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Hollins College

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THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWS-LETTER

VOL. I, No. 3

Hollins College, Virginia

November 1, 1963

THE HOLLINS CRITIC. Beginning in January, Hollins College will publish a nationally distributed literary magazine, to be called The Hollins Critic. It will appear six times a year, in an eight-page format, and each issue will be devoted to a review-essay on the newest book of an important younger novelist, poet, or critic. Each issue will also contain biographical and bibliographical material about the writer being reviewed, and one original poem.

The Hollins Critic will be edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., and John Rees Moore, of the Hollins English staff, and its contributors will for the most part be nationally known writers. On the editorial board, and contributing review essays, will be, in addition to the editors, DANIEL G. HOFFMAN, poet and critic who teaches at Swarthmore College; HOWARD NEMEROV, consultant in poetry at the Library of Congress and 1962-1963 writer-in-residence at Hollins; RICHARD POIRIER, well-known critic and chairman of the English Department at Rutgers University; GEORGE GARRETT, poet and novelist who teaches at the University of Virginia; and JOHN W. ALDRIDGE, critic and novelist who was formerly a member of the Hollins staff.

The Hollins Critic will seek to provide a new and different kind of literary journalism for the American literary scene. It will evaluate the new work of important younger writers, not concentrating on the new book alone but with an estimate of the writer's total work. Just now such writers can get their books reviewed in newspapers, and, together with the books of a number of other writers, in fiction and poetry chronicles in the quarterly reviews, but there is no magazine which will discuss their new books in relation to their total work, in extended, serious reviews devoted to a single writer's work alone. The Hollins Critic aims to do this.

For the first year The Hollins Critic will be distributed free of charge to a selective list of readers in all parts of the country. All former English majors at Hollins will automatically receive the first year's issues. After that, subscriptions will be sold at one dollar a year.

THE ENGLISH MAJORS. In numbers they represent the largest major at the college. In scores, in academic standing, in their role in the college's intellectual life they are second to none. In character, in their imaginative engagement in their major, we wouldn't trade off a single one of them. They are:

Class of 1964

Mary Bickerstaff, Columbia, Ga.
Julia Blake, Belton, S. C.
Rosalind Bruder, Ridgewood, N. J.
Barbara Caler, Manhasset, N. Y.
Townsend Daniel, Richmond, Va.
Katherine Davison, Charlottesville, Va.
Suzanne Gagnon, Greenwich, Conn.
Kathleen Gatch, Baltimore, Md.
Louise Gilliam, Westover, Md.
Rebecca Hancock, Troutville, Va.

Class of 1965

Jill Abbott, Birmingham, Ala.
Ellen Auchincloss, Darien, Conn.
Diane Auslander, Hewlitt Harbor, L. I., N. Y.
Jeremy Campagna, New York, N. Y.
Lynne Clutsam, Summit, N. J.
Diana Coe, Owings Mills, Md.
Sally Craig, Ellicott City, Md.
Isabel Davis, Towson, Md.
Jon Dewey, Rosedale, Miss.
Sylvia Doughty, Washington, D. C.

Class of 1964 (Continued)

Frances Harrison, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Sandra Helms, Roanoke, Va.
Sarah Holland, Chappaqua, N. Y.
Courtney Kellam, Rosemont, Pa.
Betty Kelly, Oak Hill, W. Va.
Susan Leake, Richmond, Va.
Suzanne McCormick, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Margaret McDonnell, Sheffield, Ala.
Karin Myrin, Kimberton, Pa.
Cameron Nagle, Wilmington, Del.
Mollie Odom, Chevy Chase, Md.
Vance Oliver, Solon, Ohio
Elizabeth Payne, Shreveport, La.
Carole Pfisterer, Hamden, Conn.
Lorraine Reed, Norfolk, Va.
Louise Richardson, Johnstown, Pa.
Robin Rouse, Baltimore, Md.
Ellen Tabb, Alexandria, Va.
Dee Tillery, Henderson, N. C.
Lynn Tuach, Westport, Conn.
Florence Wimble, Richmond, Va.

Class of 1965 (Continued)

Barbara Beaman, Nashville, Tenn.
Jane Dykes, Columbus, Ga.
Nola Gould, Hobart, N. Y.
Prudence Grand, New York, N. Y.
Patricia Griffin, New Canaan, Conn.
Marion Hines, Fairfield, Conn.
Pamela Huggins, Greenwich, Conn.
Virginia Hunton, Richmond, Va.
Bianca Lanza, New York, N. Y.
Anna Logan, Roanoke, Va.
Katharine Martyn, Alexandria, Va.
Brevard Myers, Greensboro, N. C.
Katharine Ravenel, Alexandria, Va.
Sally Thompson, Tampa, Fla.
Eden White, Atlanta, Ga.
Cornelia Whittet, Richmond, Va.
Morgan Wilkinson, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Dinah Wolff, Summit, N. J.

Class of 1966 (thus far declared)

Frances Evoy, Fort Washington, Pa.
Myra Fassett, Rochester, N. Y.
Mary Poe, Raleigh, N. C.
Sheila Roth, Ashland, Ky.
Jean Rudd, Rochester, N. Y.

GRADUATE STUDENTS. There are three of them enrolled in the department's Master of Arts program in Creative Writing, Contemporary Literature, and Literary Criticism this year. They are: JAMES KLASS, from Ohio State University, who is working on a play and on fiction; CHARLES MOLESWORTH, from the University of St. Thomas, who is working on poetry; and CHARLES HIRSCHFELD, from Ottawa University, Kansas, who also writes poetry.

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE. KARL SHAPIRO, Pulitzer Prize poet, critic, editor, who is among the most controversial and highly regarded figures on the contemporary literary scene, is due at Hollins November 18-20 for a three-day stay as writer-in-residence. In addition to a public reading on Monday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Mr. Shapiro will take part in classes, meet with students, and otherwise take a part in campus literary activities during his stay.

Following Mr. Shapiro, EUDORA WELTY, noted novelist and short story writer, will be here on December 9-11. In January ROBERT PENN WARREN will come down from Connecticut, while in February novelist and editor ANDREW NELSON LYTTLE will be on campus. For the Fourth Annual Literary Festival in March, poets RICHARD WILBUR and ALLEN TATE and novelist PETER TAYLOR will be here, and in April HOWARD NEMEROV will

return for three days.

The schedule of public lectures and readings, all held in the Little Theatre at 8:15 p.m. unless otherwise noted, is as follows:

November 18 (7:30 p.m.):	KARL SHAPIRO
December 9:	EUDORA WELTY
January 10:	ROBERT PENN WARREN
February 10 (Bradley Hall):	ANDREW NELSON LYTLE
March 7, 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.:	PETER TAYLOR, ALLEN TATE, RICHARD WILBUR; Literary Festival.
April 7:	HOWARD NEMEROV

AWARDS AND PRIZES. Not only did JANE GENTRY tie for the first place Faculty Medal at graduation in June, but MARY JOHNSTON AMOS won the second place medal. Mary was also awarded the MARY VINCENT LONG AWARD for excellence in her English studies. MARTHA JANE NOLAND received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for outstanding character.

ATLANTA. Three members of the English Department staff will be holding forth when the South Atlantic Modern Language Association holds its annual meeting in Atlanta November 14-16. JESSE ZELDIN, associate professor of English, will read a paper on Dostoyevsky at the Slavic section. ROBERT M. FIGG III, instructor in English, will read a paper on Naturalism as a Literary Form at the American Literature section. LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., professor of English, will preside as chairman of the American literature section. The SAMLA is an organization of college and university teachers of literature and language from an eight-state area.

OVERTURE AND BEGINNERS'

A Description of English 335: Irish Literature
by JOHN REES MOORE

Ireland is a small island that has produced a great many Irishmen, most of whom are scattered around the world. Why they leave in such numbers that Ireland is the only western European nation whose population has steadily declined for the last hundred years is partly explained by their history--repeated frustrations caused by waves of invaders, extirpation by force of a large part of their traditional culture, lack of development in both agriculture and industry, and not least, internal conflicts which have dissipated their energies. In the twentieth century, the struggle to achieve national independence was the all-absorbing theme, directly or indirectly, not only of the people as a whole but of the writers who have made Ireland famous to English-speaking readers.

Even George Bernard Shaw, who to most readers must seem a distinctly English writer, never lost interest in Ireland or ceased to regard himself as Irish. Typically, the serious Irish writer went into voluntary exile, usually at an early age, and sometimes

remained abroad for the rest of his life. James Joyce, of course, is the most famous example. Yet his work, in the final analysis, is as great a tribute to his native land as Dante's is to Italy. John M. Synge went abroad and came back; Sean O'Casey went abroad and stayed. George Moore tried the experiment of coming back, discovered the material for his greatest work, Hail and Farewell, and found it expedient to leave again. William Butler Yeats was in and out of Ireland; it might be said he got the best of both worlds. Today Samuel Beckett makes his home in Paris.

It is with these writers that Modern Irish Literature will be concerned. They cannot be properly understood without some knowledge of Irish history and literary tradition, matters of considerable interest in their own right; so we will begin by reading in the early poetry and folklore. Our ability to penetrate these writings will be limited, because we will be reading English translations of Gaelic; nevertheless, a surprising amount of the malice, of the passion for argumentation, of the acute response to the natural world, and of the striking powers in fantastic invention that characterize the literature comes through. In studying George Moore, Oscar Wilde, Synge, Shaw, Yeats, and Joyce, I hope we will be able to discover what makes them modern, and Irish, and literature. Our main attention will focus on Yeats and Joyce, but living authors will not be excluded. O'Casey and Beckett, for instance, may give us an insight into possible new directions in Irish fiction, poetry, and drama.

All these writers, including Shaw, have an ironical attitude toward man's attempts to be rational about his desires, a sense that the physical part of life often makes the mind do queer things, a conviction that progress is illusory or at least quite a different thing than it is commonly supposed to be. I don't know whether Beckett finds Ireland's destiny of any particular interest or not, but the others have found it of passionate interest. Nevertheless, they have also found themselves in sometimes bitter disagreement with the aims and more particularly with the methods of Irish Nationalism. Irish irony has a long history; it is difficult to say how much the independence movement simply offered a splendid opportunity for the irony to express itself and how much it contributed to a new ironical attitude. At any rate, Irish writers tend to regard each other with ironic scepticism. And how much more any outsider who presumes to interpret them!

I conceive my course as an attempt to do just that. I can only hope that Blake's aphorism applies: If the fool would persist in his folly, he would become wise.

ESQUIRE. A magazine published in New York and devoted to advertisements for men's fashions, deodorants, etc., entitled Esquire, published in its July number a "directory of the American literary establishment," in which Hollins College was identified as Rollins College. Not only did the chairman of the department write a letter to this magazine, but so did various ex-students. The following issue of Esquire contained a number of letters to the editor congratulating Esquire on its brilliant work, but no letters of correction. We did hear that a letter from MIMI MATSNER, Hollins '62, was published in the back of the magazine in some copies distributed, but it didn't make any of the copies we saw. Finally, two issues later, Esquire got around to publishing some of the complaints, including ours. At no time, however, did the managing editor of the magazine ever get around to answering the letters written him from Hollins; too busy, etc. Or maybe they got too many complaints; we wouldn't doubt it a bit. Still, if the word "Esquire" supposedly has something to do with "gentleman," someone ought to inform them that gentlemanliness

supposedly involves a minimum amount of politeness and courtesy.

NEW MAN. Joining the department this fall is WILTON ECKLEY, who comes to Hollins as assistant professor of English and Education. Formerly head of the English Department and director of advanced placement studies at Euclid, Ohio, High School, Mr. Eckley is working toward the Ph.D. at Western Reserve University. He is teaching American literature and two courses in Education.

WHAT THE STAFF IS DOING. The Hollins English staff is composed of teachers who are also scholars and writers. Teaching makes them into better scholars, they think, and scholarship and writing makes them into better teachers. This is what they are working on nowadays:

- JOHN A. ALLEN - recently completed critical anthology of archetypal patterns in poetry; preparing to revise book on Shakespearean comedy.
- ROBERT M. FIGG III - completing doctoral dissertation on Naturalism as a Literary Form (University of North Carolina).
- WILTON ECKLEY - doctoral examinations at Western Reserve University completed; presently preparing to begin dissertation.
- JOHN C. GARRUTO - undertaking studies in English language education techniques.
- JOHN R. MOORE - completing book on Yeats as a playwright.
- LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR. - recently completed chapter on Southern poetry for book on American poetry to be published in England next year.
- JULIA SAWYER - preparing and revising manuscript of original poems.
- CHAUNCEY WOOD - Princeton dissertation on Chaucer and astrology completed over summer; now engaged in revising several scholarly articles for publication.
- JESSE ZELDIN - book on Dostoyevsky's religious thought rewritten over summer for publication; preparing to begin book on Gogol.

NANCY THORP PRIZE. Thanks to the generosity of the parents of the late NANCY THORP, '56-'58, the Hollins English Department is sponsoring a poetry contest for women high school seniors, open to students from any high school or preparatory school east of the Mississippi River. Deadline for submission of entries, which must be sent by a faculty member of the student's school, is November 1, and already entries are being received from students at schools up and down the East Coast. The winning poet will receive a \$50 prize and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Hollins campus to meet Eudora Welty when she visits the campus December 9. Two second prizes of \$25 will also be given. The contest is being judged by the creative writing students and faculty, and the winning poems will be published in the winter issue of Cargoes.

DOCTOR WOOD. Latest member of the department to receive the doctorate is CHAUNCEY WOOD, assistant professor of English, who this past summer completed his dissertation on Chaucer and Astrology and passed his final oral examinations at Princeton University. Mr., or, Dr. Wood was promoted from instructor to Assistant professor effective July 1.

WHO'S TEACHING WHAT. In addition to the usual Humanities and English Literature courses offered each year by the Department, a variety of advanced courses are being given. This term JOHN MOORE, back from Ireland, is offering a course in Irish Literature and in Seventeenth Century Literature. JESSE ZELDIN is teaching the Russian and Soviet Literature and Renaissance courses. JOHN ALLEN is giving Contemporary Poetry and Fiction for freshman and Shakespeare for the seniors. JULIA SAWYER is teaching Literary Criticism and the British Novel. ROBERT FIGG and WILTON ECKLEY are both teaching American Literature. CHAUNCEY WOOD is teaching Victorian Literature. LOUIS RUBIN is offering a special course in The Form of the Novel as well as his Modern Novel course. JOHN GARRUTO is concentrating on freshman writing skills. LOUIS RUBIN, JOHN ALLEN, and JULIA SAWYER are together giving the Advanced Creative Writing workshop. In the second term JOHN MOORE will teach Modern British and American Poetry. JOHN ALLEN will be on leave. ROBERT FIGG will teach the British Novel. Chauncey Wood will offer a special course on Dante's Divine Comedy and will teach STUART DEGGINGER's Chaucer course. JOHN GARRUTO will offer Advanced Grammar. LOUIS RUBIN will teach Contemporary Literature for freshmen. All of this plus the senior tutorials and various independent study projects.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR. The distinguished Southern writer Flannery O'Connor got the 1963-1964 program of writers-in-residence off to a fine start with a three-day stay on the Hollins campus in mid-October. Upwards of 400 Hollins students and visitors from Roanoke and other schools attended her reading, with commentary, of her story, "A Good Man Is Hard To Find," in the Little Theatre. In addition, Miss O'Connor sat in on Julia Sawyer's Literary Criticism course and Louis Rubin's course in Forms Of The Novel, answering student questions about her work, and in the Advanced Creative Writing workshop, where she joined in the discussion of a new short story by graduate student James Klass. She was guest of honor at a reception held by the Grapheon Literary Society, and the Grapheon Fellows also took her out for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Before her reading Tuesday night, President and Mrs. Logan gave a dinner in her honor, at which one of the guests was Miss O'Connor's (and William Faulkner's) French translator, the distinguished professor emeritus of French at Princeton University, Maurice Coindreau, who lives in Amherst County.

EARLY SUMMER. Such was the title of 1962 graduate ANNA SEVIER's first novel when it was published by Atheneum this summer (in its original form, as published in Cargoes, it was entitled Porphyry.) Reviews were mixed, but at last reports it was selling well. Anna returned to the campus September 26 for an autographing party given her by the Grapheon Literary Society, and not only were all 75 copies ordered for the occasion sold, but Anna had to go over to Atheneum when she returned to New York and autograph 25 more, to be sent down for those who got to the party too late. Early Summer sells for \$3.95 a copy; think about it as

a fine Christmas present. An English edition will be published by Constable in the near future. Meanwhile, Anna is at work on another novel.

GENTRY. Having tied for first honors at graduation in June, JANE GENTRY, class of 1963, is continuing her literary studies with graduate work at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. Jane, who won the first Nancy Thorp Prize for the best poem appearing in Cargoes during 1962-1963, is still awaiting publication of her poem, "Bird and Bear," which was accepted by the Sewanee Review last spring.

WHO'S HERE. Back from Ireland after a year's leave is Associate Professor JOHN REES MOORE, whose description of his Irish Literature course appears elsewhere in this News-Letter. Mr. Moore and his family spent the year in Dublin, with trips to England and the Continent, where Mr. Moore worked on his study of the plays of William Butler Yeats. Missing this year is Associate Professor STUART H. L. DEGGINGER, who is serving as resident director of Hollins Abroad in Paris. Associate Professor JOHN A. ALLEN will be on leave during the second term, but will remain resident on the campus while at work on his study of Shakespearean comedy.

NEW BOOK. From the University of Washington Press in October comes THE FARAWAY COUNTRY: WRITERS OF THE MODERN SOUTH, a book of thematically-related essays by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., professor of English at Hollins. It is priced at \$4.95.

PUBLISHING. Without stretching things too much, it might be said that the Hollins College English Department is slowly but steadily infiltrating the book and magazine publishing industry in New York. From the 1963 class, SUZANNE P. VICTOR is working in the college department of Random House; ANNE P. CROSS is with the Columbia University Press; JUDY TREADWAY, RACHEL LANCASTER, and CECILIA WHITE are at Time. LAURA JOHNSON, class of 1962, is with Bobbs-Merrill. JULIA COLMORE, class of 1957, is publicity director of Orion Press. Other Hollins graduates thus engaged are MIMI MATSNER, Romance Languages, with Random House; and WYNDHAM ROBERTSON, Economics, with Fortune. In Boston, English major SHANNON RAVENEL, class of 1960, is with Houghton-Mifflin.

CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

Remembering, as a child, riding south,
The same pattern in corn, order in cotton,
Marching of peach and pecan orchards,
And, being bored, counting cows,
And you had to start over at graveyards.
Remembering the dark, dusty singers
In cotton fields in summer heat,
White cotton bolls, and hard black hands
That worked the same before the War.
Remembering the sound of their hoes
Breaking the dry earth, and knowing
They were plowed under the rows
Where they fell, to make the clay black.

Later in a dream were the crosses,
Each split from the sorcerer's cross
And multiplied in infinite rows.
They stood in fields of vivid grass
In the light of the artificial sun
That hung by a wire from the earth above.
Bent women came in black robes
And stood, each before a stone
That kept a restless body down.
They harvested with hard hands
The field of my dream and bore away
The crosses on their stooped shoulders.
Now, cotton is white, and the crosses.

- TAVENNER FINLAY

DR. JANNEY. "About all I do now," writes F. LAMAR JANNEY, professor emeritus of English and for many years chairman of the department at Hollins, "other than read for my own enjoyment, is to write an occasional book review, the next one being What The Butler Saw, by the English social historian E. S. Turner." Having earned so pleasant a retirement in Phoenix, Arizona, after many long and devoted years of service to English majors at Hollins, Dr. Janney wrote in response to a request that he tell his former students of his activities nowadays. In his letter Dr. Janney had high praise for 1963 English major Jane Gentry's poem "Bird and Bear," published in the News-Letter last spring. His Phoenix address is 1701 West Flower Street.

MASTER OF ARTS. Now teaching English at Asheville-Biltmore College in North Carolina is SYLVIA WILKINSON, who was the lone graduate student in the Hollins program last year, and who received the M.A. in June. She is also working at revising her novel, Moss On The North Side, which she submitted as her thesis and which was published in the spring issue of Cargoes.

OFFPRINTS. Anyone want any offprints of recent essays by Hollins English Department faculty members? A few copies each of the following are available:

- Jesse Zeldin: "The Abbey and the Bottle" (on Rabelais), L'Esprit Createur, summer 1963.
- Jesse Zeldin: "Les Tragiques and the Baroque," L'Esprit Createur, summer 1961.
- John R. Moore: "Cuchulain, Christ, and the Queen of Love: Aspects of Yeatsian Drama," Tulane Drama Review, March, 1962.
- Louis D. Rubin, Jr.: "What's Wrong With Graduate Literary Study?" American Scholar, spring 1963.
- Louis D. Rubin, Jr.: "The Self Recaptured" (Proust and autobiographical fiction), Kenyon Review, summer 1963.
- Louis D. Rubin, Jr.: "The South and the Faraway Country", Virginia Quarterly Review, summer 1962.
- John C. Garruto: "Is Programed Instruction Favorable to the Development of Creative Insights? A Negative Answer," Journal of Higher Education, April 1962.

If you want offprints of any of these, a postcard to the English Department will get it for you, so long as the supply holds out.

L.D.R.
Hollins College, Virginia
10-23-63