



THE KEY REPORTER

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

For some years the Phi Beta Kappa Society has published a four- to six-page newsletter for the Society's alumni associations, to publicize their activities and to encourage an exchange of information among the roughly 50 active associations around the country. Originally, two copies of the newsletter were sent to each association. Last year the newsletter was sent directly to each active member of an association for whom an address could be obtained.

This year the Society's Executive Committee authorized an expanded autumn *Key Reporter* to disseminate information about the associations' activities to all our readers. The expanded size also permits a report on the activities of the chapters, the ΦBK Associates, and other features typical of an annual report. The winter issue will report on the Society's 36th triennial Council meeting held in Washington, D.C., October 17-20.

Richard Current, author of the new history of the Society, *Phi Beta Kappa in American Life* (Oxford, 1990), describes the founding of the first association like this:

In 1877 the chapters of the three Manhattan institutions—Columbia University, New York University, and the College of the City of New York—cooperated to set up an organization of limited scope. Columbia sought "a plan for making the Society more useful to its members" and concluded that the best plan would be to form an association of ΦBK alumni of whatever college living in the city. Thirty to forty graduates of a dozen different colleges attended a series of meetings, drew up a constitution, organized the ΦBK Alumni in New York, and celebrated at Delmonico's. Soon the association boasted a hundred members. Surviving and prospering, it set an example for other alumni associations that, along with it, were eventually to become significant elements in the overall Phi Beta Kappa organization [p. 88].

ΦBK LINGUISTS' CONTRIBUTIONS IN WORLD WAR II REMEMBERED

The Key Reporter doesn't get many phone calls from Tokyo, but in late July we got three from an independent U.S. television producer who is working on a documentary film commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, to be broadcast in Japan on December 7. She wanted details about how *The Key Reporter* had been re-

ΦBK associations, like other groups, come and go. In the mid-1930s there were about 80, including a number overseas (e.g., Beirut, Manila, Peking, Rome, Shanghai, Tabriz, and Tokyo). The London association, which languished in the 1930s, returned to life during World War II. (The spring 1943 *Key Reporter* invited ΦBK members in the armed forces stationed in Britain to be "welcomed at Dartmouth House in London" or by any of the "branch secretaries" in 15 cities around the British Isles, from Bath to Edinburgh.)

Today, the associations differ widely in their choice of activities and size of membership, but all exist to provide intellectual stimulation and social activities for members and guests and to bring to the attention of their communities the goals and ideals of the Society. Some associations concentrate on encouraging academic achievement through various awards to high school or college students. Many sponsor lectures, discussions, and tours. One—Phoenix—has a flourishing mentor program.

The news about the associations in this issue of *The Key Reporter* is compiled from reports received at headquarters from the associations themselves. For details on programs or samples of certificates and awards, association leaders are encouraged to write to the secretaries of other associations (see the addresses on page 8). Questions about organizing new associations or chartering existing associations should be addressed to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

sponsible for encouraging Phi Beta Kappa members to join the Navy and learn Japanese fast during World War II. The producer had interviewed numerous veterans—all members of Phi Beta Kappa—who told her they had learned of the chance to learn five years' worth of Japanese in a year through a notice in *The Key Reporter*.

A look at the files verified her information. In the winter 1942-43 issue under the head "The Navy Needs ΦBK Linguists" was the announcement that "ΦBK has received a special request from the Navy Department to lend aid in supplying capable linguists to undertake the study of Japanese at the University of Colorado, Boulder, under Navy auspices. Candidates must be men between the ages of 20 and 30." The Navy's notice continued: "In general, applicants are required to indicate

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a previous study of at least six months in either Chinese or Japanese, and to have a college degree. In exceptional cases students who have received their college degrees with Phi Beta Kappa standing will be admitted without previous background study."

Enrollees had to pay their own way to Boulder, but pay began from the first day of instruction and ranged from \$125 for naval agents to \$142.50 for yeomen, second class. Applicants were to be interviewed at nine locations around the country. The notice went on: "Although it is preferable for students to fill out language qualification forms obtained in advance from the Navy Department, ΦBK applicants may appear for interview at the places indicated above whether or not they have previously filed such forms."

Two issues later, in summer 1943, *The Key Reporter* carried an announcement that the Navy's course in Japanese had been opened to women and the age of eligibility lowered to 19. The pay was raised to \$150 a month, and all students were to apply for commissions as officers in the U.S. Naval Reserve during their first three months in course. The lieutenant commander who had interviewed and placed many ΦBK men the previous winter wrote to the Society to encourage "as large a number as possible of qualified candidates," men and women, to apply. He added, "I want you to know that your generous assistance has been very helpful to us in the past and we are looking forward to enjoying your further help."

The same issue carried two first-hand reports about the course from participants, one a letter to the editor and the other a more detailed account, both of which are reprinted here.

A PHI BETE GOES TO WAR [1943]

BY A MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE 1942 ΦBK MEMBER WHOM THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE REQUIRED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

At the outbreak of our war with Japan you could almost have seated all the Americans competent as translators and interpreters of *Nibongo* (Japanese) in Gifford Commons at Middlebury. Such a state of affairs called for government action, and the Navy and Japanese scholars joined hands to develop a Japanese Language School for Naval Officers.

Today, on the campus of the state university at Boulder, Colorado, this school is Mecca for hundreds of oriental scholars, language students, and mostly, Phi Beta Kappa volunteers ready to fight this war of the Pacific with words instead of bullets. After spending a month at the school, let me assure you our job with words is as much a battle as any devised by machines.

In a college where there may be a handful of Phi Betes on the campus, they are rare specimens of humanity. Here at Boulder, almost every student has a key and it is no longer any distinction to wear one. The gang here is almost disgustingly brilliant, and it would pay a psychologist to study their habits. The chief asset prized by the Navy in ΦBKs is memory ability. With a five-year course compressed into one year, memory-cramming is of necessity the principal way of learning the language. And since, unfortunately, most college grades reflect memory retention, a Phi Bete key is, among other things, a sign that the owner can cram a lot of facts into his cranium. Actually, Phi Betes aren't too bookwormish as a group. In fact, most of them are swell people to know.

One of the early students here had been secretary to Ambassador Grew in

Tokyo; another's father was interpreter for the Marines on Guadalcanal, and many bear the brotherhood title: "B. I. J." (Born in Japan). Last fall a man entered who had spent several months in a Shanghai internment prison and another who had watched, from his Japanese concentration camp, one of Jimmie Doolittle's fliers bomb Yokohama. A number are missionaries' children or have traveled extensively in the Orient. Today they jabber away in *Nibongo* in mess halls, dormitories, and street corners of a town that has become itself a corner of Japan.

I find the instructors, mostly native Japanese or Korean, fascinating in their high good humor and boundless physical energy. Of course these men and women represent the highest type of Japanese-Americans. One of our instructors even sports a Phi Bete key on his own vest. . . .

We have eighteen class hours a week, plus a weekly three-hour exam on Saturday mornings. Most of us average at least six hours a day of outside preparation. Week-ends are relatively free except for those who took a night off during the week.

Classes are in five- or six-man sections. The schedule is divided into Reading, Dictation, and Conversation classes and each section has six different teachers for the work, including one main reading teacher who covers the lessons in the textbook. The oral method is followed mainly, but we are bombarded by teaching from every angle. First, the reading teacher goes over the lesson and we learn by ear, then recite. The following day the dictation teacher will dictate to us at the board where we are closely supervised. Next hour, we speak the language in conversation class, each student drilled individually. Our texts are based on the child-learning theory: that the child first learns a language through the ear, then through the mouth, and much later, consciously, through grammar forms. . . .

We Phi Betes have gone to war with words as our weapons. But many of us look forward to the day when our training will entitle us to share in the building of a new Orient, a happy, prosperous Asia, and a more stable, mature Nippon. *Sayonara!*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[1943]

I am writing to express my appreciation for the publicity you gave the Navy Japanese Language School in the Winter number of The Key Reporter. The Reporter arrived at my home in Detroit during the same week that Commander Hindmarsh was scheduled for Ann Arbor; I called on him there with no appointment, was immediately accepted, and have been here in Boulder since January 1. This is an extremely unusual opportunity to fulfill the obligations of citizenship while at the same time obtaining something which will be of value throughout my life. I am delighted to be here, and had it not been for The Key Reporter I would probably never have heard of the course.

—ΦBK Oberlin.

A PROFILE OF DORIS GRUMBACH

BY WENDY SMITH

After years of big-city life—as a child and young woman in New York City and its environs, a wife, mother, and teacher in Albany, N.Y., literary editor of *The New Republic* and then freelance critic and novelist in Washington, D.C.—Doris Grumbach has fled an urban environment she finds increasingly hostile and settled in rural Maine. Here, she writes in *Coming into the End Zone* (W.W. Norton, September, 1991), “I have recovered the sight of the horizon.” Her memoir chronicles in intimate detail the feelings of futility and anger that engulfed her during much of the year that followed her 70th birthday in July of 1988, but ends on a note of hope as she finds tranquility and renewal in a new landscape.

A visitor to Grumbach’s home in Sargentville, Maine, can easily understand her pleasure in it. The small, shingled house overlooks a pretty cove where gentle waters, protected from the ocean currents, sparkle in the summer sun; from her study window, the writer can see the family of ducks that make their home there. Across the driveway is the building that houses Wayward Books, the “used and medium-rare” bookstore run by Grumbach’s companion, Sybil Pike. Though the weather is unusually warm for Maine, the screened porch to which she guides [me] is refreshingly cool, sheltered from the sun and fanned by a light breeze.

Author of six novels, a critical study of Mary McCarthy and now a memoir, known in the literary community as a generous and astute critic, Grumbach at 73 remains vigorous and active, with several works either in progress or awaiting her decision on whether they deserve further effort. She considers herself primarily a fiction writer—in fact, has cut down on reviewing to give herself more time for it—but decided to take the series of notes that became *Coming into the End Zone* in hopes of resolving a personal crisis.

“My 70th birthday was an occasion of real despair,” she explains. “I’ve never felt worse. So I thought, well, perhaps it would help if I just take notes on this year; whatever happens may throw some light on why I’m still here, make some sense out of living so long. The death of Bill Whitehead, whom I loved a great deal both as a friend and a caring, sensitive editor,



DANIELEUCOLETTI/PHOTO

made an even sharper contrast between being granted the gift of living as long as I have and the terrible injustice of dying of AIDS.

“I looked at Bill and my friend Richard Lucas and the young men in the AIDS ward where I volunteered at Capitol Hill Hospital, and it seemed so cruel that their lives and their great talents should be blighted in that way, while I, who I’ve never really thought of as having a major talent—being a second-string writer and critic who made a certain wave but not a great splash—should be spared. I was trying to see some reason into it.”

‘Writing is an act of healing,’
says the critic and novelist

Her craft helped her. “I think writing is an act of healing. It’s an exorcism of sorts, to put into words and symbols this almost inexpressible anguish. That was why I started, to try and alleviate the despair. Writing shapes experience for me; it isn’t ever the experience that gives any shape to the prose. It’s by looking for the words and formulating the sentences that you give some kind of order to it that raw experience never has—and in the process, I guess, reduce it to a manageable emotion.

“There’s one thing about autobiography, though. When I reread the galleys of this memoir, I realized it was no more fact than my fictions are. In doing an autobiography, you think you’re dealing with fact—that of course is not so. The view one has of me, of Sybil, of our lives, is just as much a fiction. A fiction writer writes fiction about everything; even the laundry list has fiction in it! When lan-

guage takes over, fiction enters. So I don’t really think I’ve moved away from fiction in this; I think I’ve sort of pressed it into a new mold.”

An intriguing point, for in her novels Grumbach has often played with the relationship between life and art, anchoring the entirely imaginary interior existences of her characters with details from the lives of real people: the founders of the MacDowell Colony in *Chamber Music*; Marilyn Monroe in *The Missing Person*; two actual 18th-century aristocrats in *The Ladies*; Diane Arbus, Sylvia Plath and Ezra Pound in *The Magician’s Girl*. “I was interested in seeing what you could do, given a catafalque of fact that I assumed might be known to any literate person who came to the book,” she explains. “I wanted to fantasize about it, to imagine things that probably were not so, and by that process make them true. I thought you could make that move and people would forget what the catafalque was, but they don’t; they superimpose what they know, or think they know, upon what you’ve written and they become critical about it.” . . .

Grumbach considers herself fortunate to have worked with a succession of distinguished editors who “all have the same quality: they care about the writer.” When she resumed her career as a novelist with *Chamber Music* in the 1970s (two apprentice efforts appeared in the early ’60s), she sent it to Henry Robbins, whom she had met while she was at *The New Republic*. He called four days later to say he wanted to publish it.

“Henry was so sensitive to me,” she says. “He had sent me a request to write four or five more paragraphs that he felt were needed at some point in the book. I steamed over those paragraphs, couldn’t get back into the book to make them sound the same. Two weeks later he called me and said, ‘I have a feeling that you must be having problems.’ We talked about it for a long time, and he said something that gave me an idea of how to do it. But it wasn’t *that* I valued, it was the fact that he sat in his office in New York and thought, I’m going to call her in Washington and see if she’s having problems. That was Henry; he was a remarkable fellow.”

Faith Sale, then Robbins’s associate, copyedited *Chamber Music*. “As in

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every case with a good copy editor, there was one of those pink flags on every page, some pages had four—it was terrible! I put it off, then I had to do it because there was a deadline. The phone rang; it was Henry. He said, 'I know what you're doing right now. You're looking at those pages and thinking, What does this stupid woman think she's doing to my pristine, pure manuscript? Well, just look at them as if you don't have to make any changes if you don't want to, but look at them as something that stopped the reader.' And of course the more I looked at it, the more I realized what a good editor she was and how I should be grateful for her acumen and not sit there rebelling against it." . . .

'Writing shapes experience for me'

Although she remains friendly with Sale, the publication of *The Missing Person* was an unhappy experience, for reasons she prefers not to discuss on the record. She took *The Ladies* to Bill Whitehead, "who turned out to be, like my other editors, very concerned with detail and accuracy, a reader with sensitivity. Gerry Howard is like that," she adds, referring to her editor at Norton. ". . . He's smart, astute, well-educated, he writes very well himself, has a beautiful style and a very good eye. He found things that I never saw, so that when I get a manuscript back from him, I know, having conquered my horror of those pink flags, that it's going to be done with taste and care." . . .

Grumbach herself takes no part in the high-stakes end of publishing. "I'm into a book now that I have faith in, but I would never say to my agent, 'Let's send out five chapters and a summary and see how much money we can get.' It's too late for that merchandising for me; I don't see publishing in those terms. I get a great deal of pleasure out of finishing a work, deciding that it's the best I can do and says as best I can what the work has to say. What happens to it after that doesn't even interest me very much. . . . I have faith that a good book makes its way and a bad or mediocre book falls into that great heap of the stuff that doesn't matter."

This belief can be seen in her work habits. She has done years of research for a biography of Willa Cather, but is unsure she will ever write it. "I've

gone from uncritical admiration through a long period in which I was highly critical of her as both a person and a writer. I now know that she was a good writer despite her very real faults, but I've never gotten to like her as a person again. It's just as bad to be wildly enthusiastic—like this new Eric Lax biography of Woody Allen, which is so effusive—but I don't think it's right if you're not at least favorably disposed to the subject." . . .

"I should have a need to publish," she admits. "I should say, 'Well, you've only got a short time; publish, publish, publish!' But I don't; I'm willing to wait. Neither the publishing nor the reception is important to me, although like everyone I sweat out the reviews. What I care about is the time and thought it takes to produce a book. After that, maybe the publishers

will do something about it and maybe they won't, maybe the critics will like it and maybe they won't, maybe the public will buy it and maybe it won't. That doesn't change the nature of the thing you've done. People say, 'Yes, but it's three years of your life!' Well, what would I have done with those three years anyway? You do what you want and do it the best that you can. If it makes it, then you celebrate with it, and if it doesn't—well, you haven't wasted your life."

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A GRUMBACH SAMPLER

[Excerpted from Coming into the End Zone: A Memoir by Doris Grumbach. Copyright 1991 by Doris Grumbach. Reprinted with permission of the publisher, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.]

All evening we pack books from the dining-room walls. I find a volume I haven't looked at in fifty years, a thin, blue-cloth-covered little book entitled Notes on a Half Century of United States Naval Ordnance. One of my commanding officers, Captain Wilbur R. Van Auken, handed it to me when I left his station in Washington, D.C., to go to the Twelfth Naval District in San Francisco. It is warmly inscribed, with the identifying letters 'WAVES, USNR' after my name, and the date, June 1944. Beyond that, I have no memory of him at all. Tonight I tried to read it and found I was able to get only as far as most of the first sentence of his book: 'This year 1880 in ordnance, under Commodore Jeffers, is selected as it marks the beginning of the manufacture of the first hooped steel, high-powered rifled guns. . . .' I decided to pack the book for the tie to the past it represented. Then I sat down to rest and thought about another commanding officer I reported to after my assignment to the Bureau of Ordnance in Washington.

He too was a captain, retired, and called back to serve in a noncombatant role in the Navy. I cannot remember his name, but I can see his face clearly: fat, puffy, ruddy, a nose that was stippled, suggesting long, heavy drinking. I never saw him smile. I think he must have resented his relatively inactive job and most of all the number of commissioned women (women! In the United States Navy!) under his command.

Our station was in an office building on New Montgomery Street in San Francisco. The day I reported for duty, spic and span in a freshly pressed uniform, my transfer papers stowed in a neat blue folder, was bright and shining with the yellow light I have only seen in that beautiful city on its seven hills. I took the elevator to the sixth floor, taking off my warm hat and gloves, bating to come in out of the lovely day. I was directed to the cubicle of the 'officer of the deck.' His title, solemnly engraved over his door, was my first hint of the nature of things to come. The deck?

He was a straight-faced, thin, young lieutenant senior grade. He told me to sit down, and then informed me of the rules of the station and the ritual I was to follow when I reported to the captain. He said the captain called the sixth floor of the office building the 'ship.'

Sighing, I set off to find the captain's quarters. As I had been instructed, I put on my shining new officer's hat and white gloves and knocked once on the captain's door.

'Enter,' he said.

Standing as erect as I could, I approached his desk and put my papers down in the in-box as I had been told to do. I saluted and said:

'Ensign Grumbach reporting for duty, sir.'
The captain stood up, put on his hat with its assemblage of gold braid on the visor, and said:

'Welcome aboard, ensign.'
And I, as instructed, replied:
'Glad to be aboard, sir.'

This was to be a year of absurd naval etiquette. The captain was not to be denied his right to command a ship even on New Montgomery Street. Before every shift we served we rode the elevator to the sixth floor, took two steps out of the cage, turned slightly toward the large American flag mounted on a platform down the hall, and saluted the poop deck at the stern of the ship. If the officer of the deck was anywhere around, we were required to ask permission to come aboard, sir.

If a goodly number of naval personnel were aboard the elevator, it would take a little time to complete this operation before the elevator, carrying irritated civilians on their way to their jobs on the upper floors, could be emptied. But respect to the poop deck was not to be denied our captain.

Regularly, we had white-glove inspections, to see that our desks and cubicles were shipshape. Sometimes the captain, in full uniform, held an unannounced tour of inspection. He ran his finger over the tops of our Royal typewriters to assure himself they were not gathering dust. On occasion, bells would ring throughout the floor, and we would line up before the elevator doors. This was termed, seriously, 'abandon ship drill.' We would ride down to the lobby and stand around in congenial little groups to await the call to come aboard again. So it went.

I remember that, near the end of my time there, the captain seemed to feel that the rules of the Navy were not reaching far enough. The order went out that the block on which the building stood, and the street across from it, were now constituted decks of the ship. On those streets enlisted men were to salute officers, and officers were to return the salute. Now you must know that in those years, San Francisco was a Navy town, with naval personnel of every rank and rate cramming its streets. To salute every officer one passed, especially women officers, was an absurdity to the hundreds of enlisted men and women on our street. So they would step down into the gutter and walk along the edge of the traffic to avoid saluting on the sidewalk. They were on the water, they claimed, and gutter travel came to be known as the Jesus walk.

On second thought, I removed the little book on naval ordnance from the packing carton and put it into one marked 'Giveaway.' [pp. 180-83]

I open mail I have brought with me. A letter asking me to 'read' at a conference on creative writing. My first response to the invitation: pleasure, ego gratification. Someone remembers and wants me still. The second: a quick reminder. I dislike reading my work aloud, bearing all the errors that are, too late, cemented into print, noticing the rhetorical slips, the grating infelicities. The sound of my own voice gives a terrible legitimacy to faulty prose. I say no. But thank you for thinking to invite me.

Another letter asks if I am willing to be nominated to the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa. Out of the blue. I have had no connection with the society since I was elected to it fifty years ago. At the time I had to explain to my father, one of this country's nastiest anti-intellectuals, what PBK was. He laughed, and directed my mother to attend the induction ceremonies, adding that he was far too busy to come out of his haberdashery store on the Bowery to go to 'Phi Beta Krappa.' A long, hearty laugh followed that witticism, in which, as I recall, my mother and I did not join.

I say yes, for the usual reason. I always figure I will not be alive when the time comes to do anything about this, or, as likely, I will not be elected. I never say yes to invitations to speak or read or teach if the proposed time is a month or two ahead, believing that there might be a chance I will be living when the time comes. But a year from now is very safe.

I ponder the vast unlikelihood of PBK's selection of me, after all this time, out of its 300,000 members. Did my name come up on some computer screen, as the result of random choice? My acceptance of the nomination is as unlikely as the coincidence (it seems to me) of its coming upon me. To all this happenstance, I say an unbelieving yes. [pp. 53-54]

THE ΦBK ASSOCIATES PRESIDENT REPORTS

The Phi Beta Kappa Associates organization, which was founded in 1940 to provide Phi Beta Kappa with an annual income, has been responsible for raising some \$10 million to support the aims of the Society. Each regular member of the Associates contributes \$200 annually for 10 years; when the contributions total \$2,000, the donor enters life membership, leaving his or her place in the active group, which is limited to 300, to be taken by another person.

One of the most important activities sponsored by the Associates is the Associates Lectureship, to help chapters and associations obtain distinguished speakers for their meetings. This year Associates Lecturers spoke on 24 campuses for honors convocations, chapter initiations, and other special occasions.

On April 16, 1991, 51 Associates and guests attended a luncheon at the United Nations in New York City at which Thomas E. Pickering (ΦBK, Bowdoin 1953), U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, discussed the Gulf crisis.

The 1991 annual meeting of the Associates was scheduled to coincide with the 36th Phi Beta Kappa triennial Council meeting in Washington in October. On October 18 the Associates presented their fourth annual Associates Award to John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History and professor of legal history in the Law School at Duke University.

—Richard W. Couper

TWO SIBLEY FELLOWS REPORT PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

Jody Enders, winner of Phi Beta Kappa's Sibley Fellowship for French studies in 1986-87, reports that her *Rhetoric and the Origins of Medieval Drama* is slated for publication in 1992 as the first volume in Cornell's new series, *Rhetoric and Society*. "There is, of course, a grateful acknowledgment to Phi Beta Kappa," she adds.

Eva T.H. Brann, a Sibley Greek Scholar in 1953-54 and now dean at St. John's College, Annapolis, reports that her book, *The World of the Imagination*, has just been published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

CHAPTERS REPORT ACTIVITIES, DONATIONS FOR 1990-91

Two of the 240 Phi Beta Kappa chapters—those at **Albion College** and **Wofford College**—reported observing their 50th anniversaries this year by cosponsoring, with the college administrations, symposia on the campuses. Here are some other highlights from the annual chapter reports to the Society:

The **Albion College** chapter gives a cash prize to the “Faculty Scholar of the Year,” as well as book awards to outstanding juniors and seniors and book awards and certificates to local high school students.

The **University of Arizona** chapter gives a \$200 prize to an outstanding new member.

The **University of Arkansas** chapter cosponsors public lectures and gives a \$100 prize to an outstanding senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The **Baylor University** chapter sponsors a scholarship that remits tuition for one year to the top-ranked junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. This year there were two recipients.

The **Brown University** chapter gives an annual high school prize.

The **Bucknell University** chapter gives awards for creative scholarship.

The **University of California, Berkeley**, chapter gives nine graduate fellowships of \$2,500 each.

The **University of Cincinnati** chapter gives cash prizes of \$900 each to the highest-ranking junior and senior initiates, and another prize of \$700 to a runner-up.

The **University of Colorado** chapter gives \$2,500 fellowships to three students undertaking graduate work in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The **Connecticut College** chapter awards three graduate fellowships of \$1,200 each.

The **University of Delaware** chapter awards \$100 to a promising sophomore and two \$100 prizes to promising juniors.

For 21 years the **Franklin and Marshall College** chapter has given one or more scholarships of \$1,000, funded by member donations, to sophomores from disadvantaged backgrounds who have shown “meritorious academic progress in their freshman year.” Last year two scholarships were awarded.

The **Georgetown University** chapter gives \$500 to a student elected as a junior to “help support the recipient’s intellectual interests.”

The **Goucher College** chapter provides an address for the annual honors convocation and presents three awards to students.

The **Grinnell College** chapter gives four book awards (\$50 each) to sophomores and one **ΦBK** Scholar’s Award (\$200) to a student for outstanding work in any discipline.

The **University of Hawaii** chapter has, since 1980, sponsored a lecture series on campus. This year the three University of Hawaii lecturers and their topics were Gregory Maskarinec, “Shamans and Oracles in Western Nepal”; Sumner J. La Crois, “Condominiums and Leased Land in Hawaii”; and Nancy Dowling, “East Javanese Sculpture.”

The **Iowa State University** chapter gives one prize to a junior initiate.

The **University of Kentucky** chapter awards two prizes (\$700 and \$300) to undergraduates in recognition of their scholarly research and writing.

The **Lawrence University** chapter awards prizes to two high-ranking sophomores and one junior.

The **Marquette University** chapter gives a \$25 bookstore credit to the highest-ranking sophomore. This year there were two recipients.

The **Mount Holyoke College** chapter holds an annual competition for “excellence in creative or critical work” by an undergraduate. This year there were 58 entries and three prizes awarded.

The **University of New Hampshire** chapter gives three prizes for essays produced by freshmen or sophomores in the general education courses.

The **University of North Carolina at Greensboro** chapter presented book awards to 15 sophomores this year.

Since 1975 the **Ohio University** chapter has given awards to the top-ranking junior (\$350) and senior (\$1,050) initiates.

The **Ohio Wesleyan University** chapter gives a scholarship to a sophomore.

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Among the articles scheduled to appear in the forthcoming Winter 1992 issue are *Amadeus and Mozart: Setting the Record Straight*, by A. Peter Brown, Indiana University School of Music; *Behind the Crisis in the Middle East*, by Bernard Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University; and *Educating Performers*, by James Sloan Allen, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Juilliard School. Also featured will be a fine selection of poetry and book reviews, as well as an essay on “A Near Fatal Flaw” by Joseph Epstein, well-known essayist and editor of the *Scholar*.

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The **University of Oklahoma** chapter sponsored five speakers on campus this year. The lecturers from the university were J. Rufus Fears, who discussed "Education for Freedom"; Robert Nye, "The Duel in France"; and Douglas Mack, "Sibling Rivalry." In addition, J. Jay Allen, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Kentucky, spoke on "The Theatre in Golden Age Spain," and Neil J. Smelser, professor of sociology, University of California, Berkeley, discussed "The Future of Sociology."

The **Princeton University** chapter gives a \$200 cash prize to the top-ranking senior.

The **Queens College, City University of New York**, chapter gives two awards to seniors.

The **Radcliffe College** chapter gives four research awards and three teaching awards.

The **University of Redlands** chapter made two awards in its essay contest this year; each triennium the chapter also presents an award for faculty excellence.

The **University of Richmond** chapter presented two book awards and 10 certificates to high-achieving sophomores at an annual scholarship convocation.

The **Saint Olaf College** chapter presents awards to the top-ranking male and female juniors and seniors.

The **San Diego State University** chapter presents book awards and certificates of achievement to students in English classes at a junior high school in an economically depressed area. The chapter also names two Faculty Lecturers. This year they were geologist Patrick Abbott and geographer Philip R. Pryde.

The **Southern Methodist University** chapter awards a prize to a faculty member for outstanding teaching and scholarly activities.

The junior members of the **Stanford University** chapter select the winner of the Φ BK Teaching Award endowed by Amoco in 1991. The prize recognizes teachers "who make a special effort to seek out and encourage students, and who contribute to the development of undergraduates as scholars."

The **University of Texas** chapter presents cash awards of \$300 each to five new members.

The **Vanderbilt University** chapter makes awards for the best papers written in freshman seminars.

The **Vassar College** chapter this year split its annual Φ BK prize among three students.

The **University of Vermont** chapter gives its annual Φ BK prize to the highest-ranking sophomore.

The **Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University** chapter annually presents a prize for the best undergraduate essay, gives four book awards to high school students, and supports faculty research through an endowment. This year the chapter also commissioned and erected a 245-pound, three-foot-high, bronze Φ BK key designed by a member of the art and art history department. The

key was funded by donations from alumni and active members of the chapter.

The **University of Washington** chapter sponsors an annual Φ BK/Sigma Xi lecture and gives several book awards to freshmen.

The **Washington and Lee University** chapter gives an award to the highest-ranking sophomore.

The **Washington State University** chapter awards three full scholarships for rising seniors, funded by a bequest from a former member.

The **Yale University** chapter awards a teaching prize.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION DELEGATES

For many years the Φ BK associations have been proud of their social and educational activities, and we are very pleased that, through this expanded edition of *The Key Reporter*, so many more Phi Beta Kappa members will have the opportunity to learn about our varied activities. After you have read about our scholarship programs, contributions, lectures, and social events, we hope that you will join our efforts to promote academic excellence by becoming a member of the association in your region—or by starting a new one.

Three years ago, at the Phi Beta Kappa Council meeting in San Antonio, the associations introduced a resolution urging the Society to include a scholarly lecture at its triennial meeting. This resolution, which was passed by the delegate assembly, was adopted by the Society in the form of the Sidney Hook Memorial Award. The first recipient of the award, Nobel laureate in physics Leon Lederman, was the speaker at the banquet for the 1991 triennial meeting in October.

Also at the 1988 Council meeting the associations urged the Society to "take a public stand with regard to the urgent need for attainment of and adherence to improved standards throughout the educational system of the United States." This resolution also was supported by the delegate assembly. As a step toward carrying out this resolution the Society convened a meeting of chapter and association delegates in Williamsburg, Virginia, to discuss "Phi Beta Kappa and Virginia's Public Schools." [See *The Key Reporter*, Spring 1991.]



Arline Bronzafst (right), who heads the Conference of Association Delegates, is pictured with the group's secretary, Emma Norris, at the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

As I write this statement I do not yet know the results of the vote on the proposed amendment to the Society's constitution to extend to delegates of accredited associations the right to vote on new chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. Association delegates strongly support the constitutional revision because we believe that all delegates to a national meeting, chapter and association, should be treated equally. Nonetheless, whatever the outcome of the vote, associations feel a closer bond with college chapters now than ever before.

We hope that the collaboration between chapters and associations exemplified by the Williamsburg conference will continue and expand as we move into the next triennium.

—Arline Bronzafst, professor of psychology, Lehman College, CUNY



ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES

Alabama

Northeast Alabama—Dr. George E. Whitesel, 907 2d St., N.E., Jacksonville, AL 36265.

* Southeast Alabama—Dr. Emma Coburn Norris, 1857 Galena Ave., Montgomery, AL 36106-1909.

Arizona

Phoenix Area—Mrs. Carol H. Youssefi, 3720 E. Hatcher Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85028.

California

* Northern California—Dr. Madeleine Babin, 50 Kevin Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5427.

* San Diego—Ms. Barbara Blomgren, 8589 Prestwick Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037-2025.

* Southern California—Mr. Robert M. Worlock, Xerox Special Information Systems, 250 N. Halstead St., Pasadena, CA 91107.

Connecticut

* Greater Hartford—Ms. Marilyn Pet, 93 Bette Dr., Manchester, CT 06040.

District of Columbia

* Washington, D.C.—Mrs. Mary R. Weiler, 700 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., #117, Washington, DC 20037.

Florida

Sarasota-Manatee—Dr. Martha L. Corry, 768 Village Circle, Apt. 129, Venice, FL 34292.

* South Florida—Mrs. Agneta C. Heldt, 3024 Kirk St., Miami, FL 33133.

Georgia-Carolina

Coastal Georgia-Carolina—Dr. George B. Pruden, 13 Old Mill Ct., Savannah, GA 31419-2824.

Illinois

* Chicago—Prof. Nona Mary Allard, 7900 W. Division St., River Forest, IL 60305.

East Central Illinois—Prof. Jonell Comerford, Mathematics Department, Old Main, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920.

* Southern Illinois—Prof. John L. Foster, Political Science Department, Faner Hall, Room #3079, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901.

Indiana

* Indianapolis—Dr. Roger Roeske, 6815 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Iowa

* Sioux City—Mrs. Marjorie C. Meyer, 2412 Allan St., Sioux City, IA 51103.

Louisiana

Southwestern Louisiana—Dr. Mary R. Meredith, USL Box 43570, Lafayette, LA 70504.

Maryland

Frederick County—Dr. Annette S. Thompson, 17605 Parkridge Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Massachusetts

Newton—Dr. James T. Barrs, 4 Bay Rd., Milford, MA 01757.

Michigan

* Detroit—Ms. Sarah S. Alousi, 1941 Birmingham Blvd., Birmingham, MI 48009.

* Southwestern Michigan—Prof. George Nielsen, Department of Mathematics, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

Minnesota

Minneapolis—Mr. George A. Warp, 4824 Thomas Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410.

Mississippi

* Northeast Mississippi—Dr. Leslie E. Bauman, P.O. Box 5167, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Missouri-Kansas

* Greater Kansas City—Mr. Joe Hiersteiner, Suite 3500, One Kansas City Place, 1200 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105.

Nebraska

* Omaha—Dr. Carl Greiner, 12731 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68154.

New Mexico

Los Alamos—Ms. Krista Steele, 597 Myrtle, and Ms. Janet Tallman, 165 La Cueva, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

New York

* Long Island—Ms. Sharon D. Abramson, 22 Burns Lane, Massapequa, NY 11758.

* New York—Dr. Natalie Hannon, 600 West End Ave., New York, NY 10024.

* Scarsdale/Westchester—Mrs. Susan R. Adler, 20 Carstensen Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583.

* Upper Hudson—Mrs. Frances C. Allee, 24 Providence St., McKownville, Albany, NY 12203.

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* Pitt County—Dr. Tinsley E. Yarbrough, Department of Political

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* Wake County—Dr. Margaret F. King, 815-3 Marlowe Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609.

Ohio

* Cleveland—Mr. David W. Rainey, 1048 Homestead Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121.

* Toledo Area—Mr. Lyman F. Spitzer, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, 1000 Jackson, Toledo, OH 43624.

Oklahoma

* Oklahoma City—Ms. Carolyn Horter, 2349 N.W. 121st St., Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Pennsylvania

* Delaware Valley—Mr. Robert F. Maxwell, 12 Barley Cone Lane, Rosemont, PA 19010.

South Carolina

* Piedmont Area—Dr. B.G. Stephens, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC 29301.

Tennessee

* Chattanooga—Prof. John Tinkler, 1012 Hanover St., Chattanooga, TN 37405.

Texas

* Greater Houston—Mrs. Nancy Garfield, 3838 Piping Rock Rd., Houston, TX 77027.

* North Texas—Ms. Marsha Henbest, 14986 Trafalgar, Dallas, TX 75240.

* San Antonio—Dr. Matthew D. Stroud, 119 Sharon Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216.

Virginia

* Richmond—Mr. G. Edmond Massie III, Route 1, Box 2140, Hanover, VA 23069.

Roanoke Area—Ms. Virginia Diane Kelly, Route 1, Box 68-B, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Shenandoah—Devin Bent, Political Science Department, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

Washington

Inland Empire—Mr. William J. Corrigan, Route 1, Box 207, Spangle, WA 99031.

* Puget Sound—Ms. Jean Chapman, Bogle & Gates, 2 Union Square, 601 Union St., #4700, Seattle, WA 98101.

West Virginia

* Charleston—Mr. John Luoni, 129 Swarthmore Ave., Charleston, WV 25302.

Wisconsin

* Greater Milwaukee—Ms. Janet Protasiewicz, 4014 S. 43d St., Apt. 3, Milwaukee, WI 53220.

* Chartered Associations
Association charters are granted by the Senate of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Please direct any questions about chartering procedures to the Washington office.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS CONTINUE TO EXPAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

This year approximately 30 Φ BK associations reported to headquarters on their activities during the 1990–91 academic year. What follows is a sampling of those reports organized by size of association.

LARGE ASSOCIATIONS

Although the **Greater Houston** association is not the largest group in the nation—its membership rose from 512 last year to 650 this year—it has by far the most ambitious fundraising program reported. This year the total raised approached \$125,000 (versus \$85,000 last year). The money is used to provide a college scholarship to one senior in each of the 57 public and private high schools in the Houston area. Most of the funds are raised at the annual banquet; both corporate and individual contributions are solicited. Any donor of \$1,500 or more is invited to designate the title of a scholarship. All scholarships are awarded on the bases of “academic excellence and personal achievements, without consideration of financial need, to encourage and recognize superior students from all ethnic and economic backgrounds.”

The Houston association also honored two of its members at the annual banquet: Jack Blanton, Sr., received the “Outstanding Contribution to Education Award,” and John P. McGovern received the “Phi Beta Kappa Outstanding Alumnus Award.”

The Houston group also sponsored two other programs. In November 1990, 250 persons accepted the invitation to a special showing of the “Rediscovering Pompeii” exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts and a lecture by Rafael Longoria, an architect and member of the University of Houston faculty. In March 1991 the association sponsored a lecture by O.H. Frazier, chief of the transplant service and surgical director of the Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratories at the Texas Heart Institute, who talked about the latest procedures for implanting artificial hearts.

The **Northern California** association, which reported a membership of almost 1,100 this year, maintained its generous scholarship program, awarding five graduate fellowships of \$2,500 each and three teaching excel-

lence awards to faculty at area institutions with Φ BK chapters.

In addition, the group sponsored a wide variety of programs including two theater parties; tours to several sacred places in San Francisco; a walking tour focusing on the architecture and history of Chinatown; a tour featuring “acres of orchids”; and a February retreat at which 130 participants discussed John Steinbeck’s characters, reflected on the consumers’ cooperative movement, and tasted California’s sparkling wines.

The **Detroit** association, with approximately 400 members, gave \$300 scholarships to 87 high school seniors with 4.0 grade point averages (for a total of \$26,100). The group also awarded 1,200 certificates to high school seniors with 3.75 grade point averages. In addition, the group sponsored a home tour, a “Brunch with Bach,” and three dinner meetings with speakers. The speakers and their topics were Robert Queller, director, Citizens Research Council, “Michigan in the 1990s: Taxes, Problems, and the Citizen”; David R. Curry, president of Arts Foundation of Michigan, “The Arts in Michigan”; and federal judge Avern Cohn, “A View from the Bench.”

The **Puget Sound** association, which has about 900 members, reported awarding \$1,000 scholarships to seven academically talented college students at the two Φ BK universities in the area, the University of Washington and the University of Puget Sound. The group also presented 200 dictionaries to high-achieving seniors at 135 high schools in the area.

The Puget Sound association also reported an enthusiastic response to some new activities this year: Saturday morning discussions in private homes with scholars and visits to gardens on Bainbridge Island and to the Port of Seattle Art Collection. Leaders of the home discussions were George R. Taylor, professor emeritus in the history and political science departments, University of Washington, who discussed China, and history professor Jere R. Bacharach, University of Washington, who discussed the Middle East.

The association also reported good turnouts for its traditional luncheon meetings. In October 1990 the Seattle Opera’s director general, Speight

Jenkins, talked about “Adventures in Negotiating with Soviet Artistic Institutions” at the Washington State Historical Society, in conjunction with its “Russian America” exhibit. In April 1991 Peter McGough, chairman, Legislative Committee, Washington State Medical Society, was the speaker.

The **North Texas** association, whose membership increased from 135 last year to 370 this year, reported making two substantial donations to programs for the gifted and talented in Dallas: \$2,163 to the Dallas Museum of Art program and \$1,800 to the Odyssey of the Mind. The association also sponsored two dinner programs. In November 1990 the speaker was physicist Neil Baggett, who discussed the supercollider project and its direct and indirect applications and benefits to society. In April 1991 the Dallas Museum of Art director, Richard Brettell, gave an illustrated lecture on the importance and effect of art. In addition, the association awarded a Φ BK tie pin to Benjamin Petty upon his retirement from the Southern Methodist University faculty, in recognition of his service to the Φ BK chapter.

The **Delaware Valley** (Pennsylvania) association reported a membership of 640 and four dinner meetings with speakers. Horticulturist Paul W. Meyer spoke on “Plant Exploration in Korea” at the annual meeting in October 1990. Sociologist and futurist Arthur Shostak spoke on “USA: 1990–2013 A.D.” in November. In April 1991 the group heard museum curator Ake W. Sjoberg speak on the culture of Iraq 3,800 years ago. In May 1991 Brian Peterson discussed “Photography as Art and Reality.” In addition, the association continued its practice of presenting a book to the outstanding graduate at each of 115 preparatory and high schools in the area (New Jersey and Pennsylvania).

The **Chicago Area** association reported an increase in membership from 200 last year to 250 this year. The group sponsored several events in the autumn, including an open forum and reception, a panel discussion on closing the literacy gap in American business, and the annual award dinner, at which Leon Lederman, Nobel laureate in physics, received the association’s Distinguished Service Award.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MEDIUM-SIZE ASSOCIATIONS

The **Phoenix** association, which sponsors the only mentor program reported by the **ΦBK** associations, expanded its program this year and doubled its cash awards (from \$150 to \$300) to eight high school students. To raise money, the association, which reported a membership of 185 this year, conducted two phonathons, in November 1990 and February 1991. (The group also awarded certificates and medals to 32 other students in the area.)

The association invited the eight designated scholars to participate in behind-the-scenes visits to the Phoenix Symphony, Federal District Court, and the Arizona Museum of Science and Technology. In addition, association members conducted free Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) review classes for the students and obtained two full scholarships for two students who wished to participate in the more rigorous Princeton Review. The eight scholars were also special guests at a picnic in April.

The Phoenix group's other activities included a dinner in October 1990, at which Victor Herbert spoke on "Education Today," and monthly luncheon meetings in Scottsdale. Association members were also invited to attend the Arizona State University initiation banquet in May, at which Distinguished Visiting Professor F. Von Liliensfeld spoke on "Religion and the National Question in Soviet Society."

The **San Diego** association, which reported a membership of 172 last year, is seeking to double its membership in the coming year, according to its newsletter, which is published three times a year. The group presents a book (this year, the Thoreau volume from the Library of America series) to an outstanding junior in each of the area's 43 high schools. In November 1990 the association sponsored a public lecture on Germany by Foreign Service Officer David Klein. In February, March, and April 1991 the group sponsored three afternoon lectures on the life and music of Edvard Grieg by teacher Gary Rundquist; on the art of Paul Cezanne by editor-writer Drusilla Jepperson; and on the writings of Edith Wharton by San Diego State University associate professor Clare Colquitt. At the association's annual dinner meeting in May, Mary L. Walshock, associate vice chancellor, Uni-

versity of California, San Diego, spoke on "The Emergence of the Learning Society." The San Diego association also sponsored a study circle to discuss "The World of Islam."

The **Washington** (D.C.) association, which draws more than half of its 126 members from nearby Maryland and Virginia, reported eight events throughout the year, including a luncheon in May 1991 to honor two outstanding seniors, one each from a public and a private high school. (Each student received a book, a \$50 savings bond, and a certificate.) Other events included a dinner meeting in November 1990, at which intelligence officer Robert E. Blackwell discussed recent political events in the Soviet

Union; a tour of the Washington Cathedral in December; a dinner meeting in February 1991, at which intelligence officer William M. Nolte discussed the crisis in the Persian Gulf; and a luncheon in March, at which Elise K. Kirk, professor of music history at Catholic University, discussed "Music at the White House."

The **Oklahoma City** association, which reported a membership of 103, presented four \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school students and a plaque to a community leader. At the annual banquet in May 1991 the state's attorney general, Robert Harlen Henry, spoke about "Humor in Politics."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

A PHI BETA KAPPA KEY SAGA

TOLD BY A '41 WELLESLEY ALUMNA

Reprinted from the Letters column in the Wellesley College alumnae magazine (Summer 1991), with permission:

I want to pass on to you a remarkable story concerning my Phi Beta Kappa key. It was printed in *Reader's Digest*, March 1977, in "Life in These United States," but I don't think I ever sent it to *Wellesley* [magazine].

In 1947, when my husband and I were living in Pasadena, California, married only three years and very broke, we pawned several items, including my Phi Beta Kappa key. I pawned that key not only because we were in need of cash but also because of my anti-establishment attitude at the time, that scorned what the key represented. (I guess college students haven't changed that much!) We moved soon after that, and I never gave my Phi Beta Kappa key another thought.

Twenty-five years later in Santa Cruz my phone rang during dinnertime. A woman's voice said, "Is your name Edith Manchester?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Was your maiden name Edith Roberts?" was her next question.

"Yes."

"And did you graduate from Wellesley College in 1941?"

"Yes" again. Now I was really mystified.

"Well," continued this unknown woman, "I have something of yours that changed my life—your Phi Beta Kappa key." She proceeded to tell me the following story:

She had arrived in Pasadena in 1947, depressed after a divorce, but determined that somehow her young son would have the education she had never had. As she got off the Greyhound bus and started walking down the main street of Pasadena, a little Phi Beta Kappa key in the pawnshop window caught her eye. She bought it on an impulse, wore it constantly (so that no one would pick it up and look at the words engraved on the back), pretending it was hers, using it as a goal for her son to reach. To play her part convincingly, she then had to study to keep ahead of him and thus educated herself. Eventually he graduated from college, went on to earn his Ph.D. in engineering and became a scientist with NASA in the Apollo program.

"My son has reached the top," the woman told me. "The Apollo program has come to an end, and the mission of your key is over. Your name and the name of your college are engraved on the back of the key. I phoned the College for your address, and now I'm returning the key to you. Thank you for the use of it."

The key arrived by mail, wrapped in a pretty handkerchief. I looked at it with awe. What value another woman had found in something I had considered worthless! And by the way, as the years have gone by, I have found my Wellesley education to be anything but worthless.

*Edith Roberts Manchester '41
Santa Cruz, Calif.*

The **San Antonio** association, which has 141 members, presented \$250 cash awards for academic achievement to one outstanding undergraduate in the liberal arts and sciences from each of six area colleges and universities. The group also sponsored a tour of the Botanical Gardens and a banquet at which Robert Witt, dean of business administration, University of Texas at Austin, spoke on the importance of liberal arts in business.

The **Sarasota-Manatee** (Florida) association sponsored three luncheons during the year at which retired ambassador Alfred Puhan spoke on "The New Face of Europe"; *Bradenton Herald* publisher Dorothy S. Ridings spoke on "The Media as a Community Builder"; and music critic Florence Fisher spoke about her profession. This association presented certificates of commendation to 97 high-achieving seniors in 13 area public and private high schools.

The **Richmond** (Virginia) association, with 192 members, reported that the University of Richmond's president, Richard L. Morrill, was the speaker at the annual dinner with the chapter in March 1991. The group awarded engraved Jefferson cups and certificates of achievement to 26 high school seniors.

SMALL ASSOCIATIONS

The **Indianapolis** association, which has 64 members, has expanded its scholarship program to include not only one \$1,000 scholarship to a university junior but also \$50 savings bonds to 21 Marion County and Indianapolis high school juniors. The association had one dinner meeting in April 1991, at which the topic of discussion was U.S.-Arab relations after Desert Storm.

The **Toledo Area** association, which has 60 members, gave three scholarships to high school students this year, two of \$300 each (up from \$250 last year) and one of \$100. The group also had two brunch meetings. In November 1990 the president of Toledo's Federation of Teachers, Dal Lawrence, discussed Toledo's approach to educational reform; in May 1991 S. Frederick Starr, president of Oberlin College, discussed "Is Democracy Doomed in the U.S.S.R.?"

The **Omaha** association awarded one \$700 scholarship to a high school

senior. The group, which has 48 members, held two meetings: In December 1990 Omaha Public Schools superintendent Norman Scheurman spoke on "The Critical Issues of the 1990s." At the May 1991 meeting a teacher in the public schools, John Bitzes, discussed "The Anti-Greek Riot of 1909."

The **Southwestern Louisiana** association has one dinner meeting each year in May, at which it gives one university senior a \$300 cash award. This year David Barry, chairman of the Foreign Languages Department at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, spoke on Cajun music.

The **Coastal Georgia-Carolina** association, with 50 members, reported donating copies of the three Phi Beta Kappa prizewinning books to the libraries of Armstrong State College, Georgia Southern University, and Savannah State College. The group also held two dinners. In November 1990 Hugh R. Brown, professor of literature at Armstrong State, spoke on "Flannery O'Connor: The Savannah Years"; in June 1991 Vernon O. Egger, professor of Middle Eastern history at Georgia Southern, discussed the aftermath of the Gulf War.

The **South Florida** association, which reported 77 members, continued its dropout prevention program, initiated last year, honoring 15 "turn-around" youngsters who graduated from high school "against overwhelming odds." Dade County Schools Superintendent Octavio Viesedo was the speaker at the awards luncheon in April 1991. The association also sponsored a luncheon in October 1991, at which Judge Eleanor Schockett discussed "How We Get Our Judges," and a potluck supper in April 1991, at which Ronald S. Kozlowski, director, Miami-Dade Public Library System, described the library programs.

The **Charleston** (West Virginia) association, with 47 members, awarded 10 certificates of achievement to high school students and sponsored a dinner in December 1990 at which W. Warren Point discussed medical ethics.

The **Southeast Alabama** association, with 25 members, awarded one cash prize of \$100 to an outstanding graduate in the College of Arts and Sciences at Troy State University. As in previous years, the association sponsored one open meeting in April, at which Φ BK Associates Lecturer John Scott Colley spoke on "Firing the Canon."

The **Southwestern Michigan** association, with 39 members, gave seven \$25 gift certificates from a local book store to outstanding Kalamazoo high school seniors. The group also participated in a dinner meeting in May 1991 at Kalamazoo College, where Φ BK Visiting Scholar H. Barbara Weinberg, curator of American paintings and sculpture, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, spoke about American art, 1865-1900.

The **Los Alamos** association, with 47 members, sponsored a banquet to honor the 25 top high school seniors and presented a book to the high school valedictorian. At the banquet Frances Menlove spoke on environmental ethics.

The **East Central Illinois** association made cash awards of \$75, \$50, and \$25 to three high school seniors, each of whom, among other requirements, submitted an essay on one of three topics. The students were honored at a banquet in April 1991.

The **Sioux City** association, with 28 members, donated two books to the public library (*Immigrant America: A Portrait* and *From the Kingdom of Memory*), sponsored a theater party, and had one dinner meeting, at which Stephen Coyne, professor of English, Morningside College, was the speaker.

The **Inland Empire** (Washington State) association, with 51 members, sponsored a luncheon to recognize 71 outstanding high school seniors; parents and advisers also were invited.

The **Piedmont** (South Carolina) association, with 42 members, gave certificates of commendation to 104 high school valedictorians and participated in a program sponsored by the South Carolina educational television station and Wofford College.

The **Scarsdale/Westchester County** association, which has about 50 members, gave cash awards of \$25 each to two high school seniors and \$15 to one junior at Scarsdale High School.

The **Wake County** (North Carolina) association sponsored two dinner meetings. In October 1990 the speaker was Φ BK secretary Douglas Foard; in April 1991 three high school students received awards and Catherine Bishir, of the State Division of Archives and History, discussed North Carolina architecture.

The **Long Island** association, which has 43 members, gave certifi-



RECOMMENDED READING

BOOK COMMITTEE

Humanities: Frederick J. Crosson, Robert P. Sonkowsky, Jean Sudrann, Laurence Willson

Social Sciences: Earl W. Count, Richard N. Current, Leonard W. Doob, Thomas

McNaugher, Madeline R. Robinton, Victoria Schuck, Anna J. Schwartz

Natural Sciences: Ronald Geballe, Russell B. Stevens

Frederick J. Crosson

Necessary Angels. Robert Alter. Harvard, 1991. \$19.95.

An insightful, thought-provoking essay on the ways in which three modern Jewish thinkers attempted to reach across the abyss that separates us from tradition. Franz Kafka, Walter Benjamin, and Gershom Scholem each tried in his own way to come to terms with the language of the Hebrews with which his identity was commingled, a language whose canon is innate to it and whose tradition is commentary on the canon. It suffices to remark that all culture is commentary, elaboration, to see how this study is a mirror for all of us.

Time and Eternity. Brian Leftow. Cornell, 1991. \$42.95.

Only some TV evangelists think it is easy to speak thoughtfully of God. Philosophers and theologians have long recognized that it is extremely difficult to make our language sufficiently meticulous to avoid anthropomorphism, to speak of a singularity without, in particular, imputing temporality. Leftow discriminatingly appropriates the proposals of Boethius and Augustine and their tradition, argues with contemporary suggestions and criticisms, and formulates a conceptual context for a consistent syntax of divine attribution. Not bedtime reading, but this book amply repays the careful reading it demands.

Encounter on the Narrow Ridge. Maurice Friedman. Paragon, 1991. \$31.95.

In this one-volume version for the general reader of his definitive three-volume biography, Friedman ably portrays the life and works of the greatest Jewish religious thinker of this century, Martin Buber. Buber's writings were more ecumenically influential than those of any other contemporary, and his words and presence played significant roles in virtually every phase of Jewish life: Zionism, Hasidism, the Nazi persecution, the founding of the state of Israel, the problematic relations with the Palestinians, and the Jewish-Christian dialogue. While not uncritical, the author does not try to "keep his distance"—but then Buber was not someone who would have wanted to be treated objectively. A very readable portrait of a great human being.

The Authority of Language. James C. Edwards. Univ. of South Florida, 1990. \$28.95.

An understanding of ordinary language as more intimate to my being than my self-consciousness is part of the foundation of the critique of reason that Heidegger and Wittgenstein elaborated in their later writings. Paradoxically, Edwards argues, that critique of (among other things) the

CROSSON RETIRES FROM BOOK COMMITTEE

After more than two decades of service on *The Key Reporter's* Book Committee, Frederick J. Crosson, Cavanaugh Distinguished Professor of Humanities, University of Notre Dame, retired from the committee in August on the eve of his departure for a year as head of the Notre Dame Center in London. He continues to serve as a member of the Φ BK Senate.

possibility of representing language as a system of rules rescues us from the threat of philosophical nihilism—at the price of surrendering the Socratic aspiration to make our lives reasonable from the ground up. Some of the clearest writing in English on Heidegger, and a thoughtful discussion of who we are.

A Progress of Sentiments: Reflections on Hume's Treatise. Annette C. Baier. Harvard, 1991. \$39.95.

A fresh and persuasive interpretation of Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*, arguing that the rhetorical structure of Hume's work—a quasi-dramatic progress from abstractions through alterations of moods to the social sentiments of its conclusion—is as important to understanding it as is the content of its chapters. Baier shows that this way of reading Hume places him at the beginnings of a more ample conception of philosophical and scientific reflection, one that continues through Darwin, James, and Freud to Foucault.

The Noble Savage. Maurice Cranston. Univ. of Chicago, 1991. \$32.50.

This second volume of a three-volume biography of Jean-Jacques Rousseau takes him through the eight years of the writings that won him fame (*Julie*, *Emile*, *Social Contract*), his alienation from Voltaire and Diderot, and his flight from France to avoid arrest on religious grounds. Rousseau carried on an amazingly extensive correspondence and Cranston sticks close to it, tracking his epistolary thoughts almost day by day and sometimes hour by hour. The portrait that emerges exhibits a certain disparity between the commonplace, seemingly petty, concerns of the letters and the wider horizons of the writings. Whether this reflects more the human condition or the man himself or the biographical approach, it is eminently readable.

ASSOCIATIONS REPORT

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cates of achievement to 100 high school seniors and sponsored two luncheon meetings with speakers. In November 1990 U.S. Congressman Robert Mrazek spoke on "Long Island, Today and Tomorrow"; in April 1991 John Tepper Marlin, project director, Council of Economic Priorities, spoke on the "Outlook for Defense Spending in the United States and Long Island in Particular."

The **Upper Hudson** (New York) association, which reported 85 members, had three dinner meetings. In November 1990 Robert Reznick talked about publishing *Physics*; in May 1991 Michael Baden discussed the practice of forensic medicine. A meeting in February was devoted to an informal discussion of association programs and policies. The group plans to undertake a scholarship program in 1991-92.

The **Southern Illinois** association, with about 50 members, sponsored an Honors Day Brunch at which it honored 52 juniors and seniors and presented a book to an outstanding senior. Philosophy professor Mark Johnson spoke on "The Cultivated Imagination."

Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity. *Stephen Toulmin.* Free Press, 1990. \$22.95.

Toulmin does not hesitate to speak of the zealotry of the 17th-century intellectual revolutionaries (e.g., Descartes), whose truncated notion of rationality repressed the wise humanism of Renaissance philosophers such as Montaigne, and whose contemporary epigones continued to hamper the search for a more ample conception of reason. Anyone who knows Toulmin's earlier works will raise an eyebrow (perhaps approvingly) at the forthright critique of positions then held. The interesting question Toulmin pursues here is, To what cultural needs did that conception of pure unhistorical reason respond: what made it so powerful, and how must it now be complemented? Incisive and interesting as the critique is, one wonders if it reflects sufficiently on the limitations of our own perspectives. But it is a lively, informative, and even passionate reading of the end of (modern) philosophy.

Jean Sudrann

His Other Half: Men Looking at Women Through Art. *Wendy Lesser.* Harvard, 1991. \$24.95.

Lesser's lively account of the male artist and the female figure develops from her belief that no current "gender theory" accounts for the rich diversity of these visions. Reaching back to Plato's myth of the once single self now divided into male and female, and ranging from Shakespeare to Peter Handke, from Degas to Alfred Hitchcock and Cecil Beaton, she explores male treatment of women in both visual art and literature: the self-containment of Degas's late nudes; the way in which George Gissing's *The Odd Woman* opens up possibilities for equal relationships between "intelligent men and women"; Cecil Beaton's photograph of Coco Chanel looking "spunky and endearingly mortal" as she climbs a mirror-lined staircase.

Sensitivity and intelligence illuminate Lesser's analyses of individual works; the vitality, wit, and candor of

CORRECTION

The Abraham Lincoln volumes recommended in the Summer 1991 *Key Reporter* are available for \$3.95 only to new subscribers of the Library of America, 14 E. 60th St., New York, NY 10022 (tel. 212-308-3360).

her style promote clear argument and a sense of unhampered contact between writer and reader, broken only in the chapters on Marilyn Monroe and Barbara Stanwyck, where Lesser herself seems uncertain. Her originality of mind and discriminating selection of materials can only be suggested here by noting her pairing of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* with a selection of Hitchcock films also dealing with equality, power, and betrayal.

Lesser's reading of her chosen materials leads her to conclude that the great artists' ability to perceive their subjects with such clarity fosters a vision that, embracing both similarity and difference, recognizes "hidden connections between opposites." This conclusion reinforces her personal sense that one condition of great art is the abandonment of "the categories of masculine and feminine."

Abortion, Choice, and Contemporary Fiction: The Armageddon of the Maternal Instinct. *Judith Wilt.* Univ. of Chicago, 1990. \$19.95.

Conflicted authors as well as conflicted protagonists are at the center of Wilt's study of those contemporary fictions whose action is shaped by abortion decisions. Wilt includes male as well as female authors (e.g., John Barth, Graham Swift, and John Irving along with Margaret Atwood, Mary Gordon, and Toni Morrison), those for whom the church legislates or offers guidance as well as those who rely solely on the promptings of mind and heart. Equally even-handed in her employment of the historical, political, and polemic background to current literature, Wilt underscores the validity of her argument: the issue for this generation, she notes, is "maternal choice," "conflict-ridden human choice," leaving the chooser with "the unease of the choice not made." Wilt's vivid evocation of the shapes that unease takes as it creates the actions of the novels she discusses is matched by the acuteness of her analyses, which are literary not political. Her choice of Morrison's *Beloved* as the climax of her discussion helps not only to unravel some of the difficulties that text presents but also to illustrate how Morrison's work encompasses the full range of battling forces—perhaps even pressing the extreme instances of that range—which a self-consciously "choosing" author or character encounters as he or she struggles toward self-knowledge.

Ford Madox Ford. *Alan Judd.* Harvard, 1991. \$27.50.

Although Judd's biography of Ford Madox Ford focuses on the man, it nevertheless places that life into the context of his times (1873–1939) and his more than 70 published works. Even the simple facts of Ford's life are rich fare: his Pre-Raphaelite heritage, love affairs, editorships, World War I shellshock, and lifelong poverty, coupled with an equally enduring generosity and love of the "gentlemanly" way of life—these just begin to tell the biographical story.

In treating the facts, Judd, himself a novelist, keeps his narrative moving between the life and the fictions in search of the composite figure: a man of the 19th century who grew into a 20th-century author. Judd moves, for example, from Ford's retreat from confrontation with Violet Hunt to Ford's refusals to explore the nature of his fictional confrontations in favor of dealing with the "feelings and states of mind" provoked by the undefined encounter. By generously including his readers in the assessment of his gathered materials, thus arming them with respect for the biographer's task and a healthy skepticism about its results, Judd is also provoking sympathy with Ford's preference for the "imaginative" rather than "factual" truth—a preference that enabled the best of his fictions while leaving him victim to public accusations of inaccuracy and self-aggrandizement. Judd triumphs over this mass of material through a biographical method that so skillfully relates facts of Ford's life to his times and artistic development that the light each throws on the other affirms the integrity of both the man and his creations.

Thomas L. McNaugher

The Rise of Nations in the Soviet Union: American Foreign Policy & the Disintegration of the USSR. *Ed. by Michael Mandelbaum.* Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1991. \$14.95.

The authors of this trenchant and timely little volume didn't need August's failed coup to highlight the inevitability of Soviet disintegration. Noting well before the coup attempt the expanding national consciousness of citizens in the Soviet republics, the developing industrial base of most republics (the result, ironically, of Soviet

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RECOMMENDED READING

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policy), and the shrinking imperial content of Russian nationalism (at least as espoused by Boris Yeltsin), one of the authors, Alexander Motyl, asserted presciently that “even the military and the KGB must recognize that a countrywide Tiananmen is no longer in the cards” [p. 51].

Alas, the authors do not share the euphoria that swept Russia and the other republics as the coup collapsed and democracy blossomed in the streets. Fledgling political institutions in the new states are no more capable of handling the demands of citizens than collectivist economic systems are able to convert readily to the market. The rapid pace of events is all too likely to produce economic and ecological disaster, national and ethnic violence, and ultimately hordes of refugees streaming westward to swell the ranks of the unemployed and disgruntled in Western Europe and the United States. It may not be a pretty picture, but this brief book, with its well-written and provocative essays, is essential reading on an issue that is probably the most pressing of our time.

The Awakening of the Soviet Union. *Geoffrey Hosking. Harvard, 1990. \$19.95.*

Given the incredible pace of change inside the Soviet Union these days, a book published a year ago should be out of date by now, and at one level this book is. Hosking failed to foresee how quickly the Soviet Union would break into its constituent republics and he was very concerned about the right-wing backlash that such a prospect would inspire. Thus he can be said to have foreseen the recent coup attempt, but not its failure and the startling aftermath. That said, Hosking's broader insights stand up well and are likely to remain powerful guides to unfolding events. He is concerned, as we all should be, with the sources of community and political cohesion capable of replacing the Communist party as it expires. He finds several, some of them bred, ironically, by the party's totalitarian policies. Yet he doubts that these sources of cohesion are mature enough to handle rising political and economic demands in a fragmenting Soviet Union. Hence his fear of a right-wing backlash, or of chaos and great misery—all fears that may yet prove to be well

founded. Although his focus is largely and usefully historical, Hosking delves into the internal contradictions of contemporary Soviet policies; chapter 7 may be the best available short introduction to Gorbachev and his program, such as it is. This book is beautifully written, informed by a keen sense of the legacy of Soviet history, and attentive to the human dilemmas tossed up by massive social change.

Mud Soldiers: Life Inside the New American Army. *George C. Wilson. Collier, 1991. \$9.95.*

Presumably this book should tell us how the Army that performed so well in the Gulf War was made. To write it, Wilson followed a band of recruits as they made their way from basic training through their first year of duty with a live unit. Basic training in this case started in mid-1987, and thus Wilson was in a position to assess the full effects of Reagan-era defense spending on Army training and recruitment. Wilson's findings are disturbing. Basic training was tightly organized and professionally run, as it probably always has been. But the description of training with the First Infantry Division at Fort Riley, where his recruits were first deployed, seems almost a caricature of the Army's age-old flaws—waiting in lines, wasted time, disorganized training, and lack of personal attention to the needs of individual soldiers.

Interestingly, the Army's COHORT program, designed to keep recruits together for several years in hopes of promoting unit cohesion and morale, seems in this case to have left soldiers tired of one another and eager to move on. And the National Training Center in California, established in the late 1970s to test units in mock battles with a “Soviet” enemy, seems to have tested officers but left enlisted men and women bored and homesick. Overall, one is left to wonder whether the nation's Army, like the nation itself, is capable of generating high levels of cohesion, morale, and leadership only in a crisis like the one just past. But that's the book's value: beyond a close and much-needed look at the Army from the bottom up, it provokes thought on the Army's relationship to the society it serves, and the effects of that society on the Army.

The Commanders. *Robert Woodward. Simon & Schuster, 1991. \$24.95.*

Journalists must always balance timeliness against depth of coverage in their work. In getting *The Commanders* off the press just weeks after Desert Storm ended, Woodward clearly chose timeliness, giving us the first look we've had into the decision making that took the country to war in Panama and then against Iraq. The cost of timeliness in this case is a near-exclusive focus on executive branch “players” with little if any attention to members of Congress or to allies, as if somehow they had nothing to do with going to war, especially in the Gulf. Still, the flaws of the book are more than countered by its insight into presidential decision making in these crises.

Woodward offers still more confirmation for the well-established argument that military officers tend to be less eager than their civilian superiors to go to war. Desert Storm, in particular, was the president's war. Bush jumped out well ahead of his advisers early in August, calling for a reversal of Iraq's invasion before his generals had even briefed him on how to defend Saudi Arabia. He remained ahead in pushing for war, overpowering advisers who apparently preferred continued reliance on sanctions. No doubt this picture helps dispense with the “wimp” image that plagued Bush during his campaign, but it must also send chills down the spines of those who think that big decisions are made systematically in Washington. There will be better books on Desert Storm, but this remains the first, and those that follow will no doubt draw on it, whatever its flaws.

Anna J. Schwartz

Europe 1992: An American Perspective. *Ed. by Gary Clyde Hufbauer. Brookings, 1990. \$31.95.*

How will the U.S. economy be affected by planned European economic integration? The authors in this volume explore important issues raised by this prospect, such as what will happen to U.S. trade and investment negotiations with Brussels dealing with reciprocity, national quotas, technical standards, local content plus rules of origin, and government procurement, here examined in the case of four industries: banking and securities, automobiles, telecommunications, and semiconductors. (The authors predict a satisfactory resolution of disputes in these areas.)

Another part of the book examines three potentially useful negotiating

strategies that the United States could pursue to reduce barriers to trade, services, and investment. One is to use Europe 1992 problems to achieve the greatest possible global liberalization in the Uruguay Round; yet no conclusion satisfactory to the United States on reducing the European Community's agricultural subsidies is yet in sight. Another approach is bilateral or unilateral action. A third approach might be a formal U.S.-EC agreement on mutual recognition, deregulation, and liberalization.

A chapter on competition policy considers whether a unified Europe may force a reconsideration of U.S. attitudes toward giant firms, because antitrust policy is said to hamper global competition by U.S. firms. It is possible, however, that no conflict will arise on this score if the United States and the EC decide to coordinate antitrust policies.

The Future of Banking. *James L. Pierce. Yale, 1991. \$25.*

The appropriate role of public policy, Pierce argues, is to regulate and protect monetary activities of banks, while leaving financial services to the market without government regulation and protection of individual financial service firms. To this end he proposes separating institutions that provide monetary services from those that provide financial services.

Monetary service institutions would be highly regulated, separately capitalized companies offering unlimited federally insured accounts payable on demand at par; the assets these companies could hold would be restricted to a list of marketable short-term instruments drawn up by the Federal Reserve. This is a variant of the core bank others have proposed, the assets of which would be limited to short-term Treasury securities.

Financial service institutions would conduct all remaining banking activities: lending to business and consumers and offering insurance, underwriting, brokerage, mutual funds, and any other financial services they chose. However, the savings and time accounts plus other liabilities on their balance sheets would be uninsured.

Pierce offers a well-thought-out blueprint of how to manage the transition to his proposed new financial structure, including what changes he envisages in the roles of bank regulators and the FDIC.

The Development Frontier: Essays in Applied Economics. *Peter Bauer. Harvard, 1991. \$24.95.*

These essays, which serve as a supplement and corrective to textbook topics on development economics, examine the interaction in the past five decades of economic variables with social and political forces in the third world. The author's studies of the rubber industry of Southeast Asia and of the organization of trade in the former British West Africa alerted him to the crucial role of traders in transforming a subsistence economy into an exchange economy. That role was often ignored in the literature, which instead emphasized self-perpetuating poverty and the need for a developed infrastructure as a precondition for economic advance. The author has a reputation as a gadfly because he has challenged widely accepted doctrines such as that population growth is a major obstacle to economic progress; that it is inability to pay rather than unwillingness that explains a government's decision not to service sovereign debt; and that state marketing boards that were given the sole right to buy for export and to export the controlled products stabilized producer prices and incomes.

Investing in China: Ten Years of the Open Door Policy. *Richard Pomfret. Iowa State Univ., 1991. \$22.95.*

This study documents the course of direct foreign investment in China since 1979, when a law on joint ventures was enacted, until 1989, when a boom in the number and value of foreign-invested ventures was halted by the democracy movement and the victory of government hard-liners, as well as by the austerity program introduced in 1988 to reduce inflation. Export-oriented ventures benefited from the harsh monetary policy as the multiple exchange rate system became more unified, but domestic-oriented ventures experienced serious difficulty. The opening up of Indochina, in the author's view, and the potential for political instability there are damaging to China's future foreign investment prospects.

Richard N. Current

New England Outpost: War and Society in Colonial Deerfield. *Richard I. Melvoin. Norton, 1989. \$25.*

Deerfield, on the Massachusetts frontier, was exposed to frequent at-

tacks and was almost completely wiped out by the French and Indians in 1704. Melvoin offers a rich and detailed study not only of a frontier town at war but also of the colonial settlement process and the complex relation of the aborigines to it. "Deerfield's story," the author comments, is "a reminder of the long and torturous path that New England settlers took from being the English of the seventeenth century to becoming Americans of the eighteenth."

The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History. *David Charles Sloan. Johns Hopkins, 1991. \$35.95.*

At first, the dead were interred unostentatiously and close to home in the local churchyard or in a burial plot on the family farm. Later, with the growth of urbanism and romanticism, the funeral became more elaborate and the cemetery a parklike expanse on the city's edge. Today, Forest Lawn in Glendale, California, stands as the culmination of centuries of dealing with the "last great necessity." In the future, however, the increasing use of cremation may hinder the cemetery's development. Here is an intriguing account of the subject in its many ramifications.

The Private War of Mrs. Packard. *Barbara Sapinsley. Paragon House, 1991. \$19.95.*

In the 1860s Elizabeth Packard spent three years in an Illinois asylum for the insane. The evidence of her insanity? She had questioned the strict Calvinist dogmas of her husband, a Presbyterian preacher. When the asylum let her out, he tried to get her committed to another one, but friends intervened and testified to her sanity. She went on to become a crusader for the reform of state laws that permitted arbitrary institutionalization. This compelling narrative, based largely on her own writings and those of her husband, throws light on both the status of women and the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness in her time.

Alfred I. du Pont: The Man and His Family. *Joseph Frazier Wall. Oxford, 1990. \$27.50.*

Wall, author of a prizewinning biography of Andrew Carnegie, has produced an equally impressive biography of another captain of American industry. First comes a review of the du Pont heritage from 1735, when

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RECOMMENDED READING

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the "founder of the family," Samuel du Pont, arrived in Paris as a watchmaker, to 1864, when Alfred was born. Then follows the story, told in intimate detail, of Alfred's personal life and business career down to his death in 1935, with a postscript concerning the disposition of his estate to 1985.

Electrifying America: Social Meanings of a New Technology, 1880-1940. David E. Nye. MIT, 1990. \$29.95.

"In reproaching 'traditional history,' Paul Valéry has cited 'the conquest of the earth by electricity' as an example of one of those 'notable phenomena' which it neglects, despite the fact that they have 'more meaning and greater possibilities of shaping our immediate future than all the political events combined.'" Nye begins with that quotation from Marc Bloch and goes on to demonstrate impressively how electricity has shaped American life in manifold respects, such as building and street illumination, public entertainment, urban transportation, popular psychology and

gadgetry, manufacturing, household appliances, agriculture, and literature and art.

A Woman Making History: Mary Ritter Beard Through Her Letters. Ed. by Nancy F. Cott. Yale, 1991. \$35.

Mary R. Beard is often remembered primarily as the wife of the famous historian and political scientist Charles A. Beard and as the coauthor with him of such widely read works as *The Rise of American Civilization* (1928). In the introduction to this collection of Mary's letters, Cott indicates not only that she was an important author in her own right but also that she had a larger role than she is usually credited with in the authorship of the Beard and Beard books. The letters themselves reveal her as a passionate reformer frequently at odds with other feminists and as a pioneer in demonstrating that "history looks different through women's eyes."

Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the Present. David R. Goldfield. Louisiana State Univ., 1990. \$24.95.

"The heartbreak for blacks was that they could not really leave the land

they loved, nor could they stay. The tragedy for whites was that race pride clouded their vision of the land because it cut them off from their companions in nature and history." The land was the South in the throes of segregation and desegregation. A white southern historian here gives a comprehensive and sympathetic view of the crusade for black equality in his section of the country.



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