

For Members Only

MIDAS. Reading annual bibliographies depresses us; they provide one more reminder that the Ivory Tower does not escape all the evils of the world outside. We believe in freedom of the press and we believe that good government depends upon an informed citizenry; but surely our generation is so overwhelmed by information, printed and spoken, that curiosity becomes sated, discrimination dulled; and the readiness of the trained intelligence to weigh A against B, or even C, eventually becomes wearied by an obtrusive alphabetical din. There is never good news because there is never *no news*; we have our daily adrenaline of headlines and our daily ration of over-seasoned happenings sandwiched between the ads. Who, after such surfeit, has the energy to search out the footprints of history? We crave relief from the omnipresence of print. In our Ivory Tower we should like once to be able to read a bibliography of published work in our field without a deep sense of frustration. Can anyone "keep up," to say nothing of reading for breadth and enjoyment? Gutenberg-Dionysus must smile at our confusion; everything we touch is published. These tired words you now read are our wished Pactolus.

WHO IS SILVER? What is he, that so many MLA members commend him for his efforts to make scholarly publishing easier, cheaper, and in any case more understandable to scholars? The ACLS expert on these matters lives in Greenwich Village, works in a Columbia University sublet on 117th Street, and sees his Washington staff-colleagues about once a month. Like his father before him, he is a native New Yorker, a graduate of Andover and Yale, and an ex-student at the Sorbonne. Out of a job in 1930, he caught on (at 35 cents an hour) at the Columbia University Press as a typist, and stayed for nearly eighteen years; in 1940 he set up the King's Crown Press division. Since most of his efforts were devoted to printing from type, he hates to be accused of having married the offset process or microfilm. He believes that specialized scholarly publishing must largely learn to get along without subsidies; that there is no Open Sesame for this; that while everybody waits for a purported printing revolution, much can be done right now by the efficient use of existing machines instead of waiting for a handout. His pet peeves: (1) economic pressure from administrations which forces scholars to write and publish when they are not ready to say anything; (2) what Eugene McCartney calls the studied avoidance of simplicity in scholarly writing; (3) anyone who thinks that because a piece of printed matter may have been produced by some auxiliary process it makes no difference how it looks; (4) on the other hand, enshrining the graphic arts at the expense of communication; (5) scholars who object to revising manuscripts so they can be printed more cheaply; (6) both those who object to microfilm on principle and those who think it solves everything. He is an evangelist at heart, and it was his mother's dearest wish that he go to China as a missionary. Either way he does not think that converts would have come easily.

IN A NAME. Twice recently (Feb. 3, Apr. 7) in its "Talk of the Town," a section which makes it one of our favorite serious magazines, the *New Yorker* has referred to the MLA as a society "which concerns itself with, *inter alia*, new words." On this misleading assumption it therefore calls to our attention such curious coinages as "canitics" (the science of hair coloring) and "Costello shot" (a television direction to concentrate on the subject's hands). While not ungrateful for notice in a literate place, we feel that we should call the attention of the *New Yorker* to the existence of such organizations as the American Dialect Society, the Linguistic Society of America, *et alii*. Since the MLA had been actively concerned with the study of non-ancient languages and literatures for forty years before a once new Yorker thought to put a monocle in his editorial eye, we also call attention to names ("modern language") which do not mean what they seem to mean when isolated from their history. Like the *New Yorker* the MLA is of course partly interested in the vagaries of current American English. Unlike the *New Yorker* the MLA has more than one tongue in its cheek.

LEAVEN. Members write: "I append my devil's bite in wishing you'd stop printing testimonials. They won't produce intimacy any longer but secure you your first enemies. Professors are kindly up to a point, not beyond." . . . "For Members

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Only' could be shorter and more factual." . . . "I dearly love *PMLA*, but the system of pagination really does bother me." . . . "I again urge that expenses be curtailed and dues returned to their former level. Why must *PMLA* be so large and contain so many over-specialized articles?" . . . "The criticism is widespread that *MLA* papers are not only dull and uninteresting (except to specialists listening to their specialties) but too many papers are meaningless. Too often scholars are the world's dullest writers and people. If they'd be brief it would help a lot." . . . "Why does the only part of *PMLA* which everybody reads have to be in such small, over-black, and hard-to-read type? Now if you would just reverse the two types and put the 'for God knows who' section in your modern black-letter, it would suit me fine. . . . Don't you think you could cut the proportion of French, German, and Spanish articles?" . . . "I was considerably taken aback by seeing an account of the forthcoming *MLA* Style Sheet, which may be a help for young writers, but which, if strictly adhered to, will destroy the style of more mature authors, and remove all 'flavor of language,' which depends on individual usage. . . . I see no objection to such inconsistency as the individual authors may produce . . . Why regiment them into uniformity? . . . Why cannot the author be allowed to spell and punctuate as he sees fit? I think we may assume that contributors to the *PMLA* will at least be literate. The more widely a form sheet is used, the more vicious it is." . . . "My only criticism of recent issues concerns the abundance of typographical errors. Can't something be done to eliminate them?" [Every article is proofread by (1) the author, (2) professional proofreaders, and (3) one of the editors. Nevertheless errors occur. We shall appreciate having our attention specifically called to any "abundance" of them.—ED.]

FLORILEGIUM. Members say: "*PMLA* takes on more and more fine literary personality without losing its seriousness of purpose." . . . "an additional vote of approval of the new departures in *PMLA*—by a mere graduate student . . . while studying at the Sorbonne this past year, I heard comments, almost all of them favorable, on this matter." . . . "I want to tell you how much I appreciate the 'For Members Only' section of *PMLA* as well as what I feel is a general improvement in tone in the journal as a whole." . . . "I have just finished delightfully reading 'For Members Only' in the Feb. *PMLA*. I would suggest extending such material to 30 or 40 pages." . . . "Best wishes for your continued efforts to make *PMLA* more informative and more entertaining." [This from a member who joined in 1901.—ED.] . . . "readable, informative, and ought to be good for the republic of letters." . . . I wish to compliment you on the revivification of *PMLA*. With her face lifted, the old gal is beginning to get positively seductive. It is almost too bad, for this was one publication I always could put on the shelf with a minimum of regret over not having time to read it. Now I find myself poring over some of its materials of general interest, both the short items and the longer addresses. I hope that one of the talks in the near future may be devoted to the role of linguistics in modern language education." . . . "The whole standard of *PMLA* seems to me marvelously improved. And I enjoy 'For Members Only.' You should receive congratulations from every member, I think." [This member joined in 1913.—ED.] . . . "May I take this opportunity of telling you how much I do enjoy *PMLA* of late? I always read 'For Members Only' first—is that a confession?—and have received much help and inspiration from those jottings. . . . I am a firm believer that 'this writing business is a serious one but need not be a solemn one.' Too many scholars are stuffy." [This from a Sister.—ED.] . . . "I still think that 'For Members Only' is by itself worth what I pay as annual dues." . . .

PROGRAM HOGS. A former member of the *MLA* Executive Council writes: "heartfelt approval of your paragraph on program hogs. One of the dullest papers of the last meeting droned on interminably for more than forty-five minutes, when the oaf who was reading it was supposed to have twenty minutes only. I propose that such people be sentenced to attend every consecutive session of papers for three full days of the next meeting. That ought to cure them for life of either reading or listening to papers."

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ENGLISH VIII. Topic for the 1951 meeting: "18th-century novelists and their novels." Members wishing to offer papers on this topic should communicate with Rufus Putney (Univ. of Colorado).

INCOME TAX. We have been reliably informed that last year the Treasury Department reversed its previous ruling for the Fulbright *research* category awards, now declared exempt from income taxes; that only Fulbright "lecturers" abroad are still liable; and that the Department of State therefore plans to make some dollars available under the Smith-Mundt Bill, which makes it possible to relieve the burden of taxation upon the lecturers. The work of the "researchers" has been officially pronounced "analogous to that of advanced students" in receipt of "gifts." The 1951 deadline for most Fulbright applications is October 15.

LINGUISTS. The ACLS is compiling a roster of linguists who have had academic training in descriptive linguistics and experience with languages other than those ordinarily taught in the American college curriculum, since the ACLS is frequently asked by government agencies to make recommendations of such personnel. Members having the qualifications noted above are requested to send a brief biographical sketch to Norman A. McQuown (Sec., ACLS Committee on the Language Program), Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.

NEW ASSOCIATION. Nineteen American members of MLA attended the first International Conference of University Professors of English, held at Magdalen College, Oxford, August 25-30 of last year: R. C. Bald, Dorothy Bethurum, R. P. Bond, William G. Crane, David Daiches, Mary E. Giffin, W. Cabell Greet, Merritt Y. Hughes, Helge Kökeritz, Kemp Malone, William Matthews, Baldwin Maxwell, Anna J. Mill, William D. Paden, F. M. Salter, George Sherburn, A. L. Strout, Ruth Wallerstein, and A. S. P. Woodhouse. Prominent on the program were papers by Professors Francis R. Johnson (read in his absence by Hughes), Malone, and Woodhouse. The next Conference is scheduled to be held in Paris in 1953. The interim Consultative Committee consists of Professors C. L. Wrenn (Oxford), *chairman*, R. W. Zandvoort (Groningen), *secretary*, Malone, Sherburn, Woodhouse, Louis B. Wright, C. A. Bodelsen (Copenhagen), G. Bullough (London), W. Clemen (Munich), and A. H. Koszul (Strasbourg). As a move to "ensure continuity in the organisation of succeeding Conferences and strengthen the interests of English studies in all countries," it is now proposed that an Association of University Professors of English be formed, the annual subscription not to exceed £1.1.0.

STUDY ABROAD. This is the title of UNESCO's international handbook of fellowships, scholarships, and study grants (\$1.25 from the Columbia Univ. Press), Volume III of which, recently published, lists more than 30,600 foreign study opportunities, approximately one-third of which are available to U.S. citizens.

ENGLISH INSTITUTE. This year it will meet at Columbia University on Sept. 5-8. The program consists of four conferences of four sessions each: "Aristotle's *Poetics* and Modern Criticism," directed by Philip Wheelwright (Dartmouth) with papers by himself, Francis Fergusson (Princeton), Elder Olson (Chicago), and Reuben A. Brower (Amherst); "Sources and Analogues," directed by Northrup Frye (Toronto) with papers by Josephine Bennett (Hunter), Harold Wilson (Toronto), Frederick Sternfeld (Dartmouth), and Marshall McLuhan (Toronto); "Explication as Critical Method," directed by George Arms (New Mexico) with papers by Austin Warren (Michigan), John P. Kirby (Randolph-Macon), Richard H. Fogle (Tulane), and William K. Wimsatt, Jr. (Yale); "Manuscript into Text: Problems in Editing a Mass of MSS," directed by Louis B. Wright (Folger) with papers by Norman Pearson (Yale), Herman E. Spivey (Kentucky), Thomas H. Johnson (Lawrenceville), and Helene M. Hooker.

PEDANTRY. We invited definitions. Jack A. Posin (Stanford) contributes this: "A pedant is a person who bewails the loss of the hair while his head is being cut off." (Posin thus gives reverse English to an old Russian proverb: "Sniavshi golovu, po volosam ne plachut.")

ACLS

FACULTY STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

Special Series, 1951-52

PURPOSE. The ACLS regular Faculty Study Fellowships provide opportunities for scholars to enlarge the range of their knowledge by study in fields outside their special interests and thus to become better interpreters of significantly broad aspects of humanistic studies. The ACLS is now able to offer an additional number of Faculty Study Fellowships in a special series for 1951-52. These awards, intended to serve a similar purpose but under somewhat modified conditions, will be *limited to faculty members of colleges or universities compelled to reduce teaching staffs for 1951-1952.*

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NOMINEE. The nominee must have demonstrated a high degree of scholarly competence in a specialty within the humanistic area of learning, including philology, languages, literature, linguistics, and folklore. He must show a desire to broaden the basis of his scholarship by planning study in a field which has *not been an important part of his educational experience*, but a deep interest in which has grown out of his previous special interest and training. This new field need not fall within the humanities. The candidate's college or university experience at the faculty level must promise, if it does not already demonstrate, distinction as a teacher and scholar. The candidate must have a Doctorate of Philosophy or its equivalent and at least two years' college or university teaching experience as an instructor or above. Fellowships are open to qualified men and women who are citizens of the United States.

NATURE OF THE AWARDS. An award may be made for *full or part-time study* during the regular academic year but in no case for less than one-third time. Sti-

pends will be estimated so that the ACLS contributes to the individual that proportion of his annual salary which is equal to the proportion of time devoted to the proposed plan of study. During the tenure of the award it is not expected that the Fellow can become an "expert" in the field of knowledge he has undertaken to study. The awards are not primarily for research aimed at publication, although it is believed that subsequent research will often show the broadening results of the new experience. The scholar is expected to pursue his studies through the facilities of his own campus, whenever this is possible. In cases where travel for study at another institution may appear to be absolutely essential to the scholar's plan, requests for contributions by the ACLS toward these costs will be considered.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE. Nominations for these fellowships will be received *only from the President of the institution.* Interested members of the faculty should consult appropriate officials of their college or university. In addition to the Nomination Form, the President will be requested to submit an evaluation of the proposed plan of study from the point of view of the personal development of the nominee and of its value to the nominating institution. The President should also indicate the way in which an award would alleviate reduction in staff. Although *the nominee need not be among those facing separation*, the President must give specific assurance that the amount of the ACLS stipend will be used *to retain faculty members who might otherwise be released.*

Requests for Nomination Forms should be made immediately to the Secretary for Fellowships, AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES, 1219 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

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LOYALTY. At our Business Meeting last December a resolution passed expressing disapproval of "present unsatisfactory tenure conditions for teachers and research personnel in the state university system of California" (Feb. *PMLA*, p. 143). On April 6 the State Appellate Court, in a unanimous decision, held the University of California loyalty oath invalid, and ordered the Board of Regents to rehire eighteen professors who had refused to sign a special non-Communist pledge as a condition of employment.

PROTEST. On April 9 a member wrote: "Inasmuch as I was at another meeting when the MLA business meeting was being held, and inasmuch as a resolution was passed which I was unaware of until I read of it in *PMLA*, I should like to register this protest, both of the nature of the resolution and the method employed to secure approval of it. The resolution concerns the boycotting of the University of California, and the method employed was to introduce the resolution at the last minute at a meeting in which 150 of the 7,000-odd members were able to carry a motion for its approval. I do not think that matters of sweeping policy should be thus determined. . . . The fact that 75 of the 225 members present voted against the resolution indicates that the matter should have been considered more seriously and submitted in writing to the full membership. I noticed that news reports last week gave the impression that the whole organization agreed to boycott the University. This error should be speedily corrected, since most of the members did not know the resolution would even come up. If there is nothing in the constitution to require official notice of such proposed resolutions, there should be. . . . In my opinion it is unfair to use slick parliamentary procedures to exercise the pressure of vast organizations to put into effect the private convictions of a very few members. . . . I should be perfectly willing to submit to the wishes of a fair majority or else to resign on principle. A procedure of the kind effected at the December convention leaves no alternative because it does not represent the attitude of the whole association or even of an actual majority of that association. I know of other professional groups who have employed the same tactics and I wish to register a resounding protest."

CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIPS. The Royal Society of Canada (National Research Building, Ottawa) offers annual scholarships of \$2,500 each for postdoctoral research in literature and allied fields, to be carried on outside of Canada. Only Canadians are eligible to apply, and preference is given to scholars under thirty-five. Applications are due not later than February 1. For details write to the Secretary of the Royal Society.

MEMBERS ABROAD. John E. Englekirk is currently Director of the Paris office of the Institute of International Education (173 Boulevard St Germain, Paris vi). William White will be at the University of Dijon from June 1951 until September 1952. Donald Stauffer will be Eastman Professor at Oxford University from September 1951 until September 1952.

GOING ABROAD? We repeat our offer to write letters for members, identifying them as such and certifying their scholarly interests, with a view to facilitating their negotiations with foreign librarians and archivists.

ESSAYS IN CRITICISM. This new quarterly will be distributed in the U. S. by the Michigan State College Press (Box 752, East Lansing, Mich.); annual subscription: \$2.25. American scholars wishing to submit articles for publication should address them to Professor A. J. M. Smith, Assistant Editor, at this address. The Editor: F. W. Bateson. *Essays in Criticism* began life in January.

LITERALLY. Contrary to what some readers may imagine, the *MLA Style Sheet* is quite literally a sheet—the second in the April number. *PMLA* is regularly printed on sheets of paper 39½ by 51 inches, in 32-page forms.

REVIEW OF REVIEWING. Many members will wish to read George Sarton's provocative "Notes on the Reviewing of Learned Books," in *Isis*, XLI (July 1950), 149-158.

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VIGNETTE I. Kemp Malone of Johns Hopkins, member of the MLA Executive Council (1949-52), is one of the relatively small number of persons whom God made scholars. He lisped in learning, got his A.B. at the age of eighteen, and, after pursuing graduate study at the Universities of Copenhagen, Iceland, Princeton, and Chicago, he took all linguistic and literary knowledge as his province. He has just given birth to a book on Chaucer and is big with another one (a "selective variorum") on *Beowulf*; he has edited *Widsith* and Sidney Lanier, *MLN*, *American Speech*, and a journal of classical philology; he has written sonnets and sestinas, etymologies, *The Literary History of Hamlet*, *The Phonology of Modern Icelandic*, and *Dodo and the Camel*. His large library overflows not only with quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore but with various translations of the Arabian Nights, with the New York edition of Henry James, the Linguistic Atlas of the United States, contemporary novels, and other light reading. His sixty-two years have not dimmed his eyes or dulled his enjoyment of life; he is fond of music and, as a Southern gentleman should be, of the ladies, of entertaining and dining out, of introducing debutantes at the Bachelors Cotillion. He drinks but does not smoke or chew. His boxing and mountain-climbing days are over, but he still likes to swim and take long walks. He detests motoring. He is a member of all linguistic, folklore, and medieval organizations, of the American Geographical Society, the Society of American Historians, the American Society for Aesthetics, the History of Science Society, the American Philosophical Society, and (whatever that may mean) the Sögufjelag Islands. [This is the first of a series of word-portraits of members of the Executive Council. For most of the above our thanks go to R. D. H.—ED.]

FOOTNOTES. We were curious and so we counted again. In the four regular numbers of *PMLA* during 1950 there were more than 300 pages—enough to make an entire issue—devoid of footnotes. We still offer no prizes for footnoteless articles, but we continue to applaud those scholars who hold bottom-of-the-page documentation to a sensible minimum.

PROMOTION. That reply postcard you have received from us, asking about your interest in scholarly books—please check the appropriate squares and start it back to us if you have not already done so. On several questionnaires MLA members have said vigorously that the Association should continue to publish books, but it is a fact that no book is published merely by printing it and making it "available." Persons *probably* interested in its subject matter must somehow be told about it. Even the best commercial publishers worry about how to do this, and when a book is deliberately addressed to a very small audience, the problem becomes more vexing. It can be solved for the MLA only with your help. Please.

NEWTON INVITES THE MUSE. Although no apple has fallen, we nevertheless propose to younger scholars the following Law of Gravity: When in doubt be serious. If your subject is itself humorous, don't have too many doubts. True wit and true scholarship are ever boon companions, but both call decorum master. A scholar's style should be worthy of, but not in competition with, his author's.

INITIALS AGAIN. When we received the February 23, 1951, bulletin of the National Conference for Mobilization of Education, we read, in a fatalistic mood, a proffered "Emergency Alphabet" of initial abbreviations created by "public usage." We observed that ODM stood for either Office of Defense Manpower or Office of Defense Mobilization, and that TC stood for either Tariff Commission or Transport Council. We knew it would come to this. In compiling the MLA Style Sheet we had found the *American Journal of Philology* and the *American Journal of Psychology* both claiming the initials *AJP*, and when the *American Scholar* had asked for the initials *AS* we were almost glad that Allen Walker Read, Acting Editor of *American Speech*, continued to ignore both our letters and our telephone messages. The editors of *Archivum Linguisticum* narrowly averted documentary identification with *American Literature* by asking to be called *Arch. Ling.* We ourselves shunned further confusion by writing to the *Hispanic Review* but not the *Hudson Review*, the *Romantic Review* but not the *Russian Review*.

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THE MARCH NUMBER. One member wrote: "Where do you get such stuff? . . . Do you really think that thing of Benziger's was worth publishing? Secord seems really to have something to report that could be of interest to more than a half dozen people . . . Interesting to see youngsters like Peckham rediscovering literary history—but is it worth while to publish their term papers? Or are you now competing with *The Explicator*? . . . Perhaps what makes this number of *PMLA* look so unreadable to me is the scarcity of footnotes. I like footnotes, like to read 'em, and look upon most scholarly treatises as simply methods of organizing them. . . . Footnotes are worth every cent they cost. They are the vitamins in the tomato—the text is the colored water." Another member wrote: "The March issue, which I've just read almost entirely, is in my opinion one of the finest numbers of *PMLA* which I've ever seen. Most of the articles are key studies; they bring to bear a critical intelligence on a scholarly body of material, and they are definitely useful. I've recommended to my survey of English literature course that they look at the first two articles especially. I suggest that MLA members put *PMLA* to work, not only with their graduate, but with their undergraduate courses; as these undergraduates advance, *PMLA* could become a central factor in their education."

ARTICLES submitted to *PMLA* during 1951 can be published within approximately nine months of their acceptance by the Editorial Committee. We are now filling the March 1952 issue.

SUBSCRIBERS. Early in April, J. Max Patrick (Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.) wrote us: "Thank you for the notice about *17th-Century News* in [the March] *PMLA*. It brought in about 30 new subscribers—a real help." We should now report that this informative newsletter (\$1 p.a.) has grown fat: the March issue was 16 pages, with special departments dealing with music, history, science, philosophy, etc.

GRANTS IN AID. At its last meeting the Executive Council guaranteed the Committee on Research Activities a minimum annual sum, amounting to 5 percent of the dues received from members, to be expended for grants in aid of research. Applications (on forms available from the Secretary of the Association) will be reviewed each year after November 1 and March 1; urgent requests, or requests for small amounts, can be considered in the interim. Single grants will rarely exceed \$500. (The most recent grant was \$300 to H. Bunker Wright for the preparation of a critical edition of the literary works of Matthew Prior.) Many applications must be rejected by the Committee because the requests are *not specific enough* or the indication of real need is unclear. General requests for aid in "travel" or "secretarial assistance," unless accompanied by details and specific estimates, stand little chance of favorable consideration.

DUES. Have you paid yours? If your \$7 is not received by July 1, your name will have to be dropped from all lists. *Exceptions:* We are a learned society, not a business, and members who simply cannot pay by July 1 will be retained on the lists if they inform the Treasurer of their intention to pay by a specific date during the summer. Your silence, on the other hand, will have to be interpreted as an intention to drop your membership. It is unfair to those who send in their dues faithfully year after year to send more than four *free* copies of *PMLA* to those who intend to resign but do not take the trouble to tell us so. Checks should be made payable to the Modern Language Association.

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWS. The following members were among those awarded fellowships for 1951-52: Alfred Adler (Central Mich. Coll.), Amado Alonso (Harvard), Lily B. Campbell (UCLA), James L. Clifford (Columbia), Thomas W. Copeland (Chicago), André B. Delattre (Penn.), Herbert Dieckmann (Harvard), E. T. Donaldson (Yale), Norman E. Eliason (North Carolina), Joyce Hemlow (McGill), H. E. K. Henel (Wisconsin), Ruth L. Kennedy (Smith), Cecil Y. Lang (Yale), W. Dougald MacMillan (North Carolina), Luis Monguío (Mills), Walter F. Naumann (Wisconsin), Walter J. Ong (Boston, Mass.), George W. Stone, Jr. (George Washington), Ernest L. Tuveson (California), Claude A. Vignée (Brandeis), René Wellek (Yale).

Come Seven

PARDON us for reminding you that seven dollars is a lot of money, not easily produced from professorial wallets, to say nothing of the pockets of graduate students and instructors. We know what seven dollars will buy today. With seven dollars (and a little luck) you can rent a room over night in a large hotel, or you can purchase a couple of books or take your wife to a play or buy her a dinner in a good restaurant.

MAYBE you can buy two shirts or one shoe. Certainly you can buy a cheap Ronson lighter, or an Adam hat, or an Arrow sports shirt, or two Peter Pan "bras," or half of a Parker pen (to mention some nationally-advertised items). You can even have a year's subscription to the *New Yorker*. Or you can take a train trip (coach) from New York to Baltimore (200 miles).

LET us add that MLA dues for 1951 are also seven dollars, and that on May 1 about 2,000 members were still in arrears. To paraphrase the old proverb, money makes the MLA go, and as Pepys once said, "It is pretty to see what money will do." Your seven dollars brings you almost 2,000 pages of *PMLA* each year, not to mention other services—and not to mention your support of committee work, the compilation of a style sheet, and additional surveys, compilations, and reports. (Thank you.)

AS someone said, "The ideal income is \$1,000 a day—and expenses." We know that academic salaries fall short of any ideal. But we remind you that your seven dollars paid to the MLA each year buys you *more*—not less—than it did a few years ago. We are proud of this record, just as we were proud of holding dues at five dollars from 1928 to 1948, when costs of everything were rising. It is difficult, however, for us to plan each year until we know the extent of your support. *Quis tardius solvit, minus solvit.*

WILLIAM R. PARKER, *Secretary*

SCHIZOPHRENIA. When is a scholar not a scholar? We know a number of answers to this question, but momentarily we are not so much interested in diaper-changing, dish-wiping, fishing, or canasta as we are in another, more significant (if some Old Critics will pardon our language) dichotomy of the scholarly psyche. We have in mind the readiness of many of us to be exploratory and lively in the classroom, but to be cautious and carefully dull in print; to teach literature as a thing of relevant wisdom and delight, but to write about it as a thing *only* of sources, biographical details, and wiredrawn classifications. Is this because our students are flattering in their credulity, incapable of challenging our pet generalizations, generous in their estimates of our judgment and experience? Or is it because we feel that the scholar's and the teacher's functions must be rigorously distinguished, the former to be forever divorced from value judgments or any relevancy that smacks of usefulness? Whatever the cause, we have seen enough of this separation to be unmoved by those who argue that most scholars are insensitive to the art they study. We have also seen enough of it to wonder when more of our mature scholars are going to find courage to show their fellows (at least) the perceptions, the intuitions, and the scope of understanding which they often show their students. To say this is not to say that *PMLA* would welcome 6,500 sets of refurbished lecture notes.

TEACHERS COLLEGES. We left them out when we hurriedly compiled our list of department chairmen (Feb. *PMLA*, p. 310), and several good MLA members have scolded us. We were particularly interested in what one had to say: "So far as I know, most teachers of foreign languages and English in teachers colleges come from the graduate schools of universities. We, for instance, have a staff of twenty-eight. . . . When we make a full-time appointment, we are likely to go outside this area, with the idea that we try to avoid too much inbreeding. The other teachers colleges in this state have the same procedure in filling vacancies. I am inclined to think more graduate students and young men and women have a chance at positions in teachers colleges than in church and private institutions because of the larger departments of the former and the greater likelihood of the latter to employ their own graduates."

QUESTION. In the course of four crowded years of college can any except a few talented students learn to teach *two* different foreign languages in high school? And if not, are present educational assumptions and practices warranted?

LIST OF MEMBERS. Our familiar, much used address book for the profession, long published in the February or March issue of *PMLA*, will next year be published as a separate pamphlet *late in September*. Chief reason: most of the addresses will hereafter be accurate for a twelve-month period. Secondary reason: we can do the compiling and proofreading with more care and at more leisure during the summer. When the Executive Council authorized this step, it also changed the present regulation regarding arrearages; the names of all members in arrears after July 1 will hereafter be dropped from the records of the Association, and such members will not receive the September *PMLA*.

NEWSLETTER. After the snows melt and another MLA meeting gets put away in mothballs, the newsletters spring up in the warmth of retrospect. The latest we have seen has grown out of one of the new "Conferences"—that on literature and psychology. Members interested in receiving news on this subject (current bibliography, work in progress, etc.) are invited to send a dollar (for six issues) to Leonard F. Manheim, 38 Fern St., Floral Park, L.I., N.Y.

EXPERIMENT. At our last meeting the Franco-German Literary Relations Group included in their program two brief (5 minutes) summaries of recent dissertations (by Edith Kern and William F. Roertgen). This device was considered so beneficial both to the audience and to the young scholars thus given their baptism of intellectual fire that it is being adopted by the German IV Group next December.

BOOKS FOR ITALY. The Ambrosiana Library of Milan, founded in 1609, was blazed in August of 1943—thirteen halls and 80,000 volumes destroyed. Books and periodicals are solicited from scholars throughout the world. Send them to the

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Educational Linguistic Hall, Ambrosiana Library and Art Gallery, 2 Piazza della Rosa, Milano, Italy (or through the Gondrand Shipping Co., 24 State St., New York 21). A similar request is made by the Milanese Linguistic Society (Univ. of Milan, via della Passione 12, Milano), which is collecting books and papers of linguistic interest and which acknowledges all donations on the bulletin that records sittings of the Society.

UNMENTIONABLE? A member writes: "Many thanks for the reminder that the 'younger generation' and its 'unmentionable needs' are not being overlooked. My February issue is already dog-eared, at least the five pages containing the list of department chairmen. As essential as the articles themselves in building morale among the younger members of the association—many of whom are isolated in out-of-the-way places—are features like that list of chairmen, the frequent descriptions of scholarships and grants, the hints on writing and preparation of MSS, and the encouragement that comes from a realization that the liberal arts are not, after all, a lost cause. May I suggest that the job-hunting which goes on more or less energetically every year be not quite so 'unmentionable,' and that sometime in the future we discuss it frankly? Many questions face the new Ph.D.: To join or not a commercial teachers' agency? To enclose or not a self-addressed, stamped envelope with an inquiry? To send out inquiries at all, or just to sit and wait for news of vacancies? And department chairmen ought to be reminded of some little matters which they have forgotten since their job-seeking days: little things like asking for official transcripts of college records (which may cost as much as three or four dollars a set if the candidate has attended several colleges) from candidates whom they have little intention of hiring, and the matter of returning these transcripts to unsuccessful candidates after appointments have been made. Ditto for photographs, and the even more serious matter of personal interviews. Some department chairmen deserve public commendation for passing on word of openings in other colleges, a real help and courtesy to a deserving candidate. Then the question of a department's responsibility for placing those who have earned its degrees needs to be discussed frankly, and successful procedures shared; and, of course, there will come some proposal for a nationwide agency to coordinate these activities, and we shall discuss its advantages and disadvantages. . . ."

FACULTY WIVES. To our continual surprise we learn occasionally of some who taste these hors d'œuvres. One such (unknown to us) recently wrote: "On the strength of the humor and humanity of your remarks in 'For Members Only' I enclose two snapshots of, possibly, the youngest 'reader' of *PMLA*. His age: eleven months." She added that her husband disapproved of her writing us. We sent the child, of course, a suitable Certificate, embossed with the Great Seal of the Association. We did not send the husband the rebuke he deserves. Most married members know that scholarship is an activity engaged in by human beings who can *also* produce photographs of babies as fast as you can say "Pamela." We are trustworthy men, who can write about incunabula without cribbing. We document our sources, and enjoy the patter of little footnotes. Our "field" is one of the humanities and we are, off duty and after our fashion, human.

DEDICATION. For reasons we shall leave unexpressed we enjoyed the dedication in Lambert Ennis' recent *Thackeray: The Sentimental Critic* (Northwestern Univ. Press, 1950): "To my two small daughters, who taught me that—legend notwithstanding—books can get written despite frequent and clamorous interruptions, and to my wife, who proved far stronger than Isabella Thackeray in resisting the temptation to interrupt."

PRESSURE. During the first 88 days of this year, 123 papers were submitted to *PMLA*: 61 in English, 18 in French, 8 in American, 8 in comparative, 7 in German, 7 in Spanish, and 2 in Italian literature.

LOSS. With deep regret we report the recent deaths of two valued members of the Editorial Committee for *PMLA*: Robert J. Menner (Yale) on April 4, and Edward K. Brown (Chicago) on April 23.