

For Members Only—Continued

FOREIGN STUDENTS' SCREENING REPORT. To deal with the growing problem of evaluating foreign students applying for graduate education in economics before they come to the United States, the American Economic Association has established committees of persons in various countries who are familiar with the problems of selecting students for graduate study in economics in the U.S. Requests for evaluation of credentials and interview of students are sent to AEA headquarters in Chicago. AEA forwards them to the field and receives and transmits the reply. This centralization cuts down on effort because many students apply to several institutions which can be sent duplicate reports. Is any such organization needed for English, American Literature, or the Modern Foreign Languages? We would appreciate reactions.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS. In 1963, ten corporations helped the MLA bring foreign scholars to the FILLM meeting in New York. Only the Singer Co. Foundation has found it in its heart to continue assisting us, with unrestricted gifts of \$1000 in 1964 and 1965. In 1966, Lambda Iota Tau, the International Honor Society for Students of Literature, will sponsor the first named lectureship at the MLA annual meeting. The lecture will be by an honorary fellow of the MLA, preferably one who has also been president of Lambda Iota Tau. It is surprising, in view of our age and distinction, that MLA has received so few gifts and bequests. The Linguistic Institute has its Collitz Lecture, the Mediaeval Academy of America its Haskins Prize. A Woods Hole where English and the foreign languages could plan summer conferences and workshops might prove most helpful. The profession would appreciate remembering its great names through appropriate memorials.

HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIPS. The Frank L. Weil Institute for Studies in Religion and the Humanities announces the availability in 1967 of eight summer fellowships, \$1,200 each, for post-doctoral faculty members to work on a publishable paper dealing with both the humanities and religion. Application forms may be secured from the Weil Institute, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220. Submission deadline for application: 1 October 1966.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION. College FL chairmen and others charged with placing incoming freshmen in FL classes will be happy to know that they will soon have a testing instrument that will tell them not only how well the freshmen read but also how well they understand the spoken language. An ad hoc committee, appointed by the College Entrance Examination Board and chaired by Donald D. Walsh, former Director of the FL Program and now the Board's Consultant in Foreign Languages, has been working for a year to make listening comprehension one of the skills tested by the CEEB Achievement Tests in MFLs. At present these regular Achievement Tests, offered five times a year, cover only reading and structure. The Listening Comprehension Tests are an optional extra, offered only in February at a special administration. Less than a third of the candidates who now offer a language for admission offer the optional listening comprehension test. The ad

hoc committee has made a strong case for the incorporation of listening comprehension into the regular tests. It has convinced the test construction committees, the CEEB officers, the Educational Testing Service staff directly concerned, and the powerful CEEB Committee on Examinations, which will recommend the change to the Board of Directors of the CEEB at its annual meeting in October. Straw votes taken at regional meetings early in 1966 predict that the Board of Directors will approve the change by a solid margin. The composite tests will be available for the first time in May 1968 and thereafter at two regular test administration dates, in January and May.

VIGNETTE XCVI. That Executive Council member Morton W. Bloomfield should be one of the editors of the R. W. Chambers Memorial Edition of *Piers Plowman* is peculiarly fitting, for thirty years ago Chambers noted of the then very young Bloomfield that he was "a first rate scholar . . . and a good colleague," and that he would become a "really valuable teacher." A full generation of colleagues and students at the Universities of Akron, Ohio State, and Harvard are delighted to bear witness to the accuracy of Chambers' perception, as Guggenheim and Howald Fellowships and the Berg Visiting Professorship at New York University also do. Born and reared in Montreal (where to his father's amused despair his French became too elegantly Parisian to cope adequately with the rich variety of Québec *Patois*), he received his B.A. from McGill in 1934 with First Class Honors in English and the Shakespeare Gold Medal; his M.A. followed in 1935 after a year as a recipient of a Moyses Travelling Fellowship at the University of London; and his Ph.D. from Wisconsin in 1938. His career was soon interrupted by four years in the U. S. Army, much of it in a joint American-British Intelligence Unit concerned with Order of Battle. One recognizes, however, that it was not this experience which provided the superb erudition and the rich awareness of cultural and intellectual history that informs *The Seven Deadly Sins* (1952). His *Piers Plowman as A Fourteenth Century Apocalypse* (1962) offers fresh and meaningful insights to both the tumultuous century and the great poem he interprets. And his and Leonard Newmark's *A Linguistic Introduction to the History of English* (1963) is an interesting experiment in combining the problems of the traditional history of a language with recent modes of linguistic analysis. With all these labors he is still continuing his tremendous collection of *Incipits* of manuscript treatises on moral and ethical subjects from the eleventh century to the fifteenth, a project begun many years ago, which, we hope, will eventually take its place on the shelves of the world's research libraries. He has also found the time to collaborate on two anthologies for freshman and sophomore courses, and a steady stream of papers in language and literature covering fields as diverse as Canadian pronunciation, W. H. Auden, and medieval allegory. Bloomfield is the true heir of the great philological tradition that has given vitality and intellect to the historical and critical study of English literature for the last hundred years. Chambers would still be proud of him.

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