

# For Members Only

PLANNING TO MOVE in September? If so, please send the MLA Treasurer your new academic address at once, so that your September *PMLA* will not go astray. Mailing lists for this number are made up during the summer and sent to the printers in August. Incidentally, corrected page proof of the September issue is returned to the printers on June 23.

MLA MLA MLA

THE 1950 MEETING is scheduled to be held in New York City on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 27, 28, and 29, with headquarters in the Statler Hotel. President George N. Shuster of Hunter College is chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements. Speakers at the General Session on the evening of December 28 will be Robert Herndon Fife, Christian Gauss, Kathrine Koller, and William K. Wimsatt, Jr. The exact titles of their papers will be announced later.

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THE POSTCARD BALLOT was inaugurated in 1943, a year in which the Annual Meeting had to be cancelled. Previously votes for members of the Executive Council had rarely exceeded 10 percent of the membership; with the introduction of the postcard ballot they slightly exceeded 50 percent. In 1943, then, our first truly national election took place. In 1949 there were 3,395 valid ballots. Many members who do not vote should realize that they can legitimately vote for a *single candidate* in whose qualifications they have confidence.

MLA MLA MLA

YOUR NOMINATIONS to the Executive Council are again in order. See the Council's own seven nominations on page 655 of this issue, and see Bylaw II (Proceedings issue, p. 29), which stipulates that three additional names *must* be added on the Ballot by the Secretary on November 1. Any member may nominate.

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EDITORIALETTE. Should not one universal requirement for the Ph.D. be that the dissertation must be completely ready, in every technical point of style, for publication? How else will younger scholars learn this increasingly important part of their future professional activity? One might even plead that every graduate paper or report should be "prepared for printing," e.g., with style consistent throughout, footnotes typed with double spacing on separate pages at the end, long quotations indented and typed with double spacing, etc.

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DEDICATION. For reasons personal and impersonal we admire the dedication in Theodore Banks' recent *Milton's Imagery*: "To MY WIFE, whose profound and cheerful ignorance of Milton has been a godsend." These brave words remind us, however, of the words of the Clown in *Twelfth Night* (IV, ii): "to be said . . . a good housekeeper goes as fairly as to say a careful man and a great scholar."

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LONDON CONGRESS. On August 4-7 La Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes will meet at Bedford College, Regent's Park, London. This will be the first Congress of the FIPLV to be held in England, and the English MLA is planning a pre-Congress week, July 29-August 3, to be devoted to the study of some aspects of English life and literature. The Congress proper will deal with various problems of language teaching. Hon. Sec. of the Congress Committee is Dr. Agnes L. Anderson, 23 Southampton Place, London W.C. 1.

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REVIEW. In the December 1949 issue of *The Library* our 1948 compilation of "Research in Progress" is the subject of a notice of four paragraphs. The reviewer closes by saying, "It is very much to be hoped that this courageous attempt will be even more widely supported in future. Research of all kinds is essentially a co-operative enterprise . . ."

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## For Members Only—Continued

**AVALANCHE.** During the first quarter of 1950 (90 days) 123 articles were submitted to *PMLA*. The distribution: English 68, French 13, American 9, German 8, Spanish 7, linguistic 5, Italian 4, comparative 4, miscellaneous 5.

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**ACADEMIC VACANCIES.** Our attempt to list them as a service to the profession is evidently one of those things nearly everyone approves in principle but few yet approve in practice, for the list is shrinking. In a Questionnaire recently sent to 200 older members of the Association we asked "Do you approve of the present listing of Academic Vacancies in *PMLA*?" The replies: 160 yes; 16 no. Department heads write: "Your announcement has had splendid results, and we are deeply grateful." . . . "The notice has greatly helped us in bringing to our attention candidates whom we normally would have overlooked. The insertion of such notices into *PMLA* appears to me to be a distinct step forward in our efforts to fill our vacancies with the best men available." . . . "We believe that this service is a very great help, and you may be sure we shall take advantage of it when needed again." . . . "Our position is about to be filled and we hope that the young man will accept. In case he does not, we have enough added applications to make a good selection. We shall in the future call on you again in case of need. We appreciate your help because we don't believe in calling on Teachers' Agencies." . . .

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**SCHOLARSHIP DOES PAY.** Phi Beta Kappa announces the establishment of an annual prize of \$1000 "for the best book of the year published by a university press in the field of literary scholarship or criticism."

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**ROMANTICS.** The MLA will publish in September the latest volume in its Revolving Fund Series, *The English Romantic Poets: A Review of Research*, by Ernest Bernbaum, Samuel C. Chew, Thomas M. Raysor, Clarence D. Thorpe, Bennett Weaver, and René Wellek (c. 256 pages). We intend to print an edition of 2,000 copies and keep the price low (\$2.85), for we feel that this is a book many graduate students will wish to buy and in this Series there is no discount for members. Orders may be sent to the MLA Treasurer at the New York office. If enough advance orders are received, the size of the edition may be increased.

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**OLD IRONSIDES.** In December the Executive Council will submit to the approval of the membership a thorough revision of our present Constitution and Bylaws (see page 655 of this issue). Among the recommendations for change is a revised statement of our official purpose as an Association. Originally we existed for "the advancement of the study of the Modern Languages and their Literatures." For forty-three years that clause, except for the brief ravages of fonetic spelling, stood unchanged; and then, in 1927, the words "the study of" were replaced by "research in." Fully aware that words are banners, the Council now proposes that we should constitutionally exist "to promote *study, criticism, and research* in modern languages and their literatures." It is for the membership to decide. The vote of the Council was unanimous.

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.** The report (see page 654) of the recent three-day meeting of the Council can scarcely give evidence of the values to your Secretary, and ultimately to the Association, of such unhurried discussion of our long-term purposes and policies. Almost all phases and implications of our aims as an Association were reviewed, and your Secretary is deeply grateful for the friendly advice given him by your elected councilmen. He is especially grateful for one specific action taken: his reappointment with a definite three-year term. MLA secretaries have hitherto served "without term," and the incumbent has long felt this arrangement unwise both for the Association and for the individual involved.

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## For Members Only—Continued

**PHOENIX.** The *Shakespeare Association Bulletin* is dead. Long live *The Shakespeare Quarterly*, volume I, number 1 of which appeared in January. The Association has recently reorganized (current membership, approximately 1,000), and its journal now appears in a larger, more attractive format. Annual membership, including subscription to the *Quarterly*, is \$3. Dues should be paid to John F. Fleming, Sec.-Treas., 322 E. 57th St., New York City.

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**HOPE CHEST.** Despite our repeated warnings that parts of "Research in Progress" may represent largely Research-in-Mind, some members persist in regarding this MLA compilation as a register of claims. Let no one abandon a research project listed there by someone else until the exact nature and current status of the work has been thoroughly investigated, by direct correspondence or by indirect inquiry. While evidence of the values of "Research in Progress" continues to reach us, we believe that its inevitable limitations should not be forgotten by members.

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**GUGGENHEIM FELLOWS.** The following MLA members were among the 158 recipients of Guggenheim awards for 1950-51: Richard H. Fogle, Robert A. Fowkes, Northrop Frye, W. Cabell Greet, William Haller, Herbert N. Halpert, Davis P. Harding, Virgil B. Heltzel, Edward N. Hooker, Sister M. Amelia Klenke, Helge Kökeritz, Victor Lange, Juan Lopez-Morillas, Georges C. May, Edwin S. Morby, Charles S. Singleton, Marshall W. Stearns, George Winchester Stone Jr., John Harold Wilson.

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**EUROPEAN RECOGNITION.** Do members know of other instances of American Ph.D. dissertations being published here, then translated and published abroad? We have recently learned of one such, Vincent Luciani's *Francesco Guicciardini e la fortuna dell'opera sua* (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 1949), the English version of which was published in 1936.

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**LOYALTY.** The Assistant Postmaster General informs us that, because *PMLA* is published in Wisconsin, our "notice that Business Communications should be addressed to the New York office is objectionable and should be amended to show that such communications may be addressed to either Menasha, or New York." We herewith say so. The Treasurer lives in New York, but communications may be addressed to him at Menasha, Wisconsin, from which they will eventually be forwarded to 100 Washington Square East, New York 3.

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**PURPOSE.** The MLA "American Bibliography" since its inception has had as one of its purposes to record promptly for the convenience of our own members and for foreign scholars the American contribution to the field represented by the MLA. It is especially useful to scholars abroad, to whom American books, periodicals, and serials are often not immediately accessible. While partly overlapping the many period and subject bibliographies established subsequently, it continues to serve a unique function both within the profession and to college and university administrative officers.

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**OUR PRINTERS SAY:** "The article by Henry Silver in the April *PMLA* is easily the best piece of writing on this subject that I have seen, and we congratulate you on its publication. It has aroused the enthusiastic admiration of all our compositors and proofreaders."

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## For Members Only—Continued

TRANSLATIONS. The Council asked a special committee of its own members to study the feasibility of a series of translations to be produced and sponsored by the Association (with a university press perhaps acting as co-sponsor). Members with ideas about such a project should communicate them at once to Professor B. Q. Morgan of Stanford.

MLA            MLA            MLA

QUESTIONNAIRE. During March, before the meeting of the Council, a questionnaire on MLA policies was sent to 200 members, chiefly former councilmen and committeemen appointed by the Council. Since the replies presumably reveal the opinions of the "Old Guard" or, at any rate, those who have hitherto been active in MLA affairs, the Council expressed curiosity about the views of younger members, and therefore authorized the distribution of this same questionnaire, next autumn, among 200 members in other age groups. The consensus of opinion expressed by the first 200 may be fairly summarized as "Preserve the status quo." Below we give some of the questions asked, and the answers.

MLA            MLA            MLA

QUESTIONS. Do you approve of the section "For Members Only"? Yes 167; no 14. If so, should this section be enlarged? Yes 40; no 98. Should we increase the present number of Groups and Sections (sixty)? Yes 36; no 144. Should we decrease the present number? Yes 64; no 113. Should the MLA do more than it is now doing to serve its members in their *professional* (in addition to their scholarly) lives? Yes 65; no 112. Should *PMLA* publish occasional articles on non-scholarly subjects which are of general professional interest? Yes 62; no 120. Should the MLA try to find ways and means of aiding college and university administrators in evaluating scholarly competence? Yes 87; no 93. Should the MLA continue in the publishing business? Yes 159; no 27. . . . There were forty-six questions asked. We shall report on other answers later.

MLA            MLA            MLA

BOOK PRICES CURRENT. Members who wonder why scholarly books must be priced so high (and why subsidies are needed) are advised to turn to Henry Silver's latest contribution, "On Book Cost" (immediately preceding these pages). The ACLS expert explains *how* books are priced.

MLA            MLA            MLA

HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AWARDS for 1950-51: *fellowships*: John R. Moore (Indiana), Paul Kocher (Claremont), George R. Price (Michigan State), George Sensabaugh (Stanford), Frederick B. Tolles (Swarthmore); *grants-in-aid*: Charles R. Anderson (Hopkins), Richard Beale Davis (Tennessee), Richard B. Harwell (Emory), Richard Hoopes (Stanford), John L. Lievsay (Tennessee), Frank H. Lyell (Texas), F. Wilson Smith (Columbia). Applications for all fellowships and grants-in-aid for the academic year 1951-52 should be addressed to the Chairman of the Fellowship Committee not later than March 1, 1951, and preferably a month or two earlier.

MLA            MLA            MLA

MEMBERS SAY: "Doubtless you have observed that old timers are likely to be sentimental about MLA. I admit that I am, and so I like to know that the Association will be in good hands for many years to come. 'For Members Only' seems to me effectively light in style and valuable in its news." . . . "As a very young member of MLA I am daring to write a few words. I find your 'For Members Only' quite delightful and I read it immediately upon receiving my copy. In fact, that is usually more thoroughly digested by me than all the rest of the publication." . . . "I like the idea of finding out what our membership thinks." . . . "The MLA is the only organization which is in any position to lead the fight for the humanities and defend what little ground the educationists have left us. And how can we claim a voice in what goes on if we don't make it heard good and loud in the proper places and at the proper times? Every member should be doing his bit with his own circle of influence, but most of all the whole weight of the organization should be brought

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## For Members Only—Continued

to bear in every local battle. . . . We need 'directives' and means to implement them" . . . "Publication of good articles is the proper quiet propaganda for the PMLA. The more aggressive propaganda is one of the functions of the journals of the separate language groups." . . . "Surely you are to be congratulated as unique among editors in getting out a professional journal in the month that appears on the cover!" [Alas for the April number! The departure in February of the Editor of "Research in Progress" threw us behind schedule.—ED.] . . . "Congratulations to you on the continued improvement and liveliness of PMLA. It seems to me that those who object to having the table of contents off the cover could add PMLA titles to their bibliography file." [But even this is unnecessary: see the alphabetical checklist of authors in the rear of the December issue.—ED.] . . . "Your notes in the opening pages are probably the only part of the periodical which we all read. And we certainly read them with more pleasure and probably more profit than most of what follows, the present paper included. They are lots of fun." [This from one of the June authors.—ED.] . . .

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FOOTNOTANDA. "Don't follow *Speculum's* silly innovation of printing them at the end of the article. Anything more inconvenient and generally annoying I can't imagine. You can't make a dull article readable by carefully concealing the footnotes. This is Miller's meaningless concession to the revolt against scholarship, and I for one hope very much that PMLA will not follow his lead." . . . "*Speculum's* policy is OK." . . . "No, please don't. I'd greatly appreciate it if you'd let me know what reaction you get from your query on this." . . . "I find this practice in books and periodicals most annoying." . . . "This policy of assembling footnotes at the end of articles, rather than placing them on the pages to which they refer, is obviously based on one of two assumptions: either (a) footnotes are not worth reading, or (b) the convenience of the reader is of no importance. If *a* is correct, why print the footnotes? If *b*, why print the journal?" . . . "It is a nuisance to be always turning to the back, and many readers simply won't do it. [Others will] read them in a bunch, when they lose half their power. In any piece of mine I'd pay the extra to keep them below the text. In a book, the height of ineptitude is to list all the notes at the back, numbered individually by chapters, and with no indication of which chapter is the one a person is reading (e.g. De Voto's *Year of Decision*). . . . A running-head with just the chapter number would help." . . . "The majority of footnotes are probably ostentatious and unnecessary. . . . start a cot-<sup>1</sup>ton which would preserve our need for documentation and at the same time cut space and printers' costs. Why not simply say that all titles will be ruthlessly abbreviated unless the book or article is *not* listed in the *CBEL*? . . . the learned labor of such bibliographers should be used to get us forward rather than to hamper us. The Romance and German people might choose a similar model." . . . "The scholar's life is hard enough as it is without having to fumble through pages to look for the references and supporting notes. . . . I believe it was Romain Rolland who said somewhere that a great work of scholarship was like a Gothic cathedral with the footnotes at the bottom of the page like flying buttresses visibly supporting the structure at the top. . . . To my mind transplanting the footnotes to the end of an article would be more than poor practice; it would be a national scandal in scholarship." [PMLA has no present intention of changing the position of footnotes. We simply wished in this, as in other matters, to examine our collective conscience. The above quotations represent roughly the proportion of pro and con answers to our recent query.—ED.]

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WITH deep regret we record the death of Frederick Tupper, 1930 President of the Association, on February 11 last, and also the deaths of the following members: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana (April 27), Everett Morrison Hankins (Nov. 16), Esther E. Shuler (Dec. 14), Harold C. Goddard (Feb. 27), Paul Russell Pope (Jan. 12), Kathleen Rosalind Chambers (Feb. 26), A. J. F. Zieglschmid (April 14).

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*Announcing*

CONFERENCES OF SCHOLARS

at the 1950 Meeting

THE Program Committee will make available at the 1950 Annual Meeting a number of small conference rooms for scholarly discussion of announced topics. These rooms will be allocated to interested members of the Association under the following conditions:

1. A petition signed by seven or more members, stating the topic and aim of the conference, and *designating a discussion leader*, must be sent to reach the Secretary of the Association not later than October 1.
  2. Legitimate petitions will be honored in the order of their receipt and up to the limit of available accommodations. The normal conference period will be one hour and a half. Requests for specific periods should include several periods in the order of preference.
  3. The conference rooms to be made available will accommodate no more than twenty-five or thirty-five persons, and it will be the responsibility of the discussion leader to refuse admission to additional persons.
  4. The topic, place, and leader of the conference will be named in the printed Program. If the conference is being held by invitation only, this fact will also be stated. Otherwise, it will be the responsibility of the discussion leader to handle requests for admission; the Program will explain that interested persons should write to him, and that he will grant requests for admission up to the limit of accommodations.
  5. Only sharply defined topics, supported by explanations of the purposes of the conference, will be honored.
  6. Conference rooms will be allocated with the understanding that the object of the meetings is not the reading of papers. On the other hand, the mimeographing and advance circulation of papers or reports will be within the spirit of the arrangement.
  7. Brief reports on the conferences, if submitted promptly to the Secretary of the Association, will be published in the annual Proceedings; but no reports are required.
  8. Official recognition of each conference is for one year only. If a group wishes to renew its discussion in 1951, it may again petition for accommodation.
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## For Members Only—Continued

**AATSP.** In February, American teachers of Spanish and Portuguese acquired a Placement Bureau; its Director, Miss Agnes M. Brady, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Registrants, who must be members of AATSP, pay a \$5 fee (\$3 for re-registration).

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**TRENDS.** The following members and guests of the MLA Commission on Trends in Education met at Atlantic City on March 3-5 for a discussion of current problems: F. B. Agard (Cornell), H. G. Doyle (George Washington), R. H. Fife (Columbia), S. A. Freeman (Middlebury), E. D. Grizzell (Pennsylvania), Elton Hocking (Purdue), H. Keniston (Michigan), T. C. Pollock (N.Y.U.), I. O. Wade (Princeton), and the Secretary of the Association. Results of this conference will be published here and elsewhere in *PMLA* throughout the year.

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**ACE.** Following is the membership of the reorganized Committee on Modern Languages of the American Council on Education: H. G. Doyle (Ch.), R. H. Fife, S. A. Freeman, H. Keniston, C. C. Fries, E. D. Grizzell, and H. T. Manuel. The Committee met at Washington on January 6-7 for a review of current projects.

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**MEMBERS** are invited to use (and to suggest additions to) the "Directory of Useful Addresses" published in the rear of the recent Bibliographical number of *PMLA*.

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**UNIVERSITY PRESSES.** *PMLA* will regularly announce *forthcoming* publications in our field by members of the American Association of University Presses. See the advertising section of this and the March number. According to *Publishers' Weekly*, during 1949 thirty American university presses issued 673 books. Members may be interested in the statistics: Columbia 103, Harvard 84, Chicago 55, Yale 46, California 44, Princeton 42, North Carolina 38, Stanford 31, Pennsylvania 25, Minnesota 22, Cornell 15, Illinois 15, Rutgers 15, Oklahoma 14, Louisiana State 13, Michigan 12, Johns Hopkins 9, Washington 9, Denver 8, Duke 8, New Mexico 8, Alabama 7, Georgia 7, Loyola 7, Syracuse 7, Wisconsin 7, Florida 6, Iowa State 6, Nebraska 5, Tennessee 5.

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**HAVE YOU** been watching it grow? We refer to the List of Libraries with standing orders for all MLA books. When we first published this List (Sept. 1948) there were 52 libraries. Now there are 170. Is *your* library among those which thus support learned publishing (see the front of this issue)? If not, do the MLA (and scholarship) a favor by showing the current list to your librarian.

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**WORTH A CONTINENTAL.** Leslie S. Brady, U.S. Cultural Attaché in Paris, writes us: "*PMLA* is enjoying an ever-widening reputation on the continent since the war. More people are 'discovering' it every day and the comments I hear are generally most complimentary." And last month a member wrote us from Italy: "Would you mind seeing that my copies of *PMLA* are sent here? . . . I confess to a certain longing for my curious old *PMLA*." . . .

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**PAST TEATIME.** A member in London writes that the Public Record Office is now open Monday through Friday from 10 until 5:30. Its former closing time: 4:30. The British Museum closing-time, however, is still 5:00 p.m.

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**SCHOLARLY REPRINTS.** The Humanities Press (30 W. 12th St., New York 11, N.Y.) announces its recent creation for the purpose of republishing "many of the out-of-print scholarly titles in the Social Sciences and the Humanities for which a small, but persistent, academic demand still exists." Suggestions are invited.

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## For Members Only—Continued

**CONTROVERSY.** Members wishing us to publish replies to articles which have appeared in *PMLA* should inquire, before submitting MSS, about our somewhat elaborate "Procedure regarding Controversial Communications." The "Comment and Criticism" section of *PMLA*, authorized by the Council in December of 1926, formerly appeared in the June number only; but in 1949 the Editorial Committee, recognizing the importance of the time factor in controversy, authorized the appearance of this section at appropriate intervals.

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**COMPLIMENT:** "The April *PMLA* is a topnotch piece of work and in itself worth at least the cost of a year's dues." Do other members agree?

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**ROMANCE PHILOLOGY**, a quarterly devoted to linguistics and mediæval literature, invites contributions from distinguished foreign scholars; e.g., forthcoming issues will contain articles by Marcel Bataillon, Albert Dauzat, Carlo Battisti, Américo Castro, and Ignacio González Llubera. This journal has two subscription rates: general, \$5; for graduate students, \$3.

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**THE COMMITTEE** for the Graduate Record Examination Advanced Test in Literature consists of Don Cameron Allen (Hopkins), Bradford A. Booth (U.C.L.A.), E. K. Brown (Chicago), John W. Spargo (Northwestern), and Harry R. Warfel (Florida).

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**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP** in the Association (June 1) totals 6,400. But MLA statistics, as the Treasurer's office knows only too well, vary with the seasons. Take the 1948 figures. On September 30 we had 5,809 members, but on October 1 (when by regulation members in arrears have to be dropped from all lists) we had only 5,263. One month later the total was 5,592; on December 28 it stood at 6,010; the printed List for 1948 had 6,281 names. Or take the 1949 figures. At the time of the Stanford meeting we had 6,490 members enrolled, but a month later 867 persons had to be removed from all lists. Most of them would seem to be back now.

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**ON THE SPINE.** *PMLA* now appears six times a year, and the annual *Program* will be a separate publication in pamphlet form, sent to members only (not to libraries). This step has been taken in order to achieve promptness of publication. Postal regulations, however, require (1) that separately mailed numbers of a periodical must have separate numbers, and (2) that "supplements" may not be separately mailed. We trust that, among our members, any confusion resulting from the new numbering will be removed by the continued use of blue covers for the former "quarterly" issues and tan covers for the former "supplements," which are further distinguished on the spines by "P" (for Proceedings) and "B" (for Bibliography).

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**PATIENCE TO PREVENT.** Members would save themselves and the Treasurer's office much needless concern if they would recognize the methods by which any large organization must operate. For example, the sending of bills to more than 7,000 persons and institutions is a large undertaking, bills dated and mailed in January must be prepared early in December, and it is hardly efficient to find and remove envelopes addressed to members who pay meanwhile.

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**THERE WAS A.** We're not asking anyone, mind you, but it has occurred to us that there is occasionally space here for limericks or quatrains of a scholarly cast. They should be original compositions—by and for members only.

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**EDUCATION FOR CAPACITY.** We hear increasingly the lament that American universities are becoming preparatory schools, and their graduate colleges becoming, in consequence, universities. If this is so, soon we shall hear proposals for

## For Members Only—Continued

super-graduate schools; but it would seem to us preferable to teach our "educators" something about democratic education, as Jefferson, for instance, envisaged it. To identify equal opportunity with equal education is to vitiate and enfeeble democracy. Let us indeed have equal educational opportunities, and let them include a fair chance for our future professional leaders to develop their talents and their brains.

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**TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE?** In a nation struggling to train itself for world leadership it may prove disastrously undemocratic to deprive all Americans of the benefits of training in a foreign language except those able to go to college.

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**EMERITUS REDIVIVUS.** According to the MLA Constitution: "Persons who for twenty-five years or more have been members in good standing may, on retiring from active service as teachers, be continued as members without further payment of dues." But you may need to remind us that you are entitled to become a Life Member Emeritus. It is only by chance that your Secretary occasionally persuades a member not to resign just as he is about to be exempt from all dues.

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**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** in the Association (with exemption from further payment of dues) costs \$140. The Treasurer will accept payment of \$49 through three successive years. With each completed decade of membership in good standing, the fee for life membership is diminished by \$35.

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**VISITING SCHOLARS.** Professor Bruno Migliorini of the University of Florence will teach at Columbia this summer. Professor Migliorini, former editor-in-chief of the *Italian Encyclopedia* and author of many philological studies, was last year elected President of the Crusca Academy, founded in 1582.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** "I am deeply grateful to you and your specialist consultants for the detailed suggestions for the improvement of my paper. You are to be congratulated on such a constructive method of dealing with the articles which are submitted. In my experience it is virtually unique." . . . "Ever since I have been in Paris I have borrowed each issue of *PMLA* as it arrived, from a friend who has his copies sent here. And the section that I never fail to read is headed 'For Members Only'." . . . "The really great function of our annual meetings seems to me to be the opportunity they offer to see colleagues; there should be just enough sections and papers to form a background (sketched in, not virtually obliterating) for personal contacts." . . . "MLA most assuredly must take aggressive action in lifting itself from a semi-monastic organization of chosen spirits into the fighting agency in behalf of those humanistic studies which the members love. . . . If we took a firm stand for better language teaching, we could improve the status of our profession. Possibly no group in American higher education is held in as low esteem as the foreign language teachers. Our own people hold the educators to be lower, but these folks are aggressive and have the upper hand. . . . *PMLA* can well afford to reduce the number of articles of a research nature and increase the amount of professional material. In this respect the *American Historical Review* strikes me as an interesting model; that magazine singlehandedly aims to keep its members abreast of all activities within the purview of historians." . . . "The MLA has long ago outgrown its original name. As it stands, many people think that it is primarily, if not exclusively, a 'language' association, and that English is not included, as though English were not a language." . . . "The number of poor papers submitted is alarming. Too much mass-produced 'scholarship'; too much machinery; too little thought." . . . "The standard of scholarly competence in *PMLA* articles is too low." . . . "I resent any intrusion upon the production of articles and monographs like those published in the past, and dislike seeing anything which diverts members—or their money—from that primary aim." . . . "When are we going to get rid of the President's address at the annual meeting?" . . .

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