

For Members Only

THE DISTRIBUTION of papers submitted to *PMLA* during 1948 was as follows: total received, 296 (199 in 1947); in English literature, 157; Germanic, 31; French, 25; American, 17; Spanish, 16; Italian, 5; linguistics, 17; comparative literature, 14; miscellaneous, 14. Sixty-five papers were received during the first quarter, 65 again during the second quarter, 79 during the third, and 87 during the fourth.

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WOULD YOU like to "adopt" a library in a devastated country, sending it copies of *PMLA*? It may be done in one of several ways. If you and your wife (or husband) are both members, we shall be glad to send the copies due one of you to any foreign library you designate (with your compliments), meanwhile keeping both of you on our List of Members and considering both as members in good standing. Or, if your family receives only one copy of *PMLA* but you find the journal so accessible that you do not care about having it on your own shelves, we shall be glad to send your copies abroad and keep you as a member. Or you may do as the Department of Germanic Languages at Texas has recently done (for the University of Tübingen), join with some of your colleagues in "adopting" a library (at nine dollars a subscription). We have lists of dozens of impoverished libraries which do not now receive *PMLA*; see also the list of subscribing libraries in the rear of the Proceedings supplement. Inquiries or orders should be addressed to the Treasurer at the New York office. (This offer does not apply to libraries in the United States; we deplore the practice of some members who deprive the Association of much needed revenue by giving their copies of *PMLA* to libraries fully able to subscribe.)

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FOR the convenience of our members in the British Isles, Dr. Stanley C. Aston (St. Catharine's College, Cambridge) has opened a special account for us at Messrs. Martin's Bank, Cambridge, and he has kindly offered to receive and deposit membership dues, subscriptions, payments for specific numbers, etc. Membership dues for 1949 are 35 shillings. Cheques should be made payable to "MHRA Special a/c" and sent directly to Dr. Aston.

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THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE for *PMLA* hopes that all members will read the statement of editorial policy printed on page three of this issue.

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THE March, 1948, number of *PMLA* is already "out of print." If you know any of the 291 persons who silently "resigned" during 1948 (and therefore received the March issue free), you will do the Association a favor by urging that copies be returned to the Treasurer.

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EXPOSTULATION: Each year a considerable number of our members silently resign, by the simple expedient of not paying dues. Since 1937 we have had the regulation that "if members are in arrears for dues as late as October 1 . . . they shall be dropped from the List of Members"; and therefore a member who intends to resign, but who does not take the trouble to notify the Treasurer, receives *free* three quarterly issues of *PMLA* and two supplements. We have not tried to calculate what this costs the Association annually, and your Secretary does not know the cost of mailing the three notices which went to all such members in 1948; but he wishes to report that, on October 1, 1948, there were 546 members in arrears. By the year's end, 255 of the 546 who had to be dropped in October were back in the fold, our bookkeeping and records having meanwhile been in considerable confusion. Members dropped do not receive the December *PMLA*, but they all wish it as soon as they re-join.

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For Members Only—Continued

DURING December we received word of the deaths of Samuel Singer, an Honorary Member since 1940, and of Thomas Bertrand Bronson, who joined the Association in 1885.

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IN the recent balloting, Professors Gauss, Hughes, and Malone were elected to your representative Council. Professor Malone received 1,550 votes; the runner-up, Dean Stith Thompson, received 1,003. A total of 3,255 valid postcard ballots were received. Fifty-four other ballots were received and disqualified, since they bore no signatures; three additional ballots were disqualified because they contained votes for four persons. One member (who signed his name) mailed in a 1946 ballot, voting for Professors Benson and Nordmeyer, who were elected in 1946, and for a third person, who was not.

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OF the 2,843 members who expressed a preference concerning the time of our annual meetings, 1,276 (or 45%) voted for December, 712 for September, 380 for Easter, 291 for early June, 144 for Thanksgiving, and forty for still other times. The people (or half of them at least) have spoken! The time and place of the 1950 Meeting have not yet been determined.

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THE 1949 MEETING is scheduled to be held on the campus of Stanford University, California, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 7, 8, and 9. In the recent balloting, 689 members thought it probable that they would attend the California meeting, and 563 others expressed themselves as still uncertain. These figures are the more encouraging because, of the 689 probables, only 227 are from the twelve farthest western states. The PAPC reports a current membership of 317, and we trust that all 317 will meet with us this year. The 1950 meeting of the PAPC is scheduled to be held on the campus of the University of Oregon.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE occasionally awards grants to language teachers enabling them to accept positions in the other American republics. The teaching is on an adult level and consists largely of instruction in the English language. Recipients of these grants are expected to remain with the program of educational exchange for a minimum of two years. They should have a knowledge of Spanish, Portuguese, or (in the case of Haiti) French. Further information can be obtained by writing to the Cultural Centers Section, Division of Libraries and Institutes, Department of State, Washington 25, D.C.

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TWO more "hereditary members" of the Association have reported themselves: Rolf E. P. King of the University of Georgia, son of J. Percival King, long head of the German Department of the University of Rochester; and George L. Caviness of Pacific Union College, son of L. L. Caviness of the same institution.

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ATTENTION, members who have retired or are soon to retire. According to the MLA Constitution: "Persons who for twenty-five years or more have been members in good standing may, on retiring from active service as teachers, be continued as members without further payment of dues." But you may need to remind us that you are entitled to become a Life Member Emeritus. It is only by chance that your Secretary occasionally persuades a member not to resign just as he is about to be exempt from all dues.

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For Members Only—Continued

NINE HUNDRED members preregistered for the New York meeting, paying their fees and receiving their kits in advance. The scheme was so time-saving for all concerned that we are resolved to continue it hereafter. Paid registrations at New York totalled 3,049. Previous totals: 1,714 in 1947; 1,830 in 1946 (the highest number up to that time); 1,652 in 1940 (Cambridge); 1,707 in 1938 (New York). At the height of the 1948 Meeting, the total attendance may have reached 4,000. This estimate will surprise only those who were not present.

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QUERY: Is there any other large learned society of which it can be said that, in the course of any two years, about two-thirds of its entire membership attend a national meeting?

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ORDERS are now being received for James R. Foster's *History of the Pre-Romantic Novel in England*, about to be published in the MLA Monograph Series. The price to members, \$3.00; to others, \$4.50. Orders should be sent to the Treasurer, at the New York office.

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MEMBERS whose reservations were not honored at the Pennsylvania (now Statler) Hotel, or who were charged for higher room rates than they had agreed to pay, are urged to write *at once*, giving details, to Dean T. C. Pollock, Washington Square College, New York University, New York 3. In order to prevent a recurrence of such unpleasantness, and perhaps to make some amends to those who suffered real inconvenience, we need more facts than we now possess.

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FOR YOUR 1949 CALENDAR: The Goethe Bicentennial Celebration, at Aspen, Colorado, June 30 to July 14. The Associated Harvard Clubs, in San Francisco, September 9, 10, and 11. The English Institute, in New York City, September 6-10. The Phi Beta Kappa senate, at Madison, Wisconsin, September 1-3. The Rocky Mountain MLA, at Salt Lake City, November 25-26. The South-Central MLA, at Fayetteville, Arkansas, during the Christmas holidays. The Mediaeval Academy, in Toronto, April 8-9. The SAMLA, at Charlotte, N.C., November 25-26.

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A CONSTANT irritation to literary and linguistic scholars is the busy textbook-maker who cannot be bothered to read the learned journals and learn how wrong many of his dusty assumptions are. An irony of the situation is that the scissors-and-paste product of this menace to sound teaching is not reviewed in the learned journals, and the perpetuation of error consequently goes unrebuked. If members of the MLA will send in choice samples of ignorance as exhibited in recent textbooks, giving full documentation (including names of publishers), the Editor of *PMLA* will be happy to print a compilation of these—and see to it that all leading textbook publishers receive complimentary copies.

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THE American Council of Learned Societies (1219 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.) announces the appointment to its Executive Staff of Henry M. Silver as a special adviser to scholarly authors on methods of economical publication. Mr. Silver was formerly with the Columbia University Press and the King's Crown Press. See his page of information on printing costs, facing the beginning of the 1948 American Bibliography. He has been invited to keep MLA members informed on problems of scholarly publishing.

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For Members Only—Continued

EXPLANATION: The Editor has received perhaps a dozen friendly protests against the removal of the Table of Contents from the cover of *PMLA*. This former convenience had led to members seeing no more of each number than titles drew them to, and their missing announcements (such as this) to which we wished attention given. Not for purely aesthetic reasons, therefore, have we returned to the practice of 1884-1928. Incidentally, *PMLA* is not a "popular" magazine, for sale at all news-stands, and there is no need to attract buyers by advertising its exciting contents on the cover.

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THE EDITORS of *Modern Language Notes* are considering only articles of six typewritten pages or under.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the Association now costs \$140. The Treasurer will accept payment of \$49 through three successive years. With each completed decade of membership in good standing, the fee for life membership is diminished by \$35.

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THE UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK in Vienna lacks *PMLA* for 1916-22. Would some member of the Old Guard care to donate his copies to this deeply damaged library?

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DOCUMENTATION: The Editor wishes to explain that the absence of footnotes in one-third of this number of *PMLA* (including four entire articles) is the result of happy accident, not design. Other articles *sans* footnotes will appear in June and September. *PMLA* has, of course, no objections to footnoting *per se*; it recognizes the importance of adequate documentation in scholarly writing. But *PMLA* objects to excessive or unnecessary footnoting, and is therefore glad to publish proof occasionally that footnotes are not a *sine qua non* of scholarship. We believe that some articles are born documented, others achieve documentation, but a good many have footnotes thrust upon them.

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CONFERENCES on very specific topics, as successfully initiated in the 1948 Program, will be scheduled again in 1949, under the conditions announced in *PMLA* (September 1948, or the present Proceedings Supplement). The new deadline for applications is April 13. Any member of the Association may organize one of these conferences if he plans to attend the California meeting.

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A SUPPLEMENT to the De Ricci-Wilson *Census of Medieval and Renaissance* [i.e., to 1600] *MSS in the U.S. and Canada* is now being prepared under ACLS auspices with C. U. Faye (Box 395, Champaign, Ill.) as Editor. Corrections and additions to the original *Census* are invited from MLA members. A printed pamphlet addressed to prospective contributors will be sent to anyone requesting it.

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THE personnel of the MLA Committee on International Cultural Cooperation is listed on cover page three of the Proceedings Supplement.

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THE workings of the MLA Committee on Photographic Reproductions are explained in the Report of this Committee in the Proceedings Supplement. Many members do not realize that the MLA now has approximately 1300 films in its collection, and that the Committee regularly tries to procure microfilm of MSS and rare printed books needed by members for their investigations.

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