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# For Members Only

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**LIBERTY AND LICENCE.** The cordial invitation to join in the making of the MLA cooperative Style Sheet was not welcomed by all editors to whom it was extended. There were some who plainly suspected it to be a sinister attack on the rights of the individual—one more attempt at regimentation—a kind of editorial totalitarianism or, perhaps, scholarly New Deal. Our oldfashioned education may be at fault but we have always thought that persons who insisted on shaking hands with the *left* hand were the really sinister ones. We will defend to the last galley any author who writes in a way different from ours, but we insist that he do it with double spacing on his typewriter. True liberty, civil or stylistic, is possible only within a framework of law and convention. Let authors continue to practice stylistic individualism, but let them practice it hereafter with a decent respect for their editors, printers, and readers, upon all of whom, in the carbon-copy Society of Publishing, they are willy-nilly dependent. We are confident that the uniformity advocated in the MLA Style Sheet will faze no phrasemaker, stifle no true eloquence, discourage no scholar striving for distinctive utterance. It will not even, we fear, discolor a purple passage.

**PERSONALLY.** Beginning the compilation of the Style Sheet the Editor of *PMLA* informed all concerned that *PMLA* would adopt the practice of the majority *whatever that turned out to be*. If it were all to do again, we would take the same stand, although if we were ever to construct our own style sheet, it would differ in many respects. We prefer Arabic to Roman numerals; we don't like quotations of any length in reduced type (readers skip); we think that most writers over-punctuate; we used to write the possessive Keats' as well as Hopkins'; we have long held that periods and commas look as well *outside* as inside quotation marks; and we prefer documentation with the least possible punctuation (e.g., no colons or parentheses). Still, we shall happily adhere to the MLA Style Sheet hereafter, both in our editorial and in our personal practice. None of these things is worth arguing about. Not one is worth fighting for. We have been an editor long enough to know the heavy costs of inconsistency and, as for personal preferences, we prefer most of all to spend our time and energy on scholarship rather than the mechanics of scholarship.

**CONFIDENCE REGAINED.** The nearest we came to quitting in the long and sometimes discouraging compilation of the MLA Style Sheet was when we were sent galley proof of the Princeton University Press's *Memorandum for Authors, Editors, Compositors, Proofreaders, on the preparation of manuscripts and the handling of proof* (1950). This urbane, sensible, pleasantly written little pamphlet (21 pages) had many of the gracious qualities which we found it impossible to capture in a compilation involving the views and criticisms of more than 100 different editors. Not concerned with many of the problems facing learned journals, it could say: "Punctuation is an art and capitalization is an art; to attempt to change them into sciences is a futile occupation. The only positive rule for Princeton University Press in either category is REASONABLE CONSISTENCY. . . . We urge our authors to employ every means short of downright dishonesty to avoid use of roman numbers. They are an abomination to look at and, at least in the higher numbers, difficult to read." We took comfort, however, from other comments: "Everything should be double spaced. Everything should be double spaced. Everything should be double spaced. We really mean it, and this applies with special emphasis to quotations, footnotes, and bibliography. . . . existing style manuals, because of their attempt to provide for every possible contingency, are so voluminous that few people except their compilers really master them." And we agreed wholeheartedly with this, for it applies also to the "rules" in the MLA compilation: "These matters are not 'important' in a normal sense of the term; but they are important in cost—in annoyance and nervous energy and in actual dollars out of pocket for authors and publishers. . . . This memorandum, then, deals with what might be called the least important questions confronting authors and publishers. But it is precisely because of their relative unimportance yet their capacity for mischief-making that we should be able to take them in our stride. The effort, in other words, is to remove them from the problem category so that we can devote

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# On the Selling of Scholarly Books

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THE EDITOR'S plaint in this issue's For Members Only about the disappointing sale of Motter's *The Writings of Arthur Hallam*, published by the Association in 1943, comes to this commentator without any particular shock. There are all sorts of reasons why a good scholarly book does not sell well. Conceivably the book has not been pushed very hard; I'm sure the Editor thinks this. On the other hand, 1943 was hardly ideal. And possibly there are so few people interested in a man who was but twenty-two when he died that only libraries and not individuals have wanted the book. It may be that a sale of 203 copies is quite fair, all things considered. Sad to relate, there is not much market for specialized studies and editions in our field. Let's compare the sale of this book with some of its MLA neighbors.

From 1935 to 1945 the MLA published nineteen volumes with the aid of ACLS grants which totalled \$15,500, among them this title. They cost \$28,518.52 to manufacture, or slightly less than twice the amount of the grants. The average edition was 531 copies. Of the 10,089 books which resulted, 5,493 had been sold by the first of this year, an average of 289 copies per title. Three sold 400 copies or better (two going out of print in the process); six sold from 300 to 400 (one going out of print); eight sold from 200 to 300; and two sold from 100 to 200. The *Hallam* book is therefore not low man: it is preceded in its crepuscular procession by a work on Ludwig Tieck, and by another on old English glosses.

The total income from sales of these nineteen books has been \$17,419.72, figuring an average discount on each sale of 15%. This is 61% of the manufacturing investment. If to the cost of manufacture we had to add a 25% overhead charge (*not* made by the MLA but usually present at least to this extent elsewhere) the net income would have been slightly less than half the investment.

Do you think that this deficit is because the MLA cannot sell books? No, friends; specialized scholarly books just do not sell very well. The net income, after all expenses, from 49 titles published with the aid of ACLS grants by three first-rate university presses is 52% of the cost of manufacture. Some of these titles have been out only two or three years, so this percentage will increase; but it is hardly likely to exceed 60%.

That's the way things are today in specialized publishing in the Humanities. These are the facts. If we know them we shall be better off, for something can be done about it.

HENRY M. SILVER

*Adviser on Publications, American Council of Learned Societies*

our energy to matters of larger significance . . ." Finally, Princeton restored our full confidence in our own efforts by ordering 500 copies of the MLA Style Sheet without asking about the price.

**PRIZE.** The MLA does not yet offer annual prizes for excellence in scholarship, unless the MLA-Oxford and MLA-Macmillan Awards may be considered such; but this fact does not deter our members from capturing occasional prizes offered by other learned societies. Latest example: the award of the American Historical Association's John H. Dunning Prize to Henry Nash Smith for his *Virgin Land*.

**TEACHERS TAUGHT.** Beginning this fall the English Department at Indiana will require graduate students to take a seminar in the methods of teaching English composition, and will require its younger faculty members teaching freshman literature ("masterpieces") to participate in weekly seminars on the interpretation and teaching of great books. We realize that departments elsewhere have made similar experiments, and we shall be glad to be informed about them.

**MYTH?** It is often said that scholars wait for reviews before purchasing or recommending library purchases, that good reviews sell a book, and that bad ones make it a permanent storage problem. We wonder. In 1943 the MLA published a book and, to date, has sold exactly 203 copies of it. Howard Lowry (*MLN*, LIX, 426-427) called it an "admirable edition" whose "editorial comment is concise and intelligent." Edmund Blunden (*RES*, XIX, 437-438) said that for "his useful commentary" the MLA author "commands the name of a valuable editor. The book takes its place on the Tennyson shelf." Frederic E. Faverty (*JEGP*, XLII, 604-607) declared that the edition made "a highly significant contribution . . . to an understanding of Hallam, and through him to an understanding of Tennyson." Using such adjectives as "illuminating" and "skillful," and with praise for the editor's "careful workmanship," his "admirable restraint and judgment," the reviewer concluded that this is "a noteworthy addition to Victorian studies." Joseph E. Baker (*PQ*, XXIII, 95-96) thought it "certainly useful" to have Hallam's essays "more easily available." But, eight years later, they are, as a matter of publishing fact, *not* more easily available. We repeat: the book has sold exactly 203 copies. Does your library have one? Do you? The book is T. H. Vail Motter's *The Writings of Arthur Hallam, Now First Collected and Edited*, 346 pages, priced at \$3.50. Its production was made possible by (1) a small grant from the ACLS, (2) a Sterling Fellowship from Yale, (3) a leave of absence from Wellesley, (4) a careful examination by an MLA group of experts, (5) an official recommendation by the MLA Committee on Research Activities to the ACLS, (6) an ACLS subsidy with Carnegie funds, and (7) editorial work by the then MLA Secretary. Our warm thanks will go to any member who will tell us how we might have promoted this book without losing more money on promotion than we would have gained from resultant sales.

**USEFUL ADDRESSES.** Once more the April *PMLA* brings you a list of those addresses of publishers, societies, foundations, and other organizations which are so hard to find just when you need them. And once more we invite your suggestions on augmenting the list. We hope that this feature of the April number will prompt many persons to keep it on their desks, within reach, along with the (Feb.) List of Members.

**RASHER THAN BACON.** Those members who have been in the habit of thinking that literary scholarship suffers from the baleful influence of Science, or else of holding up the "scientific method" as a model for literary research, should note what the scientists are now saying about themselves. Men like President Conant of Harvard (e.g., in his recent *Science and Common Sense*) scoff at the notion that there is such a thing as any one scientific method, distinguish science from "accumulative knowledge," and stoutly deny that science is a quest for certainty. What is it then? It is a special point of view and an activity, dynamic and speculative; it happily embraces contradictory theories (e.g., the concepts of light as wave motion and as particles); it is an interconnected series of concepts and theories which are products of experimentation and observation and are productive of further experimentation and observation. Successful only to the extent that it is *continuous*, science owes much to intuition and inspiration, which can generate speculative ideas.

## For Members Only—Continued

**AMERICANISMS.** On March 30 the University of Chicago Press published Mitford M. Mathews' *Dictionary of Americanisms* (2 vols., \$50). This 2,000-page historical dictionary, six years in compilation, deals exclusively with the 50,000-odd American contributions to the English language. It contains words coming into the language first in the United States (raccoon, automobile, rocking chair), words old in English which have acquired new meaning here (faculty, amendment, refrigerator), terms first appearing in American but made by combining older terms (pay dirt, almighty dollar), phrases coined here (to play ball, his name is mud), American nicknames (the Show-me State), and slang expressions which have historical significance or have become well established (baloney, jazz, whoopee). The editor has been an MLA member since 1944, the year in which he began the *Dictionary*. The *DA* is a successor to, but not a revision of, the *Dictionary of American English*, which included all English words indicative of American culture. The *DAE* closed with 1900; the *DA* is current.

**COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION.** Membership, including subscription to the lively *CEA Critic*, costs \$2.50 a year. Write Maxwell H. Goldberg (Executive Secretary), Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

**MLA STYLE SHEET.** Because the MLA undertook this compilation and wishes to give it the widest possible distribution *as a service to the profession*, we are keeping the price as low as possible. We shall accept orders for the Style Sheet (a 32-page pamphlet) at the following rates: single copies, 10 cents each; 2 to 24 copies, 10 cents each; 25 copies, \$2.00; 26 to 49 copies, 8 cents each; 50 copies, \$3.50; 51 to 99 copies, 7 cents each; 100 copies, \$5.00; 101 or more copies, 5 cents each. Orders should be addressed to the Treasurer, 100 Washington Square East, New York 3.

**NEXT.** The 1951 Meeting is scheduled to be held in Detroit, Michigan, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 27-29. Any member of the Association may offer a paper to be read in either a Departmental Section or a Discussion Group meeting this year. Papers or notices of papers should be sent directly to the Chairman of the group or section concerned; his name and address may be found in the 1950 Proceedings, at the very end of the account of the particular group's program. The latest possible date at which proposals for the 1951 program can be received is October 1, but notice well in advance of this date is highly desirable, as programs are usually made up before the deadline; copy for the complete *Program* must reach the printers on October 15.

**SANCTUARIES.** "A number of nations have set up animal and bird sanctuaries out of a consciousness of their values to mankind. Would it not be reasonable to give thought to similar safeguards for the precious heritages of our civilization—the irreplaceable documents of the evolution of human society, the masterpieces of creative art in literature, painting, or sculpture, and other of man's cultural achievements which, in the event of another world war, might otherwise meet with overwhelming destruction. I propose, therefore, that the United Nations, perhaps through the United States delegation, put on the agenda of an appropriate committee, the subject of establishing all over the world, sanctuaries of human culture which would be under international protection. This proposal deserves consideration. It may be of invaluable service in times of crisis as a deterrent and effect, in at least a measure, some rescue. Moreover, a world concern with the creative achievements of civilization may lead to a vivid awareness of the values threatened by acts of international aggression, and marshal a universal resistance to a would-be aggressor." This is the complete text of a letter signed "S. Rubinstein," printed in the *N. Y. Herald Tribune*, Feb. 13, 1951. UNESCO has already developed a work plan for assuring, under its Constitution, "the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of art, and monuments of history and science." The first drafts on an international convention have been made, and it is proposed to establish five depositories in as many countries to house microfilms of precious documents prepared by *all* member countries.

**SHAKESPEARE NEWSLETTER.** Late in March this latest of a growing number of newsletters made its appearance. The Editor promises that each issue will contain

## For Members Only—Continued

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about 20 digests of articles on Shakespeare, reviews of current productions, notes of forthcoming books and articles, statistics of performances, teaching aids, queries, and occasional articles. Subscription is \$1 a year for 10 issues. Free copies of the first issues will be sent on request. Address Louis Marder, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

**SUPPORT.** During the fiscal year 1949-50 the Social Science Research Council accepted a total of \$950,720.82 in grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. During the same period the Council spent \$261,060.30 on fellowships and grants in aid, \$159,539.40 on projects designated by donors of funds, and \$146,207.80 on planning, administration, conferences, and committees.

**FROM TURIN.** Dr. G. M. Bertini asks us to draw the attention of members to *Quaderni Ibero Americani*, a literary periodical published under the auspices of the Italian Association for Cultural Relations with Spain, Portugal, and Latin America. Subscriptions are \$2 and may be sent through Stechert or directly to Dr. Bertini (Via Maria Vittoria, 23, Turin, Italy).

**GERMAN III.** The MLA Age of Goethe Group, for its 1951 meeting, would like to receive papers on the earlier 18th century and on literary figures other than Goethe. Write to Stuart P. Atkins (Harvard), chairman.

**TOO BIG.** Members write: "The 1950 meeting was a great success, one of the best I can remember. The only complaint I heard was a tremendously serious one, that the *Programs* were too big to go in a suitcoat pocket." . . . "Would it be possible to cut the margins and/or the type-page of the *Program* so that the thing would slip into a man's side coat pocket? The greater ease in handling and carrying the *Program*, and the diminished likelihood of losing one's copy every time one has to lay it down, would seem to me cogent arguments for the smaller size." [The MLA saves nearly \$1,000 each year by letting type stand on the *Program*, correcting it after the meeting, and using it again for the Proceedings. Some members have learned to fold the *Program* and thus carry it in their pockets.—ED.] . . . "The recent New York meeting seemed to me a great success both quantitatively and in quality—the papers I was able to listen to had the highest batting-average of any I have heard in twenty years of nearly-annual attendance. But I must confess that the wear-and-tear of shoving myself through the generally unattractive torsos of the 4,000 members and their wives who packed the halls and deafened the air of the Statler almost got me down. I have never attended a meeting where I glimpsed so many old friends and was able to find and talk satisfactorily with so few. Everyone I have talked to who attended the meeting had similar experience and concluded, with me, that it was a grand meeting 'but just too big'."

**SUPPLY.** Members may be interested in the following statistics from *Higher Education* (Dec. 1950). During the period from July 1, 1949, to June 30, 1950, American institutions turned out exactly 398 new Ph.D.'s in the modern languages. The distribution: in English, 230 (181 men, 49 women); in foreign languages, 168 (135 men, 33 women)—French 53, German 40, Spanish 34, Russian 7, other languages 34. Query: Is the supply adequate to tomorrow's demand?

**ONOMASTICS.** The 3rd International Congress of Toponymy and Anthroponymy set up a permanent International Centre of Onomastics (Prof. H. J. van de Wijer, Director, Instituut voor Naamkunde, E. van Evenstraat 10, Louvain, Belgium), entrusted with the editing of *Onoma*, a bibliographical and information bulletin. The first volume (1950) contained, in addition to reports and communications, the first of a series of retrospective onomastic bibliographies (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany) to be published in future volumes. After the completion of the basic bibliography, annual bibliographies will keep readers informed about onomastic publications in the various countries.

**MOVING.** Members planning to change their addresses in the autumn are urged to inform the MLA Treasurer during the early summer, before the mailing list for the September *PMLA* is prepared.



# Behind Style

MEMBERS may be interested to know how the MLA Style Sheet was compiled. The idea was one of several cherished by your Secretary when he accepted the post. In 1948 the *PMLA* Editorial Committee approved the plan; early in 1949 the Committee on Research Activities and the Executive Council also approved. The next problem was to find enough time for all the investigation, correspondence, and compilation. During the spring and early summer of 1950 a study was made of a number of style sheets and manuals, and of the stylistic practices of many journals in the MLA field. An eclectic, tentative style sheet was then composed in an attempt to express *majority usage*. This was mimeographed—with three-inch, right-hand margins, for annotation—and mailed on July 7 to the editors of nearly seventy journals, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The covering letter explained that the project was primarily a *compilation*. Editors were therefore asked to note on the mimeographed sheets any instructions *not* acceptable to their journals, so that all variant practices could be accurately recorded and a “variorum” style sheet result. Criticisms and suggestions were invited. In the same letter the Editor of *PMLA* said: “This is not, therefore, another scheme to achieve uniformity, although . . . the new *PMLA* style will try to serve the interests of our profession by following the practice of the majority of journals in its field, and first we need to learn what that is.”

By October 23 forty-nine journals had reported and, to the delighted surprise of the compiler, twenty-four had expressed their intention of joining *PMLA* in its unqualified acceptance of the majority practice, whatever that turned out to be. A Second Draft was at once prepared, exhibiting both the majority practice and the variants reported. This was mimeographed and sent to all the cooperating journals, with significant changes from the first draft marked in red, with all passages pertinent to its reported style marked in blue on the copy sent to each journal, and with specific queries by the compiler. A covering letter asked for the prompt return of an enclosed Acknowledgment Sheet, as a final check on the accuracy of the compilation. This Second Draft was subsequently sent, with personal letters, to the editors of journals which had failed to reply to the first, and also to the editors of some additional journals.

The decision to include the university presses came late in October, and only as a result of the interest expressed by some press people who had discovered what was happening. This tardiness, and the nature of the enterprise, unfortunately made it impossible to include instructions on several matters (e.g., prefaces, illustrations, bibliographies, indexes) which the presses wished included. These instructions can perhaps be added in revised editions of the Sheet.

The final draft was prepared during January and mailed to the printers on February 9. It embodied the results of correspondence with more than 120 editors, and left its compiler thoroughly convinced of the values of cooperative effort among scholars in the humanities.



**RETIREMENT.** According to the MLA Constitution, “persons who for 25 years or more have been members in good standing may, on retiring from active service as teachers, be continued as members without further payment of dues.” But you will need to remind us that you are entitled to become a Life Member Emeritus. It is only by chance that your Secretary can occasionally persuade a member not to retire just as he is about to be exempt from all dues.

**NEW JOURNAL.** In March *Midwest Folklore* made its appearance, superseding *Hoosier Folklore*. To the editor, W. Edson Richmond (Indiana Univ.), and to all connected with the venture, best wishes for successful publishing.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE.** During January a Slavic Division was established in the Reference Department of the Library of Congress, having reference, bibliographical, and research responsibilities similar to those of other “area divisions” in the L. C. The new Division’s area of responsibility, which includes “certain non-Slavic areas as a matter of administrative convenience” (L.C. General Order No. 1462), comprises the U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania, and Yugoslavia.

**ECCLES.** xii.12. During 1950 thirty-four university presses published a total of 748 books, 7.5 percent of the 9,973 books by 313 publishers covered in the annual PW survey. MLA members with MSS nearing completion may be interested in some of the 1950 figures: Harvard 93, Columbia 85, Princeton 57, Chicago 50, Yale 44, California 38, Stanford 30, Cornell 26, Illinois 26 (15 in 1949), North Carolina 23, Minnesota 22, New Mexico 20 (8 in 1949), Pennsylvania 20, Duke 19 (8 in 1949), Oklahoma 19, Johns Hopkins 18 (9 in 1949), Rutgers 16, Michigan 15, Iowa State 12, Pittsburgh 11 (5 in 1949), Catholic 11, Georgia 11, Texas 11, Syracuse 10, Washington 8, Denver 7, Louisiana State 7, New York 7, Nebraska 6, Kansas 6, Alabama 5, American 5, Florida 5, Wisconsin 5.

**REQUEST.** To our continued amazement, members and, once in a while, even persons on *PMLA*’s Editorial Committee ask us if papers read at an MLA meeting can be considered for *PMLA*. *PMLA* originally published *all* such papers and still trusts that the *best* of them will appear in its pages. Is any other place more appropriate? We urge you to go up to the speaker whenever you hear an unusually good paper at an annual meeting, and say to him, “That was good enough for *PMLA* and I look forward to seeing it there within the year.”

**UNRIPE GRAPES.** “The most critical years in a scholar’s career are the early ones in which he launches upon the productive and literary work by which he must stand or fall in his profession.” These wise words were spoken last October by the president of Yale in accepting an anonymous gift of \$1,000,000 earmarked for research in the humanities. The money will be used to give younger faculty members leaves of absence at stipends equal to their usual salaries. We heartily congratulate Yale and our younger members there, and we reflect, not for the first time, on the fact that national organizations devoted exclusively to research in the humanities rarely if ever receive such royal gifts. Some colleges and universities do a fine job of encouraging scholarship; others, many others, do not. Will it ever occur to some wealthy person, who wishes to give or leave money to support humanistic studies, that a *national* organization like the MLA or the ACLS might do a somewhat less limited job of it than will Alma Mater? Since this paragraph is “For Members Only,” we are, of course, just letting off steam.

**APOLOGY.** The Secretary of the Association regrets very much that a number of members who tried to confer with him during the 1950 convention were unable to do so. Our annual meeting provides a perfect opportunity for various committees to do business without expense to the Association, and the Secretary found it necessary to attend six such gatherings (he failed to get to a seventh) in addition to routine checking of convention details. Hereafter he will try to announce, and keep, definite “office hours.”



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**I DECLINE TO ACCEPT.** Receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature on December 10, 1950, William Faulkner said, in part: "Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only the question: When will I be blown up? Because of this, the young man or woman writing today has forgotten the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself which alone can make good writing because only that is worth writing about, worth the agony and the sweat. He must learn them again. . . . Until he relearns these things, he will write as though he stood among and watched the end of man. I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure . . . I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. The poet's, the writer's, duty is to write about these things. . . . The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail."

**PERSPECTIVE.** To attend an annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies is to be reminded again that the MLA is a large society with a large "field," for at ACLS get-togethers one may encounter good MLA friends like Harcourt Brown, Curt Bühler, Archibald Hill, MacEdward Leach, Sturgis Leavitt, Taylor Starck, Freeman Twaddell, Jere Whiting, and Louis Wright, there representing such special disciplines as bibliography, folklore, linguistics, medieval studies, or the history of science. But at the ACLS sessions one also encounters distinguished orientalist, historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, economists, philosophers, sociologists, and many others—and it is good to be reminded, at least annually, that there is unity, partly real, partly potential, in all humanistic studies, and that the MLA is but one of numerous disciplines concerned essentially with the study of Man.

**RESEARCH IS NOT ENOUGH.** This is the title of a recent ACLS pronouncement, published in its *Newsletter* (Dec. 1950). It provided a springboard for a whole morning's discussion on the "popularization" of the humanities when the Council of Learned Societies met last January. We were present and remarked the fact (indeed, it was the first such experience for us) that not a single delegate of any of the twenty-four constituent societies, during the entire discussion, spoke a word *against* popularization. Many delegates were eloquent in urging that scholars must learn to write for a wider audience—must learn to give thought to the social significance of their research. It was generally agreed that humanists were making but slight use of the many channels of communication available to them. We would have spoken up and mentioned the MLA-Macmillan and MLA-Oxford contests were it not for the unhappy fact that in 1950 there was not a MS submitted which the MLA judges considered worthy of a prize. Mr. Alfred Knopf remarked at the ACLS meeting that most scholars simply don't know how to write—and won't learn. We are still hoping to prove him wrong.

**GREENER GRASS.** Those MLA members who have talked wistfully of "taking a little time off" to learn something about an allied field like philosophy or history or fine arts, and have thought the thing impossible, should take a good look at the ACLS plan for Faculty Study Fellowships. True, you have to be under 46, already PhDeified, and of the rank of assistant professor or above; but if you fit into this category, and are serious about wanting to study something outside your special research interests, why not write for details? See page 312 of this issue.

**FRIEND IN NEED.** Most of our members not only read but also write for the learned journals in their field, and occasionally some of them complain that the learned journals ought to expand, or multiply, in order to accommodate articles declined "for lack of space." But who supports the learned journals? Who values them enough to subscribe to them? Take the case of one of the best, the *Romanic Review*. How many individual scholars, here and abroad, do you think subscribed to the RR in March of this year? Make a guess. . . . How far off were you? There

# ACLS SCHOLARS

The ACLS announces a program of awards for individuals to be designated *ACLS SCHOLARS*, to be carefully chosen from teachers in the humanities temporarily displaced from college and university faculties as a result of the defense emergency.

## PURPOSE

The ACLS has long recognized that the advancement in our society of significant humanistic scholarship demands of the humanist not only the maintenance and accretion of learning in specialized fields of interest but also the continuous demonstration of the relevance of humanistic learning to the lasting problems of mankind.

General tendencies, manifest for some time but now acutely demonstrated by the particularly threatening effect of the defense emergency upon the humanities, argue the present need of increased concern on the part of humanists with the articulate interpretation of the relevance of their studies to the persistent problems of man. In this program, therefore, the ACLS will give preference to those individuals who present proposals which will contribute to the demonstration of this relevance.

## CHARACTER OF PROPOSED STUDY

Each candidate will be required to present a plan for study or research which offers promise of relating his humanistic knowledge to the persistent problems of mankind and of developing his skill in communicating these interpretations to this generation. The burden of proof that the proposal meets the intent of this program rests upon the candidate. No limit is placed upon the subject matter save that it must involve the humanities.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

The candidate must have demonstrated a high degree of scholarly attainment in one or more of the humanistic disciplines, interpreted in general as follows: philosophy, including the philosophy of science and the philosophy of law; philology, languages, literature and linguistics; archeology; art history and musicology (but not applied art or music); history, including the history of

science and the history of religions; and cultural anthropology, including folklore. He must have the Doctorate of Philosophy or its equivalent in training and experience. His university or college experience at the faculty level must promise, if it does not already demonstrate, distinction as a teacher and scholar. No candidate will be considered who, at the time of application, has an assured faculty position for 1951-1952. Appointments as *ACLS SCHOLARS* are open only to men and women who are citizens of the United States.

## TERMS OF AWARD

The stipend for an *ACLS SCHOLAR* will normally be the equivalent of the salary earned by the candidate during the academic year 1950-1951, although in no case will it exceed five thousand dollars. If in the opinion of the ACLS this stipend is inadequate for the execution of the proposed study or research, additional payments may be made. No allowances will be made for foreign travel. The award will be for all or part of the academic year 1951-1952. Renewal is neither guaranteed nor forbidden since it will depend upon the continuance of the program, the availability of funds, and the quality of accomplishment under the existent award.

## METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications will be received from individual candidates, although the ACLS will welcome nominations from academic institutions. In any case, the ACLS will ask the institution with which the candidate has been associated for an expression of its concern and its interest in his academic future.

Application forms should be requested immediately from the Secretary for *ACLS SCHOLARS*, AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES, 1219 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

were exactly *thirty*. Thirty, not all of them professors or even contributors. We shall remember this figure each time someone else writes to us arguing that the learned journals ought to *pay* their contributors! (We shall also remember the Rockefeller Foundation, which made it possible for some of the “literary quarterlies” to do this—and thus start the complaint.) Thirty subscribers, we repeat; and there are more than 1,600 Romance scholars in the MLA. If it seems odd for the Editor of one journal to be suggesting that you subscribe to another journal, then we embrace oddness. The ACLS dictum that “research is not enough” is true in a sense not intended by the ACLS: scholars must learn to assume some responsibility for the continuance of research. It is all very well for you to devote yourself to writing scholarly articles and books, but if *you* do not subscribe to some learned journals in addition to *PMLA*, or occasionally buy the books produced by other scholars, *who is going to?* Research is *not* enough; we must also believe in it to the extent of supporting it. Subscriptions to the *Romanic Review* (\$5 a year), the only scholarly journal in America specifically and exclusively covering the entire Romance Language field, may be sent to the Columbia Univ. Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27, N.Y.

**ADOPTIONS.** A few modern language departments decided to require the purchase and use of the MLA Style Sheet even before publication, and still others have indicated to us that they will probably do so soon after publication. We hope that as departments reach formal decisions they will inform us, so that we can announce the “adoptions” in this place. We shall also be glad to hear from editors of university “series” or “studies” or “publications” who, like Virgil B. Heltzel (Editor of *Northwestern University Studies*), plan to ask their authors hereafter to follow the MLA Style Sheet.

**WAIFS.** In the period between July 1, 1948, and June 30, 1949, eleven university presses turned down exactly twenty-two book-length MSS in the field of literature which they would gladly have published if subsidies had been found to prevent the use of red ink to the extent of \$38,750. These same presses did not report the number of MSS turned down for other reasons.

**FOUNDINGS.** In the Feb. *PMLA* we congratulated a number of members upon achieving their fiftieth Association year. One of them, John Louis Haney, wrote promptly to ask why we had omitted William G. Howard, George L. Lincoln, and Donald G. Whiteside. To these three we offer belated congratulations and sincere apologies; we had simply not been scholar enough to check the list compiled for us by someone else.

**AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Younger members and some older ones are probably unaware of the inception and purpose of *PMLA*'s annual bibliography. For a number of years surveys of American linguistic and literary scholarship on English (by A. C. Baugh), French (George L. Hamilton), and Germanics (Daniel B. Shumway) had been published in *The American Year Book*. When this temporarily suspended publication, the MLA voted at its 1920 annual meeting, on motion of John L. Lowes, to take over these bibliographies. They first appeared in *PMLA* in 1922 (covering the year 1921), and other sections were subsequently added—American Literature (by Norman Foerster), Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian (J. P. Wickersham Crawford) in 1923, and still others later. The MLA move followed by a few months, and was partly the result of, an Anglo-American Conference on English Studies held at Columbia University. At a bibliographical round-table Sir Israel Gollancz, Professor Boas, and other English visitors complained of the difficulty they had in learning of the publications of American scholars, especially those appearing in university series and in the less familiar periodicals, privately printed dissertations (then more common than now), and books published by university presses. It was recognized that scholars in other European countries experienced even greater difficulty in learning of such publications. The *PMLA* “American Bibliography” was thus conceived of as a tool of international cooperation, and not in any petty spirit of national complacency. Of course it meets American needs as well, serving both scholarly and professional

## For Members Only—Continued

purposes. Not the least of its merits is the promptness with which it appears; no other annual bibliography of comparable scope, either in this country or abroad, is published within four months of the calendar year which it chronicles. Professor Baugh, the only one of the current bibliographers who contributed to the 1921 compilation, makes his farewell contribution in this issue of *PMLA*. We part with him regretfully and with deep gratitude for his long service to scholarship.

**MEMBERSHIP WRINKLES.** We know of one member whose wife signs every check during the year except his MLA dues, which he insists on paying over his own (distinguished) signature. We know of another member who saw California for the first time while attending the 1949 meeting, and was so pleased with what he saw that he bought a little property near the coast, and spent part of last summer there quite happily. Then there was the scholar who, last year, joined the Association, promptly submitted an article to *PMLA*, and a few days later shot and killed himself while demonstrating "Russian roulette."

**OFFPRINT LIBRARY.** What happens to offprints of scholarly articles, those uncolorful Christmas cards that one sends unseasonably to old friends—those hopeful reminders of merit, distributed "with compliments of the author" to deans, chairmen, and fellows in the field? We fear that most of them find their way to the familiar, cylindrical file under the desk. But not those sent to Robert J. Clements, Pennsylvania State College (State College, Pa.). During the past seven years, with the cooperation of many colleagues here and abroad, and with the assistance of three graduate students, he has accumulated an offprint library of some 7,000 articles in the fields of Romance literatures and philology, literary criticism, and the teaching of modern languages. He hopes that his rapidly growing collection "may become a source of assistance for American Romance scholars, since many of the articles which find their way into the collection are not in standard bibliographies, and derive from peripheral, journalistic, or semi-popular sources, not to mention *Festschriften*, which so often elude bibliographers."

**VANDALISM.** A very famous British library reports: ". . . some over-zealous but, unfortunately, unknown student has removed pages 1-21 from our copy of *PMLA* April 1950 [the articles by McKerrow and Silver]. We should be very grateful if you could supply us with another copy. . . ." We have done so.

**UNION CARD?** A member who joined in 1911 writes: "I, personally, should not vote for the promotion of a colleague who does not belong to the MLA—such lack would indicate a failure to show professional interest. . . . The younger members of the profession should be urged to join the Association, partly to show their professional interest, partly to be easily located by chairmen who may want to look them up, partly because they can meet colleagues from other places at our meetings, partly because they can have the advantage of such offerings as the Association gives and can publish in *PMLA*. . . . Our roster is the 'Who's Who' of modern languages."

**BUSINESS EXECUTIVES.** The Southern Humanities Conference's Bulletin No. 3, Quentin O. McAllister's *Business Executives and the Humanities: A Report on the Attitude of Business and Governmental Executives toward Foreign Languages and the Liberal Arts* (published May 10), may be obtained for \$1.50, postpaid, from the Univ. of North Carolina Press (Box 510, Chapel Hill, N.C.). This report is based upon the replies to more than 1,000 personal letters sent to key executives throughout the U.S. The main chapters deal with "The Value of English in Business and Industry," "The Importance of the Study of Foreign Languages," "Distribution of Opportunities for Employment and Suggested Course Combinations," and "The Liberal Arts and the Humanities." An appendix analyzes opportunities for employment in business, industry, and government.

**DECADENCE?** A member writes: "I looked through the list of the ten-year necrology in the last issue of *PMLA* and had something of the feeling that a Golden Age, if not the Golden Age, of American scholarship came to a close in that decade."

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