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The Key Reporter

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Associates' Meeting

Minow Assails Misuse of Television in U.S. Politics

Newton Minow, who was President Kennedy's chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, told a standing-room-only audience of Phi Beta Kappa Associates in February that television has had a more profound effect on the American political process than has any other technological change since the printing press. Speaking before a luncheon meeting at the Harvard Club of New York City, attended by about 150 persons, Minow challenged his audience to help "harness this great gift of television to improve and advance the electoral process."

His main proposals were these:

1. Substitute rational political discussion for political commercials in presidential campaigns.
2. Reduce the amount of money required to run for political office, especially to buy television time. Minow asked, "Why on earth should the American people spend millions out of the public treasury so that the Republican and Democratic candidates can flood the air with 30-second television commercials contributing nothing to political enlightenment? If this money is to be spent, at least let us insist that the candidates appear live to deal with issues."
3. Shorten the political campaigns. He spoke favorably of the British system in which campaign periods are strictly limited to a three-week period during which no candidate can buy television time. Instead the parties are allocated an amount of political time on the air to use as they wish.
4. Assure basic access to TV for all significant candidates for president and vice president.

A Welcome to 12,500 New Phi Beta Kappa Members

With this issue, *The Key Reporter* welcomes an estimated 12,500 new members of Phi Beta Kappa, selected by 237 chapters nationwide. We hope you will read and enjoy this publication, which you will receive free for as long as you keep us informed of your address.

We invite your comments as well as your change-of-address notices.

Visiting Scholars for 1986-87 Are Named

The Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program has selected 3 women and 10 men to give public lectures, participate in classroom discussions, and meet students and faculty informally on campuses around the country in 1986-87. In 1985-86, visits were scheduled for more than 100 Phi Beta Kappa chapters, three-quarters of the requesting institutions. For the upcoming—30th—year of the program, the Visiting Scholar panel will consist of the following persons:

Timothy H. Breen, William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University. Honored as the outstanding teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern in 1982, Breen is the author of *The Character of the Good Ruler: A Study of Puritan Political Ideas in New England, 1630-1730*; *Puritans and Adventurers: Change and Persistence in Early America*; and *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution*.

Victor Brombert, Henry Putnam University Professor of Romance Languages

and Literatures and Comparative Literature at Princeton University. Brombert has written extensively on French literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, among other subjects, and was recently named Officier des Palmes Académiques by the French government for the excellence of his scholarship and teaching.

Annemarie Weyl Carr, associate professor of art history at Southern Methodist University. Author of *Byzantine Illumination, 1150-1250: The Study of a Provincial Tradition*, she has studied particularly the artistic interchange in the Levant during the Crusades, women artists in the Middle Ages, and text and image in medieval books.

Lewis A. Coser, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. A former president of the American Sociological Association, Coser is the author of *The Functions of Social Conflict*; *Men of Ideas*; *Continuities in the Study of Social Conflict*; *Masters of Sociological Thought*; *Greedy Organizations*; and
(continued on back cover)

Follow-up to 'Whither the Gifted?'

Foundations Seeking to Attract Top Talent For Careers in Teaching and Scholarship

Howard R. Bowen and Jack H. Schuster's article on the changing career interests of the intellectual elite (*The Key Reporter*, Autumn 1985) prompted considerable response from our readers, an example of which appears on page 4 of this issue. At the same time, a number of organizations are already working in different ways to alleviate the prospective shortage of superior talent in teaching and scholarship, particularly in the humanities.

The directors of three such programs agreed to describe their current efforts for *The Key Reporter*: Robert F. Goheen discusses the Mellon Fellowships in Humanities, established in 1982. Susan B. Stine reports on the Liberal Arts Enrichment Program of the Pew Memorial Trust, which will make its awards in July 1986. And Peter W. Stanley describes the Ford Foundation's new education and culture program.

Mellon Fellowships

The Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities were established in 1982 on the basis of indications from many campuses that many of the brightest and most promising college seniors were no longer entering graduate schools of arts and sciences and so were being lost for careers of teaching and scholarship. The falling off appeared particularly marked in the humanities.

[Princeton] President William G. Bowen's 1981 Annual Report pointed up the potentially serious consequences of this trend for the quality of the fresh faculty that would be needed in increasing numbers in the 1990s and beyond.

The findings of Professors Howard R. Bowen and Jack H. Schuster as reported in the Autumn 1985 *Key Reporter* put on firmer statistical ground the concerns

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Foundation Programs

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that led to the Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities.

Over the past three years, 331 Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities have been awarded. A fourth competition, expected to result in 115 to 125 new appointments, is currently under way. Fellows currently enrolled are attending 42 U.S. and Canadian graduate schools.

Beyond the particular fellowships awarded, there are indications that the existence of the Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities has served to re-encourage faculty members, who had largely ceased doing so, to nudge and lead some of their ablest students toward academic careers. At the same time, the highly selective nature of the awards appears to be creating an aura of prestige attractive to highly able students with multiple options.

Our data are too few for firm conclusions, but in the leading private research universities and in several of the great public research universities as well, the numbers of outstanding seniors and recent graduates who have entered the competition for the Mellon awards have increased each year. Still, there appear to be parts of the country (most notably the Southwest, but to a lesser degree the Midwest and the South) where the Mellon Fellowships, and presumably the careers they represent, remain of limited interest to most of the very ablest students.

Two final observations: Although some of the highly quantitative aspects of the social sciences qualify for National Science Foundation support, most of the broad sweep of those disciplines does not. A program comparable to the Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities is needed there.

Second, most predictions point to 1995 as the year in which a marked increase will occur in the number of faculty positions needing to be filled, and they indicate that these needs will grow over the following decade. These prospects suggest that what is done (or not done) between now and the early 1990s will be critically important in determining the quality of fresh talent available to fill those new positions and form the faculties of the future.

Pew Foundation's Program

Thirty institutions—primarily undergraduate liberal arts colleges that historically have served as the principal source of graduates pursuing Ph.D.'s in the humanities for careers as teachers and scholars—have been invited to participate in a new Liberal Arts Enrichment Program funded by the Pew Memorial Trust.

The program was established in response to the trustees' concern about the need to improve and revitalize teaching and scholarship in the humanities.

The main objective of the program is to encourage thoughtful, comprehensive planning that will stimulate examination of how the humanities can adapt to the changing demands of higher education, through revitalization of the curriculums at the institutions selected.

The second objective is to allow the courses, ideas, and approaches developed through the enrichment program to serve as models that may be used by other institutions to improve their humanities programs. An integral part of each college's proposal will be a process by which it will communicate what it has learned and developed to a group of its peers.

Under the program, institutions will be encouraged to develop new ways of teaching traditional subjects and of evaluating their impact, to institute interdisciplinary approaches, to strengthen existing programs, or to augment faculty research and leave opportunities in order to develop new courses.

Especially encouraged are proposals that—

1. Create interdisciplinary linkages among the humanities disciplines and between the liberal arts and sciences, social sciences, and preprofessional disciplines;
2. Broaden liberal arts offerings to include study of diverse cultures, international aspects of traditional disciplines, and more effective language instruction;
3. Establish cooperative programs with local educational, cultural, and business institutions; and
4. Develop strategies to integrate appropriate new educational technologies into the liberal arts and explore the impact on society of issues raised by new technologies.

Approximately 15 grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 will be awarded this summer for a commitment period of up to five years (1986–87 through 1990–91). The following colleges and universities have been invited to participate:

Amherst, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Calvin, Carleton, Colgate, Davidson, DePauw, Grinnell, Hamilton, Haverford, Holy Cross, Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Pomona, Reed, Smith, Saint Olaf, Swarthmore, Trinity (Hartford, Conn.), Vassar, Wake Forest, Washington and Lee, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Wheaton (Wheaton, Ill.), Williams, and Wooster.

Ford Foundation's Initiative

The Ford Foundation, which partially funded the research leading to Bowen

and Schuster's book, *The Professors*, has also initiated a \$4.75 million program to alleviate the long-term problem the authors have pointed up.

The initiative aims to increase the number of highly qualified faculty in the future by enhancing the quality of undergraduate education and strengthening the intellectual engagement of faculty in undergraduate teaching today. The Foundation believes that these goals are closely related: the quality of education depends largely on the skill and commitment of faculty. Faculty engagement varies directly with the challenge and stimulation teachers derive from their students and the curriculum. Students, who have an intimate view of the professoriate, are typically motivated to consider an academic career by the reward they find in their own education and the example they see in their teachers.

The Foundation has invited 40 colleges and universities to compete for grants totaling \$4.75 million:

Amherst, Antioch, Birmingham-Southern, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, University of California (Irvine, Riverside, San Diego, and Santa Cruz), Carleton, Catholic, Chicago, City University of New York (Brooklyn and City colleges), Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Earlham, Eckerd, Harvard-Radcliffe, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, Knox, Millsaps, Morehouse, Oberlin, Occidental, Pomona, Princeton, Rice, Rochester, Stanford, Swarthmore, Vassar, Wabash, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Williams, and Yale.

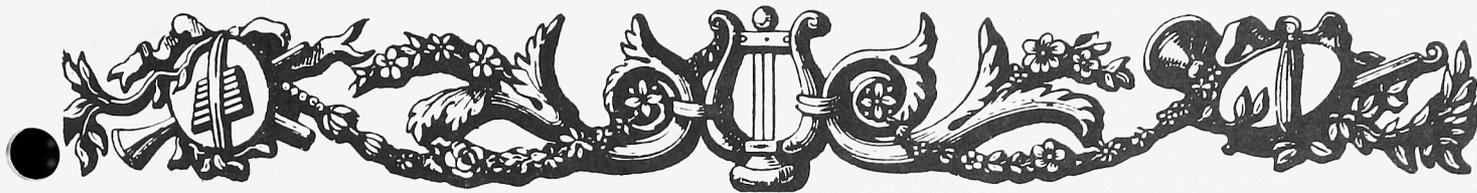
These institutions were chosen because their quality and diversity specially suit them to addressing the Foundation's concerns. Each has sent a relatively high percentage of its undergraduate alumni or alumnae on to earn Ph.D.'s in the humanities, the social sciences, and the sciences during the post-World War II period. Each also has among its current undergraduates a substantial combined population of blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians—groups severely underrepresented on today's faculties.

Each institution may submit a proposal addressing the Foundation's concerns in ways appropriate to its own strengths or needs. A commitment to the interest and quality of undergraduate curriculums and the intellectual engagement of the faculty in undergraduate teaching must inform every response, however. Among the types of projects that will be considered appropriate are special research programs involving student-faculty collaboration, efforts to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum, and projects designed to expand the curriculum to include new areas of study.

Awards will be made competitively on a rolling basis through September 1987.

THE KEY REPORTER





Gauss Award Winner

The Evolution of *The Elegy*

By Peter Sacks

This article is adapted from Sacks's remarks at the ceremony in which he received the Christian Gauss Award for The Elegy: Studies in the Genre from Spenser to Yeats (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985).

I WANT TO SPEAK briefly about the genesis and writing of the book—how and why the subject both attracted and sustained my interest—and what some of my intentions were in writing it.

Curiously enough, I began by wanting to write a book about the epic or long poem in the 20th century. But as I reread *The Waste Land*, the *Cantos*, *The Bridge*, *Paterson*, and others, I kept feeling that their entire trajectories, as well as their most genuine and moving passages, expressed loss rather than gain, sorrow rather than promise or discovery—and that if there were anything like gain it was achieved at the cost of giving up or displacing original motives and desires. I wanted to understand this better: I wondered why a poetry of loss had such a powerful hold on me, and why and how it exerted such a unique pressure on language and culture.

I felt too that there was something primitive and ritualistic in our expressions of loss, and, as I turned away from epic toward elegy proper, it became clear that here was a form of poetry that, in its struggle to express grief and to find consolation in the face of death, was working not only at the bedrock of human need but also at the wellsprings of the human imagination—at our ability to invent something where there is not just nothing but the space of a disappearance, to create a presence out of a ghostly absence.

The sense of more than merely literary dimensions strongly attracted me. Clearly here were anthropological and psychological elements. And soon I was studying a range of things, from ancient funeral rituals to Freud's work on mourning and on the cultural displacement of attachments and desires. These then came together with myths of death and resurrection, of vegetation deities

(Dionysus, Persephone, and company) and their descendants in later cultures. And all the time, here was this chain of extraordinarily beautiful and moving poems ranging from the ancient Greeks to the present—poems by the major poets in our tradition: Spenser, Milton, Shelley, Tennyson, Hardy, Yeats. I wanted to know what their elegies shared, and how they differed and evolved from one another over the centuries. Through them I had a window on literary and cultural history.

Consistently, I wanted to see these poems not just as artifacts or produced works, but as works in the sense of tasks, of workings through and workings out of particular impulses and dilemmas. I wanted to analyse the functions, not just the appearances and structures of literature. What work does it do, for the poet, for the reader?

By asking such questions and by studying poems where the utmost was at stake—questions of life and death, issues of what survives, of how to channel natural grief into cultural artifice—I wanted to counteract what I have felt in recent years has been the tendency of literary theory to move away from the experiential reality of human life and of human authors. I wanted to move between the sophisticated attention to modes of signification and the structures of poetic language on the one hand, and the minds and hearts of passionate individuals on the other.

I also wanted to avoid the tendency of many recent critics to separate themselves from actual works of literature, to dwell in the reaches of pure theory. So I chose to work closely with my examples, to keep faith with them, to have them challenge and modulate my theory even while I hoped my theory illuminated them in new ways.

The hardest part was the theoretical introduction, trying to develop a model for how the elegy as a genre worked. I spent most of a year in Maine, where my wife was teaching art, staring at a faded white barn door while blocking out that chapter. At times, both senses of “blocking out” were relevant, many pages

getting no further than kindling for a wood-burning stove; only after that year and that chapter could I begin the slow movement of explications, from the Renaissance forward.

The extraordinary thing was how totally the project possessed me. Occasionally, the impetus and momentum were irresistible: I remember writing part of the Milton chapter on the back seat of a VW Rabbit while traveling up I-95 to Maine. It was the feeling that I couldn't stop following a train of not so much my thought as Milton's. Usually, however, the work was very slow, six years of it, the business of re-creating the cultural contexts for works of different periods, of learning about each author, of working slowly through poems, line by line.

While writing this book I was also writing and publishing the first of my own poems. And although these poems are by no means all elegies, much of the impulse was elegiac; the book contains a long sequence of poems about my native country, South Africa, from which I emigrated about 15 years ago. I realize now how far from coincidental the near-simultaneity of these two books appears.* Although scholarship helped contextualize my own poems, the poems in turn clarified the emotional drive behind the scholarship itself.

One of the most obvious features of elegies is that they express an exchange of pain, sacrifice, ritual work on the one hand, and comfort or reward on the other: consolation usually comes as a hard-won prize—in fact, we have the term (though with an altered sense) of a consolation prize. I therefore feel uncannily lucky to have the *elegy* book win the Gauss Award, and I can't imagine a more wonderful “consolation prize.” It feels like both a reward and an incentive.

*Sacks's collection of poems *In These Mountains* was published by Macmillan earlier this year.

Reminder: Book Awards Deadline

Entries for the 1986 Phi Beta Kappa book awards must be submitted, preferably by the publishers, by May 31, 1986. Inquiries and entries should be addressed to the appropriate committee (Christian Gauss Award for literary criticism, Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for social sciences, and Science Award for natural sciences), 1811 Q St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009.



I have greatly enjoyed the lead article in your autumn issue of *The Key Reporter*—especially its untimeliness and unintentional irony. I have, you see, just received a Ph.D. in philosophy, and the furthest thing from my mind at the moment is worry that there might be too few people to teach such a subject in ten years. The overwhelming problem now, the crisis, is that there are still too many people desiring careers in the humanities and too few opportunities to have such careers—even though for more than ten years the appropriate professional societies have been discouraging newcomers in the strongest terms possible. It is no wonder that recent college freshmen shy away from the thought of an academic career. They see conditions as they are now, not as someone says conditions will be ten or fifteen years from now. And the conditions today are a catastrophe.

It is not just that we may end up with a Lost Generation of people who never had a chance to make their contribution, both to their field and to the students they would have taught. It is that now the fierceness of the competition for jobs calls for qualities, competitiveness and aggressiveness, that are really less appropriate for disciplines of thought and ideas than they are for a marketplace that has always been right outside the door anyway. A shy and touchy Isaac Newton, who shut himself away for twenty years with alchemy and eccentric Biblical interpretation, is not the sort of person who would have much of a chance in the academic world today. There is no longer any shelter for the contemplative in university life. The law of the jungle requires harsher stuff; and no one with any familiarity with universities today would doubt that it is a jungle.

Kelley L. Ross, Van Nuys, Calif.

Jack H. Schuster responds:

I can hardly disagree with the thrust of your letter, although Dr. Bowen and I in our *Key Reporter* article were addressing the more narrowly focused issue of impediments to attracting highly able people to academic careers.

While conditions in the academic marketplace are now undeniably much harsher than those prevailing when the higher education enterprise was rapidly expanding, I am not persuaded that the current marketplace is as “jungle-like” as you suggest. Putting aside the usual vagaries of an academic hiring process not terribly well understood, I suspect that the relatively few persons hired in the humanities are not the most “aggressive” applicants, but rather those who have superior academic records and have received the enthusiastic recommendations of well-connected faculty mentors.

Unfortunately, the less-than-superior

reading *recommended by the book committee*

humanities
social sciences
natural sciences

FREDERICK J. CROSSON, ROBERT B. HEILMAN,
ROBERT P. SONKOWSKY, LAWRENCE WILLSON,
EARL W. COUNT, RICHARD N. CURRENT, LEONARD W. DOOB,
ANDREW GYORGY, MADELINE R. ROBINTON,
VICTORIA SCHUCK, ANNA J. SCHWARTZ,
RONALD GEBALLE, RUSSELL B. STEVENS

FREDERICK J. CROSSON

Alfred North Whitehead: The Man and His Work. Vol. I. 1861–1910. Victor Lowe. Johns Hopkins, 1985. \$27.50.

After Whitehead died in 1947, all his correspondence, unpublished papers, and even the manuscripts of his books were destroyed, in line with his instructions. There's little wonder that this is the first attempt at a biography more than essay-size, and the material the author has gleaned from these early years is impressive. But only with Russell and the collaboration on *Principia Mathematica* does the subject come alive, historically and intellectually. The author makes his own first-person comments, but discreetly and tastefully. Recommended as a picture of the man and the time.

History of the Concept of Time. Martin Heidegger. Tr. by Theodore Kisiel. Indiana Univ., 1985. \$37.50.

The text of a course given in 1925, two years before *Being and Time*, which covers much of the same material in a more accessible, less elaborate form. The exposition and critique of Husserl's phenomenology help explain how Heidegger's thought emerged. The translation is good.

Personal Identity. Sydney Shoemaker and Richard Swinburne. Basil Blackwell, 1984. \$24.95; paper, \$9.95.

Part of a new series of “Great Debates in Philosophy,” this volume presents contrasting positions on the issue—roughly, dualist vs. materialist—and then each author responds to the other's stated position. The text might have been livelier if it had culminated in an oral exchange, but there is ample food for thought in the briefs.

Religious Explanation. Edward L. Schoen. Duke, 1985. \$24.75.

Religious explanations of phenomena have the same logical structure and confirmability as scientific explanations—such is the outrageous-sounding argument of this carefully articulated essay. The author is well informed about issues in the philosophy of science and makes enough points to dissolve, or at least weaken, one's a priori skepticism. Whether religionists ought to welcome the idea is a separate question.

applicants, many having excellent qualifications by the standards of the past, are often left without a regular, tenure-track appointment.

Our hope, as argued in our book, is that colleges and universities will now begin to make room on their faculties for well-qualified persons who have been unable to obtain regular faculty positions, and in the book we suggest some strategies that we think can help institutions to do so.

The Poetics of Biblical Narrative. Meir Sternberg. Indiana Univ., 1985. \$57.50.

New Testament Interpretation Through Rhetorical Criticism. George A. Kennedy. North Carolina Univ., 1984. \$14; paper \$6.25.

These two volumes may stand not only by themselves as scholarly and engrossing books, but they represent a sea change in the scholarly treatment of biblical texts. For a long time, form criticism has been the fundamental approach to the text for any responsible scholarship dealing with scripture. But its segmentation of the received text seems to make traditional forms of literary analysis suspect. What has developed in recent years is not a repudiation of the form-critical method but a complementary approach that asks different questions. Here a professor of poetics and comparative literature at Tel Aviv, in a major work, analyzes a dozen narratives from the Jewish Bible and exhibits their subtle art. In the smaller but no less scholarly book, a professor of classical rhetoric at North Carolina shows how the speeches of the Gospels and Acts embody the rules of—and hence yield illumination in relation to—classical forensic, deliberative, and epideictic rhetoric. Both are highly interesting and recommended.

Mormonism. Jan Shipps. Univ. Illinois, 1985. \$14.50.

An historical account of the development of the Mormon church and its teaching, which the author persuasively concludes is not a subdivision of Christianity but a transmuted and therefore new religious tradition. She manages to keep a critical distance and to make a generally positive appraisal of the church's continuity and resourcefulness. Readable, informative, and judicious.

Kierkegaard: A Life of Allegory. Naomi Lebowitz. Louisiana State Univ., 1985. \$25.

Kierkegaard, as is well known, dealt with the events of his life allegorically in his writings. This work ingeniously takes up and traces that life as it underwent metamorphosis in his journals and writings—as the struggles of his life found form through expression, or rather sought expression through rejecting genres and the commensurability of form and content. An artful study.

ROBERT B. HEILMAN

The Story Behind the Word. Morton S. Freeman. Institute for Scientific Information Press, 1985. \$19.95; paper, \$14.95.

Under some 400 main entries, Freeman provides brief, lively paragraphs on more than 700 words and phrases, both popular and learned (*awol*, *blurb*, *calisthenics*, *com-punction*). He calls variously on social and linguistic history, true and folk etymology, metaphorical shifts, myths, acts of translation, phonetic errors.

The Art of Autobiography in 19th and 20th Century England. A. O. J. Cockshut. Yale, 1984. \$20.

In brief sketches or full essays, Cockshut evaluates 50 English autobiographers from the 18th century to the 20th. He distinguishes the lesser ones (memoirists, egotists, the self-ignorant) from the great, whose "master idea," vast detail, and authentic style convey "the shape of [the] life" (Ruskin, Newman, Bertrand Russell). Cockshut's easy, competent style enhances the attractiveness of the material.

The Russians and Their Favorite Books. Klaus Mehnert. Hoover Institution, 1983. \$19.95.

Mehnert writes a lively, informal, nonpolitical account of popular reading habits in Russia, where he has interviewed many writers and readers. He gives brief biographies of 24 fiction writers and summaries of 111 works. Their major themes are Russian history, World War II, country life, Siberian life, suffering, moral problems.

Major Canadian Authors: A Critical Introduction. David Stouck. Univ. Nebraska, 1984. \$22.95.

Stouck provides useful, unpretentious accounts, mainly descriptive but not uncritical, of the works of 17 writers (2 of the 19th century, 3 of the early 20th, 9 since 1940, and 3 since 1960) and an appendix comprising brief individual entries on 71 other writers.

Puns. Walter Redfern. Basil Blackwell, 1985. \$14.95.

Redfern's entertaining "ragbag of random ideas" (his term) not only collects, from English and French sources, innumerable puns and opinions about puns, but is partly stitched together by puns from the author's own word hoard. His "prose doggerel" (my term) rambles over every kind of wordplay from malapropism to metaphor.

T. S. Eliot: A Study in Character and Style. Ronald Bush. Oxford, 1983. \$25.

Making detailed and perceptive interpretations of all the major, and many minor, poems, Bush treats Eliot's work as a projection of his impulses, ideas, and conflicts, which may or may not lead to successful art. Bush's critical style is admirably transparent.

The Collected Letters of Katherine Mansfield. Vol. I, 1903–1917. Ed. by Vincent O'Sullivan and Margaret Scott. Oxford, 1984. \$27.50.

Some 300 letters reveal Mansfield from age 17 to 29—vivacious, tempestuous, gifted in recording feelings and describing appearances and scenes. A borderline Bloomsburyite, she is little given to ideas and theories. The most frequent recipients are J. M. Murry, Ottoline Morrell, Bertrand Russell, and Garnet Trowell, an early love.

A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. 2nd ed. David Crystal. Basil Blackwell, 1985. \$34.95; paper, \$14.95.

In a day when linguistics has become a major academic study with a host of new vocabularies, has influenced literary criticism, and has created a new consciousness of language, Crystal's work, "updated and enlarged," is, despite some unavoidable technicality in style, a generally helpful reference work.

Thomas Carlyle: A Biography. Fred Kaplan. Cornell, 1983. \$35.

This full, almost year-by-year narrative of the long Carlyle life is a low-key, well-documented descriptive account that generally stays away from the analytical and dramatic. The dominating tone of scholarly care and inclusiveness is modified by an occasionally journalistic style.

The Oxford Companion to American Theater. Gerald Bordman. Oxford, 1984. \$49.95.

Bordman's work, containing nearly 3,000 entries, is a valuable addition to the "companion" series.

Quixotic Scriptures: Essays on the Textuality of Spanish Literature. Elias L. Rivers. Indiana Univ., 1984. \$17.50.

Dealing with selected literary works from medieval to modern Spain, Rivers traces in them the mingled influences of oral and written styles and cultural forces. He strives, with some success, to make an academic study readable.

VICTORIA SCHUCK

Vietnam: A History. Stanley Karnow. Penguin, 1984. \$10.95.

Anatomy of a War: Vietnam, the United States, and the Modern Historical Experience. Gabriel Kolko. Pantheon, 1985. \$25.

Advice and Support: The Early Years of the United States Army in Vietnam, 1941–1960. Ronald H. Spector. Free Press, 1985. \$10.95.

The 25-Year War: America's Military Role in Vietnam. General Bruce Palmer, Jr. Univ. Kentucky, 1984. \$25; paper, \$8.95.

Vietnam Reconsidered: Lessons from a War. Ed. by Harrison E. Salisbury. Harper & Row, 1984. \$8.50.

The Vietnam War: A Study in the Making of American Policy. Michael P. Sullivan. Univ. Kentucky, 1985. \$20.

Vietnam Under Communism, 1975–1982. Nguyen Van Canh with Earle Cooper. Hoover Institution, 1983. \$34.95; paper \$9.95.

Historians, political scientists, journalists, diplomats, military professionals, and refugees marked the 10th anniversary of U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam (April 30, 1975) in works that offer widely differing explanations of the tragedies and lessons to be learned from the quarter-century of intervention in Southeast Asia. Most of the writing is monographic, focusing on pieces of the history as documents become available or as recollections are published. Acrimony has never abated.

Foreign correspondent Karnow's panoramic history written to accompany a television documentary races from earliest known times in Vietnam to the day the North Vietnamese occupied Saigon. Historian Kolko directs his ambitious chronology toward an extensive interpretation of the Communist revolution and its successes and American imperialist power and its failures. Despite the author's vaunted objectivity, repetitious, purple passages reveal a one-sidedness.

Spector provides the first volume of the U.S. Army's history. It covers the period from World War II through the Eisenhower administration, when policy dealt with military aid and assistance to the French, land reform, counterinsurgency. The best analysis of the higher levels of decision making and conduct of the war in the theater of operations, to-

gether with a critique of military strategy, comes from the study by General Palmer.

The depth of differences and the rancor over "lessons" of American failures appear in the statements and papers drawn from a four-day symposium held at the University of Southern California in February 1983 and edited by Salisbury. Sullivan places the Vietnam experience in various contextual perspectives developed in social science theory. He concludes that Vietnam was not an aberrant mistake but an ongoing part of the dynamic of American foreign policy, and a part of a cyclical pattern in international violence on a global scale.

Finally, a first examination of what has occurred in Vietnam since April 30, 1975, comes from Canh, a former law professor of Saigon University. Drawing on sources at the Hoover Institution and on reports of refugees, he constructs a description of postwar communism with its bureaucratic structures, economic shortages, and enormous repression, all of which, he contends, bodes ill for U.S. recognition of the present regime.

Time, Chance, and Organizations: Natural Selection in a Perilous Environment. Herbert Kaufman. Chatham House, 1985. \$20.

A noted public administration scholar advances a gracefully written, provocative theory to explain the death and life of organizations. Their survivability, he argues, is akin to natural selection, dependent neither on organizational flexibility nor on skilled leadership, but on efficacious response to the environment. Kaufman is cheerful about his theoretical model of continuous replacement, suggesting increasingly complex structures that create "undreamed-of possibilities." He concludes with ways to discover the correctness of his hypotheses and their implications for public policy.

ROBERT P. SONKOWSKY

Poetry into Drama: Early Tragedy and the Greek Poetic Tradition. John Herington. Univ. California, 1985. \$29.50.

Musical Design in Aeschylean Theater. William C. Scott. Univ. Press of New England, 1984. \$20.

Language, Sexuality, Narrative: The "Oresteia." Simon Goodhill. Cambridge Univ., 1984. \$59.50.

Herington's revised Sather lectures show how ancient Greek poetry from the beginning consisted of oral performance for an audience and how that poetic art, especially that of Aeschylus, evolved into Attic tragedy. This valuable collection and analysis of the evidence enable us, in the fitting climax of the final chapter, to come closer than scholarship and imagination have ever before brought us to the witnessing in detail of a reconstructed performance of a Greek lyric poem.

Scott uses the fullest extant example of Attic tragedy, Aeschylus's *Oresteia*, to indicate the patterns of sound—music or meter—and dance as the basis of performance, especially choral. Although the music is lost to us, Scott's charts and explications of metrical structure and context are intended to provide guidance for theatrical production either on stage or in the reader's mind.

These first two volumes translate quoted Greek. The third requires a knowledge both of ancient Greek and of modern critical terminol-

ogy of the “signifier” and the “signified.” Goodhill does not deal directly with performance but employs modern critical approaches to plumb the inner and subtextual levels of the play.

Arcana Mundi: Magic and the Occult in the Greek and Roman Worlds. Tr. and intro. by Georg Luck. Johns Hopkins, 1985. \$30; paper, \$12.95.

Luck’s thesis is that we cannot understand the Greeks and Romans without knowledge of their “dark” side. He divides the *arcana mundi*, “secrets of the universe,” into magic, miracles, demonology, divination, astrology, and alchemy; introduces each topic with a clear, scholarly explication, notes, and bibliography; and follows with good translations of relevant Greek and Latin passages from Homer, Varro, Virgil, Seneca, Lucan, the magical papyri, Apuleius, Philostratus, Plutarch, Iamblichus, Zosimus, and the like. A much-needed book.

The Friendship of the Barbarians: Xenophon and the Persian Empire. Steven W. Hirsch. Univ. Press of New Eng., 1985. \$25.

The attitude of the ancient Greeks toward non-Greeks/barbarians is more complex than has been supposed, even by scholars. Hirsch’s well-written, well-documented analysis of passages from Xenophon’s works, especially his *Cyropaedia*, refutes tendentious accounts emphasizing anti-Persian statements. By examining these as well as statements favorable to the Persians and by taking into account the work of scholars on ancient Iran, Hirsch gives a balanced view, showing Xenophon to be far more respectful and admiring toward the Persians.

The Greek Way of Death. Robert Garland. Cornell, 1985. \$22.50.

Charon and the Crossing: Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Transformations of a Myth. Ronnie H. Terpening. Bucknell, 1985. \$39.50.

Garland’s book is a succinct, nicely organized summary of ancient Greek attitudes and practices concerning death, burial, the after-life, and relations between the dead and the living; the approach is broadly anthropological, using archaeological, inscriptional, and literary evidence. Terpening’s book is an exhaustive literary study of only one of the ministers of Hades, the famous ferryman, in Greek, Roman, and later Italian sources; the vitality and versatility of the myth are demonstrated, as is the widespread human appeal of the mystery of the crossing.

Metaformations: Soundplay and Wordplay in Ovid and Other Classical Poets. Frederick Ahl. Cornell, 1985. \$29.95.

A titanic and very important effort to persuade readers of classical literature to attend to the multiplicity of meanings and aural reinforcements of meaning that classical poets layer into their very syllables by “etymology.” Lamenting the influence of etymological studies as pursued by modern linguists upon literary studies, Ahl does indeed persuade one to reread not only Ovid, but all the important Greek and Latin poets in light of the more ancient approach, which some scholars unfortunately dismiss as “folk” etymology. The study of the pun may, in short, prove to be the highest form of scholarship. All Greek and Latin quotations are translated.

EARL W. COUNT

Early Man and the Cosmos. Evan Hadingham. Univ. Oklahoma, 1985. Paper, \$11.95.

Long before the dawn of history, Homo sought to become sapient about his world, which included the heavens. His values shaped his search, and vice versa. For reasons still opaque, European Megalithic men monitored the lunar phases and the solstices; at all events, these commanded ceremonials and enormous communal physical efforts. The Mesopotamian skywatchers and their zigurats eventually generated our astronomy and the secular, scientific approach to phenomena. The Egyptian pyramid builders bent their efforts to merge the spirits of their pharaohs into the celestial deity. The Mayas unerringly explored the regularities of the heavens, to further their political order. The Incas developed landmarks and sightlines from the summer solstices for their ceremonials, but, lacking versatile writing schemes, they could not pass from protracted records to an astronomy. North American unsophisticates and Polynesian mariners sought the heavens to serve the here-and-now or what was about to be in their immediate worlds: they asked of the heavens shrewd questions, but time-accuracies were not of essence. Thus, Chumash, Kwakiutl, Pawnee, and Pueblo, the vanished “Old Ones” of the American Southwest, needed assurance of fish runs, the return of buffalo, the sprouting of maize; the Polynesians pinpointed landfalls amid the ocean; and shamans sought celestial powers to cure.

This overview falls short of covering the world, but it entralls nevertheless.

The Olmecs: The Oldest Civilization in Mexico. Jacques Soustelle. Tr. by Helen R. Lane. Univ. Oklahoma, 1985. Paper, \$10.95.

Between 1862 and 1938 cryptic hints of a vanished civilization sprouted in Mexico’s Central Plateau; since then, a crescendo of revelation has grown to certainty: colossal heads, stelae, altars, sculptures, always forceful, sometimes utterly beautiful, bespeak the self-confidence of a gifted power. The Olmecs, who flourished between 1500 and 400 B.C., built on still more ancient autochthonous patrimonies. Perhaps they expanded to empire status, yet they passed into no subsequent Mayan or Toltec-Aztec legend. Nevertheless, present-day Mexican folk cultures seem the better understood, if we assume some lingering cultural momentum. This habile treatise by a ranking authority is well translated.

Quetzalcoatl and the Irony of Empire: Myths and Prophecies in the Aztec Tradition. David Carrasco. Univ. Chicago, 1984. \$22.50; paper, \$7.95.

Ironically, the very ethos that first gave the Aztecs their imperial rule undid them when at last the Spaniards emerged from *outrémer*. Quetzalcoatl, born in Tollan, was the *primum mobile* of the four ages past; the present resided in the fifth and last age, wherein the Aztec oligarchy ruled under the special Aztec gods. Quetzalcoatl, a self-imposed exile, was expected to return and take over the supremacy of the fifth age; what then? Such was the time-world of the Aztecs that they lived at once in past, present, future. And so it happened that Montezuma pondered Cortes’s arrival: was he Quetzalcoatl or his herald—or an interloper? Montezuma delayed—until too

late. The author displays a happy blend of disarming simplicity and profound insight.

Mexico: A History. Robert Ryall Miller. Univ. Oklahoma, 1985. \$19.95.

History south of the Rio Grande is far older and more componential than history north of it: early Indian peoples, pre-Columbian high cultures, Spanish conquests that radically transformed but could not eradicate cultures, a colonial New Spain, empires and republics. From each of these, something has endured. An uneasy amalgam composes a virile and gifted nation, still bent in its own way on maturing. The author, a veteran historian, strides, apparently without effort, among Mexico’s social, religious, political, economic, and aesthetic dealings.

Japanese Society: Tradition, Self, and the Social Order. Robert J. Smith. Cambridge Univ., 1985. Paper, \$8.95.

An adaptation of a series of Lewis Henry Morgan lectures at Rochester University—this should be credential enough. But this book also encompasses many of anthropology’s sharpest insights: What distinguishes contemporary, “developed” Japanese society? Its modernization began when the oligarchs “restored” the “emperor” to a regnancy in which three elements—the Confucian cosmic order reduced to human dimensions, the Shinto ancestral veneration raised to a state religion, and the Buddhist personal ethic (incapable nevertheless of instituting a church *à la Occident*)—combined to enable the Japanese to cope with chosen Western innovations. One result was a state educational system that not only enforces knowledge but also superimposes a code of morality that encompasses the nation. The edifice does not dichotomize good and evil but stresses ritual and ceremony; the Japanese assume that individuals—hence society—are perfectible. And they seem to be achieving goals for which Americans had predicted that their own ways were indispensable.

LEONARD W. DOOB

The Making of a Moonie: Choice or Brainwashing? Eileen Barker. Basil Blackwell, 1984. \$19.95.

A scholarly, balanced, unbiased portrayal of the demographic, social, and psychological pressures determining whether persons (principally in England and California) do not join, join, or leave the Unification Church which seeks “the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth” and which affirms, in the words of one of its leaflets, that “the revelation that God gave to Sun Myung Moon was given quietly in the East, but it has given men and women throughout the world new happiness and new hope.” This British sociologist has carefully assembled and weighed data from previous analyses and from her own interviews and questionnaires. Above all, she has sensitively observed and participated in informal gatherings and workshops of the Unification Church. Here is a splendid illustration of how modern sociology can provide a documented, well-researched reply to the question raised by the book’s subtitle. Undoubtedly, “brainwashing,” as the buzz word is crudely and carelessly employed, has *not* been a Moonie technique; rather, significant clue to Moon’s success is to be found in the chaos of our times.

THE KEY REPORTER

Psychotherapy in the Third Reich: The Göring Institute. Geoffrey Cocks. Oxford, 1985. \$24.95.

A fascinating, detailed account of the fate of psychotherapy under the Nazis, largely as a result of the institute headed by the cousin of Field Marshal Göring who therefore was able to curry favor with the regime. In part, as one psychiatrist remarked, "In normal times we render expert opinion on [psychopaths]; in times of political unrest they rule us." During this period, the genuine need for therapy by some civilians and military personnel enabled the "Aryan" psychiatrists, nevertheless, to make "major strides" in demonstrating their genuine utility to the medical profession and throughout the Reich. Jung was respected and perhaps too helpful; Freudian psychoanalysis could not be ignored, despite corruption, skulduggery, and the prevailing ideologies. Yes, an evil dictatorship pervades all aspects of a society, yet some good practices manage somehow to survive.

Artificial Intelligence: The Very Idea. John Haugeland. MIT Press, 1985. \$14.95.

A lucid, enthusiastic analysis of computers, their history, their problems and limitations, and their accomplishments, including the challenge to understand the ways in which human beings reason. You cannot construct a machine to function like us until you first know about us systematically and thus can decide whether "we are computers ourselves." The style of the author (a philosopher) is more than a trifle malapert ("as any fool can see," "a dream come false," "odd ducks on this pond"). He also uses other devices to keep his readers awake and active: exercises, drawings, puzzles, tables, charts, and even a photograph of a "real" woman allegedly thinking. The book's challenge is unavoidable.

People in Cities: The Urban Environment and Its Effects. Edward Krupat. Cambridge Univ., 1985. \$39.50; paper, \$12.95.

A valiant, sprightly essay that summarizes not only the "hodgepodge" (the author's own accurate word) of relevant social science and historical research, but also the heterogenous, conflicting, and sometimes commonsense views of architects, journalists, and ordinary persons concerning urban communities. The author deals almost exclusively with American cities, but the appraisal is sufficiently eclectic to provide an ambiguous answer to the central question, "What does it mean to live in a big city?" Although ultimately the reply must spring from the reader's own experience, his or her sensibility may be improved by drifting through this volume.

Anna Freud: A Life Dedicated to Children. Uwe Henrik Peters. Schocken, 1985. \$24.95.

Regrettably a completely nonpsychoanalytic account of the travels, lectures, papers, books, and clinical experiences of Freud's devoted youngest child who never deviated from her papa's basic doctrines but who merits the worldwide acclaim she received as the proponent of "a self-sufficient theory of the child's normal and disturbed psychic." Half of her life, until forced to flee by the Nazis, she spent in Vienna, the other half largely in England. The book teems with fascinating chitchat concerning the numerous analysts with whom this energetic, nonfeminist, lay analyst creatively interacted; thus we have a history of psychoanalysis via persons.

Nietzsche: Life as Literature. Alexander Nehamas. Harvard, 1985. \$17.50.

A critical, almost grudgingly sympathetic dissection of this inescapable, prolific, not overly modest, philosophical gadfly who emitted such seemingly profound sparkles as "some are born posthumously," "become who you are," "all truth is crooked," "good actions are sublimated evil ones," and "the death of God." Oh yes, of course, and also *Übermensch*. Like it or not, philosophers and neophilosophers, who are now confronted perhaps with deconstructionism, cannot resist being challenged by Nietzsche's views, even though he seems never to have emerged with a coherent system. Perhaps such an "often murky and passionate" thinker merits the author's characterization of *Beyond Good and Evil* as being, in his words, banal, vague, inconsistent, and incoherent.

RUSSELL B. STEVENS

Wasp Farm. Howard Evans. Cornell, 1985. \$9.95.

The Pleasures of Entomology: Portraits of Insects and the People Who Study Them. Howard E. Evans. Smithsonian Institution, 1985. \$14.95.

In a Patch of Fireweed. Bernd Heinrich. Harvard, 1984. \$18.50.

As the titles suggest, these three volumes deal with various aspects of the enormously diverse and complex world of insects. From a technical standpoint, they do so convincingly and well. But it is for the insights they provide into the motivations of the authors as practicing entomologists, and the sheer joy they obviously derive from their chosen life work, that the books are to be recommended—the special accolade that they are well, entertainingly, and convincingly written.

Bioethics: Dilemmas of Modern Medicine. Ann E. Weiss. Enslow, 1985. \$11.95.

The word *dilemmas* in the subtitle of this slim volume could not have been better chosen. The author understandably does not undertake to resolve the profound difficulties she identifies but does range widely and perceptively, as indicated by such chapter titles as the rights of patients, organs for sale, bioethics and human experimentation, genetic engineering, a right to die?, and ethics and money. Over time, our society as a whole must somehow face up to these issues; it can do so best if the citizens are informed.

The Intertidal Wilderness. Anne Wertheim. Sierra Club, 1985. \$25; paper \$14.95.

Books like this could not possibly have been produced until color photography had itself been brought to a high level; Anne Wertheim has exploited the technique fully in these remarkable photographs. With the accompanying commentary, the reader has a tool for making a seaside excursion far more than merely a casual stroll.

A Feeling for the Organism: The Life and Work of Barbara McClintock. Evelyn Keller. W. H. Freeman, 1983. \$17.95; paper, \$8.95.

To this reviewer, Keller's work has three components: an account of corn genetics for the past half-century or so in the context of national and international research; a sympathetic biography of one of America's truly

skilled, dedicated, and enigmatic scientists; and an attempt to assess not only the role of women in science but the role of this particular woman in this particular branch of science. In places, the material will prove too technically difficult for the nonbiologist but even if those sections be skimmed over, the general impact of the writing will not be lost. If the educated public is to understand the scientific enterprise, it must strive to know and understand the motivations and attributes of those who practice it. Dr. McClintock's life and work are a fine place to start.

(continued on back cover)

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Reading (continued from page 7)

Of Plants and People. Charles B. Heiser, Jr. Univ. Oklahoma, 1985. \$24.95.

The Heirloom Gardener. Carolyn Jabs. Sierra Club, 1984. \$17.95; paper \$9.95.

Heiser regards his account of a miscellany of mostly Latin American domesticated plants as "old-fashioned botany," bereft as it is of chemistry, mathematics, and the intricacies of molecular biology. But that is too modest a view, for the themes of the assemblage are the underlying importance of plants as a source of human sustenance, the marked diversity of those crops, and the interactions of plants with people. Jabs has produced a rather odd but intriguing account of the diverse, uncoordinated, but effective activities devoted to the preservation of once-popular but now often rare varieties of fruits and vegetables.

The Biology of Race. James C. King. Univ. California, 1981. \$15.95.

The Taming of Evolution: The Persistence of Nonevolutionary Views in the Study of Humans. Davydd J. Greenwood. Cornell, 1984. \$24.95.

Vaulting Ambition: Sociobiology and the Quest for Human Nature. Philip Kitcher. MIT, 1985. \$25.

Whatever may be said for or against "sociobiology" as typified by the writings of E. O. Wilson and others sympathetic to his line of reasoning, there can be no doubt that this movement has stimulated a number of workers, from a variety of disciplines, to take issue with the concepts set forth.

King's text is the most general of the three and deals rather directly and concisely with the details of human variation and the age-old interplay of what were once called "nature and nurture."

Greenwood is concerned almost entirely with establishing that sociobiology and its derivative cultural materialism, albeit couched in evolutionary terms, are in fact residual manifestations of a pre-Darwinian pattern of thought. Whether he is fully successful in this endeavor must be left to the judgment of the individual reader.

Kitcher's volume strikes this reviewer, at least, as an angry book, as though the writings of Wilson and his colleagues were such as to engender scorn and almost ad hominem polemics. Yet Kitcher's is a detailed critique and as such can doubtless be read with profit.

Scholars (continued from page 1)

Refugee Scholars in America: Their Impact and Their Experiences.

Vincent G. Dethier, Gilbert L. Woodside Professor of Zoology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has also taught at Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Johns Hopkins University. A former president of the American Society of Zoologists, he is author or coauthor of numerous books ranging from *Buy Me a Volcano* to *A University in Search of Civility*. One of his short stories was reprinted in *The Best American Short Stories of 1980*.

Mildred S. Dresselhaus, Institute Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and a former president of the American Physical Society, she serves on numerous boards and commissions. The focus of her research has been the electronic, optical, and magneto-optical properties of semimetals, semiconductors, and graphite intercalation compounds.

Edward A. Feigenbaum, professor of computer science at Stanford University and principal investigator of the Heuristic Programming Project at the Stanford Knowledge Systems Laboratory. A past president of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, he has written and edited numerous books and articles on computers and knowledge processing, including *The Fifth Generation: Artificial Intelligence and Japan's Computer Challenge to the World*.

Ernestine Friedl, James B. Duke Professor of Anthropology at Duke University. She has been president of the American Anthropological Association, the American Ethnological Society, and the Northeastern Anthropological Association. Her research concerns anthropological approaches to the understanding of sex roles, modern Mediterranean so-

cieties, the urbanization of rural migrants, and peasantry.

Ali Akbar Khan, founder of the Ali Akbar College of Music in Calcutta and its American counterpart in San Rafael, California. One of India's leading sarodists and composers, he has made many recordings and has composed music for various award-winning films. He holds four honorary doctorates.

Ernan Mc Mullin, O'Hara Professor of Philosophy and director of the Program in History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Newton on Matter and Activity* and has written extensively on the philosophy of science and physics, the history of philosophy of science, and comparative methodology.

Norman J. Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C. A regular contributor to "The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour," Ornstein is also author or editor of numerous books as well as some 50 articles on the American political process and related subjects. He was professor of politics at Catholic University from 1981 to 1985.

Charles G. Overberger, professor of chemistry and director of the Macromolecular Research Center at the University of Michigan. His principal research is in the fields of synthetic organic reaction mechanisms and polymer chemistry. Editor of the *Journal of Polymer Science* and *Macromolecular Syntheses*, he is also a former president of the American Chemical Society.

Richard L. Solomon, James M. Skinner University Professor of Science, Emeritus, at the University of Pennsylvania. A psychologist whose special interests are conditioning, learning, and acquired motivation, as well as addiction, Solomon is a former chairman of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Substance Abuse.

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