

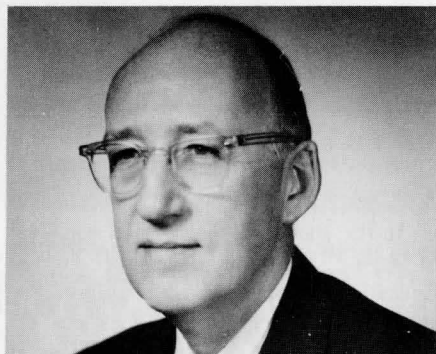
**JOHN J. MENG, SIXTH PRESIDENT
OF HUNTER COLLEGE**

by Harry L. Levy

Dean of Students,

Hunter College in the Bronx

As Dean John J. Meng becomes President of Hunter College, the Faculty and Staff welcome to his new post a man whom, through his decade and more of service to Hunter, they have



come to know well and to hold in deep affection and esteem. Coming to us as Professor of History in 1949, after eleven years on the Faculty of Queens College, John Meng was appointed Dean of Administration and Executive Officer of the Bronx Center in 1952. It is in the latter capacity that he is best known to the students of the College, for they deeply appreciate his constant efforts to develop the Bronx campus as a fully equipped four-year co-educational college.

Born in Cleveland, President Meng studied both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student at Catholic University of America, where he earned the Ph.D. in 1932. Prior to his attainment of the doctorate, a year of study at the Ecole Libre des Sciences Poli-

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Mrs. Roosevelt and Dr. Shuster Address Alumni Luncheon

Excitement engendered by over 1,250 Hunterites gathering for a three-star event on February 13 filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor. The "stars" of the day were our Alma Mater, whose ninetieth birthday we were celebrating; Dr. George N. Shuster, our retiring president, who was making his last formal appearance as president; and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaker of the day. An added star was President-elect John J. Meng who made his first extramural bow.

After the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, which was played by Theresa Molloy '22, Florence Serxner Strenger '28, chairman of the Luncheon, presented the Reverend Phyllis Taylor, Assistant to the Minister of Riverside Church, who gave a moving invocation in which she asked a blessing on the College and on all present.

Toward the end of a delicious meal, children from Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association brought their traditional gift of the College birthday cake. After they warbled "Happy Birthday, Dear Hunter", Irene Brandon Graff '98, former alumnae president, chairman of the Lenox Hill Committee and devoted alumna, cut the first slice of the cake. Mrs. Roosevelt cut the second piece for Dr. Shuster.

Mrs. Strenger then presented E. Adelaide Hahn '15, president of the Alumni Association, as one imbued with love of Hunter from the moment she was born. Professor Hahn responded that Alma Mater becomes more beautiful the longer she lives. There was a delighted reaction from the audience when Miss Hahn said that Mrs. Roosevelt has promised to speak at the College's one hundredth birthday celebration.

We have never heard Miss Hahn speak more effectively than when she introduced Mrs. Roosevelt, who spoke on "The Changing World and the Responsibility of Education." Miss Hahn said, "Mrs. Roosevelt has been First Lady by marriage, but now she is First Lady because of her achievements. By her own right she will be the United States' permanent First Lady."

Mrs. Roosevelt paid tribute to President Shuster who, she declared, "has broadened the vision of his students because of his interests. He has helped them meet responsibilities because he himself accepted them."

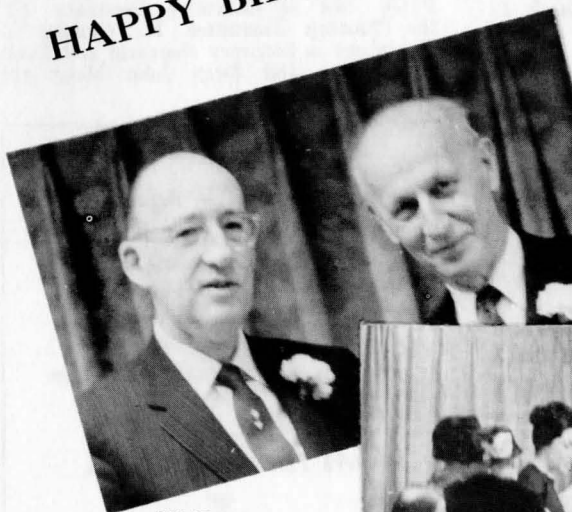
Mrs. Roosevelt's universality of viewpoint was emphasized when she said that it is the responsibility of universities, colleges and schools to have adult education concerning the world. "We cannot meet the challenge," she continued, "if we do not know there is a challenge. . . . What we want of education in our country is to have the children learn to cultivate their minds, and to make their minds an instrument for learning. It is important to think freely because this

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Seated: left to right; 1st row: Dean Rees, Mrs. Shuster, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Hahn, Rev. Taylor, Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Strenger. 2nd row: Mrs. Weintraub, Mrs. Simis, Dean Hopwood, Miss Lewinson, Mrs. Thaler, Mrs. Abrams. 3rd row: Mr. Greene, Professor Stewart, Dean Meng, President Shuster, President Gallagher, Dean Levy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Bill Wollheim



DEAR HUNTER



Alumni Day Assembly

Alumni from classes spanning the years 1888 to 1959 returned to the College Tuesday, February 16, to celebrate its ninetieth year by attending a Birthday Assembly and later enjoying a variety of other activities.

At the assembly, after reading from the Psalms, President Shuster greeted the more than two thousand students, faculty, alumni and guests present. Remarking that students who attended classes in the old Park Avenue building during the 1870's could hear the sound of cow bells from nearby farms, Dr. Shuster said that, despite the physical changes in the environment, he believed that the college was basically unchanged, since it is still "committed to the life of the mind."

Our alumni president, Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, extended birthday greeting from the Alumni Association and presented our gifts to the college, a contribution of one hundred dollars to the George N. Shuster Faculty Fellowship Fund and a piano. She also paid warm tribute to Dr. Shuster, outgoing president of the College, saying for all of us, "Hail and farewell." Miss Constance Benos, president of the Park Avenue Student Council also pre-

sented a gift with good wishes from the student body.

The speaker for the Birthday Assembly was an alumna who has distinguished herself in the theater, Miss Ruby Dee, June 1944, currently featured in "A Raisin in the Sun." Miss Dee urged the students to "soak in all that you can." She cited experiences in her college life which had influenced her spiritual and intellectual growth and turned her thoughts toward a career in the theater. Miss Dee then gave two readings, "Ode to the West Wind" and "Credo". In the light of her dedication to the idea of the brotherhood of man, her impassioned reading gave beautiful significance to the closing stanzas of the "Ode to the West Wind":

"Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:

. . . Be thou, spirit fierce,

My spirit! . . .

Be thro' my lips to unawakened earth

The trumpet of a prophecy!"

A very fine dual piano performance of the first movement of George

Gershwin's "Concerto in F" was given by Mr. Bruce Prince-Joseph, a member of the Music Department of the College, and Samuel S. Sanders '59.

The chairman of the Board of Higher Education, Mr. Gustave G. Rosenberg, paid tribute to the Alumni Association, to Dr. Shuster and to Dr. John J. Meng, president-elect of the college whom he then introduced. Dr. Meng was acclaimed by the students when he told them that he came before them so that they could learn "how to distinguish one bald head from another." The assembly was concluded by a "roll call of the years" by Miss Jessie Rosenfeld, Class of 1888, and the singing of the "Ivy Leaf" and "Fame."

Later, alumni lunched in the Faculty Dining Room, visited classes or enjoyed friendly conversation over a cup of tea in the Faculty Club. The final event of the day was the Louise Draddy Memorial Lecture on "The West and the Spirit of Asia" given by Dr. Kenneth W. Morgan, University Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Colgate University.

ELEANOR E. REILLY