

For Members Only

ALTHOUGH necessarily incomplete, *Research in Progress* may throw some light upon the comparative popularity of authors as topics for current scholarly investigation. Not surprisingly, Shakespeare leads with 101 listed researchers. Goethe (with 44) is second, and Milton (42) third. Others with a dozen or more avowed investigators in 1948 are: Chaucer (27); Melville (22); Swift and Hawthorne (18 each); Voltaire, Johnson, and Wordsworth (17); Mann, Flaubert, Spenser, Donne, Shelley, Whitman, and Henry James (16); Balzac, Dryden, and Poe (15); Jonson and Coleridge (14); Dante, Cervantes, Yeats, and Emerson (13); Gide, Calderón, Arnold, and Twain (12).

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OUR PRINTERS report the arrival of two new monotype machines which had been on order for several years. This is good news to the Editor of *PMLA*, for it may mean the prompt appearance of the quarterly numbers hereafter. *Research in Progress* and the *American Bibliography* were to have reached members late in March (instead of late in August), but the unavoidable delay in the publication of the March *PMLA* made a June mailing of the new Bibliographical Supplement seem financially advisable. This decision assumed, mistakenly, the prompt appearance of the June number. We plan now a return to our former schedule, and trust that members can receive both the 1948 Proceedings and the 1949 Bibliographical Supplement during March of 1949.

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THE MLA President wishes to reassure members who joined after V-E Day and V-J Day that their war records are desired. Most would have been members earlier but for their war service. A hundred have replied; all are urged to do so, during December if possible. A report on the MLA war record is scheduled for publication in the next Proceedings supplement.

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AT THE END of this issue of *PMLA* is a new feature, the first quarterly compilation of "Academic Appointments and Vacancies." Encouraged by the approval and promised support of more than fifty presidents, deans, and department heads throughout the country, in large institutions and small, the MLA now offers this service to its own members and to the academic profession. The Association has no intention of becoming in any sense an employment agency. It will not print the names of job-seekers, nor will it undertake to aid in filling vacancies thus advertised. It intends only, in a simple and dignified way, to provide the profession with important information and, by so doing, to improve the methods by which vacancies now become known and get filled. The service is free. The plan recognizes and dignifies what has long been an unofficial service of the MLA, both during the year and, conspicuously, at the annual meetings. Let it also be here acknowledged that the plan defies a taboo—the unwritten law which often prevents a scholar, after he has achieved an assistant or associate professorship, from exhibiting *direct* interest in a vacancy elsewhere which he may be superbly qualified to fill.

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For Members Only—Continued

THE 1949 MEETING is scheduled to be held on the campus of Stanford University, California, September 7, 8, and 9. The names of 1949 officers of groups and sections are printed in the 1948 *Program*. Members planning to attend the California meeting, and wishing to offer papers, should not delay in sending proposals to the appropriate chairmen, as material for the 1949 *Program* must be ready for the printers by the middle of March, in order that it may be mailed with the June *PMLA*.

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THE DISTRIBUTION of articles in *PMLA* for 1948 has been as follows: English literature, 36 papers; Germanic, 10; French, 5; American, 5; Spanish, 3 (83 pages); Italian, 1 (44 pages); linguistic, 8; miscellaneous, 4. Of the foregoing, six might have been classified as "comparative" studies. A simple count will show that exactly half of the total articles published were in the field of English literature. During 1947, when the total was 76, 41 were in English, 11 in French, 9 in Germanic, 4 in linguistics, 2 in American. Of the 199 papers submitted to *PMLA* during 1947, 114 were in the field of English.

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NEWS ITEMS suitable for inclusion in this section "for members only" will be welcomed by the Editor.

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MEMBERS interested in appointments to posts abroad are now asked to write for registration blanks to Harry R. Warfel, Department of English, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. (Note the change in Professor Warfel's address.)

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IN THE 1947 *Proceedings* we published statistics on the MLA membership in twenty-six leading institutions, promising to print up to date totals later in the year. On October first, Columbia University had 133 MLA members (121 last March), Yale 106 (93 in March), N.Y.U. 102 (unchanged), Michigan 90 (88), Pennsylvania 87 (unchanged), Harvard 82 (68), Wisconsin 82 (81), Wayne 77 (unchanged), California (Berkeley) 74 (67), Princeton 73 (72), Illinois 73 (71), Texas 70 (67), City College 70 (52), Indiana 65 (60), Ohio State 63 (60), Chicago 61 (58), Hunter 60 (57), Northwestern 60 (55), Brooklyn College 60 (52), U.C.L.A. 52 (49), Cornell 49 (42), Minnesota 49 (50), Johns Hopkins 45 (42), Duke 43 (42), and Rutgers 43 (39).

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IS YOUR library included in the list of libraries which have a standing order for all books published by the MLA? If it is not (see the list printed in the advertising pages of the September *PMLA*), we suggest that you collect a few interested colleagues and go at once to your librarian with the request that he subscribe—and thus receive a thirty percent discount on all our books. The problems of scholarly publishing can never be solved until scholars themselves see to it that college and university libraries give them adequate support. Even if your own library must restrict its purchases of scholarly material with a view to undergraduate needs, you can urge that it support your national organization, which (in normal times) publishes only several books a year, and which one of these days may wish to publish a book of yours!

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