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THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWS-LETTER

VOL. II, No. 3

Hollins College, Virginia

December 1, 1965

FRANCIS LAMAR JANNEY. Because FRANCIS LAMAR JANNEY was teacher and scholar both, he approached the study of literature as if it were the most important thing in the world. The result was that several generations of Hollins College English majors went forth at graduation time equipped not merely with a diploma and a transcript of courses completed, but with a lifelong interest in poems, stories and plays--with a confirmed belief in the efficacy of the literary imagination.

A native of Lincoln, Virginia, Lamar Janney was graduated from Roanoke College, Yale University, and the Johns Hopkins University, from which he came to Hollins College to teach English in 1918. As chairman of the English Department for many years, he brought to his classes not only knowledge but enthusiasm as well. It was the latter quality most of all which, transmitted to his students, sent so many of them on to careers in literature and writing.

In 1953 he retired from Hollins College, and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he kept up with literary activities and maintained communication with many of his former students. On April 20, 1965, Lamar Janney died, and was buried in the State of Virginia where he had spent most of his life. Among many of his former students, the enlightenment of his life remains very much alive.

IN LAMAR JANNEY'S MEMORY, his former students are raising a fund, the income from which is to be used for a purpose that would doubtless have gladdened his heart. Beginning this fall, each senior English major at Hollins College will receive a one-year subscription to a literary quarterly.

This year the quarterly chosen is The Sewanee Review, an especially appropriate choice because in his lifetime Lamar Janney was a contributor to its pages. In future years other literary quarterlies may be chosen.

"This generous gift of Dr. Janney's former students is an especially appropriate memorial," said President JOHN A. LOGAN, JR., of Hollins College in announcing the plan. "As professor of English at Hollins, Dr. Janney was instrumental in encouraging numerous students to retain an interest in literature that carried on after graduation and for the rest of their lives.

"Now successive generations of Hollins students will likewise profit from Dr. Janney's inspiration. It is our hope that many of the students who receive these subscriptions will want to continue with them in the future, and thus maintain their own interest in the field of their major study at Hollins after graduation."

ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN. JOHN ALEXANDER ALLEN, associate professor of English, has been appointed assistant chairman of the department. Last year he served as chairman in the absence of Professor LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., who has returned from leave.

RECUPERATING. Friends of MARY VINCENT LONG will be glad to know that she is on the mend after a back operation which removed three discs and left her, as she puts it, "in a girdle for the rest of my life." Her friend, Mary Underhill, reports that Miss Long can walk without the aid of crutches now, and spends a good deal of the day afoot and about. This

year Mary Long gave up her part-time job of grading papers for English classes at nearby Bucknell University in order to enjoy her retirement more--and promptly wound up in the hospital. Now she is back at her home in Hartleton, Union County, Pa. (What several of her friends at Hollins wonder is how Mary will get by with her present wardrobe without having been able to drive down to Johnson City, Tennessee, this fall to go shopping.)

THE ENGLISH MAJORS. There are, as of the date of this writing, 83 English majors--about one of every 5.5 declared majors is an English major. Here is this year's harvest--a ripe bunch they are, too:

Seniors

Alison Ames, Saunderstown, R. I.
Margarita Bailey, Sarasota, Fla.
Karen Bolding, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Amanda Chase, Gates Mills, Ohio
Marilyn Curley, Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y.
Margaret Davis, Savannah, Ga.
Patricia Dordelman, Essex Falls, N. J.
Owen Easton, Charlottesville, Va.
Margaret Ferguson, Richmond, Va.
Tavener Finlay, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Pamela Fish, New York, N. Y.
Finlay Grier, Tyrone, Pa.
Ellen Hainline, Chappaqua, N. Y.
Mrs. Elise Hammond, Vinton, Va.
Katharine Hershey, Richmond, Va.
Beverly Holmes, Englewood, N. J.

Frances Jewell, Wilmore, Ky.
Kay Kendall, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Betty Bishop Lemons, Roanoke, Va.
Marian McIntosh, Savannah, Ga.
Mary Poe, Raleigh, N. C.
Joan Raffeld, Longmeadow, Mass.
Sheila Roth, Ashland, Ky.
Jean Rudd, Rochester, N. Y.
Frances Shinnick, Richmond, Va.
Stephanie Strakosh, Rochester, N. Y.
Nancy Sullivan, Scarsdale, N. Y.
Mary Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio
Ann Tenney, Houston, Texas
Barbara Wickenden, Marion, Mass.
Ann Wilsey, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Juniors

Carol Andrews, Greensboro, N. C.
Alice Arnall, Newnan, Georgia
Diana Arnett, Youngstown, Ohio
Nancy Beckham, Durham, N. C.
Josephine Berson, Nashville, Tenn.
Anne Bradford, Houston, Texas
Mary-Curtis Briggs, Merion Station, Pa.
Frances Carney, Norfolk, Va.
Emily Chewning, Richmond, Va.
Jocelyn Cobb, Augusta, Georgia
Mrs. Annie Doak Dillard, Hollins, Va.
Christine Edwards, Manassas, Va.
Kathleen Fagan, Mahwah, N. J.
Kendrick Fisher, Atlanta, Ga.
Ellen Geary, Chester, Va.
Anne Gossett, Danville, Ky.
Lucinda Hardwick, Milwaukee, Wis.

Lee Harrison, Camden, S. C.
Challen Heaney, White Plains, N. Y.
Sarah Hearon, Ormond Beach, Fla.
Marguerite Jamison, Greensburg, Pa.
Mary Keith, Shreveport, La.
Karen Long, New Vernon, N. J.
Kathleen McCann, Gates Mills, Ohio
Donna Mason, Rockville, Md.
Emily Miller, Essex, Conn.
Bonnie Moon, Charleston, S. C.
Catherine Neidlinger, Westbrook, Conn.
Jeanette Purrington, Franklin, Va.
Elizabeth Reppert, Bridgeport, W. Va.
Elizabeth Rose, Birmingham, Ala.
Patricia Schroeder, St. Louis, Mo.
Anne Shepard, Shaker Heights, Ohio
Lynne Tyack, Fincastle, Va.

Sophomores (presently declared)

Elliot Abhau, Annapolis, Md.
Helen Biggs, Mount Vernon, Texas
Blair Burns, Chevy Chase, Md.

Catherine Hall, Lake Charles, La.
Ann Havens, Huntington, W. Va.
Virginia Mann, Greensboro, N. C.

(Sophomores--con't)

Tunstall Collins, Lynchburg, Va.
Mary Howard Cooper, Memphis, Tenn.
Jane Eblen, Knoxville, Tenn.
Frances Farr, Houston, Texas
Kathleen Grand, Gainesville, Fla.
Amy Griscom, Charlotte, N. C.

Julia Morton, Wilmington, N. C.
Mary Martha Olmstead, Savannah, Ga.
Elizabeth Seale, Houston, Texas
Catherine Strause, Richmond, Va.
Page Trout, Roanoke, Va.
Enid Young, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

MR. SMITH COMES TO HOLLINS. Very much a part of the Hollins literary and social scene this year is the Department's new writer-in-residence, the poet and essayist WILLIAM JAY SMITH. He is taking part in the weekly advanced writing seminar, offering a special course to English and French majors in The Heritage of French Symbolism, supervising an independent study project in Children's Literature, and generally making himself useful and accessible. Born in Louisiana, raised in St. Louis, Mr. Smith has spent most of his recent years in New England, where he has taught at Williams College and lived over across the Vermont state line in North Pownal, which residency resulted in his serving for several years in the Vermont State Legislature. As a student he attended Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Poitiers, France; Columbia University; Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar; and the University of Florence, in Italy. Last year he was recipient of a Ford Foundation grant in the theatre, and spent the year in residence at the Arene Theater in Washington, D. C., where he composed a play, "The Straw Market," which will be produced at Hollins this spring during the Literary Festival. This spring will also see publication of his new book of poems, The Tin Can and Other Poems. His previous books include Celebration at Dark, Poems, Poems 1947-1957, and The Spectra Hoax. He has also written a dozen or so books of children's poems. His first public appearance at Hollins was a reading from his own work, to a packed house, in early October. He will also read poems during the forthcoming Literary Festival, and in April he will give the English Department's Ninth Annual Lecture Series. All in all, quite a man, our Mr. Smith, and a pleasure to have around the place.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS. The Hollins English Department is richer by three new staff members this year. They are:

PHILIP COOPER, JR., assistant professor, graduate of Tulane University and Columbia University, and presently completing his doctorate at the University of Rochester. He has taught at the Eastman School of Music and at Dartmouth College. At Hollins he is teaching Humanities and a special course in The Short Poem. He and his wife MARGO and their four children live in nearby Troutville.

FRANK O'BRIEN, assistant professor, graduate of Fordham University, New York University, and Ph.D., Trinity College, Dublin, 1963. He comes to Hollins from New York University, where he was also director of the Literary Heritage Group and secretary of the American Committee for Irish Studies, which post he continues to hold here at Hollins. He is teaching Humanities, Introduction to English Literature, and Literary Criticism. He and his wife CARMEN and two children are living in Roanoke.

JOHN ELLINGTON WHITE, assistant professor, graduate of Kenyon College and the Johns Hopkins University. He has taught at the University of Richmond, Mississippi Southern University, and most recently at Longwood College. At work on a novel, he has published stories and essays in numerous magazines, and several times a year his articles on fishing appear in Sports Illustrated. He is teaching Humanities and the Writing of Poetry and Fiction. His wife JEAN and their three children are living this year in Charlotte Court House, Virginia, with Mr. White commuting weekly to Hollins until the family can move to Roanoke.

Departed from the English faculty are ROBERT M. FIGG, who was awarded the Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in June and is now teaching at the University of South Florida in Tampa; and WILTON ECKLEY, who received the doctorate from Western Reserve University last winter and is now at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

HONORS. When the list of honors was announced at graduation time in June, the English majors, as usual, were strongly represented. JILL MARIE ABBOTT, of Birmingham, Alabama, received the Annie Terrill Bushnell Prize for leadership. ANNA AYLETT ANDERSON LOGAN, of Roanoke, was awarded the Mary Vincent Long Award for distinction in literary study. MINDA LOUISE DRAKE, of Pacific Palisades, California, won the Nancy Thorp Poetry Prize for the best poem appearing during the year in Cargoes. LINDA BARBARA PAYNE, of Mount Kisco, N. Y., received the Mary Williamson Award in the Humanities. Graduates with honor (a 2.3 merit point average over four years) included MARION DAVIDSON HINES, of Fairfield, Connecticut; CORNELIA MAGILL WHITTET, of Richmond, Va.; and PATRICIA EVELYN GRIFFIN, of New Canaan, Conn. MARGARET LEIGHT FERGUSON, of Richmond, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior; she also was second honor student in the junior class. LUCINDA CLAY HARDWICK, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was first honor student in the sophomore class.

EDITORS. English majors, as one might expect, are playing prominent roles in student publications at Hollins this year. FRANCES SHINNICK, of Richmond, is editor of Hollins Columns; BLAIR BURNS, of Chevy Chase, Md., is associate editor; ANNE BRADFORD, of Houston, Texas, is managing editor; JO BERSON, of Nashville, Tennessee, is news editor; and CINDY HARDWICK, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is feature editor. Cargoes, the campus literary magazine, will be edited by TAVENNER FINLAY, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, for its first number, and by JONI RAFFELD, of Longmeadow, Mass., for its second. OWIE EASTON, of Charlottesville, is art editor, and ANNE BRADFORD, CINDY HARDWICK, ANNIE DOAK DILLARD, of Hollins, Va., and TUNSTALL COLLINS, of Lynchburg, Va., are readers. The Spinster has as its co-editor ALISON AMES, of Saunderstown, R. I. On the editorial board of The Symposium, the college's undergraduate scholarly journal, are MARGARET FERGUSON, of Richmond, and MARY SHEPPARD POE, of Raleigh, N. C.

GRADUATE STUDENTS. Three recent college and university graduates have come to Hollins for a year of intensive literary study in the English Department's master of arts program in literary criticism, creative writing, and contemporary literature. They are: SUSAN ALICE BREEN, graduate in 1964 of Saint Xavier College, Chicago, where she was an editor of the college's quarterly review, Continuum; FRANCIS C. KALISIAK, 1965 graduate of La Salle College, Philadelphia; and HENRY SPLAWN TAYLOR, 1965 graduate of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize in 1962 and 1964, former editor of Plume and Sword, and author of a forthcoming book of poems, The Horse Show at Midnight, to be published in the spring by the Louisiana State University Press.

NOW, AS TO WHAT THE STAFF IS DOING. Each member of the English faculty was asked to prepare a short description of his activities in recent months. The results, some of them highly colorful, appear below:

"ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN A. ALLEN is serving as Assistant Chairman. Thus far his duties have consisted principally of advising the junior majors and stepping into the breach occasionally when the Chairman is doing road work. He has recently completed the manuscript for a book of poems to be entitled The Bugler, Whoever He Is. If anyone would like to publish this splendid work, please communicate with Mr. A. Meanwhile, his poems have been popping out, somewhat like measles spots, in current periodicals. Look out for "Customers" and "The Hour of Refection at Assisi" in coming issues of The Reporter. Mr. Allen has been named by Alumnae Secretary ROBBIE HUNT BURTON to be coordinator for the second annual Alumnae College to be held just after commencement in June. (See report elsewhere in this journal). So far no one has been appointed to coordinate Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen continues to experiment with teaching methods which permit the students a larger degree of independence, initiative and responsibility in pursuing their studies. He wishes to report that the lectures by seniors on Shakespeare, by sophomores on The Faerie Queene, and by freshmen on various contemporary poets have not only enlivened his several classes but have also contributed substantially to his education."

PHILIP COOPER, JR.: "As the Duke said, 'Fate is being kind to me. She doesn't want me to be too famous too young.' She keeps my book (my thesis on Lyric Ambivalence) under wraps (and under way). She keeps my notes on Afro-Cuban shamanism bandaged like a mummy. But she's found me a house big enough to work in, in Troutville; and she's provided me with colleagues sharp enough to needle me, at Hollins."

RICHARD H. W. DILLARD: "Since last spring, I have gotten married and thus created the only genuine student-faculty-wife at Hollins, ventured to England, and moved to new quarters. As a scholar, I have mainly reaped rewards of former sowing: Harper & Row has published Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield and She Stoops to Conquer with my introduction in both hard and paperback editions with a very pretty cover, and by the next News-Letter I should have had articles appear in Studies in Bibliography and Tennessee Studies in Literature. As a writer-writer, I have had a poem in The Hollins Critic and I will have a story in a collection of stories and poems, The Girl in the Black Raincoat, edited by George Garrett, to be published by Duell, Sloan and Pearce in (I think) August. Also, I blush to add that my movie (at least I wrote it along with George Garrett and John Rodenbeck) has at last been released by Allied Artists. Directed by Robert Gaffney, the film was premiered in Trieste this summer at the International Science Fiction Film Festival and is now playing around America. It is, of course, the famous Frankenstein Meets the Space Monster. Watch for it at your local drive-in."

"During the past summer, JOHN C. GARRUTO attended a Linguistic Institute Seminar at the University of Michigan and continued his work on the relative frequency of morphemes in college student writing. He finds that our freshmen at Hollins this year are more knowledgeable about language skills problems and that, as a consequence, they are more receptive to procedures for the improvement of their reading and writing skills."

JOHN REES MOORE: "Spent the summer working on his essay on Yeats the dramatist. The manuscript, entitled Masks of Love and Death, is now in the hands of C. Day Lewis at Chatto and Windus, the English publishers. Now that the busy days of the Yeats Festival are over, he is preparing a piece on James Baldwin for the December issue of The Hollins Critic. He would also gladly teach."

FRANK P. O'BRIEN: "Mr. O'Brien, strange to say, is still interested in things Irish. For this year he will be the general editor for the newsletter of the American Committee for Irish Studies. For those interested, the ACIS is open to anyone with more than a passing interest in Irish culture. Folklore, sociology, history, literature are a few of the subject areas covered at the annual meetings. Those interested should send four dollars (and their name) to Prof. Emmet Larkin, Division of Humanities, M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass. In conjunction with the Yeats Festival at Hollins, Mr. O'Brien mounted a photographic exhibit from pics taken in the ol' sodden sod. This work and the kayak construction taking place in his cellar, have not hindered him in noting how apt his students are. His only complaint, and a minor one at that, is that the students don't argue with him enough. Perhaps it's his vest and elk's tooth that scarify them."

LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR.: "The Rubins are back at Hollins after a school year of sabbatical leave that included two months in Italy, three in Florida, and four in Chapel Hill, N. C. where I was visiting professor. I'm glad to report that my book about the form of fiction

is done, and I'm anxious to get going on the rewriting of a new novel, the first very, very rough draft of which I wrote while in Italy. This fall I've been doing my usual stint of speaking--to the Poe Society in Baltimore; to four North Carolina colleges and universities as visiting scholar for the Piedmont Area University Center; and at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta. Meanwhile, my golf game is as bad as ever, but the year has been a success for me so far as the sporting life goes in that I landed a 62-pound cobia in Chesapeake Bay last summer. The Tinker Press, with a new (used) 8 x 12 job press, is back in action. Other than the fact that I have gained too much weight and have a bad cold, nothing else is new."

"J. SAWYER reporting from Sunday 14 Nov. This time last Sunday standing in H. Nemerov's parlor, Bennington, Vt., conversing in honor of Julia Randall with Bernard Malamud and Stanley Edgar Hyman. It was odd, having heels on and all that, and trying to decide how one differed, if indeed one differed, from that J. Randall who, some twenty years before, had, on virtually the same ground (but in other shoes), just received back from a Presence still present at the Cocktail Party (although she had dyed), her very first college essay, with the succinct comment: this is not a paper. And that, my dear children, is the most interesting thing that has happened to me and Wordsworth and Proust since last we met. Who will we be when we meet again? I recommend revisiting the banks of Carvin's Cove, where the lowing herd still winds too slowly o'er the lea, since it has always time to pause and tongue-twist the mirror of my new VW, Gulliver, and to trample beneath its hoofs (hooves?) the fragile fenders of my not-so-new cycle, Pegasus. They did change the bedroom from pink, and all they have to do now is rid me, no Ancient Mariner, of my brother rat(s). The view of Sunset from the Riding Cottage is the best in all the vast 19 counties served by WHY, and amidst all this transformation Tinker stands, his rockface showing, his hardwoods gone rusty, and his evergreens looking like what they always were. Because all summer you could not see them. And the hickory nuts and the osage oranges are down, and there is a coppery keen dome up on New Dorm, and some dog got the Goose but Luther is OK, and Renee is OK, and Bede and Clementine are OK, and so inevitably is Bach, and so is Marquis. Fare well, fare well."

ELLINGTON WHITE: "The road between Hollins and Charlotte Court House, my home, is 96.3 miles long and paved most of the way. It is here, joggling up and down, that I spend most of my time these days, rising with the mountain on Monday, sinking into the Piedmont on Thursday. When not journeying, I teach; when not teaching, I write. When not writing, teaching or journeying, I dream of catching big tarpon while Delius' Florida Suite sighs through the Everglades, my real home. Hopefully, someday that road will be paved at least part of the way.

INDEPENDENT STUDY. A total of eighteen students are pursuing Independent Study in the English Department this semester--seven juniors, eight seniors, and three graduate students. Working with RICHARD H. W. DILLARD on The Detective Story as a Serious Art Form are JO BERSON, ELLEN GEARY, PENELOPE GRILL, FRANCES CARNEY, and BONNIE MOON; with MRS. JULIA R. SAWYER on Studies in Eliot, Rilke and Stevens are MARY-CURTIS BRIGGS, ANNE JONES, and KATHARINE HERSHEY; with JOHN R. MOORE on The Letters of Keats, Van Gogh, and D. H. Lawrence are C. OWEN EASTON and graduate student FRANK KALISIAK, and on Studies in Spenser, MRS. ELISE HAMMOND; with LOUIS D. RUBIN on the translation into English of poems by Lorca (in collaboration with MR. RITTER of the Spanish Department) is TAVENNER FINLAY, on the Idea of Europe in the Fiction of Hemingway, FRANCES SHINNICK, and on certain Southern women novelists, graduate student HENRY S. TAYLOR; with JOHN A. ALLEN on Studies in Style are graduate student SUSAN BREEN and ELLEN HAINLINE (The procedure here is the composition of imitations of certain poets; thus far, MISS BREEN has studied and imitated Spenser, Donne, Crashaw, and Vaughan, and MISS HAINLINE has dealt with Chaucer, Spenser, Marvell, and Milton); with ELLINGTON WHITE is KAY KENDALL on The 'strange and terrible children theme' in books by Henry James, Richard Hughes, William Golding, Alain Fournier, etc.; and with WILLIAM JAY SMITH is ANN WILSEY on Children's Literature (a study of writing for children, particularly in verse).

ALUMNAE COLLEGE. The second annual Hollins Alumnae College will be held just after commencement in June. Last year's subject of study was the Soviet Union. Asked what they would like to hear about in 1966, the loyal and faithful alumnae voted overwhelmingly for Contemporary Literature, relative to the ways and malaise of our days. JOHN A. ALLEN of the English Department, as coordinator of the program which is to be, is weighing the following possibilities: a lecture on contemporary fiction by LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., a notorious expert on this subject; a lecture by MRS. JULIA R. SAWYER on poetry and the age; a lecture by THOMAS ATKINS of the Dramatic Art Department, possibly with readings, on contemporary drama; a poetry reading by Hollins faculty, to include MRS. SAWYER, MR. ALLEN, and possibly others, in which some of the points mentioned by Mrs. Sawyer will be illustrated by the vexed productions of these indubitably 20th century writers. Official notice of the curriculum, dates, etc., will be coming your way early next year, and we earnestly hope that you will be on hand to greet the old and meet the new in your major department of odorous memory and repute.

EX-WRITERS IN RESIDENCE. Hollins's former writers-in-residence continue to thrive and to distinguish themselves. JOHN W. ALDRIDGE, now professor of English at the University of Michigan, will be publishing a new book of criticism, A Time to Murder and Create, in the spring. A new book by WILLIAM GOLDING, at home in England, has appeared this fall: a collection of his articles and essays. HOWARD NEMEROV's new book, Journal of the Fictive Life, appeared in September. Now back at Bennington, he joins the faculty of Brandeis University next fall. BENEDICT KIELY, after a summer back in Ireland, has returned to the United States for another year, as writer-in-residence at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, Oregon.

THE GIRL IN THE BLACK RAINCOAT. Writer-in-residence William J. Smith and three other Hollins College writers will be represented in a collection of stories and poems to be published soon by Duell, Sloan and Pearce. Edited by GEORGE GARRETT, the book will contain work by forty writers and is constructed around the central image of the title, The Girl in the Black Raincoat. WILLIAM JAY SMITH will have two poems in the book, and Hollins Junior ANNIE D. DILLARD will also have a poem. In addition, the book will include stories by R. H. W. DILLARD, assistant professor of English at Hollins, and HENRY S. TAYLOR, a graduate student. Although the publication date has not been finally decided, the book is now scheduled to appear in August.

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS. Hollins College celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Irish poet WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS with a week-long Yeats Festival that drew large crowds from nearby schools and communities and focussed widespread attention on campus literary activities.

From November 1 through November 6 there was a busy program of events concerned with the writings of the man who many consider the foremost of all poets writing in English in the twentieth century.

Associate Professor JOHN REES MOORE of the English Department opened festivities Monday night with a lecture on "The Idea of a Yeats Play."

Assistant Professor JULIA RANDALL SAWYER gave a reading from Yeats' poetry, as well as some of her own from her new book, The Puritan Carpenter, on Wednesday night.

Thursday afternoon Professor GEORGE MILLS HARPER, chairman of the Department of English at the University of North Carolina, spoke on "A Mingling of Heaven and Earth: Yeats' Theory of the Theater."

Thursday night Mrs. GRAINNE YEATS, the poet's daughter-in-law, gave a concert of songs and music for the Irish Harp. Mrs. Yeats was accompanied to Hollins by her husband, MICHAEL YEATS, son of the poet and himself a noted Irish legislator and barrister.

Friday afternoon VIRGINIA MOORE, Hollins graduate and distinguished poet and scholar, spoke on "Meeting William Butler Yeats."

Friday and Saturday nights the Hollins Drama Association presented two Yeats plays, "Deirdre" and "The Only Jealousy of Emer," directed by LOUIS LENTIN, of the Irish television network Telefís Éireann.

Saturday afternoon there was a panel discussion on "Yeats in the Theater," with Messrs. MOORE, LENTIN, Assistant Professor FRANK P. O'BRIEN of the English Department, and Mr. THOMAS A. ATKINS, instructor in drama.

Throughout the week the Fishburn Library featured an extensive exhibition of Yeatsiana. There were first editions, Cuala Press editions, broadsides, photographs, correspondence, and Irish memorabilia from the Fishburn Library collection; the extensive Irish collection of Dr. FRANCIS J. THOMPSON of Tampa University, noted Yeats scholar whose daughter Sally graduated from Hollins in 1965 with a major in English; the rare books collection of the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia; the manuscript collection of Princeton University; the graphic arts collection of the Library of Congress; and other sources.

In the Fine Arts Annex throughout the week was an exhibition of paintings and drawings by the poet's daughter ANNE YEATS, his brother JACK YEATS, his father JOHN BUTLER YEATS, "AE" (the Irish poet GEORGE RUSSELL), from the collections of GEORGE M. HARPER and FRANCIS J. THOMPSON, and a display of Irish scenes by Frank P. O'Brien.

As a final touch, throughout the week the afternoon carillon concerts featured Irish music as played by Hollins' visiting carillonneur JEROME P. NEFF, assistant professor of music.

MOORE. In addition to his talk on "The Idea of a Yeats Play," Associate Professor JOHN REES MOORE opened the Yeats Festival with remarks on the significance of the occasion, which we hereby reproduce:

"Since Yeats' death in 1939, when he was already world-famous, his ranking as the preeminent twentieth-century poet writing in English has become assured. Many tributes have been paid to him in this centenary year of his birth, and by a fortunate set of circumstances Hollins is able to offer a very rich and varied program to honor William Butler Yeats. Though he is better known as a lyric poet than as a playwright, our emphasis will be on his drama. The highlight of the festival is the presentation of two plays, Deirdre and The Only Jealousy of Emer, mounted by the Hollins Dramatic Arts Department and directed by the young Irish director, Louis Lentin. These two plays, both derived from the legends of the Irish Heroic Age which were the main source of most of his drama and much of his verse, show the power of an ideal love to transform a woman into a heroine. Heroes, at least Yeatsian heroes, are known by the sacrifices of human satisfactions they make in order to assert the superhuman values they have committed themselves to live by. Sometimes, as in the case of Deirdre, the cost is life itself; for Emer it is the permanent surrender of any future claim on the love of her husband, Cúchulain. Both are poetic dramas, but Deirdre was written for performance by the Abbey Theatre (to Yeats' gratification, the famous Mrs. Patrick Campbell played the title role both in Dublin and in London) when Yeats still had hopes that the Abbey might

become a home for his kind of poetic drama. It didn't. Some twelve years later (1919) when The Only Jealousy of Emer was produced, Yeats had given up the idea of writing for the public theater and, borrowing from the form of the Japanese Noh play, was writing his plays for dancers, of which Emer is the second. These plays are esoteric, stylized, delicate, and allusive; nevertheless, the underlying action could not be simpler or more dramatic in its conflict. The problem is to capture both the force and the subtlety together."

HOME THOUGHTS FROM ZELDIN ABROAD. Associate Professor JESSE ZELDIN, spending 1965-1966 as Fulbright Lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was asked to report on what he has been doing over on the other side of the globe. Herewith his true account:

"Simply to list what one is doing sounds an easy task. There is always, however, the problem of where to begin. As most of you know, I was lucky enough to be awarded a Fulbright grant to teach at the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the academic year 1965-66. The grant enables my wife and myself to start, at least, on fulfilling a long-standing ambition: to learn something about the Far East. How far we'll get we don't yet know, but at least we are beginning the study of the language (this in itself poses some problems, since the language of Hong Kong is Cantonese and we're studying Mandarin; as somebody or other said, the two are related to each other the way Swedish is related to English). We also have been doing a good deal of research on Chinese food. Here I can come to a conclusion: it is beyond doubt the best in the world, whether it be Cantonese, Pekinese, Szechwanese, or Shanghaiense. Drink is another matter, unless one of you happens to be addicted to stright alcohol, which I am not.

"All of the above is unofficial. Officially my activities seem at times to be overwhelming. I find myself appointed, for example, to the chairmanship of the University Board of Studies on English Language and Literature (and I thought that the leave from Hollins would allow me to forget about such matters for a while!), member of a panel to select Hong Kong students who apply to the International Institute of Education for scholarships to American Universities, scheduled to give an open lecture, to which I gather all of Hong Kong is invited, on Machiavelli (some of my friends slyly insist upon the appropriateness of this), invited to contribute an article on Dante to the Chung Chi Journal (Chung Chi is one of the three constituent colleges of the University, the one to which I am attached). I am also supposed to teach two courses this semester--one in Senior Composition and one in the Development of the Short Story--and two next semester. Fortunately, there is a long Christmas and Chinese New Year's vacation: we plan to go to Bangkok.

"One thing I will not indulge in is impressions: they are only possible in the first two weeks or after ten years. Since I am no longer in the one position and doubt that I will ever be in the other, I'll keep quiet."

NEW COURSES IN DEPARTMENT. Under the heading English 250, Studies in Language and Literature, new Assistant Professor PHILIP COOPER is currently offering a seminar in the Short Poem to a select group of nine students. Poets whose work appears on the syllabus are: Rilke, Robert Lowell, Anon. of ballad fame, Lorca, D. H. Lawrence, Stevens, Yeats, Blake, Browning, G. M. Hopkins, Shakespeare (sonnets), Baudelaire and Rimbaud. But non-scheduled poets turn up from time to time, including even those so local and particular as SAWYER and ALLEN. Mr. Cooper, himself a writer of poems, hopes that students in the course will, in the process of evolving a theory of the short poem, submit work of their own for analysis and discussion.

In the second semester, two new courses will be offered. Under the heading English 350 (Studies in Literature: Special Topics) JOHN R. MOORE will present Studies in Modern

Drama. Plays by Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov, Brecht, and Beckett will be included. And JOHN A. ALLEN will have a go at teaching Shakespeare to freshmen, sophomores, and upper-classmen who are not English majors (English 136). The hope is that Shakespeare, who has, in late years, become the captive of senior English majors, will once more become the hero of the people. Now perhaps all we have to do is to liberate the bard from John A. Allen.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, here follows a description by JOHN A. ALLEN of his course, English 331, 332: Shakespeare:

You might think that Shakespeare is one author whose work does not need to be defended. But you would be mistaken. Not even he can afford to live only on his reputation. He may yet be killed simply by inattention; and there are those among us who would assist at the execution.

Not long ago, a certain college professor stated publicly his opinion that Shakespeare no longer has anything to tell the young and that his works should be dropped from the curriculum. You can guess who I think should be dropped. But he is not the only raven croaking. The same grim word arises periodically from the secondary schools. We are told that pupils like The Catcher in the Rye better than Hamlet. Wouldn't they learn more, asks the harried school teacher, by reading something they enjoy? What is suggested here, however, is that teaching is obsolete. Students may be depended upon to get interested in what is interesting, provided somebody really stupid doesn't stand in their way.

I also run into educated persons who, knowing what I teach, feel it their duty to disillusion me. "Shakespeare's plays," one of them told me recently, "have no relevance whatever to the times we live in." He gave me his attention for three seconds' worth of rebuttal. Had he read Romeo and Juliet? Well, he knew what it was about. Didn't he find that the play shared a little something with West Side Story, civil war everywhere, the Martins and the Coys, the Berlin Wall, divided nations in a divided world? Didn't he? No, you can't lecture to someone who is surrounded by hors d'oeuvres.

This is a point I feel strongly on, so I will permit myself a certain resonance. No work of literature, with the possible exception of The Bible, is more relevant to our time, or to any time, than the plays of Shakespeare. I mean relevant to survival or chaos and destruction. The Catcher in the Rye is a good book, and I have read it several times with pleasure. But it is only a gloss on a part of one scene (the nunnery scene) in Hamlet. The school children need Hamlet more than they need The Catcher in the Rye.

Shakespeare manages to hit on all the essentials by which man and cosmos hold together. As the excellent Doctor Johnson remarked, he is not a moralist, but he is always moral. He presents experience in its full complexity, without sentimentality and without unmanly gloom. Nor is this all. Though he never prescribes, he informs every line with an assured belief in the qualities by which, if we are lucky, we will survive: loyalty, responsibility, compassion. Shakespeare may not be a profound thinker, but who else serves so well to make thinkers out of you and me? Or, more to the point, who serves better as meat and drink to all that is humane?

What speaks better to our times than Shakespeare's plays? Existentialism? This subject (like Freud, which Ernest Jones discovered buried somewhere in Hamlet) appears in Shakespeare, where, for instance, it is pretty fully covered in Henry IV (Parts I & II). Falstaff, an early existentialist, finds that his engaging individualism, the more's the

pity, ripens into Hell, a topic which we continue to hear a lot about. If you were to put Camus into Troilus and Cressida, there would still be room there for several other of our contemporary chroniclers of the inferno. Or take something in a lighter vein: Hollywood's comedies. They are epitomized (and excelled), en masse, in the subplot of Much Ado About Nothing (Boy and Girl meet, hate each other, and, when they least expect it, fall into one another's arms). The difference is that, whereas Hollywood relies on raw sex appeal to get the warring couple together, Shakespeare supplements raw sex appeal with certain subtler species of attraction.

Surely anyone is mad who has been alive on this planet during the last couple of wars and who does not see the relevance of Macbeth to the times we live in. Have you heard anyone complaining recently that President Johnson affects pious airs in his TV addresses in order to woo the simple-minded populace? The principles involved have been subtly analyzed by Shakespeare in Henry IV (Parts I & II) and Henry V. Again, we have been told that religion is dead in our time, but the Pope happily has reason to find this report much exaggerated. And the firm and undogmatic Christianity which permeates Shakespeare's plays is also very much alive.

Large claims for Shakespeare! Have I exaggerated? Not sufficiently. I believe that if one sat down to draw up a set of blueprints for civilization, one could get all the materials necessary for the job right out of Shakespeare. Want me to prove it?

One must admit, though, that the materials for civilization are not available until one has read Shakespeare and read him with good attention. It has been my privilege, for ten years now, to encourage students to do this at Hollins, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Now, perhaps because I am tired of hearing myself talk or because the students seem more than ever magnificently competent to speak for themselves, I have been asking them to do a great part of the lecturing. It seems to me that they catch on a lot quicker than I did, but I will brag about one thing: I am a more attentive audience than they used to be. I don't want to miss anything important to my education.

Also, the list of plays has grown shorter. In the first semester: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry IV (Parts I & II), Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Antony and Cleopatra, King Lear, and The Tempest. This year, for the first time, the second semester will be offered as Independent Study. And, also for the first time, a Shakespeare course will be offered in the second semester for freshmen and sophomores and for upperclassmen who are not English majors. Shouldn't we share the wealth, after all? There's more than enough to go around!

(Future numbers of The Department of English News-Letter will continue to contain in each issue a description of one of the department's courses.)

RANDALL JARRELL. Former Hollins English majors who twice had the privilege of hearing the poet RANDALL JARRELL read from his work on visits to the campus were saddened to hear of his death on October 14. Jarrell, who for many years had been a member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro (formerly the Women's College of the University of North Carolina), was winner in 1960 of the National Book Award for poetry. Most critics considered him one of the most gifted poets of his generation.

THE CLASS OF 1965. Among activities and occupations reported by English majors who graduated in June are these: JILL ABBOTT, graduate study in Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina; SYLVIA DOUGHTY, graduate study in history at the Johns Hopkins University; NOLA GOULD, graduate study in Master of Arts in Teaching and English program at Colgate University; MARION HINES, graduate study in literature and theology at the University of Chicago; PAM HUGGINS, graduate study in drama at Yale University; ANNA LOGAN, editorial secretary at William Morrow Company, publishers, in New York; SALLY THOMPSON, advertising secretary at Kenyon and Eckardt, advertising agency, New York City; CONNIE WHITTET, editorial assistant at National Geographic, Washington.

* * * * *

Model

I will lock my muscles for you
Till every joint is grinding stone,
And hold, as if a broken bone
Would split the sheerness of my skin.

I will freeze my eyes and mouth
For longer than your art can last,
Seeing blue becoming sunburst
Like fists inside my sleepless eyes.

I will hear my mind in riot
Conjuring forms unknown to you,
Will see trees from my childish swing
Spilling greenly up and down.

When you are done conceal it well,
Blindfold me with painted rags
And lead me to the door - I feel
The day no longer shines outside.

I have such fear to see my face
Outside a dream as you might see it -
With one tremendous eye, or the face
Skinned tight to the skull in shades of blue.

-TAVENNER FINLAY

THE PURITAN CARPENTER. From the University of North Carolina Press's contemporary poetry series comes The Puritan Carpenter, by JULIA RANDALL, the latter being the name by which Mrs. Julia Randall SAWYER, assistant professor of English, goes when she publishes her poetry. Attractively printed in brown cover with a brown-black-white dustjacket, The Puritan Carpenter bears on its jacket statements in praise of Mrs. Sawyer's work by Howard Nemerov, Reed Whittlemore, George Garrett, and Allen Tate, who says that "this book... will take its place as one of the few distinguished volumes of the 1960's." Copies are on sale at bookstores everywhere at \$3.75 for the clothbound edition, \$1.85 in paperback.

WANT AD. Sometimes students borrow books from professors. Sometimes English majors borrow books from English professors. Sometimes such books are not returned, and students become alumnae, while professors remain professors and continue to need the books for other and future students. The moral of all this is: if in your

library you happen to have any books you've borrowed from any of us on the faculty, would you return them please ma'am? Like for instance, will the good soul who borrowed MIMIC AUGUST, by Julia Randall, from Mr. Rubin, please send it back? It's annotated, etc.; Mr. Rubin loaned it to one of Mrs. Sawyer's admirers a couple of years back--and hasn't since seen it.

HAMILTON SCHOLARSHIP. Through the generosity of MARION H. HAMILTON, headmistress of The Williams School, New London, Connecticut, and 1935 Hollins College English major, there will one day be established "The John S. and Christine M. Hamilton scholarship, given as a memorial to her parents by Marion H. Hamilton, alumna of the class of 1935, intended for a student whose financial need has been established, whose citizenship is exemplary, and who is majoring in English." Miss Hamilton has notified President Logan that she is providing in her will for funds for this annual scholarship. As all who are familiar with Hollins know well, the college greatly needs scholarship endowment; Miss Hamilton's gift is both generous and very much to the point.

THE HOLLINS CRITIC. Completing its second full year of publication with a subscription list of some 1100 (better than we had hoped for the first year of paid subscriptions, and about a third as many as we will need to make it self-supporting), The Hollins Critic for December will feature an essay review by co-editor JOHN REES MOORE on the work, past and present, of the controversial and talented novelist-playwright-essayist JAMES BALDWIN. Each number of the Critic will continue to be built around an important evaluation of an outstanding contemporary writer, together with a check list of his books, a biographical sketch, and one or more new poems by good contemporary poets. The October number featured WALTER SULLIVAN's critique of FLANNERY O'CONNOR's posthumous book of short stories, Everything That Rises Must Converge, and poems by R. H. W. DILLARD, GEORGE P. GARRETT, and DANIEL HOFFMAN.

Do you subscribe to The Hollins Critic? A \$1.00 subscription sent in now (\$1.50 in Canada and overseas) will bring you all five 1966 numbers as they appear, PLUS a copy of the forthcoming December number. Send check or money order to Box 677, Hollins College, Virginia, 24020.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS. Joining ANNE BOWLES BRADFORD as editorial assistant to The Hollins Critic is LUCINDA CLAY HARDWICK, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a junior English major. She replaces CORNELIA M. WHITTET, the Critic's first student editorial assistant, who graduated last June and is now working with the National Geographic in Washington. The student editorial assistants are responsible for preparing the checklist of books and the biography of the writer to whose work the review essay in each issue is devoted, and also for keeping the subscription records.

IN CALIFORNIA. SYLVIA WILKINSON, who received her Master of Arts degree in English Writing here in 1963, is now at Stanford University, having won a fellowship to Wallace Stegner's writing program there for 1965-1966. Previously she had been teaching at Asheville-Biltmore College in North Carolina, where she worked at revising the novel she submitted for her thesis at Hollins, and for which she has been given an option by the Houghton-Mifflin Company. Among her multitudinous talents, which include painting, acting, tennis, and sculpting, is sports car racing--which adds to the attractions of California for her, since California is a center for that sort of thing. Meanwhile she has begun a new novel.

MISS GENTRY. JANE GENTRY, English graduate of 1963, is now teaching freshman and sophomore English at Georgetown College in Kentucky. Meanwhile she has passed her comprehensive examinations for the Master of Arts degree from Brandeis University and is completing her final critical paper, and she plans to begin doctoral study somewhere in the fall of 1966.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS. The members of the English staff continue to write and to publish their writings as well as to teach. Latest from the publication front:

FRANK O'BRIEN has a critical handbook to Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter appearing in the spring with Educational Research Associates.

ELLINGTON WHITE has two articles scheduled for imminent publication in Sports Illustrated: "Homecoming in the Bay," and "The Future of Baldhead"; and a story, "The Hunt Watchers," in The Southern Review.

JULIA RANDALL SAWYER's new book of poems, The Puritan Carpenter, is noted elsewhere in this News-Letter. Her poem "To William Wordsworth from Virginia" appears in the volume of Borestone Mountain Poetry Awards 1965.

WILLIAM JAY SMITH, Writer-in-Residence, has recently had published: "A Friend Laughing" and "A Rose for Katherine Anne Porter" (poems), Washington Star Sunday Magazine, June 27, 1965; "New Books of Poems: From Last August to This" (review), Harper's, August, 1965; "An Observation," (poem) Festschrift for Marianne Moore's Seventy-seventh Birthday, by various hands, edited by Tambimuttu, New York--Tambimuttu & Mass; "A Frame for Poetry" (essay), Poets on Poetry, edited by Howard Nemerov, Basic Books; The Golden Journey, compiled by Louise Bogan and William Jay Smith, Chicago, Reilly & Lee. Scheduled for February: If I Had a Boat, pictures by Don Bolognese, The Macmillan Company. Scheduled for March: The Tin Can and Other Poems, New York--Delacorte Press (A Seymour Lawrence Book).

JOHN REES MOORE's essay, "The Idea of a Yeats Play," will appear soon in D. E. S. Maxwell's centenary volume, The Art of Yeats, to be published in England.

JOHN ALEXANDER ALLEN's ever burgeoning poetic output has found lodgment in the following places: "Miss Frances," The Hollins Critic, June 1965; "Heron," Saturday Review, June 19, 1965; "The Dinosaurs at the Fair," The Atlantic, September 1965; "A Retreat Before the War," Kenyon Review, fall 1965; "Of Porpoises and Angels," Epos, fall 1965; "Mary Abercrombie, Herself a Teacher," Southern Review, fall 1965; "Welcome, Pilgrim, to This Hostelery," New Mexico Quarterly, fall 1965.

RICHARD H. W. DILLARD's introduction to Harper and Row's new edition of Oliver Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield and She Stoops to Conquer has appeared this fall; his poem, "The Day I Stopped Dreaming about Barbara Steele," is in The Hollins Critic for October; and Frankenstein Meets the Space Monster, being an Allied Artists-Vernon Films-Seneca Production movie with screenplay by Dillard, George Garrett and John Rodenbeck, was premiered July 27 and is now scaring the daylights out of teen-agers and others in drive-in movies.

LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., has an essay review, "Tracking Down the Fugitives," in the summer issue of Virginia Quarterly Review; a chapter, "Fiction: 1930 to the Present," in American Literary Scholarship: An Annual, edited by James Woodress, published by Duke University Press; an essay, "Flannery O'Connor and the 'Bible Belt,'" in a book on Miss O'Connor to appear soon with the Fordham University Press; and an essay, "François Mauriac and the Freedom of the Religious Novel," to appear in a forthcoming number of The Southern Review. Paperback editions of his books, The Faraway Country (retitled Writers of the Modern South) and Southern Renascence, will be published this winter.

BOOKS OF INTEREST. Because former English majors often like to keep up to date on new developments and new ideas in the courses they studied while at Hollins, we have asked members of the current English staff to suggest a book or two which has recently appeared in the fields in which they are teaching. You can order any of these books from bookstores,

libraries, and the like; the Hollins Book Shop would, no doubt, be glad to order them for you and send them along, if you'd like.

LITERARY CRITICISM (Frank O'Brien): Poetry and Experience, by Archibald Macleish; A Prosody Handbook, by Karl Shapiro.

THE SHORT POEM (Philip Cooper, Jr.): Hateful Contraries: Studies in Literature and Criticism, by W. K. Wimsatt; 77 Dream Songs, by John Berryman.

ADVANCED GRAMMAR (John C. Garruto): Your Most Enchanted Listener, by Wendell Johnson.

WRITING OF POETRY AND FICTION (Ellington White): The Modern Tradition, by Richard Ellmann and Charles Feidelson.

VICTORIAN LITERATURE (Julia R. Sawyer): The Dickens Theatre: A Reassessment of the Novels, by Robert Garis.

ROMANTIC POETRY (Julia R. Sawyer): Wordsworth's Poetry, 1787-1814, by Geoffrey Hartman.

MODERN IRISH LITERATURE (John Rees Moore): In Excited Reverie: A Centenary Tribute to W. B. Yeats, edited by A. Norman Jeffares and K. G. W. Cross.

SHAKESPEARE (John A. Allen): A Natural Perspective, by Northrop Frye.

THE ENGLISH NOVEL (Richard H. W. Dillard): Charles Dickens: From Pickwick to Dombey, by Stephen Marcus.

AMERICAN LITERATURE (Louis D. Rubin, Jr.): The Landscape of Nightmare, by Jonathan Baumbach; The Bit Between My Teeth, by Edmund Wilson.

THE MODERN NOVEL (Louis D. Rubin, Jr.): Proust: The Later Years, by George D. Painter.

Finally, new recent good novels you might enjoy:

Do. Lord, Remember Me, by George P. Garrett.

The Cherry Pit, by Donald Harington.

A Man to Conjure With, by Jonathan Baumbach.

SO MUCH, THEN, for the Departmental news, as of November, 1965. God and the fates willing, the next issue will be coming out along about April. Keep the Alumnae Office posted on changes of address. And for Heaven's sakes, keep us posted on your doings. Remember that the Seventh Annual Literary Festival will be held the first weekend in March; wouldn't that be a good time to drop in and see what's doing on the shores of the (recently relocated) Carvin's Creek? Though much is taken, much abides; the Department still occupies its old quarters in Bradley Hall (the Old Chapel); the wasps, or yellow jackets, or whatever they are, still terrorize students and teachers in the upstairs classrooms of the Administration Building and Bradley; and things otherwise go on as usual. We continue to publish the News-Letter in the hope that students present and past of Lamar Janney's and Mary Vincent Long's department, and now that of those of us presently occupying the premises, will want to keep up with English studies at Hollins College. We'd be pleased to hear from you sometime.

L.D.R., J.A.A.
Hollins College, Virginia
December 1, 1965