

For Members Only

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES OF GENERAL INTEREST

- SYMPOSIUM OF THE DEPT. OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AT THE UNIV. OF TEXAS**, 28-30 November 1966. Address Stanley N. Werbow, Dept. of Germanic Langs., Univ. of Texas, Austin 78712.
- COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION**, 26-28 December 1966, New York City. Address Allan Lefcowitz, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20001.
- MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION**, 27-29 December 1966, Statler Hilton and Sheraton Atlantic Hotels, New York City. Address John H. Fisher, MLA, 4 Washington Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.
- AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**, 28-30 December 1966, New York Hilton, New York City. Address Paul L. Ward, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.
- AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY**, 29-30 December 1966, Statler Hilton, New York City. Address Louise M. Harder, c/o State Univ. Coll., Potsdam, N.Y. 13676.
- AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**, 27-29 December 1966, Statler Hilton, New York City. Address Robert F. Lucid, Box 46, College Hall, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104.
- SPEECH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**, 27-30 December 1966, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago. Address William Work, Statler Hilton Hotel, New York, N.Y. 10001.
- AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**, 28-30 December 1966, Commodore Perry Hotel, Toledo, Ohio. Address William W. Minton, 244 Shuster Hall, Hunter College in the Bronx, Bronx, N.Y. 10468.
- LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA**, 28-30 December 1966, Hotel Roosevelt, New York City. Address A. A. Hill, Box 8120, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712.
- PRIMERA REUNION DEL XIII CONGRESO DE LITERATURA IBEROAMERICANA**, 18-21 January 1967, UCLA. Address Prof. Donald F. Fogelquist, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.
- AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES**, 19-21 January 1967, Baltimore, Md. Closed meeting. Address Charlotte Bowman, Administrative Secretary, ACLS, 345 East 46th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.
- NATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHER PREPARATION STUDY**, 26-28 January 1967, Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois. Address William P. Viall, Western Michigan Univ., Kalamazoo 49001.
- SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE TEACHING**, 1-3 February 1967, Americana Motel, Atlanta, Georgia. Address Louis J. Chataignier, Dept. of Romance Languages, Emory Univ., Atlanta, Ga. 30322.
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS**, 17-18 March 1967, Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Wash. Address Ernest S. Falbo, Dept. of Modern Languages, Gonzaga Univ., Spokane, Wash. 99202.
- COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION**, 27-31 March 1967, Virginia State Coll., Petersburg, Va. Address Charles H. Curl, Program Chairman, CLA, Virginia State College at Norfolk, Norfolk, Va. 23504.
- NORTHEAST CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**, 13-15 April 1967, Sheraton-Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. Address Donald D. Walsh, Madison, Connecticut 06443.
- CONVENTION ON TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)**, 20-22 April 1967, Miami Beach, Florida. Address James E. Alatis, School of Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown Univ., Washington, D.C. 20007.
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS**, 25-28 April 1967, Houston, Texas. Address Claire Stachelek, Executive Assistant, NAFSA, 1860 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**, 28-29 April 1967, Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio. Address Mrs. Belle G. McGuire, AAUP, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
- SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE ENLIGHTENMENT**, 22-31 August 1967, Univ. of St. Andrews. Address S. S. B. Taylor, St. Salvator's College, The University, St. Andrews, Scotland.
- TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LINGUISTS**, 22 August-2 September 1967, Bucharest, Rumania. Address X-eme Congrès International des Linguistes, Comité d'Organisation, 20 I.C. Frimu, Bucarest, 22, Rumania.
- FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDIAEVAL PHILOSOPHY**, 27 August-2 September 1967, Univ. of Montréal. Address Executive Committee, Apartment 23, 2910 Maplewood Ave., Montréal 26, Canada.
- FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION**, 30 August-5 September 1967, Belgrade University. Address Secretary's Office, 5th ICLA Congress, Faculty of Philology, post fah 556, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS OF ENGLISH**, 20-25 August 1968, Dublin. Address Professor P. H. Butter, Dept. of English, The University, Glasgow, W.2.
- MHRA JUBILEE (Modern Humanities Research Association Invitational Conference)**, Cambridge, England, 25-31 August 1968 (see *PMLA*, March 1966, p. A-10).

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. The National Endowment on the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the ACLS a grant to enable it to provide travel funds and per diem for American humanists who must attend meetings abroad in their capacities as officers or members of governing bodies of international scholarly associations or as official representatives of American societies that are members of such associations. Those in these categories will receive first priority. The terms of the grant also permit ACLS to make travel grants to humanists who are members of international planning committees for future conferences and members of editorial boards of international journals. The general rule is that if through a scholar's office or through his presence at an executive or committee meeting he will be exercising leadership or making policy, he will be eligible for consideration. Nominations are to be made to the ACLS through learned societies. MLA members who may wish to make applications for travel grants under these terms should write to the MLA Executive Secretary.

HERMANN J. WEIGAND. The fine vignette on our 1966 MLA President in the December 1963 *PMLA* (p. iv) leaves little to be said. Past 70, he is still a dynamo of energy who hikes, swims, and—through the untiring assistance of his wife Mary—keeps well abreast of both scholarship and the affairs of the profession. Two volumes of collections of his essays will be published this winter, one of his essays written in English and one of his essays written in German: *Surveys and Soundings in European Literature* (Princeton Univ. Press), and *Fährten und Funde* (Francke: Berne, Switzerland). His presidential paper on Rilke, which will appear in the March 1967 issue of *PMLA*, gives testimony to his undiminished intellectual vitality. Helmut Rehder once wrote a fine paper on the difference between *Hütte* and *Wüste* in Goethe's writings. We have come to recognize Hermann Weigand as a great lover of *Hütte*—and tamer of *Wüste*. Our gratitude to him for his year of exemplary service. The contribution of the German members of the Executive Council has always been of special value to the Association.

When icicles hang by the wall,
and all aloud the wind doth blow,
Here's *Odyssey's* merry note—
To-who, tu-whit:

Bonjour la France
Aur a Guinnard, *Marywood College*

Narrative and dialogue present selected aspects of French civilization. One grammatical point is reviewed in each of the thirty chapters, while exercises, including six review lessons, test all the basic skills. *Illustrated Cloth \$3.50*

Primeras Lecturas: Una Historia Incompleta
Carlos G. del Prado and Juan A. Calvo, *Michigan State University*

This elementary reader may be used at the beginning of the second semester. Cultural information is interspersed with a description of life in contemporary Spain at two social and economic levels. *Paper \$1.75*

Esp a a y su Civilizaci on, Segunda edici on
Francisco Ugarte, *Dartmouth College*

This popular reader has been thoroughly brought up to date. New features include additional exercises, many illustrations, and a chapter on *La Generaci on del '98*. *Illustrated Cloth \$4.50*

JOHN MILTON

Edited by Merritt Y. Hughes
University of Wisconsin, Emeritus

Still unsurpassed for scholarly users, the Hughes *Complete Milton* drew recent comment from the Times Literary Supplement for its "great intellectual hospitality." Scrupulously revised and updated in 1962, Professor Hughes' *Paradise Lost* will probably continue to be the standard for serious Milton students.

Complete Poems and Major Prose
Cloth \$7.50

Paradise Lost
Paper \$1.25

The ODYSSEY PRESS, Inc.
55 Fifth Avenue, New York 10003

PMLA A-3

For Members Only—Continued

NEW MLA TRUSTEE. Gordon N. Ray, President of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, was appointed a trustee of MLA's invested funds at the October Meeting of the Executive Council. He replaces Clarence Faust, who has retired from the Ford Foundation and moved to make his home in Claremont, California. Our other trustees continue to be Frederick B. Adams, Jr., Director of the Pierpont Morgan Library (Managing Trustee), and Arthur Houghton, Jr., President of Steuben Glass, Inc. We are pleased that Gordon Ray is willing to join this distinguished group. The MLA has always been triply fortunate in its trustees.

INDEX COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT. The Index Committee has accepted for publication R. W. Baldner's *Bibliography of Seventeenth-Century Prose Fiction in France*, which supplants R. C. Williams' *Bibliography of the Seventeenth-Century Novel in France* (MLA Revolving Fund Series, 1931). The manuscript is now in the hands of Columbia University Press and should appear in the spring of 1967. The three volumes of Donald Wing's *Short Title Catalogue* are being reprinted in 200 copies each to keep them in print until a new edition can be prepared. In the meantime, a typescript list for photo-offset has been prepared of the nearly 5000 titles not in the *Short Title Catalogue* that Wing has found listed since publication of the original volumes. This booklet of 225 pages will be sent gratis to collectors and research libraries to ascertain how many of the "ghosts" can be located. (Copies will be available for purchase through the MLA Materials Center.) A year or so after this, Donald Wing hopes to take a year off from the Yale Library to do a full-scale revision of his *Short Title Catalogue*. The first-line index of manuscript poetry in the Bodleian is in the hands of Oxford University Press. It will appear under the joint imprint of Oxford and the MLA Index Committee. Proof has been received through letter E.

TRIENNIAL ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON PRIZE. A prize of 50 guineas will be awarded for an essay on some aspect of the life and writing of Robert Louis Stevenson, entry being open to undergraduates or graduates of not more than five years' standing. The subject suggested for this year (1966-67) is "Stevenson and the Novel," length required is not fewer than 6,000 words, and final date of entry is 1 May 1967. For form of entry and further particulars write to the University of Edinburgh, Dept. of English Literature, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh 8.

THE FUNCTION OF CRITICISM. A small section of a letter from a PMLA author to a member of the Editorial Committee bears repeating: "It seems to me that constructive criticism of the sort you provide gives real meaning to the phrase 'community of scholars.' I am especially grateful for [the first reader's] generosity, since I know that our views, based upon somewhat different premises, differ in a number of particulars. As Henry James wrote, 'Art lives upon discussion, upon experiment, upon curiosity, upon variety of attempt, upon exchange of views and the comparison of standpoints.' I at least have learned much from this exchange."

PUBLISH AND PERISH—1984. The chairman of the philosophy department was talking to a candidate for an instructorship. "One thing you must realize," he said, "is that we have a very strict publication policy." "I'm used to that," answered the candidate. "At Columbia, you're not allowed to print your first article for five years after you take your Ph.D., or your first book for seven years."

"Ours is stricter. To begin with, we say seven years for everything. And I'm told Columbia makes numerous exceptions. We make none."

The candidate looked mutinous. "What if you've written something that can't wait?" he asked. "Seven years is a long time."

"There are two answers. First, if your stuff really can't wait, or even if it can, you're perfectly free to publish it anonymously. You have to act in good faith, of course. If you go around showing people the galleys of your book, or if the Publication Committee even hears a rumor connecting you with an article, it will investigate and, if necessary, make the usual evaluation."

"That sounds like no fun at all," the candidate said. "What's the other answer?"

"That in a sense you do have the right to publish under your own name during the first seven years. It's just that if you do, the Publication Committee automatically makes an evaluation. And unless there's a two-thirds vote that what you've written is—I won't say of permanent value, because who knows what is, but a work of real and obvious merit, well, you've published and you perish."

"You certainly make Columbia look like a bunch of amateurs," the candidate said. "I almost wonder if the policy isn't too strict."

"Not a bit," said the chairman. "Look. In the first place, there's no stigma whatsoever to publication after the novitiate—indeed, we encourage it. In the second place, if a young man is writing because he has something to say, and not because he wants a promotion, being anonymous is no great hardship. But most important, in the twelve years since we and Yale started this, 72 learned journals have ceased publication. The survivors are half their old size and about three times their old quality. Not one new university press has been founded. Keeping up with one's field is becoming almost a pleasure."

"You make a good case," said the candidate. He hesitated. "If only there were some way to apply the same rules to college presidents."

"There is," said the chairman, laughing. "We do. A new president here in his first seven years is not allowed to publish any of his speeches, or give a single honorary degree. He can't receive any, either. Mr. Mansell has six years to go." (Reprinted by permission of Noel Perrin from *The New Yorker*, 4 December 1965, p. 205.)

SUMMER SEMINAR IN NUMISMATICS. The American Numismatic Society will again in 1967 conduct a summer seminar in numismatics and offer grants in aid to students working in some area in the humanities. Grants are restricted to graduate students and junior instructors in the United States and Canada. Further information may be obtained from the offices of the Society, 155th Street and Broadway, New York 10032. *Deadline 1 March 1967.*

NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY ANNOUNCES THE FIRST VOLUMES IN THE

New Signet Classic Poetry Series



A distinguished series offering the most comprehensive, authoritative, and up-to-date editions of the great British and American poets. Each work contains selected bibliographies, textual notes, detailed footnotes keyed to the text, biographical chronologies, and is edited by a noted scholar. General Editor, John Hollander, Hunter College.

The Selected Poetry of Shelley. Edited with Introduction by Harold Bloom. All the major and most of the minor poems. CQ342, 95¢

The Selected Poetry of Keats. Edited with Introduction by Paul de Man. The major longer poems, all of the *Odes*, many *Sonnets*, and several letters. CQ325, 95¢

The Selected Poetry of Spenser. Edited with Introduction by A. C. Hamilton. Includes *Shepheard's Calendar* and extensive selections from all six books of *The Faerie Queene*. CY350, \$1.25

Samson Agonistes and the Shorter Poems of Milton. Edited with Introduction by Isabel Gamble MacCaffrey. Contains all the major short works, including the *Sonnets*. CT323, 75¢

The Selected Poetry of Byron. Edited with Introduction by W. H. Auden. A comprehensive collection which includes "Beppo," "Epistle to Augusta," selections from *Don Juan*, *Childe Harold*, numerous letters, and journal extracts. CQ346, 95¢

The Selected Poetry of Browning. Edited with Introduction by George Ridenour. Including the longer works often omitted in standard anthologies. CQ313, 95¢

The Selected Poetry of Donne. Edited with Introduction by Marius Bewley. Several complete works such as *Songs and Sonnets*, *Elegies*, and *Satyres*, as well as many extracts from other poems. CQ343, 95¢

For complete catalogue of paperback books for college literature courses, write to Education Division

The New American Library

1301 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK 10019

PMLA A-5

For Members Only—Continued

NEW JOURNALS. *Trivium*, a Welsh miscellany accepting articles and reviewing books on any branch of the humanities, from theology to the teaching of language, published its first number in May 1966. It is particularly interesting for its material in modern Welsh. Contributions, books for review, and subscriptions (\$6.00) should be addressed to the Editor, St. David's College, Lampeter, Cardiganshire, G. B. *The West Coast Review*, edited by Frederick Candelaria, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby 2, B. C., published its first number in the spring of 1966. It will appear three times a year (subscription \$3.00), publishing English and French poetry, fiction, essays, and reviews. A special feature will be bibliographies of modern writers. The first issue carried a bibliography of writings about Samuel Beckett. Forthcoming in the winter of 1966 a bibliography of William Carlos Williams, in the summer of 1967, of Lawrence Durrell. *The Wascona Review*, edited by Alwyn Berland, Regina Parkway, Saskatchewan, published its first semiannual number (undated) in the summer of 1966. It includes poetry, fiction, essays, and graphic art; subscription \$2.50. *Style*, a triannual forum for critical, historical, and theoretical papers on the texture of both prose and poetry, edited by Blair Rouse, University of Arkansas, with a distinguished Advisory Board, will publish its first number in the spring of 1967; subscription \$3.50 in the U. S. Address contributions and correspondence to James R. Bennett, Managing Editor, Box 1533, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville 72701. *The Stephen Crane Newsletter*, edited by Joseph Katz, 2395 Indianola Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43202, published its first quarterly number in the fall of 1966; subscription \$2.00. It will publish primary and secondary material on all aspects of Crane studies, reviews, and a checklist of current Crane scholarship.

ENGLISH INSTITUTE MATERIALS CENTER. In the summer of 1966 EIMC, under a licensing agreement with the U. S. Office of Education, again distributed experimental English curriculum material from 12 Curriculum Study Centers to 124 NDEA Institutes in English, Reading, Disadvantaged Youth, and English as a Foreign Language. More than three million pages of material were sent out early in May. To evaluate the use of these new materials in the institutes, the MLA secured a small grant from the CONPASS consortium (see *PMLA*, Nov. 1966, p. A-16) to make a questionnaire survey and 27 on-site visits. This program was directed by Michael Shugrue, assisted by Carl A. Barth (Evanston Township High School) and Leo Ruth (California, Berkeley). On 24-25 October the Directors of the 23 English Curriculum and Demonstration Centers met in New York to plan EIMC operations for the summer of 1967 and to assess progress in English curriculum development in the last year. The MLA Materials Center and NCTE have reprinted especially important units from the Minnesota, Nebraska, Northwestern, and Oregon Centers to make them available as examples to departments and school systems outside the NDEA and USOE syndrome. These units are listed in the Materials Center catalog of *Publications of Interest to Teachers of English* which was mailed to each MLA member in October.

MLA FL PROFICIENCY TESTS FOR TEACHERS AND ADVANCED STUDENTS. A new contract for activities relating to foreign language testing has been negotiated between MLA and the U. S. Office of Education. The contract, extending from June 1966 through December 1967, involves the administration of the Proficiency Tests to native speakers (after all instructions have been translated into the native language) as part of a validation process in preparation for the development of new forms of the tests. It also includes the development of three pamphlets: a handbook on the use of the FL Proficiency Tests, a handbook on college FL placement which will be produced in cooperation with selected department chairmen, and a handbook on FL testing in general for the use of classroom teachers of the five commonly taught languages. André Paquette directs this program, assisted by Suzanne Tollinger, with the advice of the MLA FL Test Advisory Committee, James Alatis (Georgetown), Albert Jekenta (Beverly Hills Unified School District), A. H. Marckwardt (Princeton), Sanford Newell (Converse Coll.), Barbara Ort (Michigan Dept. of Public Instruction), Sol Saporta (Washington), and Irving Wershow (Florida). The Proficiency Tests continue to be administered under the National Testing Program initiated on 1 April 1966. At that time 800 examinees registered to take the tests at 59 centers; 326 individuals registered at 30 test centers for the second administration on 17 September. The Proficiency Tests are administered in April, September, and November, and at summer institutes. For a description of the tests and information on test dates, centers, and other administrative matters write André Paquette, Coordinator, MLA Testing Program.

CHICAGO FOLKLORE PRIZE. Co-winner of the 1966 prize was MLAer MacEdward Leach (Pennsylvania) for *Folk Ballads and Songs of the Labrador Coast*. The Chicago Folklore Prize is supported by an endowment established by the International Folklore Association and awarded by the University of Chicago. The contribution (monograph, thesis, essay, or collection of materials) may be in print, if submitted within a year of its publication. The cash award is \$75.00. Information may be secured from the Chairman of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Univ. of Chicago. *Deadline 15 April 1967.*

AHA-OAH COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF HISTORIANS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT. The following is a reprint of a circular sent by the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians to all their members and other interested individuals:

The American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians announce the formation of The Joint Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Historians under the First Amendment. We do so with a sense of sadness that in a country where freedom of the press is a basic and vital part of our organic law it becomes necessary for serious historians to take steps to protect their constitutional right to probe history and present the results of that scholarly research without fear of legal repercussions. Yet, recent developments concerning a scholarly book by Dr. Sylvester K. Stevens entitled *Pennsylvania: Birthplace of a Nation* require this action.

Dr. Stevens received his doctorate at Columbia Uni-

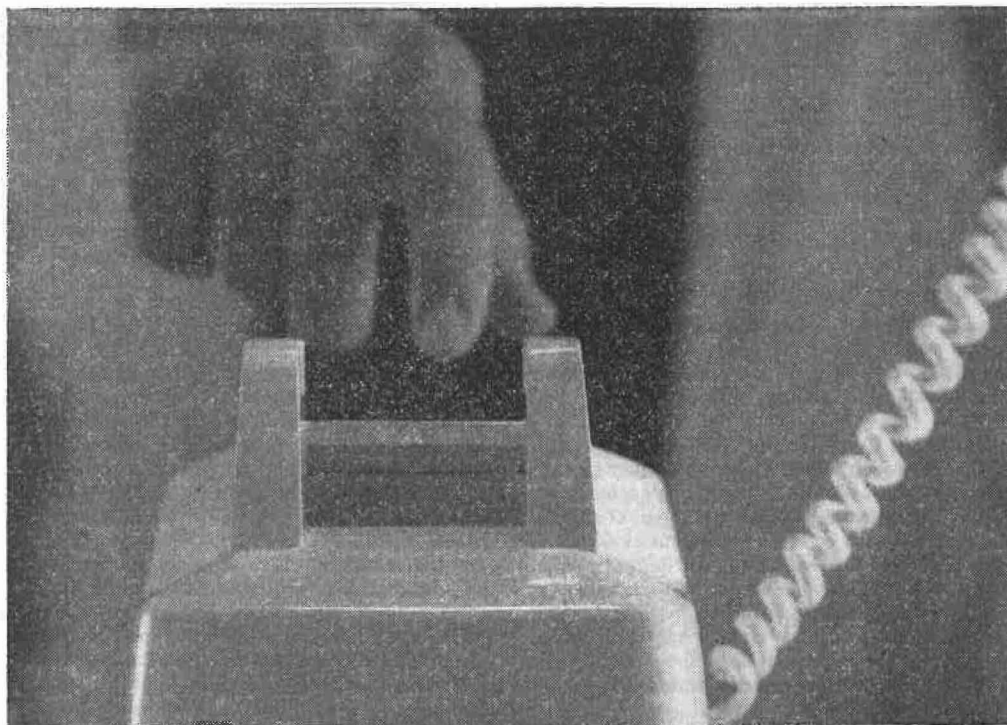
A student is about to dial the phone in his dorm room. He's going to use it to study French by calling the Learning Lab. At the same time other students will be dialing lessons in Biology, Government, Speech . . . any subject the university has scheduled for that period. Through the telephone, universities can extend their Learning Lab facilities economically to every dormitory room, so students can take full advantage of a university's opportunities.

This use of the telephone as a learning tool, in addition to its everyday function, is just a beginning. Soon, a student will

be able to connect with a computer, put a problem to it, and receive information back in the most convenient form . . . voice or teletypewriter . . . even as a video image.

This is one more way we are working to improve communications to meet the future needs of students, faculty and administration. Many of these communications systems—Tele-Lecture service (two-way amplified phone calls), Data-Phone* service, and remote blackboard projection—are available now. Find out what you can do to benefit from them by talking with your Bell Telephone Communications Consultant.

Dial 3621 for French III



*Service mark of the Bell System

AT&T  **Bell System**
American Telephone & Telegraph
and Associated Companies

For Members Only—Continued

versity in 1945, served as State Historian of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1937 to 1956, and has been Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since that date. He has devoted his entire professional life to the study of Pennsylvania history, has written or edited numerous volumes on the subject, and has also held important positions in professional societies, especially those concerned with state and local history. He is a distinguished and highly regarded scholar. Dr. Stevens published his book through Random House in 1964. It was well received by reviewers.

Dr. Stevens' book contains several passages about Henry Clay Frick, the famous Pittsburgh steelmaster, who died in 1919. The material about Mr. Frick is far gentler than other treatment he has received. Nonetheless, Miss Helen C. Frick, a daughter of Henry Clay Frick, regarded several passages as derogatory of her father's good name and sued Dr. Stevens in Pennsylvania for libel.

These are the passages:

In the bituminous fields of western Pennsylvania Henry Clay Frick had built a similar monopoly of coal and coke production and was equally successful in beating down efforts at unionization. Frick also made extensive use of immigrant labor and cut wages to an average of about \$1.60 a day while extracting the longest hours of work physically possible. Most mines of the time were without anything resembling modern safety appliances or practices, and serious accidents were common.

Still another abuse was the company town with its company store. The coal companies owned the houses, shoddy wooden shacks without any sanitary facilities, which they rented at a high rate to workers. (p. 226)

The power of the union was broken in the bloody and disastrous Homestead strike in 1892 by stern, brusque, autocratic Henry Clay Frick. (p. 209)

In her lawsuit she did not seek an award of money damages—the usual remedy for libel in cases where a good claim exists—but instead asked the Court to prohibit Dr. Stevens from selling and distributing his book.

The Pennsylvania Court is entertaining the suit and has not simply thrown it out of Court as an unwarranted and unconstitutional attempt to bridle free speech.

As a result, Dr. Stevens has been compelled to undertake the defense of a complex and expensive litigation which we believe presents a serious danger to the constitutional rights of all historians and authors. In that action, the Court is presuming to investigate Dr. Stevens' research and may ultimately render a decision based upon the Judge's opinion as to the accuracy of the research and the propriety of the statements made by Dr. Stevens as a result of his studies.

The officers and governing boards of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians, representing some 20,000 writers, teachers, and friends of history in the United States, feel that every historian as well as the public at large has a stake in the issues raised by this case. They are issues of principle that affect not only the historical profession, but the entire concept of democratic government.

At the heart of this suit lies the fundamental right of the public to be fully and well informed about any as-

pect of the past.

We believe that an historian is bound by the canons of his profession to present the truth about the past as honestly, as accurately, and as objectively as is humanly possible, even if that truth may be uncomplimentary. Obviously, the historian is accountable to his peers in the profession and we do not question the right of any living person who is damaged by a defamatory falsehood to sue for damages within the framework of the First Amendment and the law of libel. What we do question—and what concerns us vitally here—is the assault made by Miss Frick which, if successful, would inhibit our right to speak freely about the past based upon scholarly research, and which would permit the descendants of long-dead historical figures to have serious books removed from circulation simply because something critical was said about their ancestors. Success in her suit would lead to direct censorship.

The historian has obligations to the public. He is, in a sense, custodian of the public conscience in everything touching the past. His professional obligation, as well as the public interest, require that none of his statements should be expressed merely because of their popularity or conformity to accepted orthodoxies. His purpose in exploring the past is to advance truth and to expose error. The rectification of his own errors can best be left to the process of mutual questioning and verification that goes on in the learned professions.

No historian can—or should—permit any orthodoxy or any authority to compel him to state what his conscience and the canons of his profession forbid him to state. "The public," as a distinguished historian has written, "is the historian's client, not his sovereign." There are often harsh and unpleasant truths that he must say to his client. This is the peculiar glory of historical writing in a democracy. The past may be manipulated in an authoritarian state, but this can never be permitted in a free society.

Dr. Stevens' case is unique. It is the first case we know of in which a serious work has been challenged in the Courts, in which the Court has been asked to ban a book, and in which the Court has proceeded to hear the suit on the merits. But that makes its danger even greater, for a victory for Miss Frick would encourage others to take similar action and soon we would be spending all our time defending lawsuits instead of studying and writing. A victory for Miss Frick would be a crippling blow to scholarly study and would eventually shake the very foundations of our great democracy which depends so much on the free and unfettered flow and exchange of ideas.

As a result, the officers and governing boards of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians have authorized this statement and have designated us as a Joint Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Historians under the First Amendment. They have directed us to enlist the full moral and financial support of the historical profession for this cause. This task is not assumed lightly. Humanistic learning labors under handicaps enough without further levies of time and money upon it for meeting attacks upon its fundamental rights and obligations in courts of law.

An attack on one book is an attack on all learning. A challenge such as this case presents is a challenge to all historians. It is a challenge that all historians must join in meeting.