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Calliope's Comments

News & Views of the Department of English,
Hollins College, Virginia, 24020

VOL. II, No. 4

May 20, 1966

CALLIOPE'S COMMENTS. Such is the title now and henceforth of the Department of English's twice-yearly News-Letter which will continue to be dedicated to keeping all former English majors informed on doings in their department. Calliope (pronounced Cah-LIE-oh-pe, except in parts of the South where it's CALLIE-oap) was and presumably still is the Muse of Epic Poetry. The News-Letter isn't an epic, but some of the things it records probably are. In any event, from now on it's Calliope's Comments, and as always we welcome suggestions, comments, and even complaints from former majors. What are you doing in a literary way? We've always maintained that any English Department worthy of its name (and we think ours is) turns out graduates who continue to be literature majors for the rest of their lives, whether or not professionally engaged in literary activities. We welcome all corroboration of same.

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ALUMNAE COLLEGE. The second annual Hollins Alumnae College, to which all alumnae are invited, will take place June 5-7, and will feature members of the Departments of English and of Dramatic Art in a program on Literature Today. Miss Robbie Hunt Burton, Director of Alumnae Relations, and JOHN A. ALLEN, Associate Professor of English, Coordinator for the program, have devised an appetizing intellectual smorgasbord which will include: an evening with Thomas and Mary Ellen Atkins, reading scenes from original plays by Mr. Atkins, who is this year Instructor in Dramatic Art (Sunday, June 5, 9:00 a.m.); a lecture, "The Peculiar Death of the Novel: or How to Revitalize Tired Critics," by LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., Professor of English (Monday, June 6, 11:00 a.m.); a lecture on the state of contemporary poetry, "The Jar in the Slovenly Wilderness," by JULIA RANDALL SAWYER, Assistant Professor of English (Monday, June 6, 2:00 p.m.); readings from their own poetry, with witty and instructive commentary, by MRS. SAWYER and Writer-In-Residence WILLIAM JAY SMITH (Monday, June 6, 3:00 p.m.); a lecture, "The Artist and the Uncreated World: The Stories of Katherine Anne Porter," by RICHARD H.W. DILLARD, Assistant Professor of English (Tuesday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.); and a reappearance of Mr. Atkins, this time to lecture on "A Country Road, A Tree, Evening: Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot" (Tuesday, June 7, following Mr. Dillard's lecture). Your old acquaintances in the English Department hope that they will not look for you in vain on this auspicious and exciting occasion.

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THE NEW MAJORS. There are no less than 52 rising junior majors, out of a class of about 200 in all; and not only that, but 21 rising sophomores have already officially declared their intention of majoring in English at Hollins. These students do not represent the "average" at Hollins; their merit point ratios, their involvement in their studies, are distinctly above the median. In numbers and in the ability and agility of their little minds they keep us hopping, but we like it. Here are the new majors:

Class of 1968

Elliot Abhau, Annapolis, Md.	Sally Hurt, Atlanta, Ga.
Elizabeth Ayers, Greensboro, N. C.	Bonnie Jacobs, Lexington, Ky.
Susan Berentson, Barington, Ill.	Margaret Leiby, Simsbury, Conn.
Helen Biggs, Vernon, Texas	Patricia D. Lee (Mrs.), Cloverdale, Va.
Joey Bourgholtzer, Mahwah, N. J.	Suzanne Lee, Maplewood, N. J.
Betsy Brooks, Richmond, Va.	Virginia Mann, Greensboro, N. C.
Blair Burns, Chevy Chase, Md.	Sasha Merkel, Nashotah, Wis.
Blanche Capel, Troy, N. C.	Linda Jo McDowell, Virginia Beach, Va.
Susan Carlson, Daytona Beach, Fla.	Mary Ann Mohr, Eastville, Va.
Rosanne Coggeshall, Hartsville, S. C.	Clare Morison, Grosse Pointe, Mich.
Jan Elizabeth Cocke, North Tarrytown, N.Y.	Julia T. Morton, Wilmington, N. C.
Tunstall Collins, Lynchburg, Va.	Jean Norfleet, Memphis, Tenn.
Mary Howard Cooper, Memphis, Tenn.	Nancy Nuckols, Richmond, Va.
Beth Colloty, Middlebury, Conn.	Marty Olmstead, Savannah, Ga.
Becky Doll, Baltimore, Md.	Margareta Olsson, Stockholm, Sweden
Maryrose Eannace, Utica, N. Y.	Ophelia Ou Yang, New York, N. Y.
Sarah Jane Eblen, Knoxville, Tenn.	Frances Rees, Atlanta, Ga.
Frances Farr, Houston, Texas	Ibby Seale, Houston, Texas
Helen Feagans, Lynchburg, Va.	Catherine Strause, Richmond, Va.
Michele Forté, Anniston, Ala.	Page Trout, Roanoke, Va.
Susan Gager, New Haven, Conn.	Anne Van Orden, Arlington, Va.
Courtney Goode, Midlothian, Va.	Cheryl Walden, Greenwich, Conn.
Kathleen Grand, Gainesville, Fla.	Sally White, Clinton, N. Y.
Amy Jane Griscom, Charlotte, N. C.	Frances Williams, Richmond, Va.
Ann Havens, Huntington, W. Va.	Frances Yeomans, Janesville, Wis.
Carolyn Howe, New Vernon, N. J.	Enid Young, Huntington, W. Va.

Class of 1969

Linda Anderson, Brooklyn, N. Y.	Gigi McGuire, New York, N. Y.
Sally Baskin, Greenville, Miss.	Cindy Mette, Camp Hill, Pa.
Pamela Chisman, Hampton, Va.	Patricia Moore, Vero Beach, Fla.
Carol Dawson, Westfield, N. J.	Anne Payne, Shreveport, La.
Myra Ficklen, Greenville, N. C.	Paula Phillips, Huntsville, Texas
Catherine Hall, Lake Charles, La.	Dulane Ponder, Atlanta, Ga.
Donna Harrington, Oxford, Miss.	Amanda Potterfield, Jacksonville, Fla.
Harriet Jones, Alexandria, Va.	Laurie Robinson, Vero Beach, Fla.
Rachel Lavoie, South Portland, Maine	Ana Torstenson, Moline, Ill.
Cynthia Lee, Bethlehem, Pa.	Virginia Turnbull, New York, N. Y.
	Florence White, New Orleans, La.

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MARY VINCENT LONG. At 11 a.m. Saturday, February 26, 1966, the bell in the carillon of the Du Pont Chapel began tolling. So swift is the change of the generations at a college that few who heard it could have known why it was ringing. Almost seven years had passed since MARY LONG retired from Hollins College--time enough almost for two full four-year generations of students.

In Johnson City, Tennessee, those who gathered at the First Methodist Church knew very well who Mary Long was. Many of them had known her throughout her life; there were ageing faces there of men and women who had played games with her when they were children together, had attended the nearby elementary school with her back in the early 1900s. In

the front rows of the church were the family---some of them still living in Johnson City, some who had come there from New Hampshire, from Kentucky, from Colorado, from Ohio. Almost all of them had the same look---one of the striking things about families gathering for funerals is the way that, seeing them all together, one realizes the kinship, the common heritage of a family. We at Hollins who had known only Mary Long thought of her as herself alone; but here were numerous other Longs, several generations of them, almost all of them marked with the same angular face, the alert, deepset eyes, the strong, sharp chin, that we had thought of as distinctively Mary's.

They were welcoming back home, for the last time, a woman who had gone off from Johnson City to college, who had studied at Tennessee, at Wellesley, at Radcliffe, at Harvard, had taught at various places, and now had finished her work and had been brought back to be buried alongside of her mother and father in the cemetery at the center of town. That was where Mary Long belonged, finally; more than most people she had kept her allegiance to her old home, had proudly remained one of the Longs of Johnson City, Tennessee. And many of those who left the Methodist Church after the service and accompanied the funeral cortege to the cemetery would one day join her there; for some of those present, the day would not be too far distant.

At Hollins College, where Mary Long had taught and lived from 1938 until 1959, the personal memory of her existed mostly among some of the faculty---those who had been here during her time. In particular some of the members of the English Department remembered her---for in large measure it was her department still, staffed by the once-young, now getting-toward-middle-age men she herself had selected for it. They remembered a good friend, a warm-hearted and keen-thinking woman who had been an example to all as colleague and leader, with a supple intellect and a mind and heart full of the enjoyment of teaching and a sense of its high calling. They remembered very well the way she had guided and encouraged them to do their best, never commanding, always leading by her example and good sense. They recalled how devoted she had been to her teaching, and to her students, how she had expended the energy of her slight body each year beyond ordinary demands of duty, never complaining, always present when needed. They recalled too---and some of the present senior English majors could remember this---how three years before, she had come back to speak to them in the Drawing Room of Main Building, and had held everyone's attention with a lively and probing disquisition on the joys of teaching and learning about literature. Some of them had kept in touch with Mary Long after her retirement in Pennsylvania, and had counted heavily on her approval and her good sense.

But most of the students who heard the bell tolling on February 26 did not know who Mary Long was, except perhaps as the teacher in whose honor a prize was awarded each June to the outstanding senior English major. Their experience was of different teachers, some of whom Mary Long had never met. Yet all the same, they were beneficiaries of Mary Long's existence, for some of their own teachers were there because Mary Long had chosen them.

The students who best remembered Mary Long, therefore, were not for the most part those still in residence at the college, but the now-graduated students, who had been in her classes and had talked with her and looked up to her for guidance and example, and whose lives were richer and better because of what Mary Long had been for them. And these students, these alumnae, were and are Hollins girls still, for though the immediate college generations change rapidly, a college such as Hollins does not in effect cease to exist when its current inhabitants leave, but only adds to its identity and variety with each year as its existence and its ways spread over the land and even across oceans. For very many hundreds of women, some still young, others now mature and in their middle years, the memory of Hollins College and Mary Long will remain quite inseparable and quite golden.

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JOHN CAJETAN GARRUTO had been a valuable and vigorous member of the English Department staff for nine years. He came to Hollins after graduate study at the University of Virginia; previous to that he had been engaged in advertising and journalism. Handsome, dapper, full of life and fun, John Garruto had an intellectual passion: the study of language. He thought about, talked about it, wrote about it, studied it constantly. For five years he had directed Hollins's freshman writing program, and many a Hollins student owes the successful completion of her college work to hours spent with John Garruto while he patiently and happily worked with her on her writing skill. To further his preparation for elementary language teaching, John Garruto enrolled in and successfully completed a second graduate degree in Education at the University of Virginia. In the early spring he had accepted a new position at the University of South Florida in Tampa; there he could at last make full use of his skill at remedial and elementary language teaching, with numerous students in need of such training. All of us regretted his decision to leave, and urged him to stay, but he felt rightly that the need for his training was greater there than at Hollins, so he prepared to depart. Then early this spring John Garruto suffered a heart attack and died, at the age of 59. He was buried in St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery in Roanoke. Three of his Hollins colleagues were among his pallbearers. His enthusiasm, his loyalty, his keen good humor, his dedication to teaching had made this genuinely young man a delight and a comfort to his colleagues and friends; he is greatly missed.

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COLIN WILSON. The controversial British novelist, critic, and philosopher Colin Wilson will be writer in residence at Hollins during the 1966-67 session.

Wilson, who at the age of 35 has written 23 books and published 17 of them, created a sensation in the literary world when he published in 1956 his first book, The Outsider. This devastating critique of modern civilization became a best-seller both in England and the United States.

He has since published five novels, a series of social critiques, an autobiography, a work of music criticism, and other books. A recent work, Beyond the Outsider: The Philosophy of the Future, carries his own personal philosophy even further.

Wilson will be the second British author to come to Hollins College since the resident writing program was established in 1959. In 1961-1962 the novelist WILLIAM GOLDING spent a year on the Hollins campus. Other visiting writers have included the critic JOHN W. ALDRIDGE, the Irish novelist BENEDICT KIELY, and poets HOWARD NEMEROV and the current writer-in-residence, WILLIAM JAY SMITH.

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MRS. ALLEN. Mrs. JOSEPHINE H. ALLEN, wife of associate Professor JOHN A. ALLEN, will join the English faculty next year to take over the Department's work in writing skills. She will teach a course in Rhetoric, work with students throughout the college, and offer a seminar in Advanced Grammar in the second term. Mrs. Allen is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, Mississippi, and has the M.A. degree in English from the University of North Carolina. She has been teaching at the Roanoke Extension of the University of Virginia.

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PAPERS ON PROUST. One of the most ambitious scholarly projects ever undertaken at Hollins College came to fruition May Day weekend when Papers on Proust, a book of essays by seven Hollins College students, was published and placed on sale. Seven Hollins undergraduate students, all of them seniors and all enrolled in the Department's course in the Modern Novel, produced essays on various aspects of the work

of the great French novelist Marcel Proust. The contributors: ALISON WINTHROP AMES, Saunderstown, Rhode Island; RUSSELL AMANDA CHASE, Gates Mills, Ohio; MARGARET LEIGH FERGUSON, Richmond, Va.; MARY SHEPPERD POE, Raleigh, N. C.; JOAN MARGO RAFFELD, Longmeadow, Mass.; and MARY LYONS TEMPLE, Cincinnati, Ohio, all majors in English; and Patricia McLain Neild, Shreveport, Louisiana, an Economics major. The essays were originally written as term papers for the Modern Novel course. Said LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., in his introduction: "It was a waste and a shame, it seemed as one read over what these young women had written, for these papers merely to be read and handed back to the authors, without anyone else having the privilege of reading and enjoying them." The seven authors agreed; whereupon they decided to bring them out as a book, which was printed by the J. P. Bell Company of Lynchburg, bound in a handsome two-color paperback format, and placed on sale at \$2.00 a copy. That Hollins undergraduates could and would wish to produce such a book is an encouraging sign of the college's growing intellectual life. Copies may be purchased from Box 677, Hollins College.

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PHI BETA KAPPA. When elections to Hollins College's Iota of Virginia chapter of Phi Beta Kappa were announced in February, three English majors joined Margaret Ferguson, a member since her junior year, in the coveted honor society. They were: MARGARET HARTLEY DAVIS, of Savannah, Ga., and MARY SHEPPERD POE, of Raleigh, N. C., both seniors, and ANNE GOODWIN JONES, of Chapel Hill, N. C., elected as a junior.

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THE DAY I STOPPED DREAMING ABOUT BARBARA STEELE AND OTHER POEMS will be the rather lengthy title of Assistant Professor RICHARD H.W. DILLARD'S first collection of poems, to be published in the fall by the University of North Carolina Press. Meanwhile Mr. Dillard works on a study of the Southern short story, which he is doing with W. F. Robinson, and on such projects as the critical essay on Vladimir Nabokov's new novel for the June Hollins Critic, to the editorial board of which publication he has recently been appointed.

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JANNEY FUND. The F. Lamar Janney Fund, established in honor of the late LAMAR JANNEY, for many years chairman of the English Department, is nearing its goal. Some \$1,622.50 has been contributed by former students of Dr. Janney and by others to establish the fund, which is being used to give each senior English major at Hollins a one-year subscription to a leading literary magazine. About \$2,000 in all is needed to provide an annual income sufficient to pay the costs of operation.

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STUART H. L. DEGGINGER, for the past three years absent from the campus as resident director of the Hollins Abroad program which he founded back in the 1950s, will give up his directorship in 1966-1967, and plans a year of sabbatical leave during which he plans to get some scholarly work done before returning to Hollins and his teaching chores in the fall of 1967.

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FELLOWSHIP. Mrs. JULIA RANDALL SAWYER, assistant professor of English and distinguished poet, was singled out by being invited to apply for one of the first creative arts fellowships for 1966-1967 to be awarded by the newly-created National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities. The fellowship, which carries with it a stipend of \$7,000 is for a full year. Mrs. Sawyer will remain in residence at Hollins during 1966-1967, working on her poetry. Her book The Puritan Carpenter, published last fall by the University of North Carolina Press, has been widely and favorably reviewed in newspapers and magazines since its appearance. She has been promoted to associate professor, effective July 1, 1966.

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THE HORSE SHOW AT MIDNIGHT. HENRY S. TAYLOR, 1965-1966 graduate student in Hollins College's master of arts program in literary criticism, creative writing and contemporary literature, is author of a collection of poems, The Horse Show At Midnight, published earlier this season by the Louisiana State University Press. The book is not only Taylor's first, but the first to be published by a Hollins M.A. degree holder. Meanwhile Taylor has been asked to give readings of his work at various colleges and universities, including Washington University of St. Louis and the University of North Carolina. A reading and autograph party were also held at Hollins for him. Taylor came to Hollins from the University of Virginia, and in 1966-1967 he joins the English faculty of Roanoke College.

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MARGARET FERGUSON. For 1965-1966 senior English major MARGARET LEIGH FERGUSON, it has been a year of honors and accomplishment. Margaret, a native of Richmond, has been the sole member of Phi Beta Kappa in her class to hold her election as a result of junior year grades. Last summer she won an English-Speaking Union fellowship for study in the United Kingdom. In March she was awarded a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship; she plans to begin graduate study at University of Virginia. In January a book of her poems, The Duel And Other Poems, was published by Hollins' Tinker Press, and promptly sold out its printing. One of her poems was chosen for discussion at the 1966 Hollins Literary Festival. Then in May she was nominated for one of the first National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities fellowships for summer study.

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IRISH SCHOLARS. The American Committee for Irish Studies, at its annual session at the University of Kansas May 5-7, voted to hold its 1967 meeting at Hollins College. The invitation to the A.C.I.S. to come to Hollins next year was extended by Hollins English staff members JOHN REES MOORE and FRANK O'BRIEN, the latter the secretary of the A.C.I.S. and editor of its newsletter. O'Brien also read a paper on modern Irish poetry in the Celtic language at the Kansas session.

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ENGLISH 305: LITERARY CRITICISM--A COURSE DESCRIPTION. Assistant Professor FRANK O'BRIEN writes the following on his offering in the department's spectrum of great events:

The only honest difference between literary criticism and the aesthetics of literature is that the latter phrase implies some philosophical greatness, some thought which assumes a great range of applicability. In fact, both phrases are disguises for somebody's opinion or excuses for writing in a certain fashion or for preferring certain topics over others. Once one realizes as much, the reader can forget the reputation of the man or the glister of his titles and see what the author has to say in terms of not only his time but also of the present. Most folk come to literary theory and the history of its appreciation with such reverence for some of the great critics that they can barely read for all the genuflections they make. Aristotle, for example, seems less like a pensive Greek considering the best forms of tragedy for his time and more like the author of the Decalogue, and as a consequence students seem all too willing to throw out Lear or Streetcar because they do not fit Aristotle's Poetics. One of the greatest lessons in Aristotle's work is his demonstration that a work can be regarded as an organic whole and as something which must first justify itself by an internal consistency. The Poetics has always taught that, and that is why it is so valuable when we wish to look at works which have come after it. Aristotle could not conceive of Lear, but he would approve the work because it does hang together like the great dramatic works of his own time.

What is always amazing about a survey of literary notions, especially with the variety of writers and civilizations, is that authors and critics alike have always been plagued with what is morally and socially acceptable. Plato felt that poets (artists) would excite the citizenry to despair and eventual revolt. Literature and art generally somehow

informs the spectator, and so the person with civil responsibility must keep a weather eye. Matthew Arnold, the great Victorian critic, disliked some of the Romantic writers (everyone but Wordsworth) because he felt that they were offering bad or at least incomplete example in their writings. The Romantics were disengaged socially, so Matthew felt, and their work could not offer an honest exploration of life. For all the disparities of time and place, Plato and Arnold exist simultaneously here. And as we realize all too well, the problem of what art does or does not do to us as social or moral beings is still with us. Even the wise men in black of our highest court cannot arrive at a satisfactory answer.

The texts I use in my course are Criticism: The Major Texts by Walter J. Bate, and Theory of Literature by Wellek and Warren; both texts are published by Harcourt, Brace, and Theory is available in hard cover or paper. There are many collections of literary essays, but what is so attractive about the Bate book are the essays between each of the selections. One only need follow them in general chronological order to have an excellent idea of the course of literary opinion. The second text is valuable because it groups common problems in critical study or common approaches; unlike the Bate book, which is historical, Theory of Literature attempts a thematic analysis of all literary opinion. Although Wellek and Warren have their own bias, there is no other text on the market which attempts such a grand survey of various approaches to literary opinion.

In my course I follow the critics as they have happened in history; this is not the only sequence possible, but it enables the student to appraise a critic in terms of the various periods in literature or the various cliques of writers in any one period. The criticism of a period has a great deal to do with the literature of that period, and only when that connection is seen does the student know criticism's historical value. However that is but half of the story, and when some historical sense is mastered, then the final obligation of the course is to see how the critical thought still has contemporary application. And as I have intimated in my opening paragraph, this is the most important result of any such study of criticism.

The Bate text is not long on modern criticism, and for anyone who wishes to read more in that period I recommend that he buy works by the following critics. All these men are printed in paper editions: L. Fiedler, W. K. Wimsatt, Cleanth Brooks, Austin Warren, Herbert Read, R. Wellek, R. P. Warren, R. P. Blackmur, Kenneth Burke, William Empson, T. E. Hulme, F. R. Leavis, G. Wilson Knight, Elder Olson, I. A. Richards, Allen Tate, Edmund Wilson, L. Trilling, R. Jarrell, A. MacLeish, J. Barzun, Eric Bentley, Malcolm Cowley, R. S. Crane.

This is only a starter in the moderns, but reading from any one will give leads on many more writers. There is one final text one may use to coordinate the two books in the course and that is Literary Criticism: A Short History by Brooks and (Austin) Warren.

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STUDENT PUBLICATIONS. English major NANCY HEAD BECKHAM is editor-in-chief of Hollins Columns for 1966-1967, succeeding senior English major FRANCES SHINNICK. Nancy's chief assistants include executive editors CINDY HARDWICK and ANNE BRADFORD, managing editors BLAIR BURNS and CATHY STRAUSE, and make-up editor JEANETTE PURRINGTON, all English majors. The Columns under its new management appeared with an attractive new make-up styled in Bodoni type, and a regular column of comment, "Scriptiunculae," by English major ANNE GOODWIN JONES.

When the 1966 Spinster came out, the plaudits were many; graced with a new and exciting format, it represented one of the most imaginative and interesting year-books yet published. To co-editor ALISON AMES went many of the compliments; Alison is a senior English major.

Editing Cargoes, the undergraduate literary magazine, in 1966-1967 will be English majors ANNIE DOAK DILLARD and CINDY HARDWICK.

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SUMMER IN ENGLAND. For the second straight year, an English major has been awarded one of the scholarships for a summer's study in England offered by the English Speaking Union each year in the State of Virginia. This year LUCINDA CLAY HARDWICK, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a rising senior, received the award, and will leave for England in June. Last year's recipient was MARGARET LEIGH FERGUSON, of Richmond.

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SYLVIA WILKINSON. Hollins English Master of Arts SYLVIA WILKINSON (1963), now out at Stanford University for a year's study in the writer's workshop there, will publish her first novel this fall with the Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston. Entitled Moss On The North Side, it is a reworking of the novel she wrote for her M.A. thesis at Hollins. For two years after taking her degree and before going out to Stanford, she was a member of the English faculty of Asheville-Biltmore College. Next fall she goes to Williamsburg, Va., to join the English Department of the College of William and Mary. Meanwhile she keeps up with her other activities: painting, sports car racing, tennis, playwriting--- and she found time at Stanford to complete the first draft of a second novel.

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PAPERBACKS. Two books by LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., have been issued in paperback format this season. The Johns Hopkins Press produced a paperback edition of Southern Renaissance: The Literature of the Modern South, edited with R. D. Jacobs, and first published in 1953. From the University of Washington Press came Writers of The Modern South, being the paper-covered version of The Faraway Country, published in 1963. Meanwhile Mr. Rubin's new study of the form of the novel, tentatively entitled The Teller In The Tale, is scheduled for hard-cover publication this fall by the University of Washington Press.

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MR. SMITH. It was a big weekend for WILLIAM JAY SMITH, Hollins' 1965-1966 writer-in-residence. Friday, March 4, saw the world premiere of his play, The Straw Market, at the Little Theatre, directed by Harold Stone and starring Broadway actress and former Hollins student Eleanor Wilson. Saturday afternoon he read poems at the Literary Festival from his just-published book, The Tin Can And Other Poems (Seymour Lawrence-Delacorte). Saturday night his play was staged again. Reviewers, visitors, and friends came from all over for the event, among them novelist Katherine Anne Porter, poet Stephen Spender, and many others. There was a formal dinner party, a reception, other less formal events: in short, a gala occasion for any poet.

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SPOON RIVER. A new dramatic organization at Hollins, The Hollins Readers, made its debut with a presentation of a dramatized version of Edgar Lee Masters' Spoon River Anthology in Bradley Hall last month. Members of the English staff and English majors were prominent in its inception and in the production. Assistant Professor FRANK O'BRIEN arranged the script and collaborated with Dramatic Arts professor Thomas Atkins. Among those appearing in the cast were associate professor JOHN REES MOORE and English major OWIE EASTON. English major JULIA CALHOUN helped provide music, with majors FINLEY GRIER and SHEILA ROTH serving in the production crew. With one highly successful production to their credit, the Readers plan a presentation of History assistant professor Frank Albrecht's play in May, and next year a schedule of several productions.

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THE CRITIC. Hollins' national literary magazine, The Hollins Critic, presented a poetry issue for its second 1966 number. The cover featured a sketch of Florence, Italy, by staff artist LEWIS O. THOMPSON. HOWARD NEMEROV, member of the Editorial Board and former writer in residence, contributed a parable and a parody (King Lear's 'Ripeness is all' speech as Proust would have written it), while co-editor JOHN REES MOORE provided an

analysis of three contemporary Irish poets. There were poems by writer-in-residence WILLIAM JAY SMITH, Robert Hazel, Roy P. Basler, former English major JANE GENTRY, and assistant professor JULIA RANDALL SAWYER. The June number will feature an essay on Vladimir Nabokov's new book by RICHARD H.W. DILLARD.

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SEE NO EVIL

Miss Lyda is locked in the San Diego zoo
in a cool dank cell where no light enters.
She and her father, the chief caretaker,
agreed, when Miss Lyda turned nineteen,
that women are unsafe in California,
home of radical and nouveau Anglo-Saxon.

Tiny black monkeys make daily visits
from eight to five Monday through Friday
and nine until noon on Saturday and Sunday.
They fling themselves about Miss Lyda's room;
they curl their lips and scream at her.

Miss Lyda's defense against such vulgarity
is a pair of aluminum frame glasses.
A built in hearing aid insures
the portability of her sight and sound.
When disturbed she twirls her glasses
and prays that visiting hours will end.

The monkeys curse, point, pat, and shake their paws;
they wrap their tails around Miss Lyda's body.
Receiving no response the monkeys start to cry,
spilling hot tears on Miss Lyda's hands.
Still Miss Lyda smiles but her lips betray a tremor
and teacups rattle in their saucers as she pours
tea for her guests--"cream, one lump or two?"

Finally the monkeys gather to leave;
they poke their withered hands into her white kid paws.
Alone, at last, Miss Lyda turns on her radio
to cover the monkey's screeching in the trees.
She straightens over turned chairs and sprays
pine aerosol room deodorizer to drive away
the pungent lurking monkey odor.
But all the perfumes of Paris will not erase
those tiny dirt prints on her white kid gloves.

--Bonnie Moon

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LITERARY FESTIVAL. Hollins' sixth annual Literary Festival went off without a hitch during the first week of March. Novelist John Hawkes, author of The Lime Twig, The Cannibal, and numerous other novels, and professor of English at Brown University, read and commented on his work at the morning session. The afternoon poetry program featured poets Charles Edward Eaton, author of Countermoves and The Greenhouse In the Garden, and writer-in-residence WILLIAM JAY SMITH, both of whom read from their work and then joined with moderator JOHN A. ALLEN of the Hollins English Department to discuss a sheaf of poems selected from the work of college poets throughout the area.

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RICHMOND. "Richmond As A Literary Capital," an address given by LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., to the Friends of the Richmond Public Library in 1962, has been published in booklet form by the Friends of the Library, with an introduction by former Hollins English major MARY WELLS KNIGHT ASHWORTH. The address deals with the late Ellen Glasgow, James Branch Cabell, and Douglas Southall Freeman.

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HOWARD NEMEROV. Writer-in-residence in 1962-1963, HOWARD NEMEROV, poet, novelist, and essayist, returned to Hollins in February to give a lecture on metaphor and to visit old friends. He has finished a new collection of poems (his last, The Next Room of the Dream, was published while at Hollins), and is preparing to move from Bennington College to Brandeis University in the fall.

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SUMMER PLANS. When June comes, the term papers having been read and the blue books graded, the Department faculty fares forth (or else stays put) for the customary summertime mixture of pleasure and work. We asked the various faculty members to report on their plans. The results herewith follow:

JULIA RANDALL SAWYER (in her usual inimitable prose style): "My plans for the summer are what they have always been. June-July: remove ticks; weed; water; sleep; clean up clothes and correspondence; think. August: act. My plans for the upcoming academic year, however, are unusual, in that I have a leave of absence, unpaid but for the fact that the Govmint's National Council on the Arts volunteers to provide my food and drink. My specific plans, if I may misquote from the Hollins Colyums, include a family reunion in Spoon River in the fall, a winter in Byzantium where I have taken a small apartment in the renovated section of the Emperor's stables (with concomitant studies at Sophia U.), and a spring visit to the Flower Show in Zanadu, from whence I hope to import some seeds for my Hollins garden. I expect to travel via Magic Carpet, and I always provide myself with cueques from the very First National Bank of Troutville, Va." What all this means is that Mrs. Sawyer is not going anywhere special.

PHILIP COOPER, JR., reports that he is planning to stay on in Troutville and write on his dissertation, which he hopes to finish up in time to receive his doctorate next year from the University of Rochester.

JOHN REES MOORE will "probably stay home and watch Betty cultivate her garden," and also write a review essay on Robert Penn Warren for the Southern Review and, perhaps, "get around to doing a piece on Beckett's Journey Toward Silence."

RICHARD H.W. DILLARD's extensive publication plans are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. He would also like, "if I can find the time, to squeeze in a few Southern short stories of my own" and also "to dream lots."

FRANK O'BRIEN: "The O'Briens and dog will be returning to the mountains of Maine to complete the last stages in the "A" frame house they have been building for the last two years. While some sort of plumbing arrangement is being installed, Mr. O'B. intends to complete the translation of his book on Irish poetry (in Irish). The Irish have been planning and promising to return the final parts of his MS., but for some strange lethargy, known best by those who know the Irish, there has been some delay. (The book was to be in print by this Easter past.) Mr. O'B. will also be preparing selections from 18th century English journals and diaries for presentation by the Hollins Readers come fall. A paper read by Mr. O'Brien at the last meeting in Kansas will be published in Eire, the journal of the Ireland-America Foundation, in a few months."

JOHN A. ALLEN writes: "As an aggravating factor in Hollins' alarming spate of verse, I have been manfully attempting to make my product available to a public that doesn't know what, if anything, it is missing. The latest items to have blackened page are these: "Mary Abercrombie, Herself a Teacher" (Southern Review, Fall issue); "A Retreat Before the War" (Kenyon Review, Fall issue); "Welcome, Pilgrim, to this Hostelry" (New Mexico Quarterly, Spring issue, which came out last Fall); "Reveling Mouse a Trial to Queen's Grocer" (Hollins Critic, December, 1965); "Variations on a Theme by Doctor Johnson" (Sewanee Review, Spring, 1966); "Mother, Being Partial" (Atlantic, September 1966); and "Customers" (Reporter, May 5, 1966). Two others will make their way into print in The Reporter; and the next issue of Quartet: A Magazine of the Arts, a publication which is the talk of Lafayette, Indiana, will contain "A Capsule Liebestod for Busy Late Romantics." Those who wish to benefit by this encapsulation are invited to subscribe." The Allens plan yet another summer on Cape Cod, where J.A.A. will no doubt be inspired both to further poetry and to continuing Shakespearean studies.

ELLINGTON WHITE will move his family, complete with horse, dog, cat, boat, and two trailers, to his new home near the campus (the Whites have been living two hours away in Charlotte C. H., Va., all year long), journey to New Orleans in late May to cover a sailboat race from there to Mexico for Sports Illustrated, work on his novel (the first portion of which will soon appear in the Southern Review), and take a late-summer census of the bass population in nearby Smith Mountain Lake.

JESSE ZELDIN, wife Barbara and daughter Xenia will be wending their way home from the Orient, where during 1965-1966 Professor Zeldin has been Fulbright lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., last but not least, writes: "June 9 we set out westward, for a leisurely trip to Santa Barbara, California, where I'll teach English in the summer session at the University of California there. At the end of July we'll head eastward, in not nearly so leisurely a fashion, for the York River---where a 24-foot cabin cruiser I'm having built will be waiting for delivery, and August will be devoted to boating on the Chesapeake Bay, God willing. Sometime during the summer I'll have to begin writing the history of the last 25 years of Hollins College, a book which I've contracted to do for the forthcoming 125th year celebration."

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MURDER AND CREATE. The David McKay Company published this spring a new literary study by JOHN W. ALDRIDGE, Hollins's first writer in residence and thereafter a staff member of the English Department for several years, and now professor of English at the University of Michigan. Entitled A Time To Murder And Create, it is a study of the state of the contemporary novel.

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GRADUATE STUDENTS. Four young men and women have been accepted into Hollins College's master of arts program in Contemporary Literature, Creative Writing, and Literary Criticism for the 1966-1967 school year. They are: RAPHAEL JONES and GEORGE BUTLER, both of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; MISS ELIZABETH HOPKINS, of the College of Notre Dame, Baltimore; and MICHAEL C. MINTON, of Stanford University, California. Receiving the M.A. degree at graduation this year will be HENRY S. TAYLOR, FRANK KALISIAK, and SUSAN BREEN.

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May 23, 1966
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