

*An*  
*MLA Book*

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*The* ENGLISH  
ROMANTIC POETS

A REVIEW OF RESEARCH

By ERNEST BERNBAUM, SAMUEL C. CHEW, THOMAS M. RAYSOR, CLARENCE D. THORPE, BENNETT WEAVER, *and* RENÉ WELLEK. *Edited by* THOMAS M. RAYSOR.

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THE ROMANTIC PERIOD  
WORDSWORTH                      COLERIDGE  
BYRON                                KEATS  
SHELLEY

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A fresh, thorough, and informed survey of research and criticism relating to the chief English Romantic poets, produced by authorities in the field and designed for teachers, beginning scholars, and graduate students.

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# For Members Only

**SALUTE TO TOMORROW.** This reeling, shrunken globe is so racked by fears that are making policy, by suspicions armed with incoherent atoms, that no meteorologist can say whether the skies tomorrow will be filled with sunlight or with long-range bombers. All editors, even of learned journals, must learn to live with the fact that the paragraphs they write may have to be proofread by someone else, and may be published, if published at all, to a world of shattered ivory towers. We are prompted, therefore, to utter a few small but sustaining convictions. We continue to believe in ivory towers, not as fit places to live (they were never so), but as civilized refuges for reflection and (for those able to climb the steep stairs) as steady platforms for the achievement of perspective. We believe no less in literary and linguistic scholarship because it now seems threatened with extinction; indeed, in times like these, we believe ourselves more fortunate in our work than many other people, for it permits us to live intimately with courageous spirits, with men of vision, and it has both health and purpose in it. We never believed that our scholarship was doomed because some of us were narrow, lacking a sense of values, or out of touch with reality, for we have seen these same human weaknesses flourish like weeds in other walks of life. Pedantry has never threatened us so much as has lack of confidence, lack of constructive interest in the future. We believe, then, in tomorrow, today more than ever before. In short, we cheerfully concentrate on the two fingers plying our typewriter, trusting others, whose less cheerful task it is, to scan the uneasy skies.

**INSIDE THE IVORY TOWER.** Since 1883 the MLA has been vitally interested in international scholarship in its field, and since 1893 we have frequently elected distinguished foreign scholars to Honorary Membership. We publish annually an international compilation of Research in Progress. We have a Committee on International Cultural Cooperation. With the ACLS, we alone represent the humanities on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. Daily we help to make international understanding possible by teaching foreign languages and foreign literatures, and in our writing we often illustrate the fact that the world of literature is truly One World. Our members travel widely and correspond with persons in many lands. By the very nature of our studies we are actively and permanently concerned with greater understanding of foreign cultures. Thus, as the *Zeitgeist* prompts all men of conscience to appropriate activities, we are more fortunate (let us count our blessings) than those who must cure, plead, or trade for a living. We "stand and wait" with a difference. Remembering recent history, we know that universities and scholarly societies, devoted to free inquiry, have always been among the first institutions attacked by totalitarian forces, which regard us as dangerous men. And little wonder: in the evening, preparing for another day of direct influence on the minds of future citizens, we can lean back and listen again to freedom-loving voices out of the past—can read again words like these of John Milton, written in 1649: "Who knows not that there is a mutual bond of amity and brotherhood between man and man over all the world? . . . Nor is it distance of place that makes enmity, but enmity that makes distance. He therefore that keeps peace with me, near or remote, of whatsoever nation, is to me . . . a neighbor."

**RESEARCH INTERRUPTED.** The Editor of "Research in Progress" has been informed that the English, French, German, and Italian divisions were discontinued early last year at Debrecen University (Hungary), and the MLA "is asked to discontinue correspondence with the said divisions."

**ACCOLADE.** Last year Kemp Malone, member of the MLA Executive Council, was knighted in the Order of Dannebrog for his literary researches. The Danish knighthood followed only a little more than a year after a similar honor conferred on Professor Malone by Iceland.

**VISITORS.** Following is an incomplete list of foreign scholars in our field now in America on Fulbright travel grants for lecturing or advanced research. Many of them would welcome invitations to visit other institutions *provided that the expense of travel is covered by the place inviting them, for their Fulbright grants in no instance include travel or other expenses while in this country.* In our list we

## For Members Only—Continued

note the nation from which they have come (in parentheses), their host institution here, and a brief note of their scholarly interest: René Allewaert (from France), at Brown, *French lang. & lit.*; R. M. Asselineau (France), Harvard, *American lit.*; Alice Bourgeois-Coleno (France), Wellesley, *French*; George L. Brook (UK), UCLA, *English*; Robert Champigny (France), Indiana, *French*; Enzo Colla (Italy), Princeton, *French*; Una Ellis-Fermor (England), Huntington Library (arrives in April), *Shakespeare*; Arnolfo Ferruolo (Italy), Harvard, *Italian*; Graham G. Hough (UK), Hopkins, *Victorian lit.*; Robert L. Mane (France), Vassar, *French*; Aidan L. Owen (UK), Elmira, *English*; Claude Marie Récamiér (France), Elmira, *French*; Robert H. Robins (UK), California, *phonetics & phonology of American Indian lang.*; Georges Simonet (France), Wayne, *French*; Léonie Villard (France), Mt. Holyoke, *French*; G. Waterhouse (England), Illinois, *German*.

**GEBURTSTAGSKIND.** In celebration of its third birthday, this section "For Members Only" has been presented with numbered pages (requested by many members for convenience of reference). We have also eliminated the slightly distracting MLA's which separated paragraphs. We take occasion to thank the hundreds of members who have been thoughtful enough to send us comments and suggestions, and also the many others who, by writing to us about MLA matters, have unintentionally supplied us with material for these pages. We fervently hope that our offspring has now reached its maximum growth; looking backward, we estimate that we have written approximately 32,000 words for this section in the course of the last two years.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following members who have just achieved their fiftieth Association year: Stephen Hayes Bush, David Hobart Carnahan, William Wistar Comfort, Robert Herndon Fife, George T. Flom, Gordon Hall Gerould, John Louis Haney, James Hazen Hyde, Charles Julius Kullmer, Ernest F. Langley, William Witherle Lawrence, Alma de L. LeDuc.

**ARCHER TAYLOR** is the sixty-first President of the Association, and his recent election elevates the University of California into the group of three institutions which have provided us with five or more presidents (the others: Harvard, 11; Columbia, 7). Our new presiding officer is sixty, and is author of many scholarly studies in folklore and German literature. He joined the MLA in 1912, between an M.A. at Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. at Harvard. He was twice Vice President of the Association (1933 and 1950) and served on the Executive Council 1935-38.

**THUNDER THEFT.** "One way to confound the critics, in a scholarly book, is to obtain help from all those who know the subject matter well enough to criticize it, and to acknowledge handsomely in the preface the valuable contributions of these gentlemen. Then it would be bad grace or even self-mutilation for one of them to publish a scathing review. But woe to the author who so recognizes nearly all the experts in the field but omits one or two." We quote from the November 1950 issue of *The Pierian Spring* (Univ. of California Press).

**BRADLEY UNIVERSITY**, Peoria, Illinois, plans a conference on Rainer Maria Rilke 13-15 April. For information write to Robert Rie, Dept. of Modern Languages.

**DEADLINES.** Applications for Huntington Library research fellowships should arrive not later than March 1; for Ohio State University postdoctoral fellowships, March 1; for ACLS Faculty Study Fellowships, March 1. See the April 1950 *PMLA*, pages 129-130, for details. The OSU deadline has changed.

**NEXT.** The 1951 Meeting is scheduled to be held in Detroit, Michigan, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 27-29. Chairman of the local committee on arrangements will be Harold A. Basilius of Wayne University, who had much to do with the success of the 1947 meeting in Detroit. Any member of the Association may offer a paper to be read in either a Departmental Section or a Discussion Group meeting this year. Papers or notices of papers should be sent directly to the Chairman of the group or section concerned; his name and address may be found in the 1950 Proceedings published in this issue, at the very end of the account of

the particular group's program. The latest possible date at which proposals for the 1951 program can be received is October 1, but notice well in advance of this date is highly desirable, as programs are usually made up before the deadline; copy for the complete *Program* must reach the printers on October 15.

**LINGUISTIC PROBLEM.** Robert A. Hall, Jr., writes: "As to insults, the linguists don't need 'em To offend many people who read 'em; For they often give pause With phonetical laws To believers in 'spiritual freedom'."

**GRANTS-IN-AID.** In our last compilation of sources of fellowships and grants in aid of advanced research we inadvertently omitted an important organization which frequently supports scholarship in our field, the American Philosophical Society, Independence Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa. Application for grants for *postdoctoral research* must be made on forms provided for that purpose and obtainable from the Society, whose Committee on Research meets early in the months of October, December, February, April, and June. Among the twenty-three grants made by the Committee at its meeting last October were the following: André B. Delattre (Penn.), for research on Voltaire letters, \$1,000; Earl R. Wasserman (Hopkins), for study of the influence of Elizabethan literature on the Romantic period, \$500; Stephan G. Kuttner (Catholic), for research in the MS sources of canon law in medieval England, \$1,500; Richard B. Davis (Tennessee), for an edition of Corrae-Jefferson letters, \$500.

**MONTAGUE.** When we changed the face of *PMLA* (March 1948) we were particularly careful to put our name (as Secretary and Editor) in the same sized caps as our predecessor had used. We promptly received an anonymous communication accusing us of flagrant self-advertisement. This worried us a bit for a time, but it worries us no longer. We continue to get mail, *from members*, addressed to our predecessor. Before December of last year we frequently received articles addressed to Professor Otto Springer as Secretary and Editor. We could understand being Percy Long, but we were puzzled by this last phenomenon until one day a light dawned. On the inside cover of *PMLA*, feeling embarrassed by our typographical prominence on the outside, we had modestly listed ourselves underneath the names of the members of the Editorial Committee as "The Secretary of the Association, *Chairman*"; and Professor Springer's name happened to be immediately above. We have changed that now, but we are spiritually prepared to be someone else hereafter. Indeed, we can see the shadow of confusion lurking just around the corner, for we have recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the ACLS, and the ACLS has on its Washington staff a fine young man named William A. Parker. Our Irish is already up.

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP** in the Association totals 6,515 (in Jan.). Last October the dropping of 570 members from all records for non-payment of dues reduced our membership to 5,969, but many of these persons would seem to have returned to the fold.

**BELGIUM.** On Nov. 10-12 the University of Liège celebrated the 60th anniversary of the foundation of its Department of Romance and Germanic Languages.

"WE." A member calls our attention to the following advice given by William F. Brown in *Physics Today*, III (Feb. 1950), 21: "An author is entitled to talk about himself when he is relevant to the discussion; when he is not relevant, he should be able to leave himself out of the discussion completely. In neither case does he improve matters by making believe that he is a committee or that he is two persons, one of whom is talking about the other."

**ARTICLES** submitted to *PMLA* during 1951 can be published within approximately nine months of their acceptance by the Editorial Committee. We are now filling the December number.

**MEMBERSHIP WRINKLES.** One Life Member annually sends us a check noted as "self-assessment." A number of members, in paying their dues, ask us to send their copies of *PMLA* to some foreign library, and, in these days, we are happy to do so. (We do not condone, however, the practice of a few members who give

# *Teach the Graduate Student*



Every graduate student who is pursuing a doctorate, certainly every student in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, should be given some orientation in the mechanics and economics of printed communication, so that he can better understand the nature of the problems he will face as author, and perhaps as editor, if that time comes. This can be done on a voluntary rather than a required basis. It is not proposed that another course be added to schedules already full, but rather that a series of public lectures be held to which graduate students would be urged to go and the faculty invited. This series, not more than six and not less than three hours in all, should be conducted by personnel of the university press, if there is one, or of some other agency such as the university printer or the library. The lectures should be as down to earth as possible, and should be buttressed at every turn by pictures, particularly motion pictures. No statement of any kind should be made *ex cathedra*; if the practical reason cannot be furnished the statement should be suppressed. Theory should be avoided like the plague, and the emphasis throughout should be on cost. If the lectures could be followed by two hours in a printing plant, so much the better. At the end there should be distributed a concise handbook containing in some permanent form the facts just elucidated—facts which, without explanation, seem to be so much Greek except to the Greek specialists, to whom they are so much Gedaged.

The purpose, needless to say, will not be to turn graduate students into printers; in three or six hours little enough can be done. But in this time the student can be told the basic facts; he can be better prepared for what he will face; he can be given a full-on view of what can reasonably be done and at what cost, an intimation of what causes expense and how to avoid it; he can be given a realistic appraisal of markets and distribution; and it might even be that as a by-product (from *amberggris* comes perfume) he will be encouraged to write better since, when one comes down to it, the surest way to reduce printing cost is to achieve a wider audience.

The scholar is encouraged to publish. If the tools of communication are tools which he must use, often at his expense, it seems logical that he be assisted in learning how to use them. It is true that experience will teach where preparation has been laggard, but with alteration charges at \$7.00 an hour in some cities experience can be an expensive teacher.

In the Humanities the tradition has been to teach the true and selfless performance of research, leaving the rest to printer and to publisher. Printing and publishing are technics, and the technics are avoided. But present conditions, as well as what can be read of the future, are unfavorable to this tradition. Printers and publishers have for some time past been quite unable to underwrite it. However appropriate it may have been to an earlier day, it simply does not work today except at a growing cost which the scholarly community is hard put to meet. While this situation will not be resolved in three or six lectures, it can perhaps be made understandable. And if a condition is understood it can be coped with.

HENRY M. SILVER

*Adviser on Publications, American Council of Learned Societies*

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their copies of *PMLA* to libraries quite able to subscribe, for we need this financial support.) Still other members (whom we applaud) present membership in the Association to young graduate students or to distinguished foreign scholars who cannot cope with the difficulties of exchange.

CONVENTION. Morris Bishop contributes this "For Members Only":

"Was I too hearty? Did he think me bold?  
Should I have said 'like hell' and not 'like fun'?  
Does my moustache not make me look too old?  
(I ought to hint my graduate work is done.)  
Nebraska Wesleyan is probably cold;  
I'd rather get down south of Washington.  
He didn't seem to like that joke I told;  
Jeez, he's a solemn-looking son of a gun!"  
Thus the young savant ponders at his ease,  
Knitting the critical brow, and on the belly  
Twirling the scholarly thumb. Far Ph.D.'s  
Deal with the manuscripts of Macchiavelli,  
The intervocalic *n* in Portuguese,  
And the unfaithfulness of Harriet Shelley.

YOUR ATTENTION is called to the contents of this February issue of *PMLA*. We realize that it is chiefly used for the List of Members, but we venture to think that it contains a good deal of other material well worth your notice. Besides the Presidential Address there are four other papers of general scholarly interest, and a number of the special reports will be found both entertaining and instructive; two, which are quite new to this issue, are the special ACLS statistical survey of our Association, and the report on "The English Language in American Education" by a special committee of our Commission on Trends. Please see the Table of Contents.

"GREATLY NEEDED." Thus the ACLS Board of Directors endorsed the projected second edition of the well-known reference work, the *Directory of American Scholars*, currently being compiled by Jaques Cattell (Science Press, Box 749, Lancaster, Pa.). Plans for this long over-due second edition were suspended, first by the war, later because the Science Press was busy with new editions of *American Men of Science*, etc.; and now inexplicable delays in the returning of questionnaires threaten the scheduled publication date of September, 1951. Persons who were included in the first edition but who have not recently received a questionnaire are urged to notify the Editor. Those who receive questionnaires are urged to return them promptly. It is hoped that the completed *Directory* will include biographical data on about 25,000 scholars in the humanities and social sciences. (The selection of those to be sent questionnaires is a responsibility of the Science Press, not the MLA.)

CONNING POSTCARDS. "*PMLA* is not held in high esteem." . . . "*PMLA* is of little value to the profession although major improvements have recently been made in it. The articles are too predominantly historical, too limited by the methods of Germanic scholarship. I would suggest a trend toward the critical with less attention to minutiae." . . . "The greatest service you could perform would be to include in each *PMLA* at least two articles written so that they could be read for pleasure, for information, and for inspiration by all of the members." . . . "Routine in living and thinking is a professorial disadvantage. Open a page or so in *PMLA* to the purely inventive." . . . "Why is the MLA so unfair to the New Critics?" . . . "Why not pay your contributors something? Cut expenses elsewhere, if necessary." . . . "More space in *PMLA* to questions of methods, objectives, programs, and curriculum. Greater concern with secondary level language instruction." . . . "How about more short articles (1000-word length) of general interest instead of a few articles of limited interest?" . . . "Why not limit the length of articles so as to have more—perhaps double the present number? Surely many in the past could have been compressed." . . . "Why not arrange the papers in *PMLA* chronologically beginning with the earliest, instead of in reverse order?" . . . "Publish at least one article an issue on a topic of general aesthetic or literary

# *A Report on the Middle English Dictionary*

*Plan.* The complete Dictionary will present three times as much ME material as the OD used as background for its treatment of Modern English, and it is estimated that the work can be completed in another ten or twelve years. During 1946-48 a new editing plan was worked out and put into operation. It calls for systematic documentation of regional and chronological variants, and includes a plan for cross references to the main entry forms from all significant phonetic and morphological variants. The letter E and a good part of F have been edited on the new plan, and it is hoped that a section of about 300 pages can be published in 1951. Letters A to D, which were edited on the old plan, will be thoroughly revised before publication.

*Staff.* The University of Michigan provides adequate space for housing the collections and the reference library, and for accommodating the present staff of eight persons: the Editor (Hans Kurath, since 1946), the Associate Editor (Sherman M. Kuhn), three Assistant Editors (one of them on half time), a Subeditor, a Bibliographer, and a Secretary. All members of the staff are on a twelve-months basis.

*Workshop.* Working space is available at the headquarters of the Dictionary, especially during the summer months, for scholars engaged in research of this type. The collections of quotations, the result of a systematic reading of nearly all ME texts by hundreds of scholars, are unmatched elsewhere. The library of edited texts is practically complete. The more important unedited texts are available in photostat, as are numerous shorter texts published in periodicals. The originals of the more important texts translated from Latin or French are also available in print or in photostat. On the shelves are Latin, OF, and Germanic dictionaries, and nearly all the books and treatises on Old and Middle English language and literature.

*Bibliography.* The bibliographical apparatus, recently completed, consists of about 11,000 cards (5 x 8), each card presenting a summary of available data on the date of composition, the date of the MSS, the relation between the several MSS of one and the same text, and an evaluation of these data and of scholarly opinion concerning them. Not a few MSS are now dated half a century later than formerly, in accordance with recent trends in assigning dates on paleographic evidence. The bibliography of the ME texts quoted in the MED will be ready for publication, probably as a separate fascicle, within two years from now. It will give bibliographical information not only about preferred MSS and preferred editions of MSS but also about all other MSS from which quotations, and especially lexical and morphological variants, are being taken.

*This report* is made to MLA members because the ME Dictionary is one of those fundamental projects in the field of the humanities that will facilitate the work of many scholars who are devoting themselves to the interpretation and elucidation of four centuries (1100 to 1500) of English and European history in all of its aspects.

interest." . . . "I have wondered increasingly, of late, about the un-creativity of teachers of literature, as a class. Could not *PMLA* find room—nay, encourage—contributions poetical and literary, as well as those orthodox and scholarly?" . . .

**POSTCARD PROS.** "The 'new' *PMLA* is excellent. Don't shorten 'For Members Only' by so much as one word. I keep reading your hints to unestablished scholars regarding publication." . . . "In thirty years acquaintance with the Association I've never known it to be so effective and so alive to its opportunities as it has been in recent years." . . . "*PMLA* is getting better and better at a rate which outstrips my powers of constructive criticism." . . . "I like the new life in *PMLA*—especially the trend toward more human and consequential articles." . . . "One more enthusiastic endorsement of 'For Members Only.' The notes, suggestions, and evaluations add purpose and direction to *PMLA*." . . . "The brief comments and announcements brighten every issue." . . . "I'm more than pleased with the present services. The *PMLA* is finer than ever." . . . "Enlarge 'For Members Only.'" . . . "useful and informing. Its entertaining side is enjoyable—a further boon." . . . "The *MLA* is doing excellently well, and I especially like the new features and new editorial attitude of *PMLA*." . . . "*MLA* services are so good now that it's hard to think up suggestions of improvements." . . . "Congratulations on the number and variety of services to members." . . . "a fine job, and I see growth in the offing." . . . "The last issue of *PMLA* and the *Program* for the meetings are the best that I have ever seen." . . .

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN.** In the *MLA* offices we sometimes need, and are often asked for, a list of heads of modern language departments. We realize, too, that countless younger members of the Association have unmentionable needs for such a list—in this year perhaps more than in many a previous one. A preliminary attempt at compilation will be found in this issue of *PMLA*. For reasons of space and expense, we limited ourselves largely to institutions with a reported enrollment of 1,000 or more students. We shall appreciate being informed of any errors in the list.

**MEMBERS SAY:** "We must take action to block the Education people from moving in on the Ph.D. program. Let's have resolutions, committees, bells, and whistles." . . . "I would like to see a problems section (problems in teaching) re-introduced at our national meeting." . . . "The *MLA* should make determined efforts to advance the cause of the humanities in public (press, radio, Washington, etc.)" . . . "The *MLA* ought to attempt to familiarize the layman with the field of language and literature (placing articles in popular, semi-popular magazines, etc.). We suffer from too much 'ivory-towerism.'" . . . Please consider and discuss in *PMLA* and at the convention the regression of foreign languages in many colleges and the replacement of their requirement by courses based upon translations." . . . "Publish annually a report to show comparative enrollment in modern languages (secondary school and university level)." . . . "Let's activate and subsidize the Commission on Trends in order to defend and improve the *teaching* of the humanities. The *MLA* can't afford to keep its head in the clouds, or in the sand." . . . "Let's combat the tendency to do less work in our schools in and for languages." . . . "The old arguments for language study are no longer impressive, and, we must admit, are pretty threadbare. Should we re-examine the whole question—which would include some notice of methods—before too late?" . . . "I should like a greatly extended informational and counseling service for the assistance of beginners in research." . . .

**TRAVELLING MEMBERS.** William Randel is serving as Helsinki University's first professor of American literature. Richmond P. Bond may be reached c/o Univ. Coll., London; William C. Holbrook, at 4 rue de Chevreuse, Paris vi. Walter Pattison is in Spain. The following are abroad as Fulbright fellows (we give current addresses when known to us): D. C. Allen, in Oxford (8 Apsley Road); Salvatore J. Castiglione, in Italy (Corso Tintori 3, Florence); A. Dwight Culler, in England; Albert C. Friend, in France; W. M. Frohock, in France (chez Mme Bosvieux, 23bis av. Niel, Paris xvii); W. Cabell Greet, in France; Albert J. Guerard, Jr., in France; Robert A. Hall, Jr., in Italy (Istituto di Glottologia, Università di Roma); Harry R. Hoppe, in Belgium; Edward L. Hubler, in France; Robert A. Jelliffe,



# For Members Only . . .

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## THE MLA-MACMILLAN AND MLA-OXFORD AWARDS

### *Rules for the Competitions*

1. MANUSCRIPTS submitted by members in competition for the two 1951 awards must be mailed or expressed to reach the MLA Secretary (at 100 Washington Square East, New York 3, N.Y.) *before* June 1, 1951. Manuscripts must *not* be sent to the Oxford University Press or to the Macmillan Company.

2. THE TWO winning manuscripts will be published by the Oxford University Press and the Macmillan Company, each author receiving a **one thousand** dollar cash prize *in addition to* all royalties payable under a usual contract. Manuscripts which fail to win the award may nevertheless be recommended by the MLA Committee to the Macmillan Company or the Oxford University Press, and authors of manuscripts thus accepted for publication will also receive all royalties under a usual contract. Still other manuscripts may eventually be recommended by the MLA Committee to other presses.

3. IN PREPARING manuscripts, contestants should bear in mind that Macmillan, Oxford, and the MLA wish to make available the results of sound scholarship to *the widest possible audience*. This does not mean vulgarization. Preference will be given to manuscripts which set forth research *in a style worthy of its literary subject*. Authors should therefore write, not for their fellow specialists or for graduate students in their field, but for the literate public which does not need to be persuaded to the values of literature.

4. MANUSCRIPTS must be of single book length, i.e., between 60,000 and 120,000 words approximately. They must be typewritten, with double spacing. Documentation, including footnotes, should, if possible, be typed with double spacing separately from the text. (If two copies can be submitted, the work of the Committee of Award will be considerably facilitated; but only one copy is required.)

5. TO BE ELIGIBLE, manuscripts must be the original work of members of the MLA in good standing, must be written in English, and must represent first-hand research in the field of some modern literature or literatures. Ineligible are bibliographies, concordances, anthologies, collections of essays without a unifying theme, and monographs of criticism or "appreciation" which do not involve research. Eligible are editions, biographies of literary figures,

# WHO HAVE BOOKS IN PROGRESS

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fresh critical appraisals resulting from independent investigation, comparative studies, and studies of trends or topics or periods or forms. Manuscripts eligible for the MLA-Macmillan Award must be in the field of English or American literature; those eligible for the MLA-Oxford Award must be in the field of some literature other than English or American or must be comparative studies involving a foreign literature. Questions about eligibility should be addressed to the MLA Secretary.

6. BEFORE SUBMITTING manuscripts, contestants must send for, fill out, sign, and return a form relieving the MLA of any responsibility for the safety of manuscripts (carbon copies should be retained by the authors), and giving either the Macmillan Company or the Oxford University Press first refusal of manuscripts. These forms should, if possible, be returned to the MLA Secretary as early as possible, so that appropriate readers may be selected and their consent to read obtained.

7. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT of the third annual awards will be made at the 1951 Annual Meeting. It is expected, however, that all contestants can be notified during the summer or early autumn of the decision reached by the MLA Committee.

## MLA-MACMILLAN

*Committee of Award*

STANLEY T. WILLIAMS, *Chairman*  
*Yale University*

HARDIN CRAIG  
*University of Missouri*

CLARENCE GOHDES  
*Duke University*

HOWARD MUMFORD JONES  
*Harvard University*

LOUIS B. WRIGHT  
*Folger Shakespeare Library*

## MLA-OXFORD

*Committee of Award*

ORIE W. LONG, *Chairman*  
*Williams College*

HENRI M. PEYRE  
*Yale University*

ERNEST J. SIMMONS  
*Columbia University*

RENÉ WELLEK  
*Yale University*

ERNEST H. WILKINS  
*Oberlin College*

These two special committees were created by the Executive Council to select annually, from manuscripts submitted by members of the Association, books which through sound research contribute significantly to general understanding of modern literature.

## For Members Only—Continued

in the Philippines; Samuel Klinger, in Italy (Via Tamborini 8, Milano); Winfred P. Lehmann, in Norway; Jackson Mathews, in France; Edward C. McAleer, in Italy (c/o Crea, Via Tevere 46A, Rome); Claude M. Simpson, in England; Harvey C. Webster, in England; Edward Williamson, in Italy (presso Billanovich, Via A. Cavalletto 26, Padova). We shall welcome additions to this incomplete list.

WE REPEAT our invitation to members to send us *scholarly queries* to be published in these preliminary pages. Questions must be signed, must be briefly put, and must relate to literary or linguistic research. We reserve the right to publish only those queries which seem to us appropriate to *PMLA*, and to rephrase even these if necessary to save space. Answers, as they are supplied to us, and if they seem worth recording, will be published in subsequent issues.

MEMBERS ASK: "Would it be possible to print the lectures given at the annual meetings for the benefit of those who cannot attend?" [They would probably fill three whole volumes of *PMLA*, which has space only for the *best* of them. For five papers of general interest, see the opening pages of this issue.—ED.] . . . "Could more help be given on mechanics, the outer requirements for publication? I live here in perfect isolation." [Help is coming! See the April *PMLA*.—ED.] . . . "Would it be possible for *PMLA* to secure a more nearly complete list of vacancies?" [Not until more department heads decide to cooperate.—ED.] . . . "The MLA is unwieldy. Should it not be divided into several autonomous associations each having its separate meetings in different cities?" [The U.S.A. is unwieldy too. The MLA welcomes and supports the initiative of state and regional MLA's, which perform a valuable function. But a national organization also has a valuable function to perform.—ED.] . . . "Could you publish an article on Fulbright possibilities for 1951-1960?" [The picture changes from year to year. We shall continue to publish current data as the facts reach us.—ED.] . . . "Should not the MLA consider ways and means for meeting the acute need for additional facilities for publication of sound research?" [No other problem is currently receiving more attention and study.—ED.] . . . "Might members not be urged to throw in a remark even in graduate classes showing how the *method* of what they are doing may be universally applied? Our methods of weighing evidence in scholarly work are not, for instance, so much different from sensible methods for assessing evidence in private and public matters." [Let members heed.—ED.] . . .

YOU AND THE ACLS. As a citizen you are concerned about taxes, laws, and international relations, but you chiefly express yourself on these vital matters through your elected representatives. As a scholar you are likewise concerned about how your dues in professional societies are spent, what official attitudes toward scholarship and education are taken, and the relations of your own discipline to other disciplines in the humanities—indeed, its place in the whole world of learning. Through your membership in the MLA you are also, whether you have realized it or not, a part of the American Council of Learned Societies, of which the MLA has long been a constituent society—one of twenty-four. At occasional MLA Business Meetings, whether you were present or not, you have elected your Delegates to the Council. Your present Delegate is also your Secretary, and, like your previous Delegate (Sturgis E. Leavitt), he has been elected to the ACLS Board of Directors. What does this mean to you? It means that your scholarly interests are being represented in one of the four great, national research councils (the others being in the fields of science, social science, and education). It means that, on your behalf, someone is trying to look closely at the problems of the humanities as a whole—their present status in American education and society, their strengths and weaknesses, their needs and difficulties, their potential future. It also means, therefore, that if you have constructive ideas about the relations between your own discipline and allied disciplines, or about something that should be done by the humanistic disciplines acting together, there is a specific, interested person to whom you may, and should, communicate them. In later paragraphs we shall discuss here the specific interests and activities of the ACLS. Meanwhile, if you would like to be on the mailing-list of the interesting *ACLS Newsletter*, just send your name and address to the ACLS, 1219 16th St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

**\$1,000 PRIZE.** Because no awards were made in the 1950 MLA-Macmillan and MLA-Oxford contests, the 1951 prize in each competition will be \$1,000 cash, plus royalties from publication. The deadline for submitting MSS is June 1 (not April 1, as before). If you have a MS nearing completion, see the full announcement elsewhere in these pages.

**PUBLICITY.** The MLA has long been dedicated to “the advancement of research in the modern languages and their literatures,” and it is a fact that neither the literate public nor even our colleagues in other academic departments or other research organizations have more than the foggiest notion of what literary and linguistic “research” consists of, and why it is of any importance. The usual MLA reaction to this fact is, we fear, “So what?” The shrug is an easy response, especially when one is actually absorbed in research and especially when the importance of Freshman English is so widely recognized that English departments continue large and affluent. But the shrug is embarrassing to the MLA local committee member who, each year, has to encounter many alert, curious newsmen and tell them, in effect, “We are doing nothing at our annual meeting of the slightest interest or importance to anyone except ourselves.” (Ask George Borglum or John Bakeless or Virgil Whitaker or Robert Fitzhugh.) Some newsmen refuse to believe that more than 3,000 scholar-educators can get together for three days without doing *something* of public interest, and so they look around and produce stories which MLA members at once denounce as not giving a “true picture” of our activities. Can a “true picture” be given, and still be news? *Newsweek* thought so, and in its Jan. 8 issue, pages 76-77, devoted almost two columns to our 1950 meeting. After giving four paragraphs to externals, *Newsweek* thoughtfully turned to a recent book by an MLA member, Richard Altick’s *The Scholar Adventurers*, for the “inside” story. The long quote from Altick began: “It is generally agreed that nine-tenths of the papers read at these group meetings should have remained unread, if not actually unwritten”—a quote which gives as false an impression of the MLA as it does of Altick’s book. Must our scholarly adventures in the field of public relations be forever unfortunate? The matter is of painful concern to your Secretary, who, in his efforts to “advance research”—your research—talks with persons in the ACLS, on Fulbright committees, or on the staff of great foundations, and often finds these intelligent, informed persons dubious, with the best will in the world, about the value of MLA “research”—whatever that might be! Is it not time to explain with dignity, to justify with clarity and force?

**VERB. SAP.** For persons thinking about applying for a Fulbright grant for the academic year 1952-53, some unofficial advice may be in order. The competition is increasingly stiff for such countries as England and France. Mathematically speaking, one’s chances are far stronger if he has a research project involving, or wishes to teach English or American literature or civilization in, such countries as Iran, Burma, the Philippines, India, or Egypt. Good *teachers* still have a good chance in the programs for Greece and Italy, although the competition among *research* personnel has stiffened for these countries.

**PROGRAM HOGS.** A speaker at the 1950 Meeting, who boiled his long paper down to the exact amount of time allotted him and practised reading it in that time was indignant at the indifference of other speakers to the request sent to all by the MLA Program Committee. “I suggest,” he writes, “that you become autocratic about this bane of the MLA and place on a five-year blacklist anyone who exceeds his allotted time.” This we are not yet prepared to do, but, when armed with sufficient evidence, we shall send official reprimands to speakers who particularly offended. Should we also publish their names here?

**THE BALLOT.** In the 1950 balloting for new members of the Executive Council 2,839 votes were counted (3,395 in 1949). Elected were Carl F. Schreiber (1,068 votes), Hayward Keniston (957), and Victor Lange (900). Runner-up in this very close race was John C. Blankenagel, with 887 votes. Fifty-three ballots were disqualified because they bore no signatures or contained votes for more than three persons. One 1949 ballot arrived in November 1950 with a single vote for Stith Thompson.

## For Members Only—Continued

**R.S.V.P.** If you have colleagues or promising graduate students who should become members of the Association and see *PMLA* during 1951, send us their names and addresses, and we shall be happy to mail them invitations naming you as sponsor.

**JOBS.** For information about jobs in Latin America or the Near East teaching English, etc. (visiting lectureships), write to William Courtright, Cultural Centers Branch, Ill., Dept. of State, 1778 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington 25, D.C. For information and application forms for library positions (cultural officer and assistant; information officer: press, radio, film) in U.S. Information Centers in many countries, write to Foreign Service Personnel, USIE Recruiting Unit, Dept. of State, Washington 25, D.C. To qualify for these jobs one must be able to speak the language of the country (a rigid rule for Latin America; French is preferred for the Middle East), and one should have had some editorial, publishing, or library experience. Salary range: \$3,200-\$7,000 (average \$4,290), plus cost of living allowance, plus travel expenses if candidate remains two years at post. Age: 46 is the top.

**IMPROVEMENT.** On the last postcard Ballot we invited members to use the blank space to give us their suggestions for improvements in the Association's services. We were in earnest about this, for every time we print here some of the many kind things that members say, we feel as though we are grinning with a tooth missing in front. We received some good suggestions—and one pungent reproof: "Why all this 'damnable iteration' about IMPROVEMENT?" inquired one member. "To misquote Mariana (*Meas. for Meas.* V.i.444-446): 'Best M<sup>LA</sup>'s are moulded out of faults, / And, for the most, become much more the better / For being a little bad.' It is not enough to reply: "it oft falls out, / To have what we would have, we speak not what we mean." We simply confess ourselves overquoted, and wonder if some member will rally to our defense with inverted commas.

**YE OLDE.** At the 1948 Meeting we happily scheduled the meetings of our French Groups in the Salle Moderne at the Hotel Statler, and in preparing the 1950 Program we repeated this scheduling, only to learn, after the *Program* was in print, that the Salle Moderne had changed its name to the Sky Top. Reason: too many bellhops and elevator attendants had been snickering when non-MLA conventioners inquired the whereabouts of the "Sally Moderny." Hotels must respect the illiteracy of paying guests, and we console ourselves with the hope that the Statler will now stop listing us as the "Moderne Language Assn." on their bulletin boards.

**TWO WAY STREET** is the name of a report just published by the U.S. Advisory Commission on Educational Exchange, giving details of U.S. programs of international educational exchange in more than 90 countries. Copies are obtainable from the Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., at 60 cents apiece.

**NOTE TAKING (NEW STYLE).** First photostats, then microfilm—now the "Contoura." It's a compact, sturdy, readily portable gadget, costing \$39 (the "Research Model," 8 x 10 inches; the "Legal Model," 9 x 14, costs \$59), with which you can easily and quickly make photocopies of book pages, maps, manuscripts, or even half-tones at about 10 cents per exposure—half as much if you do your own processing. You take the Contoura with you in your briefcase (it weighs less than 4 pounds), plug it into any electric outlet, put a sheet of photographic paper over the area to be copied (100 sheets cost \$4.15), place the Contoura on the sheet and turn a switch, and in ten seconds the exposure is made. Put your exposed sheet into a black envelope (supplied with the Contoura), have it processed later at the corner drugstore, and you will have a clear, permanent direct-reading negative. This inexpensive research tool was developed by Frederic G. Ludwig, head of the Photographic Dept. of the Yale Library. You may place orders or get further information by writing to F. G. Ludwig Associates, Pease Road, Woodbridge, Conn.

**ARTHURIAN NEWS LETTER.** Copies are available from Helaine Newstead, 695 Park Ave., New York 21, N.Y., at 25 cents each. The Arthurian Group publishes this at intervals to acquaint interested members with current bibliography, work in progress, and other matters.

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