

BULLETIN OF

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

IN ANNAPOLIS

Teaching and Writing

A measure of the literary activity at St. John's is to be found in an article by James H. Bready, reprinted here from the *Baltimore Sun*. The number of books which College tutors have recently published or have now in progress seems impressive when viewed in proportion to a faculty of twenty-eight.

It is true, however, that St. John's College considers scholarly research to be a function of the university and not a responsibility of the liberal arts college. Professional investigation and publication have therefore never been considered criteria for evaluating members of the faculty. As a matter of fact, the teaching duties of a St. John's tutor are so demanding and all-engrossing that there is relatively little opportunity for research and extra-curricular activity except during vacation periods.

The College curriculum is such that no tutor can teach in the St. John's program without receiving the constant stimulation of new ideas and insights. Hence the usual reason for requiring scholarly activity, namely to combat staleness in faculty members, does not apply at St. John's. Faculty members do work on new translations of certain texts. In a certain sense they are also engaged in "horizontal" rather than "vertical" research, that is, the discovery of new understandings of the relationships between the several fields of knowledge, rather than the more intensive work in a specialized field.

This year a small group of tutors have been engaged in a new project known as the Faculty Study Group and financed by a special grant from the Fund for the Advancement of Education, established by the Ford Foundation. Five tutors have been relieved of part of their normal teaching load to study ancient logic and modern symbolic logic and thus to increase their own understandings in a new field.

In spite of the demands of the College's regular program, tutors and students still find time for extra-curricular pursuits, some of which lie beyond the scope of Mr. Bready's article. During the past winter, for example, musical compositions by Douglas Allanbrook have been performed in Baltimore, Washington and New York. These include *Songs to Shakespeare's Sonnets*, *First String Quartet*, *Concerto for Harpsichord and Orchestra* and *Fantasy for Violin and Piano*.

RICHARD D. WEIGLE

Annapolis, Maryland
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Founded as King William's School, 1696. Chartered as St. John's
College, 1785

Books And Authors

By JAMES H. BREADY

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE includes on its list of prescribed readings no books by people at or from St. John's. Next September a full score of years will have gone by since the college installed its celebrated New Program or nonelective curriculum of liberal arts and natural sciences, based upon the great books of Western civilization. No student or faculty member in these twenty years would ask serious comparison of anything under his byline with major works, or portions of works, by Kepler and Kierkegaard, by Spinoza and Adam Smith and Sophocles. A mathematical physicist, Louis Victor, Prince de Broglie, happens to be the one living man on the current year's list of 94 authors (the titles, contrary to legend, well exceed 100).

There are, moreover, practical discouragements: tutorials and labs and seminars and summer reading keep students only too occupied; for tutors, the emphasis is on teaching rather than publishing.

Book Census Taken

This much said, a book census of St. John's College is still both possible and due. Books, great or small, have come from its colonial (and contemporary and coeducational) campus; the compiler's real danger is inadvertent omission.

A ringing example of productivity is Victor Zuckerkandl, who, as of the current academic year, has one book out, another book at the printer's and still a third in his typewriter. Mr. Zuckerkandl's forte is music—before coming to this country, a refugee from Nazism, he conducted opera, took a Ph.D. in musicology and philosophy from the University of Vienna, was music critic for Germany's most important newspaper chain and published two other books.

Bumpy Going For Layman

His "Sound and Symbol," published last fall by the Bollingen Foundation in English translation, is bumpy going for a layman. It treats of music in the abstract; a sequel, "Man the Musician," will relate music to the individual. In between, he has written—for his first time, in English—a shorter work, not yet titled, systematically introducing ordinary readers to the serious aspects of music. Princeton University Press expects to bring it out next fall. Meantime, a pianist himself, Mr. Zuckerkandl exemplifies the versatility expected of a St. John's tutor: he has been presiding over a course in optics.

Another work of which the noncampus public may soon be aware is "The Levellers and the Origin of the Theory of Natural Rights," by Harvey Poe. Begun during a Rhodes

scholarship at Oxford and completed last fall in Annapolis, the book brings to light a politico-religious group in Cromwell's day who, regarded then as extremist utopians, first effectively phrased various principles that are now held basic to the democratic way.

A look at the manuscript drew from Supreme Court Justice Black the half-humorous suggestion that a movie be made of the life of John Lilburne, the most gaudy soldier and prolific pamphleteer among the Levellers.

Campus-Life Novel

Not all St. John's books are speculative—or even nonfiction. Joy and sorrow amid its scholastic rigors somehow ought to have inspired a cluster of campus-life novels from former students; the only one recalled, however (and copies are scarce at that), is "But A Little Moment," by James C. Ballard, an episodic 500-page effort, with many noncollege settings, that appeared in 1950.

One reviewer called him "a young author who will make his mark when he learns . . . to lean less heavily upon his Great Books discussions at St. John's."

In point of quantity, far and away the greatest amount of material published is translations, of Greek and Latin and German works, assigned as reading and previously nonexistent in English.

Perhaps two dozen tutors, from the late Charles Glenn Wallis down through J. Winfree Smith, Jr., on the present faculty, have toiled to convey the meanings of paragraphs as well as of individual words. The dean of the faculty, Jacob Klein, known to all post-1937 students as Jascha, has been toiling to find new meanings for entire Platonic dialogues, a labor that should some day evolve into a major exegesis or work of interpretation.

Poet's Side Suits

Other tutors have set off on more individualistic trails. Charles G. Bell, another former Rhodes scholar, and a man whose career has alternated between literature and physics, was a published poet before coming to Annapolis last fall; he offers strong side suits in music and the history of art. His major current enterprise is a cultural history of Western man, tentatively titled "Spirit Takes Form" and laid out for five volumes.

Nothing daunted, his colleague Thomas K. Simpson (himself St. John's '50) is at work upon a history of the liberal arts, with no commitment as to length.

On the other hand, Henry V. Grattan has just finished rendering into English a book by his wife, who is French. The book, to be published by Viking, is for children.

Two further books, to which the contrast may lend an unduly conventional sound, are "William Heytesbury — Mediaeval Logic and the Rise of Mathematical Physics," published last year by the University of Wisconsin Press, and the detailed inquiry into an early Nineteenth Century evangelical movement within the Anglican Church, led in part by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, that engages Ford K. Brown.

Woman's Senior Essay

The present purpose excludes work of pedagogy, long and short, having to do with the college program. It excludes works by men who have come and gone and put no evidence of St. John's into their subsequent writings—while he was at St. John's, creative literary impetus did not engage the current New York novelist and biographer, Charles Van Doren.

The present purpose excludes women, but by no direct intention—just for lack of data. A woman member of the Class of '57 turned in her senior essay recently, a compressed thing of 41 pages that maybe could become a book sometime. The title is "Space and Time in Newton's Principia and Einstein's Theory of Relativity." It'll keep an ordinary reader on his toes, looking for typographical errors in all those equations.

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