

PHI BETA KAPPA PRESENTS 1981 BOOK AWARDS



Edgar F. Shannon, Jr. (left), president of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, and Gauss Award winner, Robert Bernard Martin.

Phi Beta Kappa awarded its three \$2500 book prizes for 1981 at the Senate Dinner in Washington, D.C., on December 4. The prizes are given annually to authors of newly published books that represent significant contributions to learning in three areas of humanistic scholarship.

Robert Bernard Martin, professor emeritus of English at Princeton University, received the Christian Gauss Award for literary scholarship and criticism for his book *Tennyson: The Unquiet Heart*, published by the Oxford University Press.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for studies of the intellectual and cultural condition of man went to George M. Fredrickson, William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University, for his book *White Supremacy: A Comparative Study in American and South African History*, published by the Oxford University Press.



Emerson Award winner, George M. Fredrickson (left), and the chairman of the Emerson Award Committee, Neal W. Klausner.

Eric Chaisson, associate professor at Harvard University and a staff member of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, received the Phi Beta Kappa Science Award for his book *Cosmic Dawn: The Origins of Matter and Life*, published by Atlantic-Little, Brown.

In *Tennyson: The Unquiet Heart*, Martin has presented a masterful biography, deserving to stand with the major critical studies of J.H. Buckley and Christopher Ricks. It is the first full-length critical biography in over thirty years and contains a great deal of new and important information about Tennyson's life and times.

Fredrickson's *White Supremacy* was cited by a member of the award committee as "an extraordinary and thoughtful investigation of two societies confronted by diverse and similar problems. . . . The book engages the mind, increases our knowledge, and reveals the cruel stupidities that occur when human beings take differences in color to be differences in worth."



Peter Davison (left), senior editor at Atlantic-Little, Brown, who accepted the Science Prize in behalf of the author, and Vera Kistiakowsky, chairman of the Science Award Committee.

Uniformly praised for its clarity and balance, Chaisson's *Cosmic Dawn* was described by the award committee as an excellent overview of an impressive span of topics. The book not only explores the origins of matter and life, but also examines the development of culture and speculates on the future.

The 1982 Book Awards will be open to qualified books published between June 1, 1981, and May 31, 1982. Entries must be submitted by May 31, 1982. Inquiries and entries should be addressed to the appropriate award committee at 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.



EDUCATION: THE LEAVEN OF AMERICAN LIFE

by Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

The mind, with its rational and spiritual capacity and its propensity for both imaginative speculation and critical analysis, is the essential human attribute. To the extent that each of us cultivates our mind and uses it constructively, we become most fully human. Loren Eiseley, in his remarkable book *The Immense Journey* (Random House, 1946) describes the quest for learning by the human race. He points out that the human brain is much larger and more complex than is necessary for mere physical survival. In the first year of life, the brain of the human offspring trebles in size. "It is this peculiar leap," Eiseley writes, "unlike anything else we know in the animal world, which gives to man his uniquely human qualities." From this fact derives our distinctive capability for self-consciousness, including symbolic communication, and for sustaining our quest for learning.

As Robert L. Spaeth has declared in a recent issue of *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* (1981, 13(1)):

Human societies, in order to survive as human, need continuity of knowledge and values; they need a group memory. But unlike animals, human beings need to work at knowing what the group memory is because it can be forgotten.

Such a memory is fundamental to survival of the individual, of a nation, and, indirectly, of mankind. As educated men and women, we have an obligation

to see that the group memory—the heritage, the ideas, and the ideals, as well as the capacity for thought and for acquiring new knowledge—is transmitted from generation to generation in this country. We accomplish this feat, of course, through education—by expanding, strengthening, and disciplining the mind.

Education is what raises a society from barbarism to civilization. It is the leaven that has raised a congerie of weak and dependent colonies into the United States. Education has raised countless individuals in this country from limited origins personally and economically to positions of substance or of significance for achieving the public good. Education guarantees a way for persons to rise through initiative and ability; it releases the ferment of new ideas, new aspirations, and new expectations for the human spirit. It is the constant stimulus for renewing and revitalizing the nation.

When the founding fathers fashioned our government in the New World, one of its sustaining principles was education. For men and women to be truly free, their minds had to be free—free from ignorance and its attendant fears and prejudices. Thomas Jefferson saw early that only an educated and informed citizenry would be capable of governing themselves. Moreover, as he recognized, education is necessary to identifying and developing responsible and wise leaders for a representative government and a system of free enterprise. These conceptions, which have had so much to do with advancing and preserving the republic for over two centuries, seem axiomatic to us now; but a sound education of high quality, available to all young Americans, irrespective of wealth and social standing,

is becoming a rapidly receding prospect.

The United States is currently falling far short of its educational goals and of the ideal of an educated society. The abilities in reading and writing of seniors in high school have measurably declined in the last two decades, and the functional illiteracy of many high school graduates in the Army is adversely affecting the combat readiness of our forces stationed in Europe. The "back to basics" movement in a number of instances has resulted in impoverishing the curriculum and in placing more emphasis on competency than on quality. Study of foreign languages in secondary schools has declined, and requirements of a foreign language for admission and graduation from college have been extensively reduced or abandoned. *Disillusionment with education* at all levels has set in. Tax revolts such as those reflected in California by Proposition 13 and Massachusetts by Proposition 2½ inevitably weaken the ability of public schools to maintain programs, physical facilities, and dedicated and highly qualified teachers. Declining enrollments (owing to a falling birthrate) and inflation exacerbate the difficulties that all educational institutions, public and private, are experiencing in trying to provide the opportunity and the standard of education to which we have been accustomed. So alarming has the situation become that the Commission on the Humanities of the Rockefeller Foundation, in its recently published report *The Humanities in American Life* (University of California Press, 1980), declared "the highest educational priority for America in the 1980s" to be a "dramatic improvement in the quality of education in our elementary and secondary schools" (page 25).

The picture is not much better in higher education. Federal and state governments are reducing funds for public colleges and universities and a number of private institutions are closing, because of sky-rocketing costs and shrinking enrollments. Indeed, Fred M. Hechinger's warning in an article several years ago in *The Saturday Review* (March 20, 1976), startlingly entitled "Murder in Academe: The Demise of Higher Education," is even more applicable now than it was then:

America is in a headlong retreat from its commitment to education. . . . This retreat ought to be the most pertinent issue in any examination of the country's condition. . . . At stake is nothing less than the survival of American democracy.

Hechinger is particularly disturbed by the flight to vocationalism, inspired by

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr. (pictured on page one of this issue), Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia, has been president of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa since 1979. This article is taken from a commencement address that he delivered last spring at the University of Hartford.

the notion that only training for jobs is desirable and that society may be spending money unnecessarily and overeducating people.

Certainly, each of us has to try to prepare for gainful employment, but we need a broad education that makes us flexible enough to respond to altered opportunities. Change is so rapid today that the job one trains for may no longer exist by the time one finishes the program. We need education that will answer not simply the question, What kind of a job am I going to get? but also the question, What kind of a human being am I going to be? In other words, education should be concerned not merely with how to make a living but with how to live in a time when the complexity of the world and the interrelations of all human societies make understanding and wisdom more essential than ever before to the perpetuation of human life.

Americans tend to be enamored of technology, and technology has been a handmaiden of progress. Yet if technology has brought to millions in the United States unprecedented material prosperity, it has also brought to many of us a discovery about ourselves—that materialism does not ultimately satisfy the spirit. For the individual, as well as for a society, life without the power of spiritual ideas is barren and purposeless. As Carlo M. Cipolla has written (*Virginia Quarterly Review*, 1971, 47(1)):

Technology appears more and more for what it is: a tool, a mere instrument that can be used for the best purposes but also for the worst. And how it will be used depends on the quality and the philosophy of the men who use it.

The best way to achieve that quality is to cultivate the intellect through the liberal arts—through the sciences and social sciences for their empirical analysis of the physical and social world about us—and especially through the creative arts and the humanities for the insights and the values that they provide.

The arts—music, opera, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, drama, and creative writing—stimulate the imagination, engage the emotions, and discipline feeling and taste. The humanities, which include literature and languages, history, philosophy, religious studies, archeology, anthropology, and aesthetics, as well as the history and criticism of the fine arts themselves, give us the perspective from which to judge the past and attempt to shape the future. They are the chief means by which we learn to think critically and to deter-

mine ethical alternatives. Studying the humanities makes available to us our group memory and teaches us how to perceive the significance of human experience—both our own and that of others.

The humanities are often derided as having little to do with the “real world” and still less with that touchstone of present American life—the “bottom line.” But all the humanities, as Matthew Arnold said about poetry, are “at bottom a criticism of life.” They are the source of informed evaluation, of critical choice, of excellence, and of truth. What is finally more practical than the decisions we have to make about how to live and about what to live—and die—for?

Language, of course, is the vehicle that conveys the humanities. Understanding our own language and attaining precision in using it are among the most practical capabilities a person can gain. Facility in language helps us penetrate the deliberate distortions and obfuscations of political statements, bureaucratic gobbledygook, and advertising slogans. Knowledge of foreign languages opens one’s mind to alternative ways of viewing experience and is practical too. Command of foreign languages is not only enriching for the individual but integral to American influence in the world. As Flora Lewis in a syndicated newspaper column recently insisted (*New York Times*, February 16, 1981):

Talk . . . has focused on weapons, intelligence, hard political and economic bargaining. But it has overlooked one vital tool in understanding and swaying other countries. Effective use of these other resources requires a knowledge of foreign languages, which we have been losing for over a generation.

The consensus of the Rockefeller Commission on the Humanities was that “the humanities are a vital national resource, inexhaustible because they come from mind and spirit, yet perishable through neglect” (page 19). William Butler Yeats’s lines in his poem “Byzantium” seem prescient of our own materialistic and sex-driven culture: “Caught in that sensual music all neglect / Monuments of unaging intellect.” New emphasis on the arts and humanities as requisite components of education at all levels should be a part of any program for revitalizing this country, and they must be recognized as basic for national survival. Yet official neglect of the arts and humanities is just what the President has proposed. He announced in early 1981 that the allocations for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities pro-

posed by the previous administration for 1982 would be cut by 50 percent.* Although the full appropriations for the two Endowments would be only a minuscule expenditure—about five hundredths of a percent of total spending, the document issued by the Office of Management and Budget said that because their priority is so low in meeting “basic human needs,” they must bear “a greater burden of fiscal restraint” than other federal agencies. A further justification in the document for the magnitude of the percentage cuts for the two Endowments was to reverse “the notion that the federal government should be the patron of first resort for . . . artistic and literary pursuits and to return this role to individuals and corporations and thereby . . . [increase] private rather than public support.”

In fact, however, as an article in the *Wall Street Journal* (February 26, 1981) pointed out, business support for the arts rose from \$22 million in 1967 to \$436 million in 1979, an increase of nearly twentyfold, stimulated largely by the National Endowment for the Arts, which was established in 1965. And in the year when private support from business reached \$436 million, the federal appropriation was only a little over \$160 million—approximately one fourth of the total outlay. Similarly, the National Endowment for the Humanities has increased private monies for the humanities. Through the Endowment’s Challenge Grant Program, in which the government puts up one dollar for every three contributed, private donors gave \$100 million in 1977–1978, and the figure for the past two years will doubtless be still higher. Reductions in federal spending should be equitably distributed; such misinformed judgments concerning the worth of the arts and humanities, supposedly being made in the national interest, are truly astounding.

However ailing the state of the economy, we cannot afford acts willfully destructive of the human resources that must be nurtured in order to preserve and strengthen the aesthetic and intellectual fiber of the country. Without strong national support of the arts and the humanities, education will lack much of the leaven with which to raise American life to higher reaches of purpose and meaning.

*As this issue was going to press, it was announced that the President had signed the 1982 Interior appropriations bill, which allocates \$143 million to the NEA and \$130.6 million to the NEH, a cut of about 23 percent. Further cuts have been requested for 1983 by the Office of Management and Budget.

reading recommended by the book committee

humanities

social sciences

natural sciences

ROBERT B. HEILMAN, LAWRENCE WILLSON,
FREDERICK J. CROSSON
EARL W. COUNT, LEONARD W. DOOB,
ANDREW GYORGY, MADELINE R. ROBINTON,
VICTORIA SCHUCK, JAMES C. STONE,
ELLIOT ZUPNICK
RUSSELL B. STEVENS, RONALD GEBALLE

RONALD GEBALLE

The Search for Gravity Waves. P. C. W. Davies. Cambridge. 1980. \$19.95.

We could gather information about the far reaches of the universe not accessible in any other way if we could detect gravity waves because they penetrate more readily than any other kind of radiation. Thus the 1969 report of their detection, still unconfirmed, opened an era of intense activity that is pushing the limits of understanding and experimental technique to almost unimaginable refinement. Davies offers a simple description of what gravity waves are, how they are produced, schemes for their detection, and what they can tell us. He does so skillfully and with no appeal to advanced mathematics.

From Being to Becoming: Time and Complexity in the Physical Sciences. Ilya Prigogine. W. H. Freeman. 1980. \$12.95.

Time is but a "geometrical parameter," asserted d'Alembert in 1754. A century later, the Second Law of Thermodynamics assigned a direction to time, that in which entropy increases. There is an inconsistency in these two properties that ever since has forced examination of fundamental concepts in physics. Nobel Laureate Prigogine and his school are convinced that entropy production is not to be derived from conventional dynamics and a special assumption, but instead must be an inseparable feature of a properly expressed dynamics, that is, the study of the time evolution of distribution functions rather than of orbits. This semi-technical treatment outlines their views and the steps they are taking.

Emerging Cosmology. Bernard Lovell. Columbia. 1981. \$14.95.

Cosmology, the study of the creation, evolution, and present structure of the universe, can trace its history back five or six millennia; it still is fresh and full of surprises as we discover more. Sir Bernard, an eminent astronomer, has written an absorbing, brief account of the subject, including the philosophical and religious influences that variously stimulated and impeded its development. Readable and enjoyable by all.

Reminiscences of Los Alamos, 1943-1945. Ed. by L. Badash, J. D. Hirschfelder, and H. P. Broida. D. Riedel. 1980. Cloth, \$26.50; paper, \$9.95.

Seven scientists and three wives who lived in Los Alamos during the Second World War give highly personal and distinctive, often funny, accounts of the establishing of the laboratory and the modes of life behind the barbed wire. A nice complement to the more usual studious histories.

Majestic Lights: The Aurora in Science, History and the Arts. Robert H. Eather. American Geophysical Union. 1980. \$49.

Lightning and Its Spectrum: An Atlas of Photographs. Leon H. Salanave. Arizona. 1980. \$20.

Rainbows, Halos and Glories. Robert Greenler. Cambridge. 1980. \$24.95.

Ball Lightning and Bead Lightning: Extreme Forms of Atmospheric Electricity. James Dale Barry. Plenum. 1980. \$29.50.

Four volumes treating some of physical nature's most spectacular displays. The first is a celebration, with dramatic photographs, quaint illustrations from earlier times, and an array of historical and literary references together with nontechnical explanations. The second offers many examples of lightning forms and a wealth of information about techniques used to catch the displays on film but little of the mechanics of formation and discharge. The third is a fine exposition for the interested amateur of the beautiful, intriguing phenomena that follow from the passage of a beam of sunlight through water droplets and ice crystals; Greenler's enthusiasm and lucid explanations and the brilliant photography he has both produced and collected make this book a delight. The last of the set treats reported phenomena, the existence of which is regarded with skepticism by some knowledgeable scientists because reports are scattered and inconsistent and seldom have been offered by trained observers; the phenomena have not been reproduced even approximately in laboratories, and mathematical models are very much ad hoc. Such a subject is full of fascination; the author covers it with historical references, photographs purporting to show the phenomena, and physical explanations as far as they go.

MADELINE R. ROBINTON

The Pope, His Banker, and Venice. Felix Gilbert. Harvard. 1980. \$12.50.

This is a story of Renaissance intrigue and high finance, of how Agostino Chigi, a Sienese, became banker to the popes—Alexander VI, a Borgia; Julius II, who hated the Borgias; and Leo X, a Medici. Chigi's financial acumen is carefully delineated, especially in his dealings with the Venetians. Venice was defending itself against the French, the Germans, the English, the Spaniards, and the pope allied in the League of Cambrai (1508). Winning over Pope Julius to their side after long and difficult negotiations and concessions, the Venetians were able to use his banker to help finance the war against the pope's former allies at great cost to Venice and great profit to Chigi. A

fascinating story of the interrelationship of diplomacy, politics, and finance.

Ethnopolitics: A Conceptual Framework. Joseph Rothschild. Columbia. 1981. \$22.50. This interesting and "relevant" volume attempts to provide a conceptual framework for understanding how "political entrepreneurs" mobilize ethnicity for political purposes, for "political legitimation or delegitimation of systems, states, regimes and governments." Rothschild, a political scientist, draws on his wide historical knowledge to trace the development of nationalism in the nineteenth century, the period of the emergence of the large nation-state, through the twentieth century, during which the reverse process set in with the "burgeoning pressures of political ethnic assertiveness" in all types of states, "modern and developing, capitalist, communist and socialist." This has taken place paradoxically in a world in which intercommunication and economic and political developments are international, supranational, and global in scope. Using examples drawn from the older states of the developed world, mainly Europe and North America, Rothschild analyzes the elements of ethnicity: its structures, leadership, and dynamics, as well as the attempts to contain it. A tightly reasoned, valuable study.

The Basques: The Franco Years and Beyond. Robert P. Clark. Nevada. 1979. \$17.50.

Cyprus—War and Adaptation: A Psychoanalytic History of Two Ethnic Groups in Conflict. Vanik D. Volkan. Virginia. 1979. \$13.50.

These two volumes illustrate two very different contemporary problems of political ethnicity and deal with them in totally different ways. Each author is directly connected with his particular ethnic group. Clark, a political scientist married to the daughter of an exiled Basque, treats the Basques both historically and sociologically. He describes the cultural linguistic heritage and the emergence of the Basque Nationalist Party (1895) and more recently the ETA, the terrorist group. Analyzing the demographic, economic, social, and political changes in the area in recent times, he discusses the implications for the Spanish political parties, of the right and left, and for Spanish democracy, as well as for the Basques. Volkan, a Cypriot Turk and a professor of psychiatry at the University of Virginia who has lived in this country since 1957, provides illuminating insights into the violent ethnic conflicts on the island of Cyprus between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. A pioneering study demonstrating how psychological processes among groups interact with historical processes.

Britain's Moment in the Middle East, 1914-1971. Elizabeth Monroe. Johns Hopkins. 1981. \$20.

Monroe, director of the Middle East Division of the British Ministry of Information during World War II and then correspondent in that area for the Economist until 1958, wrote this volume in 1963 while at St. Antony's College, Oxford. She has revised it and added a new chapter on the period to 1971, including the Suez debacle. This is a sophisticated account by a person who knew the partici-

pants and is well aware of the competing forces in the complicated story of the rise and fall of British power.

Alas, Alas for England: What Went Wrong with Britain. Louis Heren. Hamish Hamilton. 1981. \$19.95.

Heren, after spending most of his adult life abroad as foreign correspondent for *The Times*, returned to England to find he did not understand Britain's decline. Using the techniques of a foreign correspondent, "asking obvious questions, reading and traveling widely and, above all working with . . . objectivity," he reports on his interviews with leading politicians and officials, compares British institutions with American (he had been chief Washington correspondent from 1960 to 1970), and offers his critiques of these institutions, especially Parliament as it now functions. A thoughtful, provocative book.

The Origins of History. Herbert Butterfield. Ed. by Adam Watson. Basic. 1981. \$20.95. This is a posthumous book by the distinguished Cambridge historian. Butterfield had always been concerned with how we think about the past. His two studies *The Whig Interpretation of History* and *The Englishman and His History* are classics. This volume, the product of his later years, concentrates on how we came to acquire a knowledge of the past. The ancient Mesopotamians, the Egyptians, the Hebrews "obsessed with history," the Greeks with their "general . . . lack of historical knowledge," and the Chinese—all are looked at to determine from their records and their literature what their conceptions were about their myths, their legends, and their traditions and how historical consciousness developed. Butterfield's deep religious commitment is revealed in his chapters on the Bible and in his reflections on the secularization of history.

The Witches' Advocate: Basque Witchcraft and the Spanish Inquisition (1609–1614). Gustav Henningsen. Nevada. 1980. \$24.50. This fascinating account of the great Basque witch trials is based on "lost" manuscripts of the inquisitor, Alonso de Salazar Frias, recently discovered by the author, a Danish folklorist. It was Salazar who, becoming increasingly skeptical of the evidence he heard at the trials and on his visit to the area, came to the conclusion that there was no substantive evidence to support the charges of witchcraft and eventually convinced the Council of the Spanish Inquisition of that. A further proof that this episode was, as H. C. Lea called it, the "turning point in the history of Spanish witchcraft," and an absorbing scholarly narrative of detection.

Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister, 500–900. Suzanne Fonay Wemple. Pennsylvania. 1981. \$22.50.

The position of women and their roles in Merovingian and Carolingian society are carefully delineated in this thoughtful and well-researched study. Professor Wemple of Barnard College describes the impact on women of the modifications in secular and church law and in the interpretation of these laws in regard to marriage, divorce, and property rights, measures that provided greater security for women. At the same

time, the influence of women in the Frankish church was waning with the attempts to establish celibacy of the priesthood and to exclude women from clerical and pastoral functions. It is not a static age, and the history of women in this period reflects this continuous change, sometimes toward greater freedom and independence, sometimes toward greater restrictions and limitations.

VICTORIA SCHUCK

George Orwell: A Life. Bernard Crick. Little, Brown. 1980. \$17.95.

The first complete biography of Eric Blair (1903–1950), whose writing as Orwell shook the twentieth century. Crick, an English political scientist, having had unrestricted use of the Orwell papers, details largely through the words of contemporaries the way "the books came to be written and published." The narrative reveals the complexities of Orwell, how he endured poverty, failure, and illness as he relentlessly pursued experiences with an *idée fixe* of becoming a "political writer" and stylist of strong, clear, and beautiful prose. World recognition and financial rewards barely reached him before a tragic and untimely death.

In the Running: The New Woman Candidate. Ruth B. Mandel. Ticknor and Fields. 1981. \$12.95.

This study of women who stood for political office in the 1970s, with a special focus on more than 100 in ten states in the 1976 elections, provides first-hand accounts of both winners and losers. Drawing upon the reports of journalists who followed their campaign trails, Mandel examines the effect of a woman's sex on her candidacy—from private life and money-raising to issues and credibility. A carefully crafted book of wide interest to voters, and a must for political aspirants.

Politics in America: Members of Congress in Washington and at Home. Ed. by Alan Ehrenhalt; Assoc. Ed., Robert E. Healy. Congressional Quarterly. 1981. \$29.50.

A vivid reference work on the House and Senate and their environments. Here one finds sketches of the 535 members: their careers, legislative tactics, alliances, and interest-group ratings. More weighty than the "yellow pages," the volume profiles congressional districts and summarizes each state's politics. Brief essays on the Congress and the 1980 Reagan victory lend perspective to the data. Almost any page affords entertaining, lively reading with anecdotes galore.

Unelected Representatives: Congressional Staff and the Future of Representative Government. Michael J. Malbin. Basic. \$15.95. To understand Congress, one must understand the role of its burgeoning staff, now numbering more than 23,500. Malbin gives particular attention to committee staffs and their performance in a variety of case studies from the 1976–1978 Congresses. While contending that staffs free congressional members from dependence on outside sources, he concludes that they fractionize the legislative process and do not always contribute to informed deliberation.

Reshaping Faculty Careers. W. Todd Furniss. American Council on Education. 1981. \$15.

Higher education is no longer a "growth industry." Beset by inflationary costs, declining enrollments, and delayed retirements, it cannot absorb the production of Ph.D.'s traditionally bound for academia or even keep all the tenured faculty. In addressing "what-to-do," Furniss offers realistic paths to alternative careers. He calls for a new conceptual base, "a central vision of the academic career based on an intellectual idea" rather than a single workplace. A serious, optimistic guide notable as well for its delightful literary quality, studded with wit and poetry.

Vietnamese Tradition on Trial, 1920–1945. David G. Marr. California. 1981. \$25.

The Communist Road to Power in Vietnam. William J. Duiker. Westview. 1981. \$32.50.

When Governments Collide: Coercion and Diplomacy in the Vietnam Conflict, 1964–1968. Wallace J. Thies. California. 1980. \$20. **Everything We Had: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Thirty-three American Soldiers Who Fought in It.** Al Santoli. Random House. 1981. \$12.95.

Why Vietnam: Prelude to America's Albattross. Archimedes L. A. Patti. California. 1981. \$19.50.

Historical studies and political analyses from a new generation of scholars and recently published recollections of participants continue to penetrate controversies over the Vietnam War. Marr, in a superb intellectual history of Vietnam's quarter-century preceding the August 1945 Revolution, challenges the conventional view that North Vietnam's triumph over France and the United States came principally from the genius of communist organization and technology. He describes how a young "new intelligentsia" transformed colonial concepts into an ideology that conditioned the Vietnamese for the people's war strategies and mass mobilization to follow. Duiker accepts this legacy of the scholar-elite in a comprehensive account of "the nature of the [Communist] Party's revolutionary strategy toward the seizure of power." Discarding the Bolshevik for the Maoist Chinese doctrine adapted by Ho Chi Minh, the Party followed a coherent pattern including both "psychomilitary" and diplomatic aspects. The dual issues of nationalism and social reform were designed to obtain a popular uprising in the cities and countryside. However decisive the armed conflict may appear, Duiker concludes that over the thirty-year period ending in 1975, the political strategy was responsible for the ultimate victory. Turning to U.S. policy, Thies closely analyzes the model of escalating warfare as an instrument of foreign policy. He finds it theoretically flawed, serving to reinforce an enemy government's strategy—in this case, North Vietnam's. Santoli's tapes portray the anguishing character of the conflict. This leaves the fundamental question, Why were we in Vietnam in the first place? Patti's memoir raises it anew. He postulates from his own conversations with Ho Chi Minh in the summer of 1945 that the United States misperceived Ho as a communist ideologue, overlooking his intense nationalism and social democratic leanings at that time. Had he received American sup-

port for the independence of Vietnam, or partial independence drawn from the Philippine model. Ho would have been subject to U.S. influence. This Western affiliation could possibly have led to Vietnam's becoming a neutralist or buffer state against the communist countries to the north, which would have altered the course of history. Read separately or together in sequence, the books demonstrate a revisionist approach.

ANDREW GYORGY

Modern Authoritarianism: A Comparative Institutional Analysis. Amos Perlmutter. Yale. 1981. \$17.50.

This scholarly inquiry is of immense use to today's political scientist; it cleverly combines a horizontal survey of the many geographically and ideologically varied patterns of modern authoritarianism with a vertical, in-depth perspective of such "model" authoritarian regimes as Mussolini's Italy or Franco's Spain. Aimed primarily at the specialized observer of modern European and world politics.

Shadrin: The Spy Who Never Came Back. Henry Hurt. McGraw-Hill. 1981. \$13.95. This fascinating political spy story focuses on a brilliant young Soviet Naval captain defector who received political asylum in the United States, became a "double agent" under mysterious circumstances, and disappeared for good on a secretive mission to Vienna. It is a moving human drama replete with touching emotional details. The "end" of Nicholas Shadrin unfortunately remains a mystery to this date. This book will be of great interest to the general public and particularly to those who follow Soviet-American relations.

Debacle: The American Failure in Iran. Michael Ledeen and William Lewis. Knopf. 1981. \$14.95.

This excellently written and comprehensive study offers a number of challenging and largely negative conclusions about recent developments in Iran, and about the ups and downs of the "Washington-Teheran Axis." The American misjudgment of the Shah's rule and of the overall geopolitical and ideological position of Iran in the Middle East is incisively portrayed. This thoughtfully documented book contributes immensely to our better understanding of the weaknesses of our intelligence apparatus on the one hand and of the complexities of Middle Eastern politics on the other. It is carefully aimed at both the sophisticated expert and the reading public.

Russia's Failed Revolutions: From the Decembrists to the Dissidents. Adam B. Ulam. Basic. 1981. \$18.95.

Ulam's principal theme presents a refreshing contrast to the usual coverage of the Russian Revolution. He closely examines the revolutions that failed instead of the one success, the October (November) Revolution. The book forcefully underlines the late Bertram Wolfe's famous dictum that 1917 was indeed the Year of Revolutions: two lost ones (March and July) and one of complete victory. Highly recommended, particularly to interested social scientists.

The Political Economy of Rural Development: Peasants, International Capital, and the State. Ed. by Rosemary E. Galli. SUNY. 1981. \$12.95.

Rather unevenly written, but exceedingly well edited, this volume offers a series of case studies on the political economies of Colombia, Mexico, Tanzania, and Bangladesh. It is most useful in terms of presenting such selected Third World problems as overpopulation, tremendous food shortages, and violent dictatorial governments. An excellent concluding chapter links the country studies to these important sociopolitical groups: peasants, representatives of international business, and state authorities. Highly recommended to the general public.

Roots of Revolution, An Interpretive History of Modern Iran. Nikki R. Keddie. Yale. 1981. \$5.95.

This timely and highly readable book covers a variety of topics, including modern Iranian political thought, the royal dictatorship, and, finally, the revolution itself. It offers a dispassionate perspective of both the ancient and the more recent history of Iran, as well as of the cataclysmic events that shook the world in the past three years. An excellent addition to our growing library on Persian matters. Aimed primarily at a specialized audience.

The Domestic Context of Soviet Foreign Policy: Sources, Perceptions, and Trends. Ed. by Seweryn Bialer. Westview. 1981. \$15.

This comprehensive volume deals with a large number of topical subjects. The chapters by Ulam, Azrael, Marer, and Korbonksi seem to be the most useful. An excellent final chapter by the editor ties together the major factors and forces operating in the field of Soviet foreign policy. The book is aimed particularly at a college audience.

The Taming of Fidel Castro. Maurice Halperin. California. 1981. \$18.95.

This book deals primarily with the "revolutionary consciousness" of the Cuban people and Castro's own brand of revolution. Useful sections or chapters deal with the Ché Guevara episode, as well as the economic and social features of Castroism. Excellently organized and written, it is one of the most significant contributions to our better understanding of revolutionary Castroism.

LAWRENCE WILLSON

The New England Transcendentalists and the "Dial": A History of the Magazine and Its Contributors. Joel Myerson. Fairleigh Dickinson. 1980. \$25.

Chicano Authors: Inquiry by Interview. Bruce-Novoa. Texas. 1980. \$15.95.

Toward a New American Literary History. Essays in Honor of Arlin Turner. Ed. by Louis J. Budd, Edwin H. Cady, and Carl L. Anderson. Duke. 1980. \$14.75.

Early American Literature: A Collection of Critical Essays. (Twentieth Century Views.) Ed. by Michael T. Gilmore. Prentice-Hall. 1980. \$10.95.

American Literary Scholarship. An Annual/1979. Ed. by James Woodress. Duke. 1981. \$27.75.

Each of the five compilations listed here

serves excellently well the purpose for which it was intended. Myerson provides four informative introductory chapters on the Transcendental Club and the brief life of the *Dial*, to set the garbled record straight. He then provides forty brief biographical sketches of the contributors, both the well-known and the less familiar. Bruce-Novoa has performed yeoman service in gathering from fourteen Chicano writers information about their birth, family background, education, careers, and attitudes toward Chicano writing and its place in the national literature. The interviews are arranged chronologically by the age of the writers, from Jose Antonio Villarreal (born in 1924) to Tino Villanueva (1941) and Alurista (who doesn't "like to get into date and place of birth"). The seventeen friends who honor Arlin Turner are the Establishment of the national literary forum, all but two of them being or having been members of the Board of Editors of *American Literature*. Their essays range in subject from "National Identity in American Literature" through Cotton Mather, Joel Barlow, Franklin, Davy Crockett, Emerson, Thoreau, Louisa Alcott to Ellen Glasgow, Ezra Pound, and Carl Van Vechten, and conclude with "Notes on Photography and American Culture, 1839-1890." They are all impressive. Gilmore has assembled thirteen brief essays about such writers as Robert Beverley, William Byrd II, Edwards, Franklin, Paine, and Jefferson and such subjects as Puritan poetics, the plain style, narratives of captivity, the colonial experience, and early national politics. Not least impressive among them is the editor's own introductory essay on millennialism and his reassessment of eighteenth-century republicanism. The seventeenth volume of Woodress's *Annual* is, like the preceding sixteen, a treasure house of information and intelligent judgment, indispensable for the scholar in the field at whatever level of achievement, to tell him or her what has been done of late in the scholar's special corner, to hint at what remains to be done, and to reveal the currently fashionable angle.

Imagining America. Peter Conrad. Oxford. 1980. \$12.95.

With the inbred and perhaps by now unconscious condescension of the Englishman writing about this continent, Conrad describes eight Americas, five imagined by "tourists" (the Trollopes, Dickens, Wilde, Brooke, Kipling, Stevenson, Wells, Lawrence) and three by "immigrants" (Auden, Huxley, Isherwood), ranging from the Institutional through the Aesthetic and the Psychedelic to the Mystical. All eight imaginings are united by the common theme that "In America's vast emptiness . . . there are truths to sustain any fiction," and the imaginers are united by another: that "Because America offers . . . an incarnation of your most recondite and specialized fantasies, in discovering America you are discovering yourself." The tourists came to experience "the awfulness of America"; the immigrants, to dwell in "a state of grace, a condition of freedom which they embrace by apprenticing themselves to strange gods." They none of them seem very attractive, some of them indeed rather nasty, but the insights concerning them flash with intelligence and wit.

The Life of Lidian Jackson Emerson. Ellen Tucker Emerson. Ed. by Delores Bird Carpenter. American Literary Manuscripts Series. Twayne. 1980. \$25.

From this biography of her mother, Ellen Emerson scrupulously excludes the figure who alone makes it worth our attention: her father. A lurid light is cast upon the domestic scene—a chilly, unsanitary, rat-infested house populated by conventional born-again Christian females who were more repelled than uplifted by the thoughts of their son-in-law. The marriage of the Emersons was happy for perhaps five years (of 46) until the *Transcendental Times* began and the household was invaded by "Waldo's Menagerie." Then Lidian, never much interested in keeping house (nor adept at it), never very popular in Concord, where for 57 years she was always a "sojourner," retired into psychosomatic depression, invalidism, general misery ("Happiness didn't interest . . . her"), and resentment for "every injustice, every slight, every wrong . . . that anyone was guilty of," drawing relief from an "immense interest in mesmerism. . . phrenology. . . astrology. . . Rochester knockings. . . mediums, clairvoyants, table-tippers and in planchette." Happiness returned thirty years later in old age as the master gradually, steadily, lost his memory and his wits but waxed in cheerfulness and went to church again. The chronicle is jumbled and often confused (Ellen has no memory for dates, no respect for chronology), sad, funny, and altogether absorbing in its depiction of domestic life in an important American home of the nineteenth century.

A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. Henry D. Thoreau. Ed. by Carl F. Hovde and textual staff: William L. Howarth and Elizabeth Hall Witherell. Historical introduction by Linck C. Johnson. Princeton. 1980. \$25.

Thoreau's first book, generally dismissed at the outset, in 1849, as an "arbitrary collection of descriptions, *pensées*, and quotations" and attacked as an offensive and "dangerous" work because of its Transcendental Pantheism, its irreverence toward the New Testament, and its glorification of Hindu philosophy, appears anew in a handsome edition, the fifth volume of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, a project organized by the Center for Editions of American Authors. The offense and the danger have faded, as has the aesthetic scorn. The present inclination is to accept it as Bronson Alcott did, as "an American book, worthy to stand beside Emerson's *Essays*," to agree with its present editor that it is "a unified work of art which was carefully wrought." The historical, biographical, and critical appendices will delight the scholar.

Henry David Thoreau: What Manner of Man? (New England Writers Series.) Edward Wagenknecht. Massachusetts. 1981. \$12.50; paper, \$5.95.

Of all the biographical studies that Wagenknecht has written, this one is by all odds the best, as it is the most sensible and most refreshing account of Thoreau to appear in a long time. Not primarily a record of Thoreau's life, it concentrates on the various aspects of his thought and his action. Wagenknecht has an easy grasp of all that has been

written about Thoreau in recent years. He is civilized in his discussion of Thoreau's fabled misanthropy, of his relations with Lidian Emerson, of his "probably latent homoerotic orientation." There is an especially fine concluding chapter, "The Unseen," on Thoreau's religious attitudes.

Walt Whitman: A Life. Justin Kaplan. Simon & Schuster. 1980. \$15.

Like Hawthorne, Whitman all his life concealed a "secret" (or so he confided to Traubel), which, had he told it (as he did not) would have explained whatever about him is inexplicable. There is not much, or does not seem to be, especially now that we have accepted his Uranian proclivities as more or less ordinary. Whether or no, much remains to tell of the long strife and struggle for recognition, fame, and love of the mendacious, vain, eccentric, impractical, eventually disabled old poet who "almost alone among . . . major American writers . . . achieved in his last years radiance, serenity and generosity of spirit." Kaplan tells the story well.

Joseph Wood Krutch: A Writer's Life. John D. Margolis. Tennessee. 1980. \$14.50.

Krutch's life was a pilgrim's progress from provincial Knoxville through sophisticated Greenwich Village to the soothing rural scene of Redding, Connecticut, to rest at last in the clear desert air of Tucson. It was a progress from "conservative, middle-class, middlebrow mentality" through the fashionable modernist despair of the 1920s to a joyous affirmation of the worth of human life based on "the old fundamental values." His major guides along the way were Samuel Johnson and Henry Thoreau.

The Development of American Romance:

The Sacrifice of Relation. Michael Davitt Bell. Univ. Chicago. 1981. \$22.50.

The ultimate purpose of this book is to isolate the special function of American writers as definers and shapers of American culture, of a distinctively "American" literature. Bell explores the meaning of "romance" through the writing of Brockden Brown, Irving, Poe, Hawthorne, and Melville, all of whom rebelled against the practicality and "realism" of the cultural orthodoxy. The lives of these men were informed by conflicts that confronted "an analogous self-consciousness in the national experience" and required "the embodiment of strange new truths in forms . . . of behavior and belief, of character and institution, of literary fiction."

William Ellery Channing: An Essay on the Liberal Spirit in America. Andrew Delbanco. Harvard. 1981. \$15.

Channing is more fortunate than most in having found, even so late, such an intelligent and warmly sensitive biographer as Delbanco, whose book—again (like Wagenknecht's *Thoreau*) a spiritual biography rather than an account of the "life"—is a balanced, sympathetic, and moving account of a man who represented the noblest opposition to Emerson and transcendental enthusiasm. One has constantly the sense that two charming, thoughtful, and thoroughly civilized men are involved here: the subject and the author.

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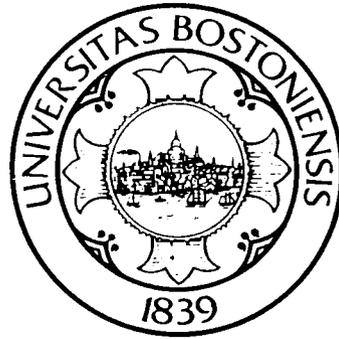
**NEW PROFESSORSHIP
IN PHILOSOPHY
ANNOUNCED BY ΦBK**

A new award, the Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship in Philosophy, has been established by the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. The professorship is made possible by an endowment from Patrick and Edna Romanell. Patrick Romanell is H. Y. Benedict Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas, El Paso.

The professorship will be awarded annually, on a nonrenewable basis, to scholars in the field of philosophy, without restriction to any one school of philosophical thought. It is intended to recognize not only the distinguished achievement of the recipient but also his or her contribution or potential contribution to public understanding of philosophy.

The award carries with it a stipend of \$6000. Although the winner need not be a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he or she must be on the faculty of an institution sheltering a chapter. The winner will be expected to give a series of three special lectures during the year of the professorship, such lectures to be open to the general public as well as to the academic community.

Nominations are now under consideration for the first Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship in Philosophy, which will be awarded for the academic year 1983-1984. For further information, write to the Committee on the Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship, United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.



**THIRTY-THIRD TRIENNIAL
COUNCIL MEETING**

The thirty-third triennial Council of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa will meet in Boston, Massachusetts, August 19-22, 1982. The Epsilon of Massachusetts Chapter at Boston University will be the host of the meeting, and the sessions will be held primarily at the Copley Plaza Hotel.

Most of the chapters and associations have selected their representatives to the Council. The Secretary of the United Chapters urges that the names of delegates not yet reported to the Washington office be sent in immediately. The Delegates Manual is now being prepared for the press.

Any member of Phi Beta Kappa may attend the Council sessions as a nondelegate. Full particulars will appear in the spring issue of the *Key Reporter*, and in the meantime staff at the Washington office will be glad to answer questions about the meeting.

**APPLICATION FORMS FOR
NEW CHAPTERS
NOW AVAILABLE**

Application forms for Phi Beta Kappa faculty groups wishing to establish new chapters are now available from the United Chapters, as is a revised leaflet describing procedures for the founding of new chapters.

The Phi Beta Kappa members of the faculty at a college or university seeking a chapter should organize informally and choose a representative to conduct the correspondence with the United Chapters. The Phi Beta Kappa faculty group is expected to be at least ten percent of the full-time teaching faculty, in order to provide an adequate nucleus for organizing a new chapter and *efficiently conducting its activities*.

Since 1886, all charters for new chapters have been granted by the Council (the legislative body of the United Chapters) at its triennial sessions. The Committee on Qualifications, whose members are elected by the Senate (the general administrative body of the United Chapters) considers the applications and submits its recommendations to the Senate. The Senate determines the list of institutions to be recommended to the Council for charters, and the chapter delegates to the Council vote on the recommendations.

Applications for the next triennium, which will be voted on at the Council meeting in the fall of 1985, are due November 1, 1982. Please address all inquiries to the Secretary of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.



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