

# For Members Only

i

THESE WE VALUE. As an editor we hesitate to say it, but it is a fact that any fool can publish an article—and often does. Editorial methods and pressures to publish being what they both now are, it should surprise no one that few really valuable articles appear in any field in any given year, and that the “sum of human knowledge” is frequently augmented by little more than second guesses, scraps of data, and loose screws of annotation. To admit this is not to offer aid and comfort to the colleague who sneers at all writing in his field because it compares unfavorably with that book he’ll never write. We have no praise for unproductivity; communication of new knowledge is essential to vital scholarship. But we wish that the MLA, as a society long devoted to publishing and not unconcerned with professional standards, would condemn openly and forcefully those administrators (and others) who not only confuse *quantity* with *quality* of publication but recognize and reward quantity because they simply do not know how to recognize quality. It is, of course, easier to add than to evaluate. But should we not say firmly to them that no one becomes in time an “established” scholar by the steady publication of trivia? Should we not state plainly that the *quality* of a man’s scholarship—its accuracy and thoroughness, its integrity and common sense, its subtlety and richness—bears no necessary relation to the frequency of his appearance in print? And if we say these things, should we not also stand ready to help both administrators (whose lot is not a happy one) and our productive younger colleagues (whom we have neglected for fear of encouraging every lazy hanger-on in the halls of Academe) to distinguish hereafter between the hasty note and the mature article, the routine review and the informed critique, the scrapings of dissertations and the lively proofs of continued study. In addition to the annual bibliographies (that professional lobby against scholarly euthanasia), do we not need one authoritative assessment of each year’s BEST work in modern language studies? Yes, there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth, loud abuse and recrimination; there would also be occasional mistakes; but what better service can a courageous learned society render the profession than to say often, and explicitly: “These works we value. Here, happily exemplified, is a standard to which those not yet recognized may aspire”?

ANNOUNCEMENT. Believing that many members are inadequately acquainted with the resources of one of America’s important research centers, we shall publish in the next issue of *PMLA* (Feb. 1952) a full checklist of modern literary MSS in the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City. If this new MLA service pleases, we shall probably invite the compilation of more such lists for future publication in *PMLA*’s “supplements.”

FULL PROFESSORS. As anticipated here last June (p. iii), it has been decided to form an International Association of University Professors of English, “to make accessible to all its members information of common interest, in particular information relating to English studies and to the teaching of English in Universities” and “to hold international conferences at regular intervals” (articles of constitution). “Membership of the Association shall be open to all full Professors of English Language and/or Literature in Universities, University Colleges, and other institutions of higher learning, approved by the Committee, in any part of the world. An International Committee shall have power to admit others to membership at its own discretion. A subscription of one guinea shall be paid annually by every member, and shall become due on January 1 in each year.” Subscriptions may be sent to Professor C. L. Wrenn, Pembroke College, Oxford, England. The next international Conference is scheduled to be held in Paris in 1953.

AUSTRALASIAN UNIVERSITIES MLA. The second Congress was held in Sydney August 13-15, with Arthur Bruce Sutherland (Pennsylvania State) present to represent the MLA of America. Participants saw performances of Goethe’s *Iphigenie* and Hauptmann’s *Einsame Menschen*, made an excursion to Palm Beach, discussed romanticism, the teaching of literature, and the teaching of languages other than French and German, saw some French and Italian documentary films, and heard papers on “Novalis and the Implications of Romanticism Today,” “Gide *Classique*,” and “The Study of Literature.”

## For Members Only—Continued

**INVITATION.** Most of us know or have known persons who believe that the finer the scholarship, the fewer the readers. It is time that this lie be labelled for what it is: ignorance of the past and a form of snobbishness or defensiveness in the present. We offer this issue of *PMLA* as an illustration of the fact that many (though *not* all) articles of high scholarly quality can be read with both pleasure and profit by persons in other “fields”—even by students of other literatures. Although *PMLA* intends to continue publishing important articles addressed solely to fellow-specialists, nevertheless we suggest a more adventurous approach than usual to this and to future issues. In fact, since we know all too well the timid reading-habits of countless members, we even venture to call attention (as examples of what we believe can be found in still other articles in this issue) to Frank Ellis’ essay on Gray’s *Elegy*, the essays on Milton by Cleanth Brooks and A. S. P. Woodhouse, and the essay on *Beowulf* by J. R. Hulbert.

**HINT.** Attending the Detroit meeting? Whenever (or if ever) you hear a really superior paper, we trust you will go up to the speaker and say, “I hope you’ll submit that to *PMLA* at once; I’d like to read it next year!” We are now filling the September 1952 number. As always, we should like to publish the cream of the MLA meeting crop. You can see to it that we do.

**GRILLPARZER JAHRBUCH.** Founded in 1891, it appeared regularly each year (except during World War I), but was obliged to discontinue in 1938. The Grillparzer Gesellschaft of Vienna reports that \$1,000 would make possible the issue of a volume, which would then prompt many libraries and individuals to renew their subscriptions, thus insuring continuing publication. A Committee (Feise, Fife, Stein, Weygand, Zeydel) of the Metropolitan Chapter of the AATG has undertaken to raise money to facilitate this revival, and by September \$150 had been received from 27 American scholars. Gifts (small amounts are welcomed) may be sent to Professor Dorothy Lasher-Schlitt, Treasurer, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

**SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING.** Inspired by Henry Silver, sponsored by the ACLS, and supported by the American Association of University Presses, the formal introduction into graduate schools of information and practices designed to enable graduate students to cope more successfully with the printing and publishing requirements of scholarship is at last a reality. Programs have begun at Cornell, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Princeton, Stanford, and Texas; by the time this is being read, they may be started at Harvard, Yale, and elsewhere. The programs simply try to place the facts of scholarly publishing before audiences who attend voluntarily. At the next meeting of the AAUP[resses], those who have gained experience from practice will report to the entire membership, and, if needed, the ACLS will then attempt to supply visual materials, etc. The programs are still in a highly experimental stage, but most graduate deans have expressed their willingness to support the idea eventually. What is happening in your institution?

**REMINDER.** Your attention is called to the Index to *PMLA*, Volume LXVI, printed in the rear of this issue. The alphabetical listing of authors may help you locate some article hereafter.

**VIGNETTE IV.** Archer Taylor of the University of California at Berkeley and current President of the MLA was a member of the Executive Council in 1935-38 and (as a Vice President) in 1933 and 1950. He has also been a member of the Mediæval Academy’s Executive Council (1936-39) and President of the American Folklore Society (1935-37). An honorary member of Argentinian, Irish, Mexican, Swiss, and Tucuman folklore societies, he is perhaps proudest of his election to the Norske Videnskaps-Akademi and the Gustav Adolfs Akademi för folklivsforskning. He is currently an editor of *Western Folklore*. Educated at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Harvard, he has taught at Pennsylvania State, Washington University, and Chicago. While in St. Louis he edited *Washington University Studies* (1919-25). He compiled the General Section of the *PMLA* American Bibliography 1932-35. His capacity for hard work amazes and delights his friends, who marvel that he never appears to be “pushed.” One secret of his numerous, steady, and important publication (the proverb, English riddles, bibliography, German literary history, etc.) is the simple fact that he tries not to let a day go by without devoting at least

three hours to his own research. His students all remark the fact that he rarely needs those "little white slips" in order to name title after title, with dates, and frequently with approximate page references. He takes pride in his Napa Valley ranch with its 10 acres of fruit and nut trees (picking a ton of cherries has its tiresome moments, he will tell you cheerfully), and its 390 additional acres of wild, mountainous crags and a magnificent redwood canyon. He is now building himself a house on a knoll with a superb view, having already acquired a road and a water supply (last year he even bought a portable sawmill to cut his own pines and redwoods for lumber). He's going to have a fine house, built on the same scheme as he builds his scholarly books—rare persistence. [This is the fourth in a series of word-portraits of members of the Council. For much of the above our thanks go to C. G. L.—ED.]

**SCHOLAR'S WIFE.** In September a paper arrived from a member with a covering letter saying: "This is the first time I have sent anything to you, and therefore I am sorry to confess that I have a certain misgiving derived from my wife (I mention this because of your expressed interest in the attitudes of members' families as well as members themselves)." He went on to say that his wife had read his paper and had disagreed completely with an opinion expressed therein. "Although she has not convinced me, I feel a little uneasy on the point . . . Any suggestions from you would be welcome . . ." Now here we draw the line! We shall continue to sing the praises of scholars' wives (we have long advised our married students to persuade their wives to read aloud to them anything they have written, and then to revise or delete any passage over which the hausfrau hesitates); but we shall not try to arbitrate scholarly disagreements between members and their wives. Let such matters be settled in the study—or compromised in the kitchen.

**PRINCETON EXPERIMENT.** Sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, a "Special Program in European Culture"—including the study of literature, art, music, history, economics, politics, philosophy, and religion—was offered to Princeton upperclassmen this autumn. Students selected for this new program, which will be similar in operation to the already established American Civilization Program and Program of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton, will be solidly grounded in the ability to control at least one language of the area studied (which excludes the British Isles). Professor Ira O. Wade, chairman of the sponsoring department, expressed the hope that *all* American colleges and universities would eventually establish such a program. In his report to President Dodds he stated that, despite the vast amounts of money now being spent to improve cultural relationships, "the fact remains that there is less cultural comprehension between nations today than in the last half of the eighteenth century. The cultural aspect of our civilization is the responsibility of the humanities departments of our schools. It is the obligation of these departments to know as deeply and as broadly as possible the cultural manifestations of our western tradition. We should not only know, however, what they are; we must know what they are worth. . . . What is being attacked today is not merely our political structure, nor our technological scientific progress, but the very structure of our life. What we must defend is our culture. We must realize that it is of no avail if we merely successfully defend our political structure against an unfriendly political encroachment." J. Douglas Brown, Dean of the Faculty, added: "In all this, the intent is to revivify student interest in a real understanding of Western civilization and developments with the aid of appropriate language competencies, and increase the vitally needed mutual understanding between Western Europe and America."

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY.** The incumbent, replacing John H. Fisher, is Dr. S. Frederick Johnson (the "S" is for Samuel), Assistant Professor of English, New York University. Our new colleague in the executive offices studied at Haverford, is a Harvard M.A. and Ph.D., and specializes in the fields of drama and the literature of the English Renaissance. His first MLA assignment was to make himself expert on the details of prizes and special awards for which scholars in our field are eligible, and we hope to be able to publish the results of this study early next year.

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# The X Factor

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WHEN a printer has finished measuring a manuscript so that he can assess the cost of composing it in type he may add to his ordinary computations a percentage which I call the X factor. This represents to the printer the extra cost of doing business with that particular publisher or of composing that particular manuscript, or possibly both. We can do little to decrease the basic cost of printing. Like the cost of almost everything else it has gone up. But much can be done about the X factor. The X factor is waste.

This issue of *PMLA* contains an article which, with the author's permission, was used to illustrate the X factor and to suggest a way to reduce it. When the manuscript of Ian Jack's "Pope and 'the Weighty Bullion of Dr. Donne's Satires'" was submitted, the author stated that he would gladly have it retyped if the editor wished. Retyped it was, but by us. The original manuscript was not in especially bad shape; in fact it was selected because it looked like most of the manuscripts submitted to scholarly editors. Nevertheless, after the editor had finished adding his markings to the author's emendations, it was not a clean manuscript either. Not bad, not good; average.

Both the original and the clean copy now went to the printer, who proceeded to set them up in type and read the results for printer's errors. Different compositors and proofreaders were used but a great effort was made to select men of similar aptitudes. No charge was made by the printer for the double composition, this being his contribution to the experiment.

The difference in favor of the retyped manuscript after these operations were completed was \$5.60 worth of time. Since the Jack article covers 14 pages of a 320 page issue, it can be seen that the extended difference over 320 pages would have amounted to \$127.80, a respectable total. In addition, after both galleys had been read by the editor, it took the printer 10% less time to correct the version which had been set from the clean copy than to correct the other.

Basically what you buy when you buy printing is someone's time. The cost of hiring the equipment is a relatively minor factor. In most cases the way to save money is simply to reduce the amount of time the printer has to spend and the best way to do this is to send him manuscripts which are mechanically clean and prepared in such a way that the work proceeds efficiently. In this way the X factor can be eliminated. We can't afford it.

HENRY M. SILVER

*Adviser on Publications, American Council of Learned Societies*

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## For Members Only—Continued

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**FULBRIGHT.** In the April *PMLA* (p. 316) Gordon T. Bowles is listed as Executive Secretary of the Conference Board's Committee on International Exchange of Persons. He has now been replaced by his former assistant, Francis A. Young; and the new Assistant is Truett W. Russell, an MLA member, a Columbia Ph.D. in French, author of *Voltaire, Dryden, and Heroic Tragedy* (2nd printing, 1947).

**POSTCARDS.** Phillips Brooks (you may remember) despised them—and returned them in the envelope with his answer. We prefer letters ourselves; but as the volume of our MLA correspondence increases, we resort more and more to postcards and to laconic replies. We mean no discourtesy, and trust that the hundreds of members who thus hear from us will remember that, with only so many hours in each day, we are still trying to combine teaching, scholarship, editing, and secretarying. The friendly and stimulating letters we receive are, indeed, among the most pleasant and rewarding aspects of our work for the Association. For examples, see immediately below.

**WILL-TO-CONVINCE.** A member whose latest article will soon appear in *PMLA* wrote us in part as follows: "I particularly appreciate the fact that my article was accepted unconditionally in spite of the criticisms. I won't take advantage of this, however, and will revise . . . The comparative absence of clichés and set phrases was probably what baffled one of the readers. Another reader reproaches me for being 'unconvincing.' I consider this term a negative compliment. To convince is the *raison d'être* of a politician, of a priest. They have to alienate their listeners' thoughts to survive. But in the domain of literary studies, the will-to-convince appears to me unethical, especially as our profession should be the stronghold of individual thought. The will-to-convince makes the writer too often resort to low tricks of rhetoric and develop a 'thought' demagogic, weak and vague enough to be absorbed by any reader, without any indigestion trouble. The duty of a critic is to tell his opinion, as firmly and uncompromisingly as possible, since he should not want the reader to 'swallow' what he is saying, but to consider it as *one* definite opinion, in reference to which he may be interested to form his own. The concept of 'authority' seems to me most nefarious to literary study."

**ISOLATIONISM.** Another member writes: "Regarding your QUESTION [June *PMLA*, p. xi], I agree with your implication that it is seldom possible to prepare our undergraduates to teach two different foreign languages in high school. Whether we like it or not, the trend toward increased requirements in 'distribution' or general education courses, and also in professional (certification) courses, leaves progressively less time for foreign language courses. To divide this time between two languages is unfair to our students and to their prospective pupils. On the other hand, two 'teaching subjects' are entirely possible if only one of them is a foreign language and the other a requirement of 'distribution,' e.g., English, history, or mathematics. . . . It has not been generally realized that most high schools are so small that they offer only one modern foreign language, and that the teacher of it must frequently be asked to teach some other subject. Our two-language majors are unqualified for this . . . It seems to me that college language departments should restrain their monopolistic impulses and also the linguistic exclusivism of over-enthusiastic students. Professors of foreign languages are prone to denounce isolationism in others. They would do well to look in their own back yard."

**LINGUISTIC SOCIETY.** The 1951 meeting will be held at the Hotel New Yorker in New York on December 29 and 30. (Given fair weather and enough energy, a really heroic member of both societies can fly from Detroit and attend both meetings.) The 1952 Linguistic Institute will again be held at Bloomington, with Indiana University as host institution, and with C. F. Voegelin as Director. Many LSA and MLA members will be glad to hear that Zellig S. Harris' *Methods in Structural Linguistics* has recently been published by the University of Chicago Press (\$7.50). It is an attempt to organize the whole field of descriptive linguistics into a single body of theory and practice, presenting a unitary approach to linguistic analysis.

# ADVANCED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

1952-53

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES offers for 1952-53 fellowships for students at the advanced graduate level who wish to teach in the field of the humanities at institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada. Advanced Graduate Fellowships are primarily intended to further the training of students whose interests, personality, and scholarship appear to promise successful careers in teaching as well as research. In general, the program emphasizes study the nature of which is either inter-disciplinary or broadly conceived within the limits of one humanistic discipline.

Advanced Graduate Fellowships normally do not compete directly with awards given by universities to their own graduate students who are proceeding toward the doctorate within well-established disciplines. The normal process of awarding university fellowships, which involves departmental recommendation, tends to give an advantage to the student whose training is completely within his own department. Also, there are instances where a student who wishes to work into a field requiring study at another university is sometimes at a disadvantage in the competition for university awards because his institution may not have fellowships for study elsewhere and because he is a stranger to the university to which he wishes to go. In this ACLS program every effort is made also to avoid giving awards to students whose scholarly needs can be furthered equally well by other sources of assistance, such as those programs administered under the Fulbright Act.

ACLS Advanced Graduate Fellowships are open only to men and women who are citizens, or who have officially declared their intention of becoming citizens, of the United States or Canada, and who will have completed at least two years of graduate work before tenure would begin. The ACLS has no fellowships now for study during the second year of graduate work. Post-doctoral awards under this program are

given only in rare cases. At present the basic stipend of these awards is fixed at \$200 a month plus allowances for full dependents and necessary travel. The ACLS will reduce by an amount equal to their monthly Government subsistence allotments the stipends of those of its Fellows who are eligible to receive veterans' benefits during the tenure of their fellowships; likewise deductible are university awards receivable for study during the tenure of the ACLS award. Appointments are made for periods of not less than six months nor more than a year.

A condition of the fellowship is that tenure must be continuous and that Fellows must not engage in remunerative employment during their tenure without the express permission of the Executive Offices of the ACLS.

Preliminary inquiries should contain a brief personal history, a description of the proposed plan of work for which fellowship assistance is needed, and a justification of the program in terms of intellectual development.

For those wishing fellowships with tenure beginning in the summer or fall of 1952, preliminary information must be received in the ACLS offices by January 7 and completed applications returned by February 4, 1952.

*All communications should be addressed to the*  
SECRETARY FOR FELLOWSHIPS,  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES  
1219 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

REVIEW. An MLA Group collaboration, *The Reinterpretation of Victorian Literature* (Princeton University Press, \$3.75), which has received a number of favorable reviews, took a beating from the *RES* reviewer last July. Complaining that the title "is somewhat misleading," he wrote: "there is little unity in the collection [of eleven essays] beyond that furnished by a common desire to promote Victorian studies. Perhaps it is naive to expect a reinterpretation of a whole phase of literary culture from a committee, but a standpoint of some kind might have been hoped for, and, along with it, the emergence, however tentatively and obscurely, of the outlines of a value-judgment about the nature of the Victorian achievement. . . . Very little less is implicit in the isolation of the Victorian age as a subject of specialist literary study . . . the neglect of any discussion of Victorian poetry is the oddest feature of the symposium. . . . Perhaps Mr. W. S. Knickerbocker's elementary survey of English education in the nineteenth century may be useful to students in America, but the story has already been told almost too many times. In 'Form and Technique in the Novel' Mr. Bradford A. Booth reveals, apart from some uncertainty in the use of pronouns, a distressing Light Programme approach to Victorian fiction. . . . The article by Howard Mumford Jones on 'The Comic Spirit and Victorian Sanity' is inexcusable. . . ."

AND REVIEW. In the April *JEGP* we read: "For the amount of information to the page, *The English Romantic Poets* has few rivals. It is a compact survey of all the major research on Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, and on the subject of the English Romantic Movement, sifted, organized, and often evaluated. . . . The book is a review, not a bibliography. . . . So much has been written on the Romantic poets in the past and present centuries that the student and scholar find it difficult to keep track of the books and essays. Nothing is more welcome than a competent review of the major tendencies of all this work. The collaborators of *The English Romantic Poets* fulfill this need generously. . . . All the chapters, although written by six different men, show a remarkable evenness in quality and competence. . . . The survey includes some pertinent suggestions for future work." This is, you will remember, an MLA book, published last year (\$2.85). We are naturally pleased that the *JEGP* reviewer devoted four full pages to it and concluded that it "achieves its purpose by a high degree of compactness, lucidity, and intelligent evaluations." Orders should be sent to the MLA Treasurer, 100 Washington Square East, New York 3.

TERMINOLOGY. One of the best criticisms we have thus far received on our Style Sheet came from Theodor Besterman in London: "Your style sheet is a long step forward. May I congratulate you on having reasoned so much diversity into so generally acceptable a code? This is not to say that the style sheet is the last word on every detail; indeed, I am sending you separately some comments on various points; and I hope a further period of reflection and discussion will be possible before the style sheet becomes law. I hope also that even then the code will not be ruthlessly imposed on scholars who have marked and informed views on particular details. As an example of marked views, I regret your gracefully oblique reference to the so-called bibliographies appended to many publications. I should like to see this replaced by an energetically worded directive, pointing out that a bibliography is a systematic list of writings. A list of references is not a bibliography; a list of publications consulted is not a bibliography; a list of works recommended for further reading is not a bibliography. Each of these things is what its description says it is, and should be so described; and editors should be given full power to insist on correct usage." With this last sentence we warmly agree (it applies as well, of course, to term papers and theses), and if our fellow editors will permit us, we shall include the "directive" when the Style Sheet is revised.

FLY-BY-NIGHT. When we commented (April, p. i) on the free publicity the *New Yorker* was giving the MLA, we did not reckon on receiving three eager communications from the Electric Fly Screen Co., Inc., which begged us to notice "a new word which is now being used in the Insect Control Industry." The word "insectocutor," we were informed (we would never have guessed), is a contraction of insect and electric executor. As an amateur word-coiner ourselves we were not shocked by this, but we herewith dismantle our antennae.

**INITIAL COCKTAIL.** We have been for many years, and in the "popular usage" of members and non-members, "the MLA." Witness Webster. Since there is another (British) Modern Language Association, our English cousins often ignore American usage and refer to us as "the M. L. A. A." We are content to be occasionally reminded of our continent, but we don't like competition on our own island of Manhattan. Recently a member sent us a letter he had received beginning "Dear Detective Reader," with a letterhead reading "MLA Publications"; and he commented: "I infer that we are branching out in our interests." We are indeed, but let him now go back to reading *Speculum*. After we had absorbed this letter ("After all, anyone can read a book, but it requires a keen and analytical mind to appreciate even the best in detective stories"), we had our Dr. Johnson investigate. He reported that the rival MLA Publications must be held responsible for the *Official Detective Stories Magazine*, and that the initials are those of M. L. Annenberg. He discovered the secret of the Annenberg initials by using the telephone, a research method that led to the further discovery of an MLA Decorating and Upholstering Company. A second 'phone call produced the information that in this instance the initials were those of one Louis Adam Martini—in *alphabetical* order. Here we called a halt to detective work. In THE (if you will pardon us) MLA, we take Martinis, and other kinds of interior decoration, in strictly *chronological* order.

**PROMOTIONS.** The following have recently been reported to us: Ralph M. Albaugh to Asst. Prof. (Maryland), Ruth Crosby to Prof. (Maine), R. Balfour Daniels to Dean of Arts Coll. (Houston), A. Grove Day to Prof. and Chm. (Hawaii), John T. Fain to Prof. (Florida), Claude Hill to Assoc. Prof. (Rutgers), Alfred Iacuzzi to Prof. (City Coll.), E. L. Jordan to Prof. (N. J. Coll. for Women), Rolf E. P. King to Assoc. Prof. (Murray State Coll.), Leo Kirschbaum to Assoc. Prof. (Wayne), D. L. Louthan to Asst. Prof. (N. C. State Coll.), Louie M. Miner to Assoc. Prof. (Brooklyn), Arthur K. Moore to Assoc. Prof. (Kentucky), Ernst A. Philippson to Prof. (Illinois), J. Russell Reaver to Assoc. Prof. (Florida State), Robert W. Rogers to Assoc. Prof. (Illinois), Isidore Silver to Assoc. Prof. (Connecticut), R. C. Simonini, Jr., to Prof. and Chm. (Longwood Coll.), Napier Wilt to Dean of Div. of the Humanities (Chicago), Walter F. Wright to Prof. (Nebraska), Morton Bloomfield to Assoc. Prof. (Ohio State), R. H. Elias to Assoc. Prof. (Cornell), J. C. Mathews to Assoc. Prof. and Chm. (Santa Barbara), F. P. W. McDowell to Asst. Prof. (Iowa), F. E. Mineka to Prof. (Cornell), David Novarr to Asst. Prof. (Cornell), J. W. Schweitzer to Prof. (Alabama).

**EXILE.** A member, recalled to active duty with Naval Intelligence, writes: "I confess that I have read *PMLA* more thoroughly, and with greater appreciation, in the past year away from College, than in the preceding several years. It may be that the best means of whetting the scholarly appetite is to transplant the scholar occasionally from his natural habitat! I would like to join in the chorus of praise for the unfailingly witty and humane 'FMO' pages. I find them refreshing, challenging, reassuring. They remind me of the many reasons I am eager to return to teaching literature, which I continue to regard as quite as central to our present problems as are the arts of making war."

**MLA TREASURER.** Lyman R. Bradley, who had held the post since March 1, 1931, resigned on October 1 of this year. No successor has yet been chosen; the Secretary is serving as Treasurer pro tem. Mr. Bradley, who followed John Whyte (1927-31) and Eduard Prokosch (1924-26) as Treasurer, took his A.B. and A.M. degrees at Harvard, his Ph. D. at N.Y.U. (1930). He taught in the German department at N.Y.U. from 1924; latterly as its chairman. During his twenty years as MLA Treasurer, he served with three Secretaries, Carleton Brown, Percy W. Long, and the incumbent. Old friends may now write to him at his new office, Room 930, 342 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. We wish him well in his new work, that of publisher's representative and exhibit manager at conventions of educational organizations. He plans to be present, in this capacity, at the MLA meeting in Detroit this month.

**CASSANDRA AND COOPERATION.** There is bad news. The cost of printing has again gone up 15%. There is a comparable increase in the cost of paper, and some other regular MLA expenses threaten to rise. But let us say at once that we do *not* therefore jump to the conclusion that dues must be raised to \$8 or higher. Let us suppose (we have no way of knowing) that half the members of the Association will read this paragraph. Let us suppose further that every *fifth* reader will be a person who has the Association's welfare genuinely at heart and who agrees with



us that an increase in dues will hurt most the younger members, whom we need most to help in these trying times. If he will take the trouble, at once or within the next week, to persuade *one* colleague or *one* graduate student to join the MLA, our threatened deficit will not, when the Executive Council meets later this month, be a serious enough threat to warrant discussion of raising dues; for we shall then be assured of sufficient funds to meet all necessary expenses, *and* to carry through all current projects, in the foreseeable future. Since our *potential* membership on the college and university level is probably three times our *actual* membership, what we here suggest is not unreasonable, and we earnestly solicit *your* cooperation.

**PUBLISHING A BOOK?** Tell your publisher he must be sure to advertise it in *PMLA*, where almost all the active scholars in the profession can learn of its appearance. Last year the MLA revenue from advertising was equivalent to the dues of more than 1,800 members. Still more ads mean more services to members—and mean a safeguard against raising dues in a time of inflation. Your publisher will welcome your suggestions on effective advertising media. Tell him about *PMLA*.

**ACLS AWARDS.** In addition to the recipients of 1951-52 Faculty Study Fellowships reported in the September *PMLA* (p. xiii), the following have been granted awards in a supplemental program ("Special Series"): Wallace W. Douglas (English, Northwestern), Charles H. Foster (English, Grinnell), Robert W. Frank (Illinois Inst. of Tech.), Lyle Glazier (English, Buffalo), John H. Hammond (Spanish, Texas Christian), R. G. McWilliams (English, Birmingham-Southern), Robert J. Niess (French, Michigan), Ernst Pulgram (linguistics, Michigan), and Harry K. Russell (English, North Carolina). The details of this competition were published in the June *PMLA* (p. iv). Among the recipients of 1951-52 ACLS Scholars awards are: Lawrence E. Bowling (English), William Elton (English), Angela B. Fales (Romance), Sten G. Flygt (German), David C. Fowler (English), Russell A. Fraser (English), Wendell Glick (English), Louise H. Johnson (English), Renée B. Lang (comparative lit.), Edward C. McAleer (English), Raven I. McDavid (English), Franz H. Mautner (Romance), Walter M. Merrill (English), Peter G. Phialas (English), Henry Popkin (English), Helen L. Sears (Romance), Maurice M. Shudofsky (English), Thelma H. Smith (American civilization), Roger W. Wescott (linguistics), and Philip Young (American civilization).

**ACLS ADVANCED GRADUATE FELLOWS.** Among the twenty-two recipients of awards for 1951 are the following (with field and place of study indicated): Robert A. Bone (Amer. Negro lit., Yale and Howard), John I. Church (Chinese lit., Washington), Paul O. Elmquist (Far East languages, Harvard), Eric H. Lenneberg (linguistics, Harvard), Robert L. Jackson (Slavic lit. and langs., California), Bernard S. Mikofsky (Slavic philol., Columbia), Josiah M. Morse (Eng. lit. and philos., Pennsylvania State), Arnold G. Nelson (Amer. lit., Minnesota), David W. Noble (Amer. civilization), Richard B. Noss (Siamese lang.), M. L. P. Patterson (Modern Hindi lit., Pennsylvania), Herbert A. Perluck (Amer. lit., Brown), Donald M. Richardson (Japanese lit., California), John B. Vickery (philos. and lit., Harvard), and John W. Ward (Amer. lit., Minnesota).

**1951 FULBRIGHT AWARDS.** In addition to the twenty-four successful candidates in the MLA field who were named in this section last September (p. xiii) the following have now been reported to us: Guy A. Cardwell (Washington Univ., in Austria), V. F. Koenig (State Teachers Coll., Pa., in France), Philip Kolb (Illinois, in France), Irving Leonard (in England), Jean Misrahi (Fordham, in France), Carl A. Niemeyer (Union, in Scotland), Frederic Cassidy (Wisconsin, in Jamaica), Will M. Cook (Howard, in France), W. S. Cornyn (Yale, in Burma), R. J. Dierlam (Florida, in Austria), Chester Eisinger (Purdue, in Egypt), Alva Rice (Marshall Coll., in the Philippines), A. E. Zucker (Maryland, in Austria).

**DISSERTATIONS.** Last September, in this place (p. iii), we argued that the informed choice of a definite audience is as important a matter in scholarly work, in any field, as is the informed choice of a definite topic, and that therefore we should require the graduate student, when he submits a dissertation topic for approval, also to submit a definite statement of the *nature and extent* of his intended audience. We realized, when we made the suggestion, that we were raising, by implication, basic questions about the *purpose* of the doctoral thesis; and we were promptly chided for doing so. But the unexamined purpose is not worth living with. Do we mean the Ph.D. dissertation to be the *product*, or the *record*, of an investigation? And have graduate instructors no obligation to teach their students the *how* and *why*

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# The Use of Manuscripts

FOLLOWING is an abstract of the "Report of the Committee on the Use of MSS by Visiting Scholars" which was approved by the Association of Research Libraries last July. The Committee consisted of James T. Babb (chairman), Frederick B. Adams, Jr., Fredson Bowers, Julian P. Boyd, Robert A. Miller, and Conyers Read. The complete "Report" will be published in the January 1952 issue of *College and Research Libraries*.

*Freedom of access.* Librarians should give all qualified investigators (i.e., trustworthy persons, with scholarly purposes and adequate training) the privileges of studying the MSS, of taking notes, of copying, and of ordering photographic reproductions. *But freedom of access does not include the right to publish* (see below). Requests for the photographic reproduction of a large collection of MSS, moreover, should be granted only when they come with the sponsorship of another library; and the reproductions should be sent to that library with the understanding that it will take the responsibility of supervising their use, permitting freedom of access but referring requests to publish to the original library. All requests for photographic reproductions *must be specific*: if questions of selection and judgment are involved, the scholar must make his own selection or employ someone to do it, and not expect that service from the staff of the library. When any scholar plans to visit a library to study MSS, he should give it advance notice of his visit—and his needs. Each library should keep a complete record of the users of its MSS, the MSS used, and the *purpose* of each use—thus enabling the librarian to inform scholars of other projects in their field.

*Right of publication.* Freedom of access does not include this. Publication is defined as (1) printing the text verbatim in whole or in such a substantial part as in effect to constitute the whole, or (2) paraphrasing the text to such an extent as to disclose the essential content of the MS. There are two types of property rights in MSS: (1) *common law literary property*, which vests in the author or his heirs or assigns, it being the obligation of the scholar or publisher—not the library—to secure permission to publish from the owner of this right, and to assume any liabilities if it cannot be cleared; (2) *physical possession*, which resides in the owner of the MS (it being only this right which a library usually has at its disposal). The right to publish must be specially requested from the librarian, the request stating in specific terms the nature of the use, the name of the intended publisher, and the place of publication. (It is later courteous of the author to present, if possible, a copy of his publication to the library.) *The right of publication should be granted by the librarian without reservation.* Although college and university libraries acquire MSS for publication by their faculty and graduate students, and will therefore be obliged in *exceptional circumstances* to assign priorities in the publication of MSS, such needs for exclusive publication rights should always be carefully considered and *limited in duration* (not more than three years). Independent, semi-public libraries (e.g., the Morgan and Huntington) have a pre-eminent concern that their MS material shall be given *expert* scholarly treatment and adequate publication, and may therefore predicate their authorization for publication on these considerations.

*Reading Room rules.* The following, with which most scholars are in perfect sympathy, are necessary to regulate access to MSS: (1) no smoking; (2) use of ink shall be discouraged; (3) no marking of MSS and no writing of notes on top of MSS; (4) existing order of MSS shall be carefully preserved; (5) curator shall be notified of any MS apparently misplaced; and (6) extreme care shall be exercised in handling fragile material.

of scholarly writing? One member (a medievalist) complained that an immediate effect of our proposed rule would be to inspire all students to seek broader or more "popular" subjects. We are sure it would not. If there are many broad subjects *appropriate* for dissertations and not yet chosen, by all means let them be chosen—and let them be written about in an appropriate style. But we are thus far convinced that *most* dissertation subjects—in view of the time factor and the present nature of graduate training—must continue to be exhaustive exercises in recently acquired research techniques directed at comparatively minor topics. Nor have we any quarrel with this conception of the Ph.D. thesis, *provided that* the student knows clearly whom he is addressing and *provided that* he is not allowed to infer that *all* scholarship is a continuation of this act of apprenticeship.

**AWARD.** Phi Beta Kappa's Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship (\$1,500) for 1951-52 was awarded to Miss Marion Henderson for the preparation of a doctoral thesis (Radcliffe) on the ideas and influence of *La Vogue* and other "little reviews" published in France 1886-1902. This fellowship, founded in 1939 and awarded every other year to some unmarried woman scholar under 35, is given alternately for study in the fields of Greek and French (in 1953, Greek).

**VIGNETTE V.** Douglas Bush of Harvard, member of the MLA Executive Council (1950-53), although never a student of Irving Babbitt nor particularly sympathetic to him in early days, is now considered by many scholars to be the heir of much that was best in the doctrines of Babbitt and More. He has shown a deep concern for the great tradition in humane studies, and a lively suspicion of everything that seems to him to menace it, whether originating in the cult of Ph. Deism, or in the pseudoscience of Teachers College, or in the nimble fancies of certain nouveaux critics. He is a formidable antagonist, armed with a wit that both feathers and bars his shafts of criticism. Born in Canada, he studied at the University of Toronto, graduating at the head of his year (1920) in the then famous Honors Course in Classics, working with a number of stimulating teachers. In a subsequent year of graduate study at Toronto he encountered Alexander, doubtless the greatest teacher of English that Canada has yet boasted and, like Bush, originally a classic. Then came Harvard (1921-23) and work with Lowes (his "father-confessor"), Kittredge, and others—and the foundation of a reputation which, after three years of teaching at Harvard (1924-27) and nine years at Minnesota (1927-36), was eventually to bring him back to Cambridge. He has since been invited to give the Alexander, Tudor and Stuart Club, Lowell, Messenger, Patten, and other lectures, and in 1947 he was awarded the gold medal of the N.Y.U. Society for the Libraries. In a half dozen books (mythology and English poetry, Milton, English humanism, etc.) he has, with unusual grace and vigor of style, waged his personal war against pedantry and in favor of humane study. More such books will doubtless be harvested at the Sabine farm he has recently acquired near Dartmouth. Deceptively shy in manner (he looks down when talking to you), and allergic to any committee work, he can be the most informative and entertaining of talkers, the most helpful of councillors. [This is the fifth in a series of word-portraits of members of the Council. For much of the above our thanks go to A.S.P.W.—ED.]

**LOSSES.** With deep regret we record the deaths of the following members: Archie R. Bangs (April 30), William H. Berryhill (March 6), E. K. Brown (April 23), Leah A. Dennis (March 2), Marie Drennon (Nov. 4, 1950), Joseph Dunn (April 9), Albert B. Faust (Feb. 8), Robert J. Kellogg (April 28), Henri Kuyper (April 4), Grace W. Landrum (April), George H. McKnight (Aug. 15), Robert J. Menner (April 4), Philip M. Palmer (June 4), Lucy Allen Paton (May 26), Charles L. Pittman (March 20), Franz Rapp (March 2), Joseph J. Reilly (Jan. 24), Agnes R. Riddell, Arthur I. Taft (Feb. 5), Beatrice M. Teague (Jan. 13), George W. Umphrey (Aug. 27), Karl Viëtor (June 7), Fern McCarty (July 7), Clarence Paschall (Jan. 31), Christian Gauss, Vice President of the Association, died on November 1.

**WHAT'S WRONG?** A member writes: "For many years now, a favorite topic of reflection with me, and of discussion with others, has been 'What's wrong with PMLA?'—there being general agreement that something was badly wrong . . . Now that this topic has at last been brought before the public in the quotations you publish in the FMO section, I venture to write you on the subject . . . At first, one is tempted to think the trouble may lie in the extreme diversity of fields rep-

## For Members Only—Continued

resented in the MLA, and hence necessarily in its journal . . . Yet mere diversity of fields does not preclude community of interest . . . In the American Anthropological Association and the Linguistic Society . . . contributions from the most widely separated fields are of great interest to every listener or reader. The basic difference here lies, it seems to me, in the methodological aspect of the matter. In the AAA or the LSA there is a common interest in method, no matter where the individual scholar's specialization may lie . . . But in the MLA there is no common interest in methodology, or even (apparently) any awareness, for the most part, that questions of method are at all relevant. Almost every article in *PMLA* may be of interest to specialists in its particular field, but very few of them have any value for people outside their specific fields. At least part of this trouble stems from a deeper lack in the academic study of literature nowadays—the lack of realization that literature is related to the rest of human life. . . . No intelligent student is going to waste time on narrow aestheticism (as exemplified, say, in some of *PMLA*'s recent articles on Melville) when he finds real life being studied much more meaningfully in anthropology or sociology or economics. . . . When workers in literature realize, as many workers in linguistics do now, that their work is really a branch of cultural anthropology, and when they get back to putting literary phenomena into meaningful relation to human psychology and social structure, then the study of literature may be revived, as it sadly needs to be—and, unfortunately, *PMLA*'s pages are the best witnesses of this fact that I know. However, material showing a new approach of this type would, in all probability, stand little chance of appearing in *PMLA* . . . Your editorial policy is timid and conservative, interested chiefly in publishing articles that do not depart from 'accepted' viewpoints, and whose contribution (if any) is merely in deepening the information available on certain individual points . . ." [*PMLA* cannot publish what it does not receive. Its "Editorial Policy," published in the March issue for the last three years, affirms that the journal "exists to encourage the advancement of literary and linguistic learning on the widest possible front. It welcomes new approaches to literary or linguistic study . . . and it disavows any exclusive preference for conventional methods or for traditional papers on traditional subjects." But, again, it cannot publish what it does not receive.—ED.]

FLOWER SHOP. Members write: "For the first time since I have been a member [i.e., since 1917] the Association represents not merely a kind of mausoleum or academy for scholars but a life-giving fountain full of possibilities for the future." . . . "In every respect *PMLA* has taken on new life. I read far more articles in it than formerly, and the news in 'FMO' keeps one acquainted in a wholesome way with the doings of our loosely knit but intellectually united society of scholars." . . . "*PMLA* is better than ever. Even with \$7 as scarce as they now are, the value is apparent." . . . "'FMO' is priceless as information and as provocation to better things. *Maneto!*" . . . "I should like to express my sincere appreciation for your encouragement, which beginners need so urgently. I realize now that the MLA is not a monopoly for the experts but gives a chance to those who are far from scholarly centers." . . . "compliments on the tone and content of 'FMO.' I have some idea of the labor involved and of the indifference which is too often its reward." . . . "Since I got back from England I have been putting you through a very unfair test. I found all the issues of *PMLA* from September 1950 and have been going through the pile at a steady gait. . . . Your 'FMO' did more to help me catch up on what had happened during my year away than any other single source of information. I applaud your hammering away at the problems of scholarly publishing and the opportunities for fellowships; I approve your helping to advertise the work of university presses and the articles one should read outside his own field; above all, you have given the MLA a voice which it didn't have before, as well as a reputation for welcoming suggestions. Consider me a fan." . . . "Please don't let anyone stop you in regard to 'FMO'; that section of *PMLA* is alone worth the price of admission. . . . Your campaign for better writing and for the elimination of needless footnotes is the most wholesome thing that could have happened to American scholarship." . . .

MODEL? The Executive Committee of the American Economic Association has approved a project (director, Howard R. Bowen) which will involve an eighteen-months study of *graduate training in economics*. The project is being supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

## For Members Only—Continued

xiii

**REVISION OF STC.** William A. Jackson (Harvard College Library, Cambridge 38, Mass.) reports: "The revised Pollard and Redgrave *Short-Title Catalogue* [1475-1640] is being undertaken by F. S. Ferguson and myself; but it will be at least a decade before the work will be completed and doubtless before publication it will be circulated to libraries in proof form. I can say that it will probably be nearly doubled in size by the insertion of a great many hitherto unrecorded books and editions of books, though there will, likewise, be a number of deletions. There will also be a great many new cross references of editors, translators, and so on. Any assistance that the editors can receive from people knowing of the existence of unrecorded material will be very gratefully received."

**VERB. SAP.** For several years, in an effort to solve some storage problems and to build up the MLA Revolving Fund, we have offered many books for sale at greatly reduced prices to our members. Eight titles have gone out of print during this period (the latest, Weller's *Keats and Mary Tighe*), and our stock of some others has become very low. On June 1, 1952, the "sale" ends and the former list price of each book becomes again the price to members. *Until June 1* you may order any of the titles below at the first price given (the list price follows in parentheses). Send your check, made payable to the Association, to 100 Washington Square East, New York 3, N.Y. Here are some of the books in question: Aubin's *Topographical Poetry in 18th-Century England*, \$1.75 (\$3.50); Black and Shaaber's *Shakespeare's 17th-Century Editors*, \$1.50 (\$3.00); Bradner's *History of Anglo-Latin Poetry, 1500-1925*, \$1.75 (\$3.50); Casady's *Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*, \$1.25 (\$2.50); Clement's *Romanticism in France*, \$1.50 (\$3.00); Cole's variorum edition of Jonson's *The Gypsies Metamorphosed*, \$2.50 (\$5.00); *Essays and Studies in Honor of Carleton Brown*, \$2.50 (\$5.00); French's *Milton in Chancery*, \$2.00 (\$4.00); Harbage's *Cavalier Drama*, \$1.25 (\$2.50); Levy's *Répertoire des Lexiques du Vieux Français*, \$.50 (\$1.00); Reynold's *Staging of Elizabethan Plays at the Red Bull Theater*, \$1.00 (\$2.00); Roedder's *Volksprache und Wortschatz des Badischen Franklenlandes u.s.w.*, \$2.50 (\$5.00); Rubel's *Poetic Diction in the English Renaissance*, \$2.00 (\$3.00); Schinz's *Etat présents des travaux sur J. J. Rousseau*, \$1.50 (\$3.00); Stein's *David Garrick*, \$1.25 (\$2.50); Stone's edition of Garrick's 1763 *Journal*, \$.75 (\$1.50); Taylor's *Literary History of Meistergesang*, \$1.00 (\$2.00); Taylor's *Problems in German Literary History of the 15th and 16th Centuries*, \$1.00 (\$2.00); Weinberg's *French Realism: The Critical Reaction, 1830-70*, \$1.25 (\$2.50); Williams' *Bibliography of the 17th-Century Novel in France*, \$1.75 (\$3.50); Zeydel, Matenko, and Fife's edition of the *Letters of Ludwig Tieck, 1792-1853*, \$2.50 (\$5.00).

**MLA STYLE SHEET.** At least 1,315 copies are available at the University of Wisconsin. . . . The N.Y.U. bookstore ordered 1,000. . . . Margaret Gilman of Bryn Mawr reported: "a masterpiece—invaluable to me, and yesterday pressed into the hot little hands of all our graduate students." . . . The American Economic Association ordered 100 copies to send "to each author of main and discussion papers" at their 1951 meeting. . . . A. Grove Day, chairman of the English Department at the University of Hawaii, gave copies to all his colleagues and their graduate students. . . . Longwood College (Farmville, Va.) adopted it "as the guide for all written work done in the college." . . . The Princeton and Yale university presses ordered 500 copies each. . . . The editor of *Medieval Studies* ordered 400. . . . The American Philological Association wanted 200. . . . Between two and four hundred have been ordered by Columbia, Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Lehigh, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, and Washington. . . . A member wrote: "You could scarcely have performed a service more useful to researchers at all stages of development."

**VARIORUM MILTON.** The editors—Merritt Y. Hughes (General Editor), Douglas Bush, J. M. French, and A. S. P. Woodhouse—and their associates—Geoffrey Bullough, Francis Johnson, Michael Krouse, J. E. Shaw, Rosamond Tuve, and B. A. Wright—plan four volumes of about 600 pages each (commentary on the poems only) in a format uniform with that of the "Columbia Milton" but independently purchasable and readily usable with any standard edition. It is hoped that publication may begin in 1956—a hope precariously dependent upon the success of the editors in seeking the subsidy necessary before the Columbia University Press can undertake publication.