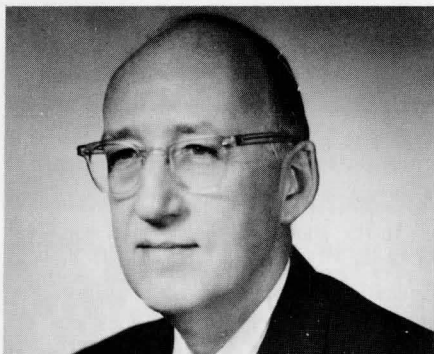


JOHN J. MENG, SIXTH PRESIDENT OF HUNTER COLLEGE

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-

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

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

(Continued on Page 6)



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.

College and Board Honor Dr. Shuster

The affectionate regard in which President Shuster is held by his colleagues and friends permeated the convocation given by the Board of Higher Education and the Faculties of Hunter College to honor him on the occasion of his retirement. Gustave G. Rosenberg, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, who presided at the "academic family" party, set the tone of warmth and informality which made the day relate so closely to Dr. Shuster.

Dr. Henry T. Heald, president of the Ford Foundation, in delivering his "Profile in Appreciation" said that we were honoring a man whose career has three aspects: educator and teacher, who can utter the truth that hurts because it also heals; editor and author, whose purpose is to awaken minds and stimulate thought; and a public citizen with a profound spiritual commitment and decent respect for all faiths.

Threefold Gift

The funds collected for the George N. Shuster Faculty Fellowship were announced by Joseph Schlossberg, chairman, Hunter College Administrative Committee. Mr. and Mrs. James Picker (Evelyn Feil Picker '05) gave \$20,000, The Rockefeller Foundation, \$10,000 and contributors, \$20,000. Mr. Schlossberg predicted that the fund would reach \$60,000 before the end of the year. (Ed. Note—It is not too late to donate. This fund is to be perpetual.)

Dr. Ordway Tead presented a copy of President Shuster's latest book, *Education and Moral Wisdom*, to the College library and called it a distillation of the President's career.

Dean John Meng presented the portrait of Dr. Shuster painted by Stephen Csoka and announced, in answer to Dr. Heald's innuendo of the usual fate of portraits of retiring presidents, that it would hang in Shuster Hall on the Bronx campus.

Mayor Wagner, in a brief unscheduled speech, paid honor to Dr. Shuster and remarked that education will also be in debt to him for his leadership.

Honorary Degree Citation

Dean Mina Rees presented President Shuster for the honorary degree. She cited "his delight in young people together with his joy in teaching", "his

concern for freedom and for the work of the individual", "his devoted services as Land Commissioner for Bavaria and his continuing association with UNESCO." Dean Rees concluded: "*The door of his office, like his heart, has been open to everyone, students, teachers, alumni alike. People—all of us—have felt that he loved them; and for that, apart from everything else he did for us, we love him.*"

"Honored as he has been in this country and abroad, he is so identified with the ethos of Hunter College, its students, its faculty, its staff, that we know he will cherish the honor we bestow upon him today, when the deans and the professors of Hunter College present him for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa."

Dr. Shuster's Response

Dr. Shuster received a standing ovation from the audience as he stepped to the lectern. He caused further applause when he referred to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (lovely in her red academic gown and black cap) as the only unpaid member of the Hunter faculty and called her one of the College's supreme adornments.

In speaking of his experience as president of a woman's (mainly) college, President Shuster uttered the paradox: "You ought not to educate a woman as if she were a man, or to educate her as if she were not". He went on to explain that "it has taken us a fearfully long time to see that, however great may be the intellectual sacrifice woman must bring by reason of her primordial function as the bearer of life, there is no reason at all why her share in the community of scholars and artists should be of a lower order than is that of men.

"It seems to me that it has been one of the special glories of Hunter College in my time to have had an opportunity to make this verity manifest. . . . The quality of teaching and scholarship which the women of the Hunter College Faculty have to their credit is so genuine of texture and so far-reaching in its diversity that if the institution ceased for some reason or other to exist tomorrow their contribution could not be erased from the pages on which American academic achieve-

BOARDS MEET

The Boards of Directors of the Alumni Associations of the four 4-year municipal colleges met with members of the Board of Higher Education one evening in January to discuss subjects of common interest. Present were Gustave G. Rosenberg, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, Mrs. Maude Stewart, Mrs. Mary Ingraham, Mrs. Ella Streator, members, Mrs. Pearl Max, administrator, Presidents Gallagher, Gideonse and Stoke of City, Brooklyn and Queens Colleges respectively, and goodly representations of the alumni.

The fundamental problems which were explained from the Board of Higher Education's viewpoint by Mr. Rosenberg are: Should tuition be imposed on the four-year municipal colleges? Why is a chancellor needed and what progress is being made in finding one? What are the prospects of greater state aid? How is the BHE planning to cope with the programs of the future?

Space does not permit a complete report to be printed in this issue of the meeting or even of the first question, which is the one of greatest concern and the one to which most time was given. It is our hope to print detailed information next issue.

At the moment, we restrict ourselves to saying that the Board of Higher Education is opposed to a tuition fee at the city colleges (this does not include the three Community Colleges at which a fee is now charged). Free tuition for undergraduate matriculants is required under the State Education Law, but fees may be, and are, charged to non-matriculants, extension and other students.

There is no legislation pending now which would impose tuition upon the Municipal College students.

ment is inscribed. All this means that women do some things quite as well as men."

Regina Resnik '42 of the Metropolitan Opera Association sang an aria from "Samson and Delila" and "Mighty Lak a Rose."

The invocation was pronounced by Cardinal Spellman and the benediction by Father Heide of the College Newman Club.