

For Members Only

FOOTNOTABILIA: The Editor of *PMLA* thought he had seen the ultimate when an article arrived quoting a long, continuous, and very familiar passage from Chaucer's Prologue—with a full footnote for every line reading "Chaucer, Geoffrey, *Canterbury Tales*, Prologue, line 1," etc. Recently, however, he received an article the very first footnote of which read "*Ibid.*" Needless to say, these particular notes will walk, like Prospero's elves, with printless foot. But as *Il Penseroso* might put it, they have brought a melancholy pleasure—

"And as I wake, sweet music breathe
Supra, circa, et infra . . ."

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ONLY articles of 2,500 words or less (in the fields of English or Romance) are being considered by the Editors of *Modern Language Notes*.

MLA MLA MLA

PMLA welcomes several new journals to its field. A very recent arrival is the *British Archivum Linguisticum*, "a review of comparative philology and general linguistics," initially to be published in two fascicules per annum (the first in June, 1949). There will be a substantial review section. Contributions by American linguistic scholars will be considered. The Editors are I. M. Campbell and S. Ullmann, both of the University of Glasgow. A new quarterly is *Comparative Literature*, the first number of which appeared earlier in the year. This journal is published by the University of Oregon with the cooperation of the *MLA Comparative Literature Section*. Its Editor is Chandler B. Beall; Associate Editor, Werner P. Friederich. Still another recent arrival is Volume One of the *Tulane Studies in English* (not a quarterly).

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HOW MANY members realize that the *MLA* has an "heir"? Our charter stipulates that, in case the Association ever ceases to exist, the Trustees "shall then turn over all property remaining in their hands to the Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching."

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APPLICATIONS for Guggenheim Fellowships are due before October 15. Forms may be obtained from Henry Allen Moe, 551 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N.Y.

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UNESCO BOOK COUPONS are now available, enabling individuals and institutions in "soft" currency countries to buy books and periodicals from "hard" currency countries. Orders from abroad for books or periodicals from the United States should be addressed, not to publishers, but to the American Booksellers Association, 31 Madison Ave., New York 10, N.Y. The ABA will place direct orders with the publishers, who will mail direct to the sender. Coupons may be purchased in the United Kingdom from UNESCO Book Coupons, c/o Tokens Ltd., 28 Little Russell St., London W.C. 1; in France, from Direction des Bibliothèques de France, 53 rue St.-Dominique, Paris 7^e; in India, from the Ministry of National Education, Government of India, New Delhi. Other countries are in the process of establishing Distributing Bodies. In order to avoid unnecessary delays and inconveniences, users of these coupons should find out the correct price of the publication, including postal charges, before placing an order and sending out coupons.

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For Members Only—Continued

AMERICAN post-doctoral scholars interested in teaching or research abroad (e.g., in England, France, Italy) during 1950-51 may obtain application forms and information from the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils (Gordon T. Bowles, Executive Secretary), 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D.C. Graduate students interested in study abroad may inquire of the Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th St., New York 19, N.Y. The Fulbright program is expected ultimately to embrace more than twenty countries, and may involve an expenditure of \$140,000,000 in foreign currencies during the next twenty years. The awards are offered under Public Law 584, 79th Congress, which authorizes the Department of State to use certain foreign currencies and credits acquired through the sale of surplus property abroad for programs of educational exchange with other nations.

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NOMINATIONS to the Executive Council for the term 1950-53 are now in order. The Council has itself nominated Professors W. C. Curry, H. G. Doyle, W. C. Holbrook, Kathrine Koller, Taylor Starck, D. A. Stauffer, and Stith Thompson. Bylaw II stipulates that *three additional names* must be added on the Ballot by the Secretary on November 1. Who are your choices? To make this democratic provision of Bylaw II function adequately, groups of members should concentrate on a nominee likely to secure a vote sufficient for election. In 1948 the mail ballot totalled 3,255 valid votes, and more than 1,100 were necessary for election. (Fifty-four ballots were disqualified because they bore no signatures; three others were disqualified because they contained votes for four persons.) Members may vote for no more than three of the ten nominees, and they may, of course, vote for only one or two if they wish.

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FRIENDS of Percy W. Long will wish his new address: 5424 32nd St. N.W., Washington 15, D.C. Mrs. Long has accepted a position in the Department of English of the Catholic University of America. Professor Long was the sixth Secretary of the Association (1935-47).

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YOUR ATTENTION is called to the interesting data on "Printing Costs," appearing on a page preceding these notes for members. We are grateful to Mr. Henry Silver for this second contribution to *PMLA* and to the edification of MLA scholarly authors.

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WINNER of the 1949 MLA-Oxford award is Helmut A. Hatzfeld, Professor of Romance Languages in the Catholic University of America. Professor Hatzfeld's prize-winning MS, *Literature through Art: A New Approach to French Literature*, will be published soon by the Oxford University Press, New York. It offers "a new type of literary history," in which literary texts and paintings or sculptures are paralleled on the basis of cultural psychology and formal correspondences; a final chapter regroups the material according to aesthetic versus historical principles. MSS submitted in competition for the 1950 award must be mailed or expressed to reach the MLA Secretary before April 1, 1950.

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ARTICLES submitted to *PMLA* during 1949 can be published within approximately nine months of their acceptance by the Editorial Committee.

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For Members Only—Continued

NEWS ITEMS suitable for inclusion in this section "for members only" will be welcomed by the Editor.

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HISTORICAL footnote: By 1892 the President of the MLA was able to announce: "The early professors had no recondite learning applicable to English, and did not know what to do with classes in it. They can now make English as hard as Greek."

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THE Proceedings of the sixth annual meeting (1888) in Cincinnati were never published. From 1884 it was customary to have a stenographer present at all meetings, to keep a record of speeches, discussions, etc. The Secretary was never able to get a transcript from the stenographer at Cincinnati—which fact probably confirmed the worst suspicions of Eastern members about the Middle West.

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UNDER the secretaryship of Carleton Brown (1920-34) membership in the Association rose from 1,490 to 4,267 (in 1931). Early in 1932, the Executive Council took steps to establish a waiting list and to limit the total membership to 4,300. But the national Depression made it unnecessary to put this scheme into effect, and on December 27, 1937, the limitation was officially removed. Ten years later the membership total had passed 5,000. When this note is published the figure will probably be 6,500 or higher. The original membership fee was \$3.00 (adopted December 1884); it was raised to \$4.00 in 1921, to \$5.00 in 1928, and to \$7.00 in 1949. Last year members received more than 2,000 (unsubsidized) pages of *PMLA*, not counting the *Program* and unnumbered pages of news, announcements, advertisements, etc.

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AT the 1909 MLA meeting at Ithaca, President Schurman of Cornell said: "The position of modern languages in a college curriculum . . . must in the main be defended by their value as linguistic and literary discipline. They must avail themselves of the old arguments which were used in defence of Greek and Latin. And unless they can contribute a kind of literary and linguistic training which Greek and Latin failed to furnish, I predict they will not be able to hold unchallenged the place they now occupy in our American scheme of instruction. . . . It seems to me that the best hope of the modern languages is to be based on their efficacy as instruments of liberal culture."

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THE 1950 MEETING is scheduled to be held in New York City on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 27, 28, and 29.

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IT was the need of an agency to represent American scholarship alongside the academies of other nations which led in 1919 to the creation of the American Council of Learned Societies to serve as the American affiliate of the International Union of Academies (UAI). The MLA is one of the twenty-three constituent societies (with a total membership of nearly 40,000) in the ACLS. Through the ACLS we are represented in the UAI, and through the UAI in the recently established International Council on Philosophy and Humanistic Studies to which UNESCO is turning for assistance. The MLA has its own delegate (as has the ACLS) on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

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For Members Only—Continued

THANKS to the generosity of New York University, which has released half of their time to the Association, Mr. Robert Graham Sawyer has been appointed to the new post of *Assistant Editor*, and Professor John H. Fisher to the new post of *Assistant Secretary*, for the term 1949-50. It is hoped that the creation of these offices, authorized by the Executive Council, will release at least *part* of the time of the Executive Secretary for more "pastoral visits" (to say nothing of his own scholarly investigations).

MLA MLA MLA

MEMBERS with articles in progress may be interested in changes in the Editorial Committee for *PMLA*. Professor E. K. Brown has succeeded Professor S. C. Chew, whose unexpired term was generously filled out for several months by Professors J. W. Beach and Norman Foerster. Professor Renato Poggioli has been appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Professor René Wellek, who has been appointed to the Committee on Research Activities. Professor Alfred B. Harbage has been added to the Editorial Committee as an expert in drama of the English Renaissance.

MLA MLA MLA

COMPILATION of the 1950 *Research in Progress* has already begun, and every member is urged to contribute a notice of present studies. The deadline for receiving such notices is December 31.

MLA MLA MLA

WITH deep regret we record the deaths of Milton Haight Turk (May 27), Hugh Allison Smith (June 1), Mildred C. Struble (Jan. 14), William E. Mead (July 12).

MLA MLA MLA

PMLA sometimes contains (accidentally, we must confess) an article of considerable timeliness. For example, while our members were reading, in the June number, Madeleine Smith's provocative conjectures about the lost *La Chasse Spirituelle* of Rimbaud, a bogus *Chasse* was being published by the *Mercure de France*, the confessions of the literary forgers were being printed in *Figaro*, and all Paris was talking about "l'affaire Rimbaud."

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INITIAL COMMENT. We notice that the MLA (first spelling without periods, second with) is the only one of the twenty-three constituent societies of the A.C.L.S. (second spelling, ACLS) to be included in the "Abbreviations" section of the 1949 *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*. We are fascinated by Webster's pointed preferences in this list. The spelling without periods is put first in the cases of such organizations as AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), AAA, AFL, AP, CIO, IWW, NEA, and NRA. The spelling *with* periods is put first in the cases of A.A.A.S., A.A.U.P., A.M.A., B.B.C. (cf. CBS), B.P.O.E., K.K.K., P.T.A., R.A.F. (cf. AAF), and Y.M.C.A. We are offered no alternatives in the cases of S.P.C.A. and W.C.T.U., of FBI and NAM. Indeed, no possibility of a period is even suggested for dozens of governmental organizations. . . . We are puzzled to understand what causes periods to be or not to be in abbreviations. Acknowledging the ingenuity that produced WAVES and CARE, we are awed by the conservatism of P.E.N. And what about this matter of pronouncing abbreviations? Although Webster's does not note the fact, UNESCO is fast becoming Unesco (cf. Tass and Gestapo). Remembering AMVETS, ANZAC, ASCAP, UNRRA, WAAC, and others, we find ourselves happily considering the possibilities of ARC, ERP, NAA, UP, A.A.A.S., A.D.S., A.L.A., D.A.R., and G.O.P. This pastime makes us nostalgic, for as a child we had our private pronunciation of I.O.O.F. If it were not already too late, and if we ourselves had not offended with MLA, we would suggest that Webster's allow the elimination of periods only when the abbreviation can be pronounced as a new and haunting word. . . . Incidentally, we were disturbed to find, in the new *Collegiate*, Ms, MS., ms., and ms, but not MS—and we suspect a misprint (MSS occurs for the plural). Fie on the WNCd and Miss A.M.D.

MLA MLA MLA

For Members Only—Continued

SIGNED criticisms and suggestions are welcomed by the MLA Secretary. He regrets that he cannot answer, either publicly or privately, a recent anonymous complaint mailed both to him and (in duplicate) to some members of the Editorial Committee for *PMLA*.

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EXCERPTS from (signed) letters to the Editor: "I see no reason why the Board of Editors of *PMLA* should remove from the journal its representative quality. Are they discouraged about scholarship? If so, all the great intellectual ages of the world will reprove them. Why should they be dissatisfied with what the American world of Modern Language scholarship has been doing for the last half century?" . . . "I cannot let slip the opportunity of getting the *PMLA* if the reading material is to continue along the lines it has followed in the last few issues." . . . "The Editorial Policy statement is in every detail admirable in substance and style, and I am glad you printed it. The difficulty will be to get your editors and consultants to live up to it, especially in recommending rejections." . . .

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ACLS fellows in the modern languages (as of May 1), their places of study, and their fields are as follows: Deborah Bacon (Columbia), comparative literature; Richard T. Burgi (Columbia), Russian literature; Mabel W. Collins (Radcliffe), English literature; William R. Dodge (Wisconsin), Russian history and language; William B. Edgerton (Columbia), Russian literature and language; James Ferrell (Columbia), Slavic linguistics; William J. Gedney (Bangkok), Siamese literature and language; Klaus Goldschlag (Princeton), Near East literature and languages; Simon O. Lesser (Columbia), literary criticism; Rufus W. Mathewson, Jr. (Columbia), Slavic literature and languages; Joseph A. Mazzeo (Florence), Italian literature; Harriet C. Mills (Peiping), Chinese literature and language; Olga Scherer (Columbia), Polish literature; Charles J. Stanley and Toshio G. Tsukahira (Harvard), Far East history and languages; Edward K. Williams (Cornell), literature and philosophy. The new ACLS fellowship program, established in 1946, emphasizes interdisciplinary studies. These fellowships are mostly predoctoral, but are not necessarily restricted to aid in fulfilling degree requirements; their primary purpose is to extend the basic equipment of those who wish to enter a career of scholarship and teaching in the humanities. Nominations for the year 1949-50 have already closed. Inquiries should be addressed to Donald Goodchild, American Council of Learned Societies, 1219 16th St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

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162 PAPERS were submitted to *PMLA* during the first half of 1949 (181 days). The distribution was as follows: 93 in English literature, 23 French, 10 Germanic, 7 American, 5 Spanish, 5 linguistic, 4 comparative, 3 Italian, 12 miscellaneous.

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WINNER of the 1949 MLA-Macmillan award is Kenneth Neill Cameron, Associate Professor of English at Indiana University. Professor Cameron's prize-winning MS, *The Young Shelley: Genesis of a Radical*, will be published soon by the Macmillan Company. Thirty MSS were submitted in this competition. MSS submitted for the 1950 award must be mailed or expressed to reach the MLA Secretary before April 1, 1950.

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CONTRIBUTIONS, large or small, in support of the reconstruction of the Goethe House in Frankfurt are requested by the MLA Goethe Group. Checks should be made out to the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation (with "Goethe House" written in the lower left hand corner) and should be mailed to the Foundation at 420 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.

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For Members Only—Continued

A recent request to MLA Life Members for donations in aid of research brought thirty-two contributions totalling \$689. This money will be used for grants in aid by the Committee on Research Activities. The letters accompanying these gifts were very heartening. Two Life Members (without suggestion from us) pledged annual self-assessment. One of them wrote, in part: "My first reaction to your letter was a feeling of renewed appreciation for a benefit that I had more or less taken for granted. Then I reflected that since my exemption from dues had been on the basis of five dollars, a voluntary supplement of two dollars a year would be an obvious minimum pledge to put me on a par with other members. Also, the Life Member who adopted it would have a heightened sense of continuing participation. . . . To one having the perspective of retirement, disinterested scholarship means more today than ever before, and its encouragement, to whatever extent, is a high privilege."

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THE Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid announces the inauguration of microfilm service. Inquiries may be addressed to the Director, Dr. Eulogio Varela, at Plaza de la Villa 3, Madrid, Spain.

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SIMPLICITY is the keynote of the Thoreau Society, which was informally organized at Concord on July 12, 1941. Membership is open to anyone interested in Thoreau; dues are \$1.00 a year. Members receive a Bulletin, "issued occasionally, usually quarterly." The Secretary is Walter Harding, English Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

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SCHOLARSHIP DOESN'T PAY department: It was in 1567 that Thomas Drant reported and explained a familiar complaint by a printer: "Though sayth he (Sir your booke be wyse, and full of learnynge, yet peradventure it wyl not be so saileable) signifying indeed that flim flames, and guegawes, be they neuer so sleight and slender, are sooner rapte up thenne are those which be lettered and clarkly makings."

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THROUGH the services of University Microfilms the books and MSS of the great libraries of Europe are now available to the individual American scholar. Modern precision microfilm cameras have been placed in the principal libraries in England, Holland, France, and the Vatican Library in Rome. The charges for film thus produced in foreign countries vary with the nature of the material to be copied and the conditions involved, but University Microfilms advertises that in no instance do its charges exceed those which the library abroad would make if the order were placed directly, and they are often less. Orders or inquiries should be addressed to University Microfilms, 313 N. First St., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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BOOKS FOR GERMANY. The committee appointed by the Germanic Section to organize a book collection for devastated libraries in Germany and Austria appeals to MLA members for donations. Needed for both teaching and research are reprints of classics, periodicals, dictionaries, critical, biographical, historical, and philological studies in all literatures and languages. Members are asked to prune their personal libraries and to ship books, *prepaid*, to the U.S. Book Exchange, Library of Congress Bldg., Washington 25, D.C., marking shipments "MLA-Germany." Specific recipients may be designated. Although limited funds are available for APO shipments from Washington to Germany, members are also invited to contribute in this way, making out checks (marked "MLA" in lower left corner) either to Miss Alice D. Ball (Exec. Dir., USBE, address as above) or to D. W. Schumann (Dept. of German, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.).