

# THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

VOLUME II · NUMBER 4

This Issue Goes to 78,000 Members

AUTUMN · 1937

## Preservation of Learning

LOUIS B. WRIGHT, *North Carolina '26*

Research Professor, *Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery*

**T**O SPEAK about our educational state is entirely in the tradition of Φ B K. For more than a century speakers have belabored that theme. It seems fitting, therefore, that the Society should take some cognizance of learning and stop long enough in its educational progress to ask whether there was any good thing in it. In this age of methods, technique, validities, functions, integration, and coöperation, we have no real use for learning. But since Φ B K itself is an old-fashioned order, which has for its motto a Greek phrase meaning, "Wisdom, the Guide of Life," perhaps this Society will be willing to contemplate learning as a sort of antique, as something left over from an earlier era, which may be worth preserving as a curiosity.

Although it is now a little passé in certain academic circles to insist upon anything so antiquated as purposefulness and patriotism, it would do no harm for Φ B K to consider the suitability of adopting for its mission the preservation of the tradition of learning in our educational system. It is good for an organization to have a purpose.

Φ B K might take as its objective the preservation of learning, for unless someone shows an interest in it, learning bids fair to become extinct in our educational programs. If Φ B K should look with favor on this suggestion, certain institutions might be marked out as restricted territory where coöordinators and integrators could not hunt down the old-fashioned curricula. In this way a good many relics of our earlier education

might yet be saved. Undoubtedly Φ B K would profit by having a definite purpose such as this, for at times in recent years there has been some questioning of the Society's own "validity."

The need for some protection for learning will be evident to any student of our educational theory and practice. Recently I have made a survey of the professional journals devoted to education; and although the contributions are often only a little this side of literacy, the meaning can be sufficiently discerned to show that learning and exact knowledge are decreasing in usefulness as we improve our techniques and learn how to integrate this with that. We are told that "broad extensiveness" is better than deep penetration into a field. In a recent issue of an educational journal, a superintendent regrets that the "traditional liberal arts approach, which unfortunately prevails in most teachers colleges at the present time," results in too specialized a knowledge of one's subject. For example, a prospective teacher of chemistry who goes through the traditional college would take



WILLIAM A. SHIMER

FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES (*See "Φ B K Milestones."*)

*Courtesy of The Atlanta Journal*

chemistry for four years and come out a specialist in chemistry,  
(Continued on page 6)

## ΦBK Milestones

ROYALL H. SNOW  
*Harvard '20*

**M**ILESTONES passed by Φ B K on September 9 to 11 at Atlanta, Georgia, mark a new stage in the Society's journey through the latter half of its second century. The professors of the Nineteenth Triennial Council have invited members who are lawyers, physicians, ministers, and

## In this Issue:

## Keys in the Big Leagues

## Reviews of

**Odell Shepard's Pedlar's Progress, Kenneth Roberts' Northwest Passage**

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHAPTERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA in December, March, May and October, at the Rumford Press, Concord, N. H. Editorial and executive offices, 145 West 55th Street, New York, N. Y. Editor, William A. Shimer, Harvard Φ B K; Assistant Editor, Dorothy E. Blair; Consulting Editor, Frank P. Graves, President of the United Chapters; Advertising Manager, Beryl Williams. Subscription 20 cents a year, \$1.00 for five years. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Concord, N. H., under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: if undeliverable at your office and addressee's new address is known, please forward, rated with postage due to cover forwarding charge. Undeliverable copies should be sent to:

PHI BETA KAPPA, 145 West 55th Street, New York, N. Y.

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.

the like to join in the supreme Council of the Society by sending voting delegates from the graduate associations, 90 of which are already organized among the 80,000 members. For the first time a Catholic college was among the institutions given charters for new chapters. The 132 chapters, divided into 7 district conferences, will add vigor to the Society and, through the designation of Senators, secure wider geographical representation. This purpose was realized also in the fact that this first Council to meet in the South voted to meet next in the Far West. Only Trinity of the 122 (increased by this Council to 132) Chapters was without delegates at Atlanta — an all-time record. The total attendance was 275, of which 12 were Senators — two more records. But the happiest milestone of all was the restoration of mutual good will and cooperation between the chapters and the Senate and officers. The debates were hot (oratorically, not thermally, for Atlantan weather was perfect) but, unlike the 1934 session, cordiality was the order of the day.

The first business session was called to order in the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel on Thursday morning, after Dr. S. V. Sanford, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, had cordially welcomed the delegates and Dr. Frank P. Graves, New York State Commissioner of Education, had replied on behalf of the Society. The meeting proceeded to the main business of the morning — the consideration of institutions proposed for charters. So thorough and painstaking had been the preparatory investigation of the Committee on Qualifications, that the Council was able to act with directness and confidence. Charters were granted to Birmingham-Southern College, the University of Buffalo, the University of Florida, George Washington University, Pennsylvania State College, Reed College, the College of St. Catherine, Washington and Jefferson College, and to sections of chapters at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

In the afternoon southern hospitality produced the only disagreement in the Council which was never compromised. Offered a choice of four different tours to points of interest in Atlanta and vicinity, each delegate came back convinced the tour he had chosen was the best and his particular host or hostess superlative. Following the tours, the delegates were entertained at tea at Agnes Scott

(Continued on page 6)

## Keys in the Big Leagues

GEORGE BANTA, JR.

**N**OTHING better indicates the changing personnel of professional baseball than the presence of two members of Φ BK in the "big" league. Since it pays well and offers a young man an opportunity to continue



BURGESS WHITEHEAD

his studies in the off season, it is only natural that it would attract members of Φ BK.

The regular second baseman of the Champion New York Giants of the National League is Burgess Whitehead, who took his collegiate work at the University of North Carolina where he was elected to Φ BK. The story of how his key saved his job while he was with the Columbus Club of the American Association has been told to KEY REPORTER readers in the Summer issue.

The Giants are now making a strenuous effort to repeat their 1936 performance of winning the National League pennant and the keystone combination of Bartell and Whitehead is one of the most important reasons why they are near the top. "Whitie," although not a heavy hitter, is a beautiful fielder, a smart and speedy base runner, and is of great value as a "team" man.

In the 1937 All Star game, which was played in Washington before a huge crowd, Whitehead served as special base runner for the National League.

Over in the American League will be found Morris ("Moe") Berg, veteran catcher of the Boston Red Sox. At Princeton, Berg did so well as a shortstop that the Brooklyn National League Club offered him a contract and in 1923, the year of his graduation, he played 49 games with the Dodgers.

The following winter he attended the

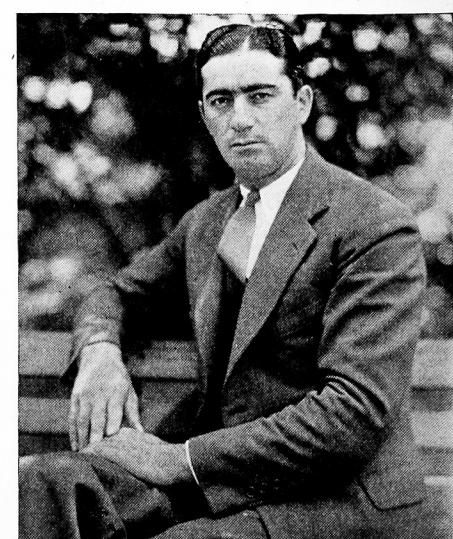
University of Paris, indulging his hobby of studying the Romance languages. He is able to read Greek, Latin, French, Provençal, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, and can converse to some extent in French, Spanish, and Italian.

In his development as a player Berg went through the usual experiences in the minor leagues, finally serving as catcher for the Chicago White Sox. In 1930 he was traded to Cleveland who released him to Washington the following year. After the season of 1932, Berg joined a team that played in Honolulu and Japan.

When the games were over, he stayed on in Japan, coaching the native players and studying the Japanese language.

When the 1934 season ended, he accompanied an American League team to Japan and Manila. After this trip Berg traveled in Russia and came back in time to begin the 1935 season with Boston, with which club he is still connected.

Berg is a lawyer as well as a ball player, having been admitted to the bar in New York in 1929. He is a member of a New York City law firm and engages in practice in the off season.



"MOE" BERG



MARTHA JANE BAKER within one week won the title of "Miss Idaho" in a state beauty contest and was elected to membership in ΦBK at the Chapter at the University of Idaho. Representing the State in a contest sponsored by the Golden Gate Fair to determine who should go to Paris as "Miss Western America," Miss Baker lost to a blonde. Loyal ΦBK Secretary Church wrote, "When I saw the pictures of the successful candidates in the newspaper afterward, it was evident that the judges did not prefer blondes." Now secretary to the Dean of Women at Idaho, Miss Baker intends to fit herself for a "Deanery."

## Contributors

(Continued from the Summer Number)

Members who are helping tide the Society over the depression shoals.

John Dickinson, Johns Hopkins '13, Washington, D. C.  
Edwin Dimock, Yale '06, New London, Conn.  
Louis H. Dirks, Indiana '11, Greencastle, Ind.  
G. T. Donnell, Columbia '89, New York  
George L. Donnellan, Columbia '01, New York  
Frances Dorrance, Vassar '00, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.  
Susan M. Dorsey, Vassar '99, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Charles M. Drew, Wesleyan '92, Minneapolis, Minn.  
H. S. Drinker, Lehigh '23, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Mathilde Droege, Chicago '08, Baltimore, Md.  
R. R. Drummond, Maine '23, Orono, Maine  
Charles G. DuBois, Dartmouth '91, Englewood, N. J.  
Stephen Duggan, C. C. N. Y. '30, New York  
William H. Duls, North Carolina '07, Dallas, Texas  
Mabel S. Duncan, Vassar '04, Ridgewood, N. J.  
John H. Dunnington, Virginia '15, New York  
Hugh Durham, Kansas '09, Manhattan, Kan.  
Edwin C. Dusenbury, C. C. N. Y. '82, North Stamford Conn.

Helen and Dorothy Duval, North Carolina '20, Chicago, Ill.  
Clarence A. Dykstra, Ohio State '35, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Louise S. Earle, Radcliffe '15, East Lynn, Mass.  
Walter C. Earle, Chicago '19, Baltimore, Md.  
Joseph S. Eastman, Amherst '04, Washington, D. C.  
Mrs. Gerard M. Edell, Barnard '12, Syracuse, N. Y.  
Alma L. Eggleston, Vermont '09, Washington, D. C.  
Jesse Ehrlich, C. C. N. Y. '94, New York  
Mrs. J. P. Edson, Barnard '09, Greenwich, Conn.  
Mark Eisner, C. C. N. Y. '31, New York  
Isadore P. Eisenberg, C. C. N. Y. '11, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Harry Eising, C. C. N. Y. '87, New York  
William C. Eldridge, Harvard '21, New York  
Mrs. H. W. Elley, Wellesley '12, Wilmington, Del.  
Mary L. Ely, Barnard '17, New York  
R. E. Ely, Amherst '85, New York  
E. D. Emerson, Dartmouth '84, Buffalo, N. Y.  
Guy Emerson, Harvard '33, New York  
Kendall Emerson, Amherst '97, New York  
Dean Emery, C. C. N. Y. '96, New York  
Nathanael H. Engle, Univ. of Washington '25, Washington, D. C.

## ΦBK Arbitrates

JULIUS GLASER, Williams '37

THAT ΦBK at Williams might be something more than a functionless honor society the undergraduates elected in June 1936 determined to search for a worthwhile activity consistent with the need of the college and the particular method of the group's selection.

After a series of meetings called by the Undergraduate President, it was resolved that the proper function for a group selected on the basis of scholastic achievement would have to be one intimately related to curricular and faculty problems. After further deliberations, a committee was selected to draw up the skeleton of the mechanism to make ΦBK a liaison between students and administration in their classroom problems.

The plan was taken to the President of the college and to the Undergraduate Council, and after some opposition on the grounds that the execution of the plan would take the finger of the administration off the pulse of the campus, it was accepted, and wholehearted cooperation was pledged.

Under the plan, a student who is aggrieved by such matters as the conduct of a course, the professor's grading system, the text or method of instruction, or even the professor's attitude toward him as an individual, presents a report of his problem in writing to a member of the Society. The report is read and discussed at a bi-weekly meeting, and a standing committee for the department involved swings into action. Investigation takes the form of hearing other students on the same question, consulting with the professor concerned and others, discussion at the next bi-weekly meeting and the invitation to all interested parties to write or come and be heard. ΦBK then draws its conclusions, and, after unanimous consent of the undergraduate members has been given, the report is submitted to the President of the college and the head of the department in question.

There is no evidence as yet which can point to the effectiveness of the plan, the past year's efforts having been devoted to laying the foundation. The crucial points are the willingness of the students to respond — about which there is little to fear since complete anonymity is guaranteed, the enthusiasm of the members of ΦBK, and the willingness of the administration and faculty to mend their erring ways.

## Know of an Opening?

If name is not given, address Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER.

### BUSINESS, SECRETARIAL

109. (Miss) A.B., Univ. of Michigan '30 (ΦBK '29) A.M., Stanford '36; major, English; minor, social studies. Exp. — editorial, writing, office, 2 yrs. teaching. Wants also research.

110. Helen Gosch, Bunker Hill, Ill. A.B., Illinois College '34; major, biology; minors, English, physical education; business school, '35-'36. Exp. — botany ass't, Illinois College, '32-'34; clerical; 2 yrs. teaching in biology, physical education; secretarial. Wants also tutoring, companion position.

### CHEMISTRY

111. Rubin Bernstein, 970 56th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. B.S., C.C.N.Y. '37; major work in chemistry and biology. Wants position in some branch of chemistry or in bacteriology.

### COMPANION — See also 110, 114

41. (Miss) A.B., Northwestern '13; M.A., Univ. of Washington '31; majors, English, classical languages. Exp. — secondary school teaching. Obliged to give up position because of defective vision; will accept modest salary. Also tutoring.

### LIBRARY

112. Julia Sabine, 433 W. 21st St., N.Y.C. A.B., Cornell Univ. '27; major, classics; minor, archaeology; brevet from the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie, Paris; courses in library science and Oriental painting. Exp. — 10 yrs. with Newark Public Library — in art dept., general reference room.

### LITERARY, PUBLISHING

113. Helen T. Cederquist, 44 Blanchard St., Jamestown, N. Y. Wells College '33; major, English. Exp. — work at the N. Y. School of Social Work with a fellowship from the State N. Y. A. Wants also teaching.

114. Eleanor M. Harrison, Sandwich, Mass. A.B., Smith '36; major, French. Exp. — secretary to medical doctor. Wants also teaching or tutoring in French, German, Latin or English; business translating; position as traveling companion.

### TEACHING, TUTORING —

See also 41, 110, 113, 114

115. (Mr.) A.B., Hamilton '29; A.M., Harvard '32; majors, English, mathematics. Exp. — social work, office management, private secretarial. Wants also research.

116. (Miss) A.B., Univ. of Cincinnati '28; A.M. '31; major, mathematics; sufficient credits for Ph.D. Exp. — 8 yrs. high school teaching, substitute teaching, tutoring. Wants teaching in college or private school, research, position with industrial concern or insurance company.

117. Floyd A. Reinhart, 84 Hawthorne Ave., Hamden, Conn. A.B., Bard College '35; honors in sociology and economics; assistantship in dept. of sociology, Yale Graduate School, '33-'35. Exp. — office, Y.M.C.A. activities. Wants also work in social service, social research.

118. (Mrs.) A.B., Vassar '26; Ph.D. in English, Yale. Exp. — high school and college teaching. Wants also research.



Courtesy of The Atlanta Journal

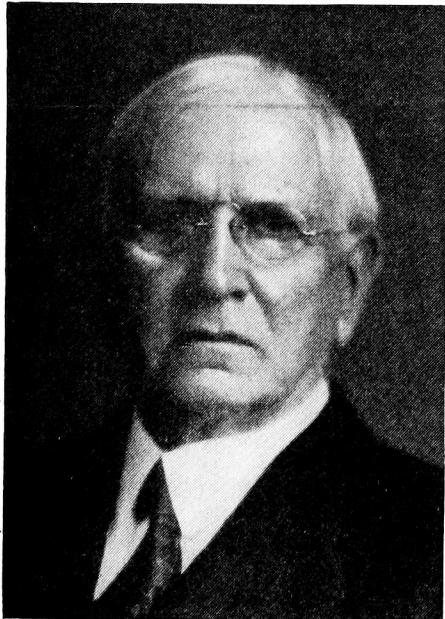
John T. McGill, aged 85, the oldest delegate at Atlanta, registers for the opening session.

## Charles F. Thwing

CLARK S. NORTHUP  
Cornell University '93

**C**HARLES FRANKLIN THWING, for forty-two years a Φ B K Senator and for six years President of the United Chapters, died at his home in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sunday, August 29, 1937.

Dr. Thwing was born at New Sharon, Maine, on November 9, 1853. His education was obtained at Harvard, where he was graduated in the class of 1876. After eleven fruitful years spent in the Christian ministry he was in 1890 called to the presidency of Western Reserve University. Here his success was marked. When he retired as president emeritus in 1891, the institution was known the world over and his grasp of educational problems was acknowledged everywhere. As an author he was trenchant and incisive. Among his thirty or forty books are: *A Liberal Education and a Liberal Faith*, *Higher Education in America*, and *Guides, Philosophers and Friends: Studies of College Men*.



DR. CHARLES F. THWING

Dr. Thwing's connection with Φ B K began with his election to membership in 1876. He was elected to the Senate in 1895, and made Life Senator in 1928. His term as President saw the formation of sixteen new chapters in colleges and universities from California to Maine, and there was during this time a steady growth in the usefulness and the prestige of the Society. He was constantly in attendance at the meetings of both Senate and Council.

## YOUR OFFICERS

That Φ B K will devote its prestige and energy to significant ends during this triennium may be surmised from the character of the members placed in office by the Nineteenth Council at its recent meeting in Atlanta. To the Presidency of the United Chapters was called Dr. Frank Pierrepont Graves, President of the University of the State of New York, State Commissioner of Education, and for many years a member of the Φ B K Senate. As Vice-President the Council elected Miss Marjorie Hope Nicolson, Dean at Smith College, scholar, educator, and recently elected Φ B K Senator. Mr. Whitney Hart Shepardson, vice-president of the International Railways of Central America, director and treasurer of the Council on Foreign Relations, trustee of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and formerly director of the General Education Board, will serve as Treasurer of the United Chapters and of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation. Dr. William Allison Shimer, Harvard '18, was re-elected Secretary.

Newly elected Senators are Dr. William T. Hastings, professor of English at Brown University; Dr. James R. McCain, President of Agnes Scott College; Dr. Frederick M. Padelford, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Washington; Dr. Raymond Walters, President of the University of Cincinnati; and Dr. Goodrich C. White, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and of the Graduate School at Emory University.

Dr. Mary E. Woolley, former President of Mount Holyoke College, was elected Honorary Life Senator by unanimous vote. Other Senators re-elected are Dr. Frank Aydelotte, President of Swarthmore College; Dr. George H. Chase, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University; Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota; Dr. Will D. Howe, editor and director of Charles Scribner's Sons; Dr. Marjorie H. Nicolson, Dean at Smith College; Dr. Roscoe Pound, former Dean of the Harvard Law School; Dr. John J. Tigert, President of the University of Florida; and Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees, Historian of Phi Beta Kappa.

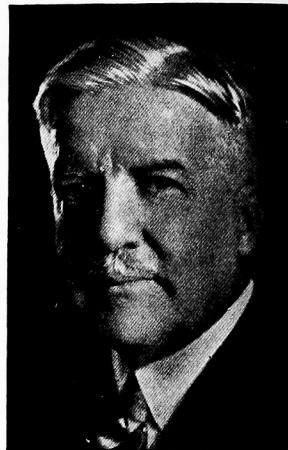
Brief articles prepared by Dr. Frank P. Graves concerning the late President John A. Cousens and Dr. William McAndrew will appear in the Winter issue of THE KEY REPORTER.

## Francis W. Shepardson

WILLIS A. CHAMBERLIN

*Excerpts from a tribute delivered before the Denison Chapter of Φ B K*

**D**R. FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON, nationally known as a leader of Φ B K, espoused whole-heartedly the principles of friendship, morality and scholarship, which are the cardinal virtues of the organization, and made them the guiding ideals of his life. Although he received his degree from Denison before the establishment of our Chapter, in his graduate work at



Brown University he proved himself to be a student of such distinction that he was elected to membership in the Alpha Chapter of Rhode Island.

No more loyal member nor one more zealous for its good standing could be found.

The National Council of 1913 elected Dr. Shepardson to the Φ B K Senate and he was re-elected through succeeding terms down to the present time. A still higher honor came to him in 1919 in his election to the vice-presidency of the Society, a position which he filled for nine years. At the time of his death (August 9) he was chairman of a Senate committee on the encouragement of scholarship through coöperation with college fraternities, honor societies, and secondary schools.

In his address at the installation of the Denison Chapter in 1911 he referred to his father's admiration of three things in nature: a hill, because it denoted strength; a tree, for its beauty; and an unfailing spring, which told of power. All three virtues, strength, beauty, power, were combined in unusual measure in his personality. We thought of him as possessing almost perennial strength, not realizing that his energy was consuming his reserve. All too soon we are deprived of his cheering presence. But we shall always keep the inspiration of his life, which was a noble interpretation of the Φ B K motto: love of learning, the guide of life.



# Winter Summer Schools

H. KATHERINE SMITH, *Vassar '27*

**W**HY not go to summer school in January? You can do just that at the University of Chile in Santiago, Chile's capital and one of the most interesting cities of South America. If you dig out of the snowdrifts in December, and make the delightful seventeen-day trip to Chile, you'll find yourself in a land of luxuriant flowers, luscious fruits, and sunshine you can count on every day for months.

At the University of Chile you will meet representatives of every South American country; for this pioneer South American summer school offers two scholarships to students from each sister republic. The first class I attended gave me a keener insight into the way South Americans act and think than I could have gathered from a shelf of books. Before class a compatriot and I strolled with the rest of the students on one of the university's Spanish balconies. The bell sounded and before its reverberations had ceased my compan-

ion and I had taken our places in the classroom. For at least ten minutes we were its sole occupants. Then the professor entered in the midst of a clump of students, most of them lighted cigarettes, and finally the lecture got under way.

I learned that Chilean students are willing to work long hours every day to earn their education, but only at certain tasks. They tutor or obtain clerical positions in government offices. But they prefer living on a subsistence fare in unheated dormitories to working as housemaids or chauffeurs.

My first day I found out that English is the most popular foreign language in Chile, and every one studying it dreams of visiting the United States.

In Santiago the visitor encounters the convenience of a modern city plus Chilean cordiality unsurpassed in all South America. Santiago is not surfeited with foreign tourists, and the residents do their utmost to make visitors feel welcome. I know of no more delightful week-end resort than internationally famed Vina Del Mar, only a few hours run from Santiago.

In Chile the American dollar goes three times as far as at home, and tuition fees are negligible, for most of the universities are financed by the government. Several United States ambassadors suggested to me the advisability of embassies arranging for the board and lodging of United States students in South America.

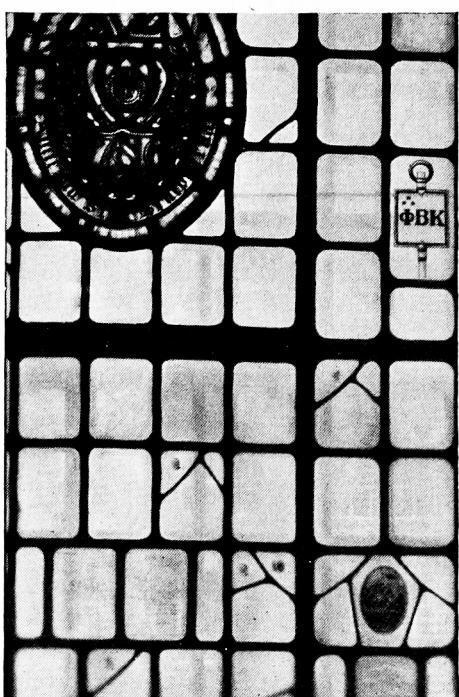
If you are unable to include a South American summer course in this winter's plans, you will have two to choose between next year. In January 1939 a course will be offered in Montevideo, Uruguay, known as the "Paris of America." There professors from every South American republic will lecture on the history, economics, literature, art, and sociology of that continent.

Should you prefer to do your traveling and studying during the summer months, the University of Mexico, the Workers' University at Guadalajara, Mexico, and Argentine Fundacion de Educacion will welcome you. "Welcome," as Latin Americans interpret the word, means receive you in their homes, present you to leaders of their republics, and show you all that is most beautiful in their countries.

There is only one deterrent to study in South America, and that is that our own colleges refuse to give credit for the work. The exchange of professors is the first step which has been taken toward a closer coöperation between educational institutions of North and South America. I am confident subsequent steps will not be long delayed.

## ΦBK Chapters Celebrate

**D**ICKINSON COLLEGE, the first institution to be granted a charter of ΦBK after the establishment of the United Chapters, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the event on May first in connection with the annual Founder's Day exercises. Dean Christian Gauss of Princeton, principal speaker at the convocation, ΦBK Senator and member of the Editorial Board of *The American Scholar*, delivered an address on "The



WINDOW IN THE DARTMOUTH LIBRARY

Standard of Living of the Educated Man."

The Dartmouth College Chapter of ΦBK will celebrate its 150th anniversary on the afternoon and evening of October 11. Among the prominent speakers will be President Bryan of the College of William and Mary and President McAfee of Wellesley College. All ΦBK chapters have been asked to send delegates, who will be guests of the local Chapter.

# VISIBILITY




**Taft guests clearly see the outstanding value that has made this great modern hotel popular with millions. Among the things that have high visibility here are convenient location, comfort, service & welcome economy!**

2000 ROOMS WITH BATH, FROM \$2.50

**HOTEL TAFT** ALFRED LEWIS, Mgr.  
7th Ave. at 50th St. NEW YORK

## Preservation of Learning

(Continued from page 1)

but not a teacher of chemistry. The superintendent would restrict the prospective teacher's courses in chemistry to those that would help him teach the particular courses in the high school curriculum, and in place of the more specialized courses in chemistry, the young pedagogue would take other courses that would give him a broad knowledge of integrated sciences. This authority would apply the same method to all fields of knowledge. If a little learning is a dangerous thing, it seems clear from the implications of this essay that more than a little will be well nigh fatal to successful teaching.

Some of the leading manufacturers of ready-made curricula in the educational industry are certain that old-fashioned factual studies that stressed the content of courses were vicious; consequently, the tendency has been to get away from exact knowledge as completely as possible. We are living in an age of stream-line and speed, and our old lumber of learning always meets with a great deal of wind-resistance when we insist upon retaining it. However, before the older discipline of ancient learning completely disappears, it might be well to notice such of its presumed virtues as are not already forgotten; for all those who make it their trade to study the past are impressed by the value of learned disciplines in the development of the intellects that made an impression on previous generations.

It would be a fitting thing if the oldest Greek letter society in America, one with a distinguished history, should undertake the preservation of some of the ideals of exact learning in American education. Since 1776 a vast new realm of political activity has been created—the tremendous realm of popular education. If ΦBK should accept that as its political province and maintain therein a healthy respect for worth-while learning, we might justly celebrate our return to the ideals of the founding fathers, who believed in the union of learning and leadership.

*From a recent address before the University of California Chapter at Los Angeles.*

## NEXT DOOR TO A POET

**By Rollo Walter Brown** A study of Edwin Arlington Robinson that is "a real-life picture in little space. The portrait is beautiful, and revealing, and alive."—*N. Y. Times*. At all booksellers. \$1.50

D. Appleton-Century Company, 35 W. 32nd St., N.Y.

## ΦBK Milestones

(Continued from page 2)

College. Emory University continued the hospitality with a barbecue, and in the evening, with Dr. Harvey W. Cox presiding in the Glenn Memorial Auditorium, the delegates heard Dr. Dumas Malone, former editor of the *Dictionary of American Biography* and director of the Harvard Press, and Dr. Howard W. Odum, professor of social science and director of the Institute for Research in the social sciences, University of North Carolina, speak on "The South in American Achievement" and "Research and Reality" respectively. The Emory Glee Club sang.

This period of hospitality was a happy preliminary to the exacting and severe discussions of Friday which finally resulted in successful action on Saturday. The Constitution of the United Chapters was adopted in 1883, and had been intermittently amended since. That there was needed a codification and clarification of the Constitution and By-Laws had for many years been growing apparent; the question became prominent in the Council of 1931 and acute in the Council of 1934 where some revisions had been unsuccessfully attempted. In the three years prior to the present Council the Committee on Revision, itself representative of various areas of geography and opinion in the Society, consulting with the various chapters, had prepared a proposed new Constitution and By-Laws. The proposals of the Committee were in the Friday meetings subjected to a scrutiny so detailed that one may safely say that every comma was personally conducted to its final resting place by some anxious delegate. Dr. Frank P. Graves, presiding in the absence of Dr. Clark S. Northup, guided the proceedings with an impartially brilliant skill, and ΦBK Senator John Kirkland Clark, spokesman for the Committee on Revision, for nearly seven hours of active discussion met all questions with frankness and good-humor and a desire to adjust to meet the will of the assembly.

In the resulting new Constitution and By-Laws certain points may be noted. The graduate associations have been given voting power in the Council, and the districts (seven regional groupings of chapters throughout the country) have been continued and given new functions. Looked at broadly these two apparently legalistic steps have larger implications. The recognition of the associations is an affirmation that the

## Every Member of

# ΦBK

should support and subscribe  
to the Society's own quarterly  
magazine:

## THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR

A "general" magazine, yet it makes no compromise with superficial journalism. A scholarly magazine, yet not pedantic or technical. The only publication of its kind, edited for only one type of reader—the intellectually-alert reader, who will accept only accurate information on which to base opinions. All members of Phi Beta Kappa, whatever their professions or occupations, will find in THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR a welcome medium to continue their liberal education and broaden their interests in the humanities.

### Selections from Recent Issues

- C. DELISLE BURNS — From Political Parties to Civil War
- C. J. DUCASSE — Are the Humanities Worth Their Keep?
- MARK VAN DOREN — Let the Movies be Natural
- HUGH CABOT — Hurdles for Young Doctors
- BROOKS EMENY — Raw Materials — Share or Lose?
- MAX ASCOLI — Dulce et Decus pro Dictatore
- GEORGE ANTHEIL — Music Takes a Sound Test
- JAMES R. ANGELL — The Scholar and the Specialist
- HANS KÖHN — The Twilight of Nationalism
- JEAN CHARLOT — Painter's Insight, Public's Sight
- CHARLES E. CLARK — Supreme — Court or People?
- PAUL BRISSENDEN — C. I. O. vs A. F. of L.
- EDGAR LEGARE PENNINGTON — The Revolt Against Christianity
- REINHOLD NIEBUHR — Pawns for Fascism — Our Lower Middle Class
- HARRY WOODBURN CHASE — Hutchins' "Higher Learning" Grounded

### Special Introductory Rate

\$1.50 a Year

### PLEASE USE THIS ORDER FORM TODAY

PHI BETA KAPPA  
145 West 55th St., New York, N. Y.

Please enter my subscription to THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR, commencing with the Fall 1937 issue, at the Special Introductory Rate of \$1.50 a year.

Please bill me

Check enclosed

Name.....

Address.....

Phi Beta Kappa ideal does not cease to be operative at the moment of the granting of the key, and that a Society which must always remain essentially rooted in the colleges is nevertheless able and willing to cooperate with its members who carry its principles out into other walks of life.

The stated function of the districts is to assist the Committee on Nominations in the selection of nominees for ΦBK Senators under a system designed to secure a broader geographic representation in the Senate. The champions of the district idea, however, see in it something more than a mere nominating device — the affirmation that there are possibilities of cooperation and consultation between smaller regional groups of chapters, impossible to the large and infrequent Triennial Council, and that of these possibilities the fullest use should be made.

The new Constitution and By-Laws of course reaffirm what has always been known, that ΦBK is a liberal arts society, by declaring that "only those students whose work has been definitely liberal in character and purpose shall be eligible to election," and by clearly excluding from the liberal category "training intended principally to develop skill or vocational techniques."

After the exhaustive discussions of the day the triennial banquet was held on Friday evening, and it is noteworthy in the annals of intellectual endurance that Senator Clark was able to survive the examination to which he had been subjected and return to give the address of the evening, "An Outsider Looks at Education," in which he surveyed education from a baby's elementary functions of breath and vocalism and swept from these on over the pedantic. Dr. M. L. Brittain presided at the banquet and Dr. James R. McCain, President of Agnes Scott College, gave a "Brief Survey of Higher Education in the South." The young ladies of the Agnes Scott Glee Club furnished the music. The banquet was the last of the social events at the Council and there, as on Thursday, the spirit of genial hospitality prevailed. One cannot compliment too highly the local committee and the institutions which acted as hosts on the success of their arrangements.

The closing session on Saturday morning was devoted to final action on the Constitution, to consideration of the Treasurer's report and of the budget, and to the elections which are reported elsewhere.

## Books to Own

The Book Committee: Zona Gale, Will D. Howe, Burton E. Livingston, Robert A. Millikan, Irita Van Doren.

*For the reader's convenience orders for any books or magazines will be filled prepaid by THE KEY REPORTER. A free introductory personal or gift subscription to The American Scholar will be sent with any order of at least \$6.00.*



### PEDLAR'S PROGRESS

#### THE LIFE OF BRONSON ALCOTT

By ODELL SHEPARD. Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1937. \$3.75.

Rarely does a definitive biography appeal to the general reader, especially when its hero is one whom the world has agreed to forget. But Professor Shepard's life of Bronson Alcott is at once definitive, readable, and original. Although the author had access to "ten times as many facts" as he could use, the book is definitive, because it includes everything that could conceivably interest the specialist, and presents it judiciously and accurately. It is readable, because the style is informal, yet forceful. It recalls to life the pale ghost of Bronson Alcott by skilfully fusing the facts of his career with the ideas of his writings (mostly unpublished), and setting them against the kaleidoscopic background of his time.

*Pedlar's Progress* is more than a biography; it was written "to illustrate the conviction . . . that America has always been, is now, and will continue to be, profoundly idealistic." This conviction gives purpose to the book, raising it above the dead level of factual biographies. But also it lays the book open to the criticism (already advanced by periodical reviewers) that the story is for idealists only. If this criticism has been refuted by practice, another question becomes more serious: Granted that America has always been idealist, what is the ideal which America in general, and Alcott in particular, has striven to realize?

Professor Shepard never satisfactorily answers this question. He speaks of the "integrity" of Alcott's mind, but fails fully to integrate his picture of that

mind. Only when he discusses Alcott's philosophy of "Personalism" (much like Royce's Philosophy of Loyalty) does he offer the clue. Alcott's thought was significant because, in contrast to Emerson's, it emphasized the social character of reality, the mutual responsibilities of individuals, and the importance of the community in modern life. His whole career, indeed, was organized about this idea — which explains his conversational method of teaching, his active participation in the transcendental reforms, and his profound personal influence upon his greater contemporaries. In its social aspects Alcott's thinking suggests that of our own times. Was this vague and improvident social idealist a forerunner of our New Deal? Professor Shepard suggests these, and many other attractive questions, without answering them. He may have been wise, however, in not going too far. Alcott himself was a very suggestive but inconclusive person.

FREDERIC I. CARPENTER, Harvard '24



"I admit your ΦBK key had me guessing at first."

The New Yorker, August 21, 1937

by John L. Beatty

ΦBK

## SWORDS IN THE DAWN

The first novel ever written with the earliest period of English speaking peoples as a background. At all bookstores. Illustrated \$2.00

LONGMANS,  
GREEN & CO.  
NEW YORK  
TORONTO

www.pdk.org



Mention of The Key Reporter will be mutually helpful

## NORTHWEST PASSAGE

By KENNETH ROBERTS. *Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., New York, 1937.* \$2.75.

In more settled times, Robert Rogers might have become a polar explorer or a Hollywood hero or a stock market plunger, for there was nothing selective in the blind flow of energy which pushed him into adventure. His actual career in colonial days ranged from real estate bubble-blowing in the wilderness to piracy in the Mediterranean.

However, it was as an Indian scout and fighter in the area between the French and the British rivals in North America in the decades just prior to the Revolution that Major Rogers became a legendary figure of enough vitality to serve as backbone for the latest Kenneth Roberts' historical novel, *Northwest Passage*.

For that we have to thank both the Major and Mr. Roberts. *Northwest Passage* is a fine meaty volume, all 700 pages of it, worthy of the wide approval it has already won.

The author explains that in the imagination "of all free people," the Northwest Passage means "a short cut to fame, fortune and romance," but to Major Rogers it meant a specific route to the Pacific which would enable him to outwit his enemies.

The Major won fame, fortune and romance following his 1759 expedition against the St. Francis Indians — a story of hardship and heroism that towers over the rest of the book — but his own excesses regularly plunged him in new hot water.

Finally, on the downgrade, Major Rogers is left to his fate by the ostensible hero of the book, a worthy young lad named Langdon Towne, who wants to look for his girl. It is a tribute to the character-drawing of Kenneth Roberts that as a reader we sympathize with red-headed Sergeant McNott, who snorts at Towne:

"A damned little spindle-shanked, snub-nosed waxwork, and you'll go skating and hollering all over hell's pigpen after her when the greatest fighter in the world is lying over there, chained to the ground and freezing!"

*Northwest Passage* is more than an adventure story revolving about that most understandable kind of hero, one with a quota of vices to balance his virtues. It is historical fiction done with something approaching realism. It has an authentic flavor.

O. R. PILAT, Amherst '26

## HARVARD BOOKS

## MYTHOLOGY AND THE ROMANTIC TRADITION

BY DOUGLAS BUSH

Written with unusual grace and lightness, this volume gives a comprehensive survey of modern English and American poetry and answers some of the questions that have vexed poets in our industrial age. \$5.00

## SALMANTINE LANTERNS

BY CARL KENNETH HERSEY

This beautifully illustrated study of the lantern domes in four mediaeval buildings in or near Salamanca is of practical importance to architects and will delight all readers interested in the development of Spanish art and architecture. \$7.50

## FIVE MEN

BY MARTIN P. CHARLESWORTH

By means of these character studies from the Roman Empire, the author has thrown a brilliant light upon the life of the energetic Romans in their days of imperial greatness. "There is much profit and diversion in this little book." — *Classical Weekly*. \$2.00

## WE AMERICANS

BY ELIN L. ANDERSON

Based on hundreds of personal interviews and salted with delicious humor, this book shows how the racial groups in one New England community are meeting the conflict between loyalty to their traditions and conformity to their new American surroundings. \$3.50

## CONCORD RIVER

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER

Illustrated by Frank W. Benson

A further selection from the diaries of William Brewster, one of the greatest American ornithologists, whose literary style and keen observation have led critics to place him alongside Thoreau, Muir, and Hudson. Three illustrations in color; nine in black and white. \$3.50

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS