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THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWS-LETTER

VOL. II, No. 1

Hollins College, Virginia

November 1, 1964

Conspicuous by his absence from the English Department this year is Professor LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR. Mr. Rubin is at present writing away in Italy, on sabbatical leave from Hollins and assisted by a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. Thus far, the Rubin family has been located in Ravello (near Salerno), Italy, but late news reports suggest that a move to England (where English is rumored to be spoken) will be forthcoming about November 1. Mr. Rubin has completed an essay review of the novels of Francois Mauriac; an article on current Southern writing; a review of scholarship in post-1930 American fiction written during 1963, for a book being edited by the American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association; and, as residents of Roanoke have become aware, he is doing a series of articles about his adventures abroad for the Sunday editions of the Roanoke Times. His ACLS project is concerned with the form of the novel, and we have had no progress report on this work. However, late word informs us that he has completed a draft of a second novel (subject undisclosed) and will now be at work revising it. In Mr. Rubin's absence, his multifarious activities have been divided (like all Gaul) between several members of the staff. Associate Professor JOHN ALEXANDER ALLEN is serving as Chairman of the department, advising the junior majors, forwarding LOUIS D. RUBIN'S mail, running the Nancy Thorp Memorial Poetry Prize contest, etc. Senior advising has devolved upon Associate Professor JOHN REES MOORE and Assistant Professor JULIA RANDALL SAWYER. And the graduate program in English is being administered by Associate Professor JESSE ZELDIN. Mr. Moore is serving as sole editor of the newly established journal, The Hollins Critic, during co-editor Rubin's absence. And finally, The Department of English News-Letter is being pecked out by Mr. Allen in person, and all errors, omissions, and distortions of fact included therein are to be laid directly at his door.

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THE FIRST HOLLINS COLLEGE ENGLISH CONFERENCE has, at this writing, come to a successful close. The Conference, conceived and directed by Assistant Professor Wilton Eckley, part of whom belongs to the English Department (the rest belongs to Education -- not a department), sought to provide secondary school teachers in the Roanoke area with a program which would be useful and stimulating to their academic work. Visiting speaker was PAUL PICKREL, A.B. Knox College; M.A. Yale University; Ph.D. Yale University; and member of the Yale English Department since 1943. Mr. Pickrel is managing editor of The Yale Review and was, until recently, chief book reviewer for Harper's Magazine. His talk, delivered at a dinner meeting on Friday, October 23, was entitled "How to Talk About a Novel." Mr. Pickrel also addressed the Grapheon Society in an informal meeting on Friday afternoon on the subject of book reviewing--its nature and objectives. On Saturday, Assistant Professor JULIA R. SAWYER spoke on "Views of the Teaching of Poetry" and Associate Professor JESSE ZELDIN talked about "Levels of Reality in Gogol." Visiting speaker No. 2 was Mr. JAMES McCAMPBELL, A.B. Northwestern University; M.A. Western Reserve University; Assistant Director and Editor for the Project English Demonstration Center at Euclid Central Junior High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. McCampbell spoke on "Linguistics and the Teaching of English." At the luncheon meeting on Saturday, English Department writer-in-residence BENEDICT KIELY held the audience spellbound while filling them in on the background of one of his own short stories and then reading the work most eloquently in his rich Dublin intonation. Over a hundred teachers appeared at the Conference, and many made auspicious comment. Indications are that the event will be repeated annually.

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SPEAKERS. First on the list this year was the distinguished American poet, critic and novelist, ALLEN TATE. Mr. Tate was on campus for three days: October 5-7. On Tuesday, October 6, he gave a reading of poems by well-known native writers who have been friends of his: Hart Crane, Wallace Stevens, John Crowe Ransom. He concluded with selections from his own work. In addition to the reading, Mr. Tate was guest lecturer in the American Literature class of JANET PINKERTON (one-third of whom belongs to the English Department this year; the other two-thirds belongs to the administration, for whom she functions as Assistant Dean), and held conferences with the department's three graduate students and with other interested student writers and critics. PAUL PICKREL and JAMES McCAMPBELL have been mentioned above. November 9, JOHN BARTH, one of the most exciting of contemporary novelists, will read from his own work. The following week, November 16, the venerable Irish poet, PADRAIC COLUM, a friend of writer-in-residence BENEDICT KIELY, will give a poetry reading. FRED CHAPPELL, whose first novel, It Is Time, Lord, was so enthusiastically received, will speak on December 8.

The fifth annual Literary Festival is set for Saturday, March 6. For the afternoon poetry session RANDALL JARRELL and REED WHITTEMORE, currently Consultant on Poetry to the Library of Congress, will read from their own work and comment upon poems submitted by students in area colleges. Mr. Jarrell has visited Hollins several times; he is one of the most distinguished of contemporary poets and critics. In the second semester, the Eighth Annual English Department Lecture Series will feature writer-in-residence BENEDICT KIELY. His three lectures are scheduled for April 8, April 22, and May 13. On May 4, DANIEL J. HOFFMAN will be on hand to give a poetry reading. Mr. Hoffman, who is a member of the editorial board of The Hollins Critic, teaches at Swarthmore College. He is gaining an excellent reputation as a critic and is one of the best of the younger poets. Programs are also evolving in which undergraduate and graduate poets and those of the faculty will give readings, and a program on the editing of literary magazines is projected for April 13. In addition to the English Department bards (JULIA RANDALL SAWYER, JOHN ALEXANDER ALLEN, and RICHARD DILLARD), the Dramatic Art Department this year offers ARNOLD WEINSTEIN, poet and dramatist. One of Mr. Weinstein's one-acters, The Snood, was successfully presented by the freshmen recently in their annual program of plays.

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THREE NEW PERSONS JOIN the Hollins College English staff this year. BENEDICT KIELY, novelist, literary editor of The Irish Free Press, critic and historian, comes from Dublin to be 1964-1965 writer-in-residence. Mr. Kiely is currently teaching a class in modern Irish Literature to the delight of fifteen senior English majors who are charmed by his Irish speech, his wealth of literary anecdote, and his eloquent renditions, from memory, of Yeats and many another Irish poet. In the second semester (see above) Mr. Kiely will give a series of three public lectures. Throughout the year, he will participate in the advanced Creative Writing course.

RICHARD H. N. DILLARD, Assistant Professor of English, over the summer completed his doctoral dissertation and his final examination at the University of Virginia, and will officially receive the Ph.D. in June. His dissertation topic was "Pragmatic Realism: a Biography of Ellen Glasgow's Novels." At Hollins, he is teaching creative writing, the modern novel, and the Humanities. Mr. Dillard is a native of Roanoke, the son of Mayor Benton O. Dillard.

MRS. JANET PINKERTON, lecturer in English, will teach a section of American Literature in the first semester and Contemporary Literature in the second. The remainder of her time, during 1964-1965, will be occupied by her duties as Assistant Dean. Mrs. Pinkerton is a graduate of the University of California and is at work on her doctoral dissertation for Harvard.

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COLLEGE JOURNALISM. Six outstanding Southeastern newspapers are joining with the staff of Hollins Columns, under the leadership of English major SYLVIA DOUGHTY, to set up the First Annual Southeastern College Newspaper Competition, in which college and university newspapers throughout a six-state area will compete for trophies offered by the participating newspapers. Newspapers taking part include the Nashville Tennessean; the Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va., Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star; the Richmond, Va., Times Dispatch and News-Leader; the Charleston, S. C., News and Courier; the Charleston, W. Va., Gazette and Sunday Gazette-Mail; the Columbus, Ga., Ledger-Enquirer; and the Roanoke, Va., Times and World-News. Each newspaper is contributing a trophy in one of the categories which are to be judged, and the staff of each will determine the winner in the category for which it awards the trophy. The Hollins Columns staff, under Miss Doughty's direction, will send out announcements, assemble the entries, coordinate the judging, announce the awards, and present the trophies at an awards banquet in May.

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NANCY THORP MEMORIAL PRIZES. The second year of competition for the Nancy Thorp Poetry Awards is now under way. Last year more than a thousand poems were submitted from senior women in high school and prep schools in the Eastern half of the country. First prize in the contest is \$50 plus a trip to the campus to meet the writer-in-residence--last year novelist EUDORA WELTY, this year BENEDICT KIELY. Last year's winner was Lucy Schneider of the Brearley School, New York City. Two \$25 awards are made to the runners-up. The contest is judged by the advanced creative writing students at Hollins. The award was established by Mrs. Francis Q. Thorp and the late Dr. Thorp, of Philadelphia, in memory of their daughter Nancy Thorp, a talented poet who attended Hollins, 1956-58, and who died in an automobile accident in 1963. Closing date for the 1964 contest is November 1, and the winners will be announced late in November.

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WHAT THEY ARE DOING. Hollins' former writers-in-residence, a distinguished lot, are pursuing their art in various corners of the world. Critic JOHN W. ALDRIDGE, after a year as Fulbright lecturer at the University of Copenhagen, and a second year in England, is visiting writer at the University of Michigan for 1964-1965. HOWARD NEMEROV, following a one-year tenure as consultant in poetry at the Library of Congress, is home again at Bennington College. WILLIAM GOLDING, in England, has enjoyed a great success with his fifth novel, The Spire, the first draft of which he completed while in residence at Hollins.

And what of last year's graduate students in Creative Writing and Criticism? Master of Arts degrees were awarded at the May commencement to JAMES KLASS, CHARLES MOLESWORTH, and THEODORE HIRSCHFIELD. KLASS, a playwright and actor, when last heard from, was following the vagrant muse in San Francisco. Molesworth is a teaching assistant and candidate for the doctorate at NYU in Buffalo, and Hirschfield enjoys the same dual capacity at Southern Illinois University.

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This year's graduate students come to us from Johns Hopkins University, Antioch College, and the University of North Carolina. The Carolina man, LOUIS BOURNE, is well versed in Classics and Philosophy as well as in English and was for two years editor of the national periodical, The Carolina Quarterly. He proposes to do his thesis in criticism but is having a fling at writing poems and short stories in the advanced writing seminar.

The Antioch man is RICHARD BILLOW, a short story writer; and PHILIP BERGER, the Hopkins representative, also specializes in fiction. All three students confer with Mr. Kiely as well as with the regular members of the English Department.

This year's advanced creative writing class came up with a record enrollment of 23, plus four instructors: BENEDICT KIELY, JOHN A. ALLEN, JULIA SAWYER, and RICHARD DILLARD. The perils of success! As a result, it was found necessary to split the class in two; eleven eager sophomores in one group, under the tutelage of Mr. Dillard; and juniors, seniors, and graduate students in another, the responsibility of Mr. Allen. However, to keep things lively, we have evolved a system of revolving instructors whereby each class is visited, from time to time, by each of the staff members involved. The effect is a bit dizzying but fraught with interest.

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HERE FOLLOWS A POEM BY MARGARET FERGUSON, this year's editor of Cargoes, the Hollins literary magazine, and a member in good standing of the advanced writing course.

RENOIR: IN THE MEADOW

It might be noon in all his paints.
The evidence of sun throughout
The spangling leaf gives color to the air,
And there is no shadow weeping down,
And dew seems permanent as color.

It's noon. The stand-still-stop and hush
Tells noon, and all gives up its breath
To form and color, for an instant
Stopped and tutored by the brush
And sun which yields up prisms out of white.

Cries out the old heart to the master's hand
To make its tossing fields and valleys canvas,
To paint there the always sun-height
And the sturdy, stately trees of passion,
Unblurred with shadow, new.

But the deep heart sings away the novice brush
And away benevolent paralysis, rather loves
The surge and ebb of color, the creeping
In and out of shade, the vital movement,
Vital love that make the shadows only white.

-- Margaret Ferguson.

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IN ADDITION TO MISS FERGUSON, several other English majors, as usual, will play leading roles in campus publications during 1964-1965. Miss Ferguson, a junior from Richmond, had experience on the Cargoes staff last year. SYLVIA DOUGHTY, English major from Washington, D. C., is editor of Hollins Columns; ANNA LOGAN, English major from Roanoke, is Associate Editor; SALLY CRAIG, English major from Ellicott City, Maryland, Executive Editor; JILL ABBOTT, English major from Richmond, make-up editor. PATRICIA GRIFFIN,

English major from New Canaan, Connecticut, is co-chairman of the editorial board of Hollins' new scholarly journal, The Hollins Symposium. CONNIE WHITTET, English major from Richmond, is editorial assistant to The Hollins Critic.

And speaking of The Critic, it thrives on under the editorship of LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., (this year in absentia) and JOHN REES MOORE. The poetry of Richard Eberhart is the subject of poet-critic DANIEL J. HOFFMAN's review essay in the October number of the periodical. For the December issue, Mr. Rubin will contribute a discussion of poet KARL SHAPIRO'S latest book, The Bourgeois Poet. The February issue will feature a review essay on the new novel by SAUL BELLOW. The Critic, during its first year, has attracted nationwide and even international attention for the excellence of its review essays. It goes on a paid subscription basis with the February issue; subscriptions are priced at \$1 for the five annual issues (\$1.50 in Canada and overseas).

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The staff of the English Department is busily engaged in writing and extra-curricular speaking. RICHARD DILLARD, having finished his dissertation on Ellen Glasgow, says: "My larger projects have become temporarily submerged in a clutter of smaller ones, such as a review of Blair Rouse's Ellen Glasgow for the Mississippi Quarterly and an attempt to shape a coherent article from a massive taped interview with Floyd Dell for Tennessee Studies in English. The larger projects which hang heavy behind these are: a book on the Southern short story (tentatively titled An Evening Performance: The Poe Tradition in the Southern Short Story) which I am doing with Professor W. R. Robinson for the Louisiana State University Press; a collection of essays which attempts by using contemporary writers' statements on their art to arrive at some pattern in the literary theory of the twentieth century--this one, too, with Professor Robinson; and, closest to my heart, a book of poems, The Day I Stopped Dreaming About Barbara Steele and Other Poems, which, with luck, should be ready by January or so."

JANET PINKERTON is currently trying to get work done on an analysis of imaginative ideas in American literature from the Puritans to James Baldwin--her doctoral thesis for the Harvard Ph.D.

WILTON ECKLEY is similarly preoccupied with the dissertation, his being on the subject of J. B. Stribling, a novelist who still thrives in Tennessee.

ROBERT FIGG's dissertation is in the final stages: subject, naturalism in American fiction. He expects to receive his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in June. A paper which Mr. Figg presented before the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta last November has been published in the Fall, 1964, issue of The Georgia Review: title, "Naturalism as a Literary Form."

JULIA RANDALL SAWYER, as previously mentioned, addressed the Hollins College English Conference, October 24, on "Views on the Teaching of Poetry." During the past summer, she worked on the libretto for a short opera and prepared a manuscript of poems for her third volume, now seeking a publisher. Also, she did the by-ways of England in a left-handed Ford. Of her activities, she remarks, "All arrows are boomerangs"--a good example of Sawyeriana, though she says that it is derived from Longfellow. Her poem, "To Wordsworth from Virginia," appeared in the spring issue of The American Scholar.

JOHN REES MOORE reports: "Having written the article on Donleavy for the first number of the Critic, I got busy on an article requested by D.E.S. Maxwell from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria for a centenary volume on Yeats to be published by a British university press around the beginning of 1966. My contribution is entitled 'The Idea of a Yeats Play.' I had also been requested to do a piece for a special number on the drama of Yeats by A. C. Edwards for Modern Drama. My essay, 'Cold Passion: A Full Moon in March and The Herne's Egg,' will appear in the December issue. Now I am busy writing a review article on Conrad Aiken for The Sewanee Review. Next spring I have been asked to give a paper to the American Committee for Irish Studies Convention. May I live so long!" Meanwhile, as previously reported, he is occupied with getting out the Critic.

NEWS FLASH! Still later word from LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., has it that he is (in both senses) flying from Italy with his family to Florida, USA, on November 3. Perhaps, after all, he will be able to accept some of the speaking engagements which have been offered him in this country during the current academic year.

During the past summer, JOHN C. GARRUTO picked up a second master's degree (Master of Education) at the University of Virginia and continued his work in reading and writing problems as they apply to college students, especially freshmen. He is more convinced than ever that a knowledgeable attention to the morphology of words is the key to success in improving writing skills.

JESSE ZELDIN served as chairman of a panel on "Trends in Soviet Literature" at the Southern Slavic Conference in New Orleans, October 15-17. This month, he will deliver a paper on "Levels of Reality in Gogol" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association meeting in Greenville, S. C. The paper also served on the program of the Hollins College English Conference just completed (qv.). He is now working on translations of various previously untranslated articles and nonfiction by Gogol.

JOHN A. ALLEN is serving as Chairman of the English Department for 1964-1965. During the course of his leave of absence in the spring semester last year, he pursued his study of Shakespearian comedy and wrote a stack of poems. The first installment of the Shakespeare study has now found a home at The Shakespeare Quarterly, a publication which is, however, notoriously slow in bringing things to light. Subject: "Bottom and Titania." His poem, "The Bugler, Whoever He Is," appeared in The Reporter of June 4, and "Pismire Agonistes" was in the September Atlantic. Other poems are scheduled to turn up in The Southern Review, The Transatlantic Review, The Sewanee Review, Quartet, and The New Yorker. The whole batch is heading up into a volume, but it may be a while yet before it is ready to send out. Mr. Allen will address the VA./N.C. English Association meeting in Williamsburg, October 31, on the subject of the creative writing program at Hollins.

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The English Department is still signing up a goodly number of majors, as appears from the list below. English majors walked off with more than their share of awards, honors and prizes at the 1964 commencement exercises in May. BARBARA LORAIN REED, English major from Norfolk, received the first prize gold medallion which accompanies the Faculty Award for Academic Excellence. Last year, the award was also won by an English major. SALLY HOLLAND, of Chappaqua, New York, was voted the Annie Terrill Bushnell Prize for distinction in scholarship, citizenship, and moral development. Actually, she has not left Hollins, as she is back this year as a member of ANN SPLITSTONE'S admissions staff, specializing

in visits to schools all over the country. BECKY HANCOCK, Troutville, Va., BETSY PAYNE, Shreveport, La., and KARIN MYRIN, Kimberton, Pa., were jointly awarded the Mary Vincent Long Prize for excellence in English studies. Junior DIANA COE of Owings Mills, Md., and sophomore MARGARET FERGUSON of Richmond received the Nancy Thorp Prize for the best poem appearing in Cargoes during the academic year, 1963-1964. Graduating with honors were LORAIN REED, KARIN MYRIN, and BECKY HANCOCK.

ENGLISH MAJORS:

Class of 1965

Jill Abbott, Birmingham, Ala.
Elizabeth Auchincloss, Darien, Conn.
Diane Auslander, Hewlett Harbor, L.I., N.Y.
Barbara Beaman, Nashville, Tennessee
Jeramy Campagna, New York, N.Y.
Diana Coe, Owings Mills, Md.
Sally Craig, Ellicott City, Md.
Isabel Davis, Towson, Md.
Jon Dewey, Birmingham, Ala.
Sylvia Doughty, Washington, D. C.
Minda Louise Drake, Pacific Palisades, Cal.
Jane Dykes, Columbus, Ga.
Nola Gould, Hobart, N.Y.
Prudence Grand, New York, N.Y.
Patricia Griffin, New Canaan, Conn.
Marion Hines, Fairfield, Conn.
Pamela Huggins, Greenwich, Conn.
Virginia Hunton, Richmond, Va.
Bianca Lanza, New York, N.Y.
Anna Logan, Roanoke, Va.
Katharine Martyn, Alexandria, Va.
Vard Myers, Greensboro, N.C.
Linda Payne, Mount Kisco, N.Y.
Kathy Ravenel, Alexandria, Va.
Sarah Thompson, Tampa, Fla.
Eden White, Atlanta, Ga.
Cornelia Whittet, Richmond, Va.
Morgan Wilkinson, Rocky Mount, N.C.
Judith K. Williams, Hollins, Va.
Dinah Wolff, Summit, N.J.

Class of 1966

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 Fells, N.J.
C. Owen Easton, Charlottesville, Va.
Margaret Ferguson, Richmond, Va.
Tavener Finlay, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Finlay Grier, Tyrone, Penna.
Katharine Hershey, Richmond, Va.
Beverly Holmes, Englewood, N.J.
Frances Jewell, Wilmore, Ky.
Kay Kendall, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Marian McIntosh, Savannah, Ga.
Victoria Odriozola, Pasadena, Calif.
Joan Raffeld, Longmeadow, Mass.
Frances Shinnick, Richmond, Va.
Stephanie Strakosh, Rochester, N.Y.
Nancy Lou Sullivan, Scarsdale, N.Y.
Mary Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio
Barbara Wickenden, Marion, Mass.
Ann Wilsey, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Frances Evoy (H.A.), Fort Washington, Pa.
Mary Poe (H.A.), Raleigh, N.C.
Sheila Roth (H.A.), Ashland, Ky.
Jean Rudd (H.A.), Rochester, N.Y.

Class of 1967 (thus far declared)

Meta Ann Doak, Ligonier, Pa.
Lee Harrison, Camden, S.C.
Donna Mason, Rochester, N.Y.
Emily Miller, Essex, Conn.
Jennifer Sechrist, York, Pa.
Lee Smith, Grundy, Va.

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ENGLISH 326: ROMANTIC POETRY
A Course Description by Assistant Professor Julia Randall Sawyer

A more unfashionable subject you could not pick. The 19th century is our Parent, and we have, in observance of the best principles of S. Freud and of T. S. Eliot, rejected it. Somehow poets were more poets in the 17th century, and our gggg grandfathers were more men --whom we had the benefit of not knowing--than our fathers. After all, the Rev. Donne tortured himself and his language over the problems of God and Man, whereas Mr. Wordsworth indited lyrics that any child can understand to the cuckoo, the rainbow, and the lesser celandine. Mr. Keats celebrated the Greek urns in the British Museum, and Mr. Shelley perched atop the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla and was melancholy. A violent and doubtful age (ours, as we are so often reminded) refers itself to violent and doubtful ages (the 17th century; primitive art, etc.), and not to the 100 Years' Peace (1815-1914) of its largely British progenitor. Romanticism (to which we may conveniently assign Wordsworth's dates, 1770-1850) was an aesthetic herald of that new age which in England actualized political democracy, which laid the foundations of the social service state, which struck out for freedoms of imaginative and ethical life that we have hardly yet realized. Think of Wagner vs. Bach, or of Whitman vs. Pope, and you can measure the extent of aesthetic change involved. "Change" is the key-word of the 19th century (The Origin of Species, 1859), and it is an ambiguous and multivalent word. Either you like it, or you don't, or maybe both at the same time. The lesson of the 19th century is that you have to live with it. How to live? It is Arnold's Victorian and unanswerable question. Change involves loss: of old values, old faiths, old ways of living and old ways of expression. The romantic, who has been with us since at least Plato, believes that we can always find a new way. But he is not the simple optimist that he is made out to be. He suffers loss, and he is conscious of the necessity for suffering, and for faith. He believes in both Man and Mystery. He believes in Imagination, that inexplicable link between the unconscious and the spiritual life. He believes in the freely created future, where the classicist holds to the past. Both are wise men, and both are always with us. That is why it is important to teach Romantic Poetry.

Specifically, we teach the following, in readily available paperbacks from Rinehart and Houghton-Mifflin:

- Wordsworth: Preface to Lyrical Ballads; selected lyrics and sonnets; "Michael"; "Tintern Abbey"; "Intimations" Ode; The Prelude (which is book-length).
- Coleridge: Biographia Literaria ch. XIV (remarks on imagination); the "Conversation" Poems; "Christabel"; "Kubla Khan"; "The Ancient Mariner."
- Byron: a few lyrics; "Manfred"; "The Vision of Judgment"; selections from "Childe Harold"; Don Juan (at least the first two or three books).
- Shelley: A Defense of Poetry (essay); lyrics; "Epipsychidion"; "Adonais"; Prometheus Unbound (play).
- Keats: letters; "The Eve of St. Agnes"; the Odes.

Some useful background books are Bernbaum, A Guide through the Romantic Movement; Abrams, English Romantic Poets; Praz, The Romantic Agony. There is always the problem of what to include from the poets. The voluminous but inferior post-1810 Wordsworth? Coleridge's criticism? There are, for instance, three Byrons: the weak musical lyrist; the Big Bow-Wow (Byron and Scott invented Hollywood between them, and in technicolor); and the somewhat unromantic satirist. It was the second, ultra-romantic Byron (The Corsair, The Giaour) who was the idol of his day both in England and abroad, but it is the third Byron, the admirer of Pope, the trenchant and witty commentator on manners and morals, who survives for us. We know so much about the century that it is harder than ever to eliminate history, biography, and criticism. It is hard to exclude the precursor, Blake, and the

great continental exponent, Goethe. The emphasis in English 326 is on the art of poetry, or in good new-critical terms on textual analysis. Step I: how does this poem work? Messrs. Brooks, Warren, Tate, Ransom, Trilling, et al (and each has written pieces on individual romantic poems) can well be proud of the revolution they effected, by about 1930, in American methods of teaching English. But Step I leads behind the new criticism to Step 2: the recognition of the poet behind the poem. You find that Keats' lovely and mysterious little ballad, "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," does not yield its secret from within, but is strongly illuminated by the "Grecian Urn," which itself is illuminated by "The Eve of St. Agnes," and vice-versa and so on. You begin to define a particular poetic sensibility, a developing and controlling vision, well delineated in a book like Wasserman's The Finer Tone. At this point, everything Keats wrote becomes fascinating as a contribution to the complete picture, the total grasp: early efforts, minor poems, even bad poems, revisions, letters, etc. I think there is not a professor in existence who would not elect to teach whole courses in a single author. But then each author is illuminated by his contemporaries.

Coleridge, for example, wrote no significant verse after the break-up of his deep friendship with the Wordsworths. All of you have read Wordsworth's poem about daffodils ("I wandered lonely as a cloud"). Do you know what it owes to his sister Dorothy's Grasmere journal, and how much we can learn about the creative process by comparing her prose version of the walk to Ullswater, April 15, 1802, with her brother's completed poem? Do you know what personal experiences in London and the Paris of the French Revolution drove Wordsworth back to Cumberland so he could take that walk? Or why the young English intellectual was attracted by the Revolution, and what it meant to him in terms of enthusiasm and subsequent disillusion? And Shelley too, sent down from Oxford for atheism, and disowned by his father? Shelley, the "pale ineffectual angel," who studied Plato, managed the lives and fortunes of half a dozen friends, was a devoted father, and a passionate defender of human liberty, domestic and social? By now we are launched in all the currents of 19th century thought. Wordsworth's "Nature," Keats' "Beauty," and Shelley's "One" have an intimate relation. One vision complements another. The classical world, the fixed order of the universe, is breaking up. Language and belief and rooted life are breaking up. A romantic, be he Shelley or Berlioz or Delacroix or Dylan Thomas, is an acceptor of the Darwinian breaking and of the consequent and continuing reformation. The romantic teaches us to live in a world of change, where every man must respect his neighbor's rights, in charity, and in ignorance and hope of the next turn. He is a revolutionary and an idealist, and along with his cautionary brother he is a permanent part of our nature. We need to recognize him. "Our" world was born in the 19th century, not alone with Wordsworth and Beethoven, but with Darwin and Huxley, Lincoln and Gladstone and Mill, Marx and Engels and Freud, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Dickens and George Eliot, Arnold, Henry James, Kierkegaard But now I am way beyond Romantic Poetry. That's the trouble with teaching English.

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INDEPENDENT STUDY. Seven graduating seniors were voted the Department's unofficial Honors for 1964 upon successful completion of extensive Independent Study projects during their senior year. They were: BETSY PAYNE, Shreveport, La., a study of the works of D. H. Lawrence; PEGGY McDONNELL, Sheffield, Ala., a study of William Faulkner; KARIN MYRIN, Kimberton, Pa., Words and Tragedy in Faulkner; BECKY HANCOCK, Troutville, Va., Reality in Joyce and Proust; JULIA BLAKE, Belton, S. C., a study of the Novel of Growth; KATHLEEN GATCH, Baltimore, Md., a study of Yeats' "The Tower"; and LORRAINE REED, Norfolk, Va., a Reading of Chaucer's The Merchant's Tale.

This year has turned up another batch of promising projects, some of them still rather tentative: JILL ABBOTT projects a study of Joseph Conrad, as does graduate student LOUIS BOURNE. DIANE AUSLANDER is at work on Byron and Pushkin. DINA COE, following in the footsteps of JANE GENTRY, who did the same thing successfully a couple of years ago, is writing a group of poems together with an essay in which she will attempt to analyze the creative process from the inside, as it were. JON DEWEY is pursuing studies in Spenser; ELISE HAMMOND, the Isolation Theme in American Literature; MARION HINES, Theological Problems in Modern Literature; ANNA LOGAN, the Concept of Romanticism; SYLVIA DOUGHTY, a survey of intellectual trends derived from representative literary products of the period 1910-1920 in the U.S.; and RICHARD BILLOW (graduate student), special studies in English Literature.

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DEPARTURES. In addition to LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., Associate Professor STUART H. L. DEGGINGER is absent from campus and country this year. Mr. Degginger has agreed to remain in Paris throughout 1964-1965 as director of the Hollins Abroad program which he founded some ten years ago. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor CHAUNCEY D. WOOD has resigned from the Hollins faculty and has taken up his duties this fall at the University of Cincinnati. Associate Professor JESSE ZELDIN will join his wife, BARBARA, and child, XENIA, on Mrs. Zeldin's sabbatical year, 1965-1966. The Zeldins plan to settle down in Hong Kong if all works out properly.

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ALUMNAE are making names for themselves in many quarters. Here are a few samples which have come to our attention: FONTAINE BELFORD (A.B., '62), after two years of graduate study at Yale Divinity School, is teaching in a Friends' School for girls in Jordan. SHANNON RAVENEL (A.B., '60), after two and a half years as a "reading" secretary in the trade department of Houghton Mifflin, has been made an editor. She writes, "My job is exactly that 'editorial' type all of us thousands of English majors go to New York and Boston in search of (excuse prepositional ending!). I have two authors of my own--Max Weatherly, whose *THE MANTIS AND THE MOTH* we published in August, and Robert Boles, a very young and very talented Negro writer whose first novel, *THE PEOPLE ONE KNOWS*, was published this month (September). A great book which I hope very much will catch on." CAROL KINSEY (A.B., '62), taking advantage of Columbus Day, appeared on campus, October 12. She is at present working for the magazine, *Seventeen*, handling Letters to the Editor. There are good possibilities that she will take on further editorial responsibilities in the near future. *MISPLACED*, a novel by 1929 English major ELSIE GRIFFIN, has been published by the Royal Publishing Company of 7918 Maxwell Avenue, Dallas, Texas. Miss Griffin also studied music at Hollins and holds the M.A. degree from Columbia University. During the Second World War and afterward, she was a writer with the O.S.S. in Washington. Now she spends her full time writing and recovering from Multiple Neuritis. Her novel, described by her publisher as "about a very special group of people who had their emotions, love, and faith in God all out of time," is priced at \$4.95 prepaid. MIMA TALLY FERGUSON (A.B., '59) is doing volunteer research for the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and has written a pamphlet and other information about shows in the Junior Gallery. This Fall, the subject is Myth and Magic, and Mima, who has long been interested in such matters, has thoroughly enjoyed gathering material for it. Finally, we learn by word of mouth that BETSY PAYNE (A.B., '64) is working for a major radio network on TV soap operas. The theory seems to be that Betsy is boring from within,

animated by a determination to put the bubbles back into the daytime dramas.

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We wish to extend a very cordial invitation to all of you to attend any of the lectures, readings, etc., that have been mentioned above; and we hope to see many of you when you visit the campus. Please write to us and tell us anything about yourselves or others which you think we ought to know.

J.A.A.
Hollins College, Va.
November 1, 1964

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