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Calliope's Comments

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

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA

June 1, 1969

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN EVERYTHING! Everything, perhaps, except an extra edition of CALLIOPE. And here it is.

IN OUR MADNESS, METHOD. This unprecedented extra heralds an unprecedented event: the publication, late this year, of selected essays from THE HOLLINS CRITIC, edited by JOHN REES MOORE, R.H.W. DILLARD, and GEORGE GARRETT, all of the Hollins Department of English. Publisher, the University of Georgia Press.

ENTER, ALEXANDER POPE, WITH COUPLETS. Casting about for a title, the learned editors were drawn, like metal filings, to the magnet, Pope. What says the pundit, in his ESSAY on the subject, about that rare commodity, superior CRITICISM?

Yet some there were, among the sounder few
Of those who less presum'd, and better knew,
Who durst assert the juster ancient cause,
And here restor'd wit's fundamental laws.

Wit's fundamental laws have friends even in the 20th century; hence, the title of the forthcoming volume:

THE SOUNDER FEW:
A SELECTION OF ESSAYS
from
THE HOLLINS CRITIC

* * * * *

A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF THE SOUNDER FEW. To the question, "What should we know about THE SOUNDER FEW?" George P. Garrett replies: The original essays have not been revised by the authors, but each author has been given the opportunity to add an informal "Afterword," designed to bring his essay up to date and, where possible, to make it sounder still by means of hindsight. The result: A demonstration of the critical mind in action. ***** The book will contain a complete index of all material published in the CRITIC during its first 5½ years, including many poems by Hollins people. ***** The biographical and bibliographical material on each subject author will be extended even unto the present moment. ***** The dedicatee is the founding father of the parent journal: LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR. ***** Each of the contributing editors will be represented in the collection. ***** The scheduled price of \$8.00 will be reduced for all subscribers to THE HOLLINS CRITIC who order advance copies of the book. For them, the tariff will be \$5.34. To reserve your copies, drop a post card to THE HOLLINS CRITIC (Box 9677, Hollins College, Virginia 24020), inscribed as follows: "Please reserve _____ copies of THE SOUNDER FEW for _____ . What if you do not, at present, subscribe to the CRITIC? All

is not lost. By subscribing now (for \$2.00, to the above address), you can receive the CRITIC for a year, plus THE SOUNDER FEW, for less than the retail price of the book.

* * * * *

THE NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR. Five of the critics whose work is included in THE SOUNDER FEW are members of the Hollins English Department: WILLIAM JAY SMITH, JULIA RANDALL SAWYER, R.H.W. DILLARD, JOHN REES MOORE, and GEORGE GARRETT. Known to you all is the name of LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., now of the English Department, UNC. BENEDICT KIELY, former writer-in-residence at Hollins, is the chronicler of BARTH and BEHAN. DANIEL HOFFMAN, whose performance at a Hollins Literary Festival many of you will remember with pleasure, is Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. WALTER SULLIVAN, novelist and critic, professes English and directs graduate study at Vanderbilt University, where JERRY BROWN (MA Hollins, 1968) will be scholeying next fall. And ROBERT SCHOLES, currently in English at U. Iowa, will move to Brown next fall, there (among other things) to counsel and instruct VALLE SIMMS and DOOLEY PONDER (Hollins, 1969).

WHERE HAVE I SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE? Well, a goodly number of the authors who are the subjects of essays in THE SOUNDER FEW have made this rural scene: J. P. DONLEAVY, WILLIAM GOLDING, FLANNERY O'CONNOR, JOHN BARTH, COLIN WILSON, HOWARD NEMEROV, and WILLIAM STYRON. And among the others in the distinguished list are BRENDAN BEHAN, JAMES BALDWIN, VLADIMIR NABOKOV, KURT VONNEGUT, and ROBERT LOWELL.

SCOOPED AGAIN! Perhaps you caught the announcement of THE SOUNDER FEW in a recent issue of the London Times Literary Supplement. "This rich gathering," it told the literary world, "... will be an invaluable work for students of contemporary literature." And so it will. You have our word for it.

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THE REST IS SILENCE. Having sounded our enthusiastic yawp from Bradley Hall, at last we really really tell you all farewell until the fall. May fair befall you in the interim.

JAA
Scribe for CALLIOPE