

For Members Only

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SCHOLARLY POPULARIZATION. Are American scholars the only ones left in the world too unsure of themselves to try it? Do you really feel it “beneath you” or are you, instead, still laboring under the provincial delusion that no good scholar in the fine, old tradition ever stoops to such a thing? Take a look at *Vie et Langage*, the little monthly review published by Librairie Larousse in Paris (13 rue Montparnasse) from April of this year, and already highly successful. It is inexpensive (680 fr., about \$1.97 p.a.), lively, vivid, popular. It contains, besides crossword puzzles, delightfully pithy articles on etymologies, slang, vocabulary, style, the origin of language, the alphabet, social linguistics, definitions, Canadian French, grammar, student boners, elementary French—every conceivable phase of language and linguistics. And who do you suppose writes these scintillating articles? Among the contributors: Charles Bruneau, Albert Dauzat, Georges Gougenheim, André Mirambel, Aurélien Sauvageot of the Sorbonne, la Faculté de Strasbourg, l’Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, l’Ecole de Langues Orientales. Translate these eminent names into American equivalents, give the American equivalents an equal sense of social responsibility (and, while you’re at it, a Gallic sense of style), and imagine the American review that might result. Must MLA scholars go on forever writing only for each other?

AS A MATTER OF FACT. There are exceptions, of course, as this and the following paragraph will witness. The Book-of-the-Month Club’s January choice is *Charles Dickens: His Tragedy and Triumph* by MLA member Edgar Johnson (City College), published by Simon and Schuster.

MOTIVATION. Carroll Camden (Rice Inst.) writes: “The arrival of the [September] *PMLA*, with its sprightly and informative ‘FMO,’ prompts me to write to you as I have intended all summer. . . . Following the recommendations which you and Louis Wright have been urging upon us, I tried to write a book which would have a somewhat wider appeal [*The Elizabethan Woman*, published in September by the Elsevier Press]. . . . As far as I can gather from the publisher, the book is doing very well; at least he is satisfied. The publicity bothered me somewhat, especially when columnists would use quotations from the book. On the whole, however, the experience has been quite interesting. I suppose that a key question is what is the motivation behind a scholar’s writing of a particular book. . . . Or maybe it is not as simple as that.” Believe us, it is not.

BIG IDEA. Vincent Guilloton (Smith) writes: “. . . our propaganda is apparently unable . . . to destroy a misconception rampant abroad that there is little to choose between the cultures of Russia and the U.S. Both countries, it is claimed, worship technology, production of material goods, industrial efficiency, and little else. When it comes to the things of the mind, literature or the arts, the advantage, if any, lies with Russia where, they say, the artiste has a ‘place de faveur’ in the Soviet hierarchy. In short, Europeans, in spite of the success enjoyed by many American novelists (who are said to be ignored anyway by their own countrymen) consider America as a backward country by European cultural standards. Nothing is more irritating to a Frenchman like myself, a member of the MLA since 1923, than to hear and read such nonsense. . . . Why not use the MLA to sell abroad the idea that America is a country where scholarship is encouraged and respected, and to achieve this, why not . . . hold an MLA meeting in Paris? . . . I am convinced that a Congress of American scholars, where not only French but all modern languages, including Russian, would be represented, would make a tremendous impression in Europe. At the different sessions, some chosen papers would be read by the best, most representative, or most promising members of our Association, to be discussed after by the European scholars invited. . . . Probably the best time would be in the spring, during the week after Easter, when French universities are on vacation. The Sorbonne is then vacant and would be the logical place for the scholars to meet. . . . Atlantic lines have little business at that time, and a one-class boat, like the Dutch *Ryndam*, might be chartered . . . I know full well that there would be many difficulties which might look insuperable, but I keep in mind Winston Churchill’s pronouncement: ‘The American national psychology is such

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that the bigger the Idea, the more wholeheartedly and obstinately do they throw themselves into making it a success.' . . ." {This Big Idea was first (?) discussed at the 1890 MLA meeting. What are you doing in the spring of 1954?}

SAMLA LIVE MSS COMMITTEE. Composed of writers, teachers, and librarians, supported by the Southern Humanities Conference, and inspired by a concern for both current regional culture and the needs of future scholars, this group of the South Atlantic MLA encourages Southern poets, novelists, musicians, and historians to give to regional research institutions (28 recommended) their letters, notebooks, journals, rough drafts, etc. Chairman of the Committee is John Bowen Hamilton, Appalachian State Teachers College (Boone, N.C.), who invites suggestions.

INTERNATIONAL ARTHURIAN CONGRESS. The fourth is scheduled to be held at Rennes in the summer of 1954. About 70 scholars attended the third, held at King Alfred's College, Winchester, in August 1951. (Besides hearing and discussing papers, members were received by the Mayor, saw the cathedral and Round Table, and were taken by bus to Salisbury, Stonehenge, and Glastonbury.) It is hoped that many Americans will be able to go to Rennes. President of the American Branch of the Society: Roger S. Loomis (Columbia). Dues (\$3), which include a subscription to the annual bulletin, should be sent to William R. Roach (Pennsylvania).

PUNS IN SHAKESPEARE. If you have found one not yet remarked in print, you might (with luck) be able to add to the collection of 3,300 instances of Shakespearean wordplay already made, and soon to be published, by Redmond L. O'Hanlon (4 Clove Lakes Place, Staten Island 10, N.Y.), who invites contributions. He's getting them, from all over; for example, someone in Western Australia wrote him to point out that, in Hamlet's death-gasp, "The rest is silence," the word *rest* means (1) peace of the afterlife, (2) remainder, and (3) musical beat without sound. You've known this all along? Mr. O'Hanlon claims it is not recorded in print, and we are not one to argue with a New York cop. (Perhaps you read the "profile" of Patrolman O'Hanlon in the June 14 *New Yorker*.) We do not normally use this space to solicit help for individual scholars, but this pundick has asked us for publicity and we shall not resist an officer of the law.

DUBIOUS COMFORT. A member writes: "I'm prompted to write this in answer to your lament in the September *PMLA* [p. ii] that you probably don't have any friends on account of the fact that you have to reject so many articles. . . . The fact is that I had an article rejected by *PMLA* about six months ago and not only don't feel sore at all but actually agreed with everything that your two readers said about it. They pointed out weaknesses that I was perfectly well aware of when I sent it in but which I hoped they might not notice. What should I resent?" Nothing, obviously. But perhaps we may be allowed a little resentment on behalf of the two fine scholars who interrupted their own work to help *PMLA*, under the illusion that a fellow member was offering something he considered worthy of publication.

FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA. A member writes: "It seems impossible to keep in contact with the civilized world within the . . . Marine Corps. I finally got away from the hustle and bustle of military life yesterday long enough to open the June copy of my favorite publication . . . I cannot tell you how much *PMLA* means to me here—when I *do* get time to read it. It represents to me all the finer things of an older, more satisfying life: good scholarship along with fine wit and chatter by pleasing and cultured persons—all with the aim of constructing a better society instead of destroying the one in which we now live. . . . *FMO* is a constant joy and a good reminder that the life of a professor is a happy one."

A MAN WHO. Karl H. Van D'Elden writes: "Page viii of the September *PMLA* was very interesting to me—especially the sentences: 'Any member may propose names [for the Executive Council]. In recent years, few members have done so.' This is another manifestation of that typically American lethargy that exists whenever our right to vote (or nominate) can be exercised. Even though I am temporarily away from the Ivory Tower (having been recalled as an essential Military

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Intelligence Specialist), I feel very strongly about anything affecting our association, and I should therefore like to place into nomination . . ." The 1952 Ballot has been sent to all members; have you voted yet? As we write this, we feel sure that Lt. Van D'Elden's vote will be among the early arrivals.

WRITERS' CONFERENCES. Presumably during the rest of the year they put pen to paper (or fingers to keys), but summer seems to be the season for writers to talk about writing. Through the hot, dry months of 1952 they held forth in many a humid classroom, on many a parched lawn. Vermont seemed to be the favored state, with conferences staged at Middlebury ("Bread Loaf," Theodore Morrison director), Putney (Walter Hendricks), and Burlington. June saw the talkative authors convene in two spots in both Arkansas (Morrilton, Guy Ashford director; Eureka Springs, Cora Pinkley-Call) and Texas (Canyon, Loula Grace Erdman; Corpus Christi, Dee Woods), with conferences also held in Arizona (Flagstaff, Antoinette Smith), California (Claremont, Luther J. Lee), Colorado (Denver, Alan Swallow), Connecticut (Storrs, Robert W. Stallman), Indiana (Notre Dame, Louis Hasley), Missouri (Columbia, William Peden), Nebraska (Omaha, L. V. Jacks), New York (Chautauqua Lake), North Carolina (Hendersonville, Evelyn Haynes), Oklahoma (Norman), Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Olga P. MacFarland), Utah (Salt Lake City, Brewster Ghiselin), Wisconsin (Madison, Paul Fulcher), and Wyoming (Laramie, Allan Willman)—to say nothing of Mexico City (Margaret Shedd). In July they blossomed out again in Colorado (Boulder, Don Saunders), Indiana (Bloomington, Philip Daghlian), New York (at Columbia, Donald L. Clark), and Wisconsin (Green Lake, Ben Browne); and verbalized the ground in Illinois (Chicago, Alice M. Dickey), Massachusetts (Medford, John Holmes), Montana (Missoula, Henry V. Larom), and New Hampshire (Contoocook, Mildred I. Reid). August found them seeking the shade in Maine (Ocean Park, Adelbert M. Jakeman), New Hampshire (Durham, Carroll S. Towle), and Tennessee (Beersheba Springs, Harry Kroll). Anybody read any good books lately?

FACULTY WIVES. If you can't think of anything else to give your wife for Christmas (you unimaginative brute), send \$5.95 to the Academic Recording Co. (Box 1, Rochester 18, N.Y.) and ask for "Songs from the Academic Life." Find and play for her, if you still own a phonograph, the "Faculty Wife's Lament." Chances are she'll both laugh and cry (ours did). None of the other songs on the record seemed to us nearly so good; so don't accuse us of misleading you; but this one struck us as pretty wonderful, and the whole performance (a musical comedy performed by the faculty of Rochester) symbolizes the possibility of eventual cooperation between the sciences and the humanities, since the book was written by Allan Wendt (English), the music composed by Arthur Roberts (physics).

PRIZE IN AESTHETICS. Walter Abell (Michigan State, East Lansing) won \$100 for the best article published in *JAAC* during 1951-52. Honorable mention was awarded Helen Adolf, Craig LaDrière, Van Meter Ames, and Michael Balint. *JAAC*, incidentally, plans to publish at regular intervals a selected list of graduate and undergraduate courses on aesthetics and related subjects, with instructors; and information is solicited.

NUMISMATICS. The American Numismatic Society will repeat its summer seminar (Feb. *PMLA*, p. viii) and again offers grants-in-aid (\$500) to advanced graduate students or (now) college instructors in any humanistic fields. Last summer there were 13 awards, in classics, oriental languages, ancient and medieval history, and fine arts—none in modern literature. Applications must be filed by March 1 (formerly April 1); write to the Society, Broadway at 155th St., New York 32.

GERMANY AND FINLAND. They are at long last in the Fulbright Program, and American scholars will visit them as Fulbright fellows in 1953-54. Lecturing opportunities were not yet known when this paragraph was written (October 10), and so applications in this category will not be accepted until next spring. Since we may again not have time to inform you (we learned after the September *PMLA* was printed that the deadline for research awards was October 15), interested members should write the Conference Board for particulars.

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BUNDESTAGGAST. Among 100 leading representatives of American public, scientific, and cultural life, visiting the Federal Republic of Germany as guests (all expenses paid) between November 10 and December 10, was the current President of the MLA, Albert C. Baugh.

RISING SUN. Member Naosuke Uyama writes: "I am convinced that my being a member of your honored Association will be of invaluable service to me. A mere glance at the list of papers and discussions at your last convention was a great stimulus . . . Japan has produced just a handful (about 40 all told) of doctors in the field of English literature and language since the establishment of the English Department in the Tokyo University [1877] at the end of the 19th century, though studies and researches have constantly been undertaken. No Master's degree has been recognized so far, and a new system of conferring degrees is now being planned by the Ministry of Education, which, it is expected, will be similar to your present system."

IRISLEABHAR CEILTEACH. This new quarterly (\$2 p. a.), which will contain verse and prose in Scottish and Irish Gaelic, plus material in English about the Gael and his customs, began life in October. Editors: Iain MacAoidh and (MLA member) Pádraig O Broin (343 Belsize Drive, Toronto 12, Canada). Tha cainnt agus gnathsan a' Ghaidheil agus gach sluagh Ceilteach eile airidh a bhi air an gleidheadh.

CLASSICAL WEEKLY. Recent volumes have contained much material of interest to MLA members, and 1953 will see the beginning of a series of *critical surveys*, by prominent scholars, of recent work in various classical authors and fields. An issue near the close of this year will contain a comprehensive bibliography of current (i.e., 1952) classical books (more than 300). Volume XLV (1951-52) carried more than 160 reviews, about double the number in any other American periodical in this field.

FULBRIGHT SCREENING. There is much misunderstanding about how it works. Let's say you apply for a postdoctoral fellowship (lecturing or research abroad). Your application is first screened by a committee of scholars *in your field* (e.g., Romance, Germanic, English, American language or literature) chosen by the ACLS. Last year's committee for the MLA field: Howard Jones, Gordon Ray, Willard Thorp, Kemp Malone, Justin O'Brien (proxy for Norman Torrey), Thomas Bergin, P. M. Mitchell, and Martin Joos (plus consultants Ernest Simmons and Harold Shadick). These men classify all the applicants into four groups: I, II, III, and IV. Your application is next reviewed by an "area committee" (e.g., for France, Italy, Germany, etc.), which considers applicants in *all fields* (e.g., physics, fine arts, physical culture, literature) interested in going to a *particular country*. Although this committee has before it the recommendations of the first committee, its perspective is obviously different and its recommendations take into account the current needs and requests of the nation on which its members are experts. Your application subsequently goes to the Committee on International Exchange of Persons (CIEP), made up of three representatives from each of the four great national councils (science, social science, education, the humanities). The current ACLS representatives: Mortimer Graves, Sidney Painter, and the MLA Executive Secretary. The CIEP, with a more stable membership and a perspective that embraces the needs and policies of the *total program*, reviews the recommendations of the two earlier committees (with access to *all* applications in cases of doubt), and then, in turn, recommends to the presidentially appointed Board of Foreign Scholarships. The BFS recommendations are then subject to (1) a security check (extremely important in a large-scale program affecting international relations in a nervous world) and (2) the final approval of the national committee in the country involved. *Six steps* in the screening process—a time-consuming, imperfect system—but the busy, unpaid persons involved in it have thus far been unable to concoct a better.

THE 1953 MEETING. It is scheduled to be held at Chicago, in the Palmer House, on December 28-30. Co-chairmen of the local committee on arrangements: Frederic E. Faverty (Northwestern) and Howard P. Vincent (Illinois Inst. of Tech.).

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HOLIDAY NOTES. On Christmas Eve ex-President Grant slipped and fell on the icy New York street while handing a present to his coachman, and the *Times* editorialized: "But there is a crumb of comfort in the thought that the only other living ex-President of these United States [Rutherford B. Hayes] is not liable to subject himself to injury in the performance of any similar feat of benevolence." There was a six-inch snowfall on Christmas day, Tuesday. By Thursday the snow was dirty and melting, and President Arthur, visiting a friend in New York (Seth B. French), waded through the slush. So did a small group of college professors on their way to a two-day convention at Columbia College—and several curious newspaper reporters who followed them into their meeting-room. After the address of welcome by President Barnard of Columbia, a long argument ensued as to the advisability of admitting reporters to such sessions; several professors violently objected, but the majority finally agreed to their attendance, after Professor Comfort of Syracuse had called reporters "promoters of civilization." (A columnist in the *Daily Graphic* the next day mentioned "forty professors at Columbia College debating as to the expediency of making respectable the study of foreign languages from the collegiate point of view.") That evening, some of the visiting teachers may have gone to the Star Theatre to see Edwin Booth play *Shylock* (as Irving had done a few weeks earlier), while others doubtless indulged in academic gossip (Did you hear that the late Professor of Greek at Harvard left an estate of several hundred thousand dollars, most of it bequeathed to the Library?). On Friday, December 28, 1883, when the conventioners decided to found a new national society, the "Help Wanted: Males" section of the *Times* included the following from S. W. Green's Sons (69 Beekman St.): "Wanted—French Translators: Good Pay."

INDEX TRANSLATIONUM. Produced annually by UNESCO, it is an international index of translations of literary, scientific, educational, and cultural pamphlets or books. Volume I (1949) listed translations made in 26 countries in 1948; Volume III (1952), translations made in 34 countries during 1950 (a total of 12,561 entries for non-English-speaking countries). Prices: I, \$3; II, \$4; III, \$7.50 (Columbia Univ. Press).

ADVICE. On January 29 we wrote an author: "Frankly, the MLA does a dis-service to a member by publishing a book which has more than a thousand potential purchasers—as I am convinced yours has. Come to us after you've been turned down by half a dozen good university presses, and we'll be distinctly interested." We then named a half dozen, omitting those which now more or less regularly ask the author for a considerable subsidy. The book was taken by the second on our list, Princeton, on June 9. Watch for it; on the basis of our readers' reports we still think it will have a good sale. It's David V. Erdman's *William Blake's War and Peace*.

ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC. Its 1953 Charles Austin Beard Memorial Prize (\$500 and a contract for publication) will be for a work in American history (political science in 1954). Any U.S. citizen not over 40 is eligible; deadline July 31.

DID YOU KNOW? After a lapse of more than 10 years the once-familiar Tauchnitz paper-cover edition of English and American books has now resumed publication in Germany. . . . It is estimated that more than 34,500,000 persons (over one fifth of the population) are sitting in American classrooms this month. . . . According to a recent Gallup poll, the public thinks (69 to 24%) that college students getting good marks should be the last to be drafted. . . . The government loan authorization for college housing projects is \$60,000,000 for 1953. . . . During 1950 philanthropic contributions to colleges and universities exceeded \$300,000,000 (a record). . . . There are almost twice as many private colleges and universities (about 1,203) as state institutions (665). . . . According to a survey made in 1951, the median professional income of Ph.D.'s in physics was \$7,100 a year; in chemical engineering, \$7,900 a year. . . . By the end of March 1952 the total circulation of UNESCO coupons (program launched in December 1948) for books, films, scientific materials, etc., exceeded \$2,000,000. . . . At least 1,460 U. S. books were translated into the languages of 27 countries in 1950 (198 scientific, 231 social studies, 945 fiction, juvenile, and general literature). . . .

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VIGNETTE XIII. Merritt Y(erkes) Hughes of Wisconsin, member of the MLA Executive Council (1949-52), is a man of great energy, conscience, and irony. A Quaker, he served in the Intelligence Corps of the AEF in World War I, as field historian with the Third Army in World War II. As others "collect" cathedrals and historical monuments, he likes to visit campuses whenever he finds himself in a college town. He has taught summers at Brigham Young, Washington State, Harvard, Duke, and California; he has enjoyed Guggenheim, Fulbright, Huntington, and American Field Service fellowships. Born fifty-nine years ago in Philadelphia, he studied at Boston University (A.B. and A.M. 1915-16), Edinburgh (M.A. 1918), Harvard (Ph.D. 1921), and in Paris (1921-22). He taught for one year at Boston, fourteen years at California (Berkeley), and has been at Wisconsin since 1936, serving frequently as department head. Author of *Virgil and Spenser* (1929) and editor of Milton's verse and selected prose in three volumes (1935-47), he received a D.Litt. from Edinburgh in 1950. Perhaps his lifetime devotion to Renaissance literature is responsible for his earnest conviction that the scholar-teacher should be a humanist man of the world, not withdrawn in an ivory tower, but living actively and fully in the wide commonwealth of letters and learning. The quality as well as the content of his speech reflects this credo: it is somewhat formal, polished, incisive, erudite in flourishes. It is also, conspicuously, ironic. When directed at friends, this irony often takes the form of raillery or affectionate teasing; when directed at academic society or (as not infrequently happens) at himself, it is his way of saying that his high ideal for the modern scholar is still, regrettably, out of reach. [This is the thirteenth in a series of word-portraits of members of the Council. For some of the above our thanks go to F. H. and R. W.—Ed.]

LET'S GET A FOUNDATION. The sentence usually ends, of course, with "to finance it." Scholarly projects can cost money, of which scholars possess little, and so they are ever hopeful that somebody else will pay the bill. The firmest foundation for a scholarly project, however, is some realistic knowledge of the ways of foundations and the facts of publishing; and since we see no reason for encouraging our members to seek discouragement, we continue to talk here about both matters. What's the most impressive scholarly project you can imagine? We must rule out the great New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, since this already exists, sponsored (since 1933) by the MLA and financed through a revolving fund donated by the Carnegie Corporation and a gift for editorial expenses from the American Philosophical Society. Let's imagine, instead, a Variorum Edition of Milton—a scholarly desideratum for almost a century. Let's put in charge of this the finest Milton scholars of our time—among them, say, Douglas Bush, Merritt Hughes, A. S. P. Woodhouse, and J. Milton French. Let's assume that it also has MLA sponsorship and a publisher, but, unlike the Shakespeare Variorum, it lacks a substantial subsidy. Can you imagine a better project to take to a foundation? Merritt Hughes has taken it to no fewer than 430 (sic) foundations, and has yet to receive a favorable response. In 278 cases, his letter was ignored; in 26, his letter was returned marked "Unknown" (he got the names and addresses from *American Foundations and Their Fields*, 1949). The world, ladies and gentlemen, has changed, and we'll live more effectively in it if we seek to learn *why*. To the curious we recommend Abraham Flexner's *Funds and Foundations: Their Policies Past and Present* (Harper, 1952), particularly the last chapter. That's one side of the picture. The other side, yet to be written, might be entitled "American Scholars: Their *raison d'être* Past and Present," or "What Price the Ivory in Our Tower?"

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT. It's been a long time since our appeal for funds to furnish our new offices was made, but loyal members continue to express their desire to improve our physical surroundings. In previous issues we have expressed gratitude to 165 such persons; let us now add the names of Audrey Nell Wiley, Jewel Wurtzbaugh, Vernam Hull, Edward S. LeComte, and Archer Taylor. To all our warm thanks. It has been especially heartening to us that these members, quite rightly, have *not* assumed that the Rockefeller grant made their gifts superfluous. The use of the grant is limited to the achievement of specific purposes, and the refurbishing of the national offices is not one of them.

NEWBERRY LIBRARY. A Fellowship in Midwestern Studies (the final one to be awarded) is currently held by Kimball Flaccus, who is writing a critical biography of Edgar Lee Masters. Last summer three NL Fellows were in residence: John L. Lievsay (Tennessee), Howard Meroney (Temple), and Dwight L. Smith (Ohio State). The Midwest Renaissance group voted on May 3 to meet hereafter as the Newberry Library Conference on Renaissance Studies.

UNAVAILABLE. William H. F. Lamont (Rutgers) is compiling a list of foreign books which, despite their acknowledged "greatness," are unavailable to Americans—either because they have had small initial editions which have gone out of print, or because they have never been translated into English. Some German examples of the latter: Keller's *Der grüne Heinrich*, Stifter's *Nachsommer*, Meyer's *Jürg Jenatsch*, Stehr's *Der Heiligenhof*, Kolbenheyer's *Paracelsus*, Grimm's *Volk ohne Raum*, Bergengruen's *Der Grosstyrann und das Gericht*, Kluge's *Der Herr Kortüm*. (He got this list from 41 readers of the Hamburg *Die Zeit*, in which he appealed for advice.)

AMERICAN LIT.: WHICH TEXT? Ben W. Fuson (Park College) has done a descriptive and statistical comparison of currently available survey anthologies and reprint series. The 24-page pamphlet (plus charts), *Which Text Shall I Choose?*, is available for 50 cents from the College English Association (11 Old Chapel, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass.), which distributed it to all CEA members this winter.

WE PRESUME TO SAY. Though Richard Hofstadter has just said it first, in *The Development and Scope of Higher Education in the U.S.* (Columbia Univ. Press): "One of the most conspicuous things about American writing and speaking on education is a strange and pervasive reluctance—even when the writers and speakers are teachers and scholars—to admit that enjoyment of the life of the mind is a legitimate and important consummation in itself, at least as valid among the ends of life as the enjoyment, say, of sports, sex, or liquor. Education is justified apologetically as a useful instrument in attaining *other* ends: it is good for business or professional careers; it is good because it makes good citizens . . . because it fosters something called 'democratic living' . . . for the arts of government . . . for machine technology. Rarely, however, does anyone presume to say that it is good for man."

BACK TO THE BOOK. The kind of letter we most like to receive as Editor came recently from Maurice B. Cramer (Chicago): "I find myself sitting down with incoming issues and actually reading them in the role of a lover of literature. The September issue sent me back to *Henry Esmond* for a rereading with new insight and delight for which I owe *PMLA* a real debt of gratitude. . . . The improvement in interest and profit continues to astonish me."

FACTS OF PUBLISHING. "One basic, unchangeable reason for the rejection of many MSS. is that a publishing company, being a business, is obliged to break even, if not turn a profit. Now, as recently as fifteen years ago, a publisher could break even on a hypothetical textbook after selling only 1,500 copies. Today he must sell about 5,000 copies of this same book. Hence, if your MS.—no matter how useful, original, and generally estimable—shows no promise of selling in that amount within a few years, it is quite likely to be turned down as economically unfeasible. . . . But even after these facts of publishing life are made clear to him, the author of, say, a 400-page work entitled *Thomas Wolfe's Marginalia on Thackeray's 'Swift'* finds it difficult to believe that 'several thousand intelligent laymen, as well as every library in the country,' won't rush out to buy his book. The whereabouts of these intelligent laymen who are fondly expected to buy the kind of nonfiction that deals with subjects on a level higher than dog-raising or becoming an executive in ten days has been a mystery for a number of years. If there were even a remote possibility of discovering them, the publishing business would probably send out a cooperatively financed expedition. As for libraries, an excellent sale for a nonfiction book of limited appeal rarely exceeds 500 copies." We quote, with permission, from the Dryden Press's forthcoming (December) *More Notes for Authors*, latest in a most helpful series. "More generally," this issue emphasizes, "what limits the market for a MS. is *not the subject matter but the author's point of view*" (our italics).

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FORD FELLOWS. There are currently (253 in 1951-52) 246 of them, enjoying grants approximately equivalent to their regular salaries plus certain expenses. Candidates for 1953-54 fellowships must be nominated by *their institutions* before January 10 (awards to be announced April 1). Colleges of fewer than 600 undergraduates may nominate 2 teachers; 600-1,500, 3; more than 1,500, 4. Men or women teachers, 30-45, are eligible. Purpose of the program: to enable recipients to broaden their qualifications *as teachers*, to improve their contributions to liberal education. Proposals of study to this end must be made, and the relevance of research projects must be shown. The presidents of all U.S. colleges and universities (the nominating agents) have received full details.

SUNDAY MORNING IN BOSTON. The General Meeting will be presided over by the President (Albert C. Baugh) and the First Vice-President (C. D. Zdanowicz). Speakers will be Earl J. McGrath, Hayward Keniston, Albert H. Marckwardt, Henri Peyre, Donald D. Walsh, B. Q. Morgan, and the MLA Executive Secretary. The session will introduce members and the interested public to the background and purposes of the new FL Program.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS. We recommend the following for that shelf in the departmental office: (1) The October *PMLA*, with a note calling attention to pages 182-185. (2) *Your Opportunity* (1952), edited and published by Theodore S. Jones (Milton 87, Mass.), \$3.95 paper, \$4.95 cloth. (3) *Scholarships, Fellowships, and Loans*, edited by S. Norman Feingold (Boston 16, Mass.: Bellman Publishing Co.), Volume II (1951), \$5.00. (4) *Study Abroad: An International Handbook of Fellowships, Scholarships, International Exchange* (New York 27, N.Y.: Columbia Univ. Press), Volume IV (1951-52), \$1.25. The U.S. Office of Education (Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D.C.) also publishes *A Partial Bibliography of Materials Related to (1) References on Loans, Fellowships, Scholarships, and the Exchange of Persons Program, (2) Materials on Counseling, Guidance, and so forth.*

SEWANEE REVIEW. It has a new Editor, Monroe K. Spears, and the editorial (pp. 746-748) in the back of his first (Autumn 1952) issue merits the attention of his fellow MLA members. What interests us most is the intention there expressed of (1) reaching a wider audience and (2) publishing occasionally "first-rate historical criticism: interpretations of literature of the past which unite the techniques of scholarship and of modern criticism and are informed by a sense of contemporary relevance." This does not mean, of course, that the *Sewanee* and *PMLA* will soon be competing with each other for MSS; but if it means, as our correspondence with Editor Spears leads us to believe, that they are now within handshaking distance of each other, it's a good thing for both and has happened none too soon.

GEOGRAPHY OF OBJECTION. It is no secret that the MLA has been developing a professional conscience and, without abandoning or neglecting a single earlier purpose, has been trying to promote scholarship, not in a vacuum, but in a changing context, social, economic, and academic. As was expected, we have encountered resistance or indignation from persons who believe that the MLA should concern itself solely with research—theirs particularly; their *kind*, at least. Having heard and analyzed the faint murmur for five years now, we permit ourselves several generalizations. If our correspondence is any guide, the objectors are almost all from the middle generation (not the "Old Guard," not the youngsters) who have comfortably settled in private, well-endowed universities in the East. Even there, we have reason to believe that they are in a minority. And we are sure that their freedom to do further research, of *any kind*, is threatened by many forces in American life. Hence, we shall continue to work to make literary and linguistic study possible for them as well as for the less secure, feeling meanwhile not a little like Thomson's knight of Arms and Industry.

MOVING PICTURE. Irene Simon in *English Studies* (April 1952) said: "One does not know which to praise more: his careful reading of so many 'unprofitable' novels or his unifying vision, which brings them into focus. For he succeeds in fitting this overwhelming mass of narratives into a clear picture; and it is a moving picture . . ." It's an MLA book she's describing, James R. Foster's *History of the Pre-Romantic Novel in England*, price (to members only) \$3.00.