as well as pledges (payable by December 31, 1989, or December 31, 1990) should be sent (and marked "Dissertation Year Fellowship Endowment"), along with the donor's name and address, to Professor Howard A. Nenner, NACBS Treasurer, Department of History, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063. All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you!

MARTIN J. HAVRAN, *Chair*

*Endowment Fund Committee*