

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

Published Monthly
From October to June, Inclusive
at 49 East 65th St., New York 21, N. Y.

by
**THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE
OF HUNTER COLLEGE**

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Price \$2.00 a Year, or 20% of the Annual Dues

We were not *wholly* ignorant! Xerxes did mean something to us. It meant to us the Persian king who ordered the Hellespont to be flayed when it broke his bridge of boats, and who thrice leaped from his throne in agony (but did nothing else about it!) when he saw the flower of his army being destroyed by the embattled Greeks at Thermopylae before the betrayal of the pass. It also meant to us the name of a work by Händel from which comes the famous *Largo* that we never hear without a sense of peace and reverence. There would seem more comic possibilities in the former than in the latter.

But now we learn—and we blushing confess our ignorance of this until the present moment—that the *Xerxes* of Händel is a *comic* opera, his only example of the genre. And we also learn, not blushing but proudly, that it is to be presented by the Hunter College Opera Association, with the Orchestra of the New York College of Music. One more manifestation of the imagination and vision of those who guide our College! We know that among the moving spirits behind this exciting project are President Shuster and the Acting Director of our School of General Studies, Professor Edward Davison.

The performances will be given in our Playhouse at 8:30 every evening from Tuesday, March 10, through Thursday, March 19. Tickets (\$3.00 in the Orchestra, \$2.00 in the Balcony) may be had from our indefatigable Dr. Benno Lee of the Hunter College Concert Bureau.

Alumnae, be sure to attend!

The NEWS has the lucky sum of \$13.00 to acknowledge this month.

Mrs. John S. Romeo sent \$1.00 in honor of the birth of her daughter, and Mrs. Sylvia Krieger sent \$2.00 in honor of the birth of her son—both recorded elsewhere in this issue.

Mrs. Estelle F. Levy of the sixty-year Class of '93 sent \$10.00 in memory of her sister, Mrs. Florence F. Meyers of the Class of '88. We deeply appreciate this generous gift.

FACULTY FACTS

Dr. Ruth Ellis Messenger, June '05, retired Associate Professor of the Department of History, announces the publication of her book, *The Medieval Latin Hymn* (Capital Press, 1731 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., 138 pp., \$3.25).

Dr. Messenger has here written a history of the Latin hymn from the point of usage, showing its origin and development as revealed in liturgical sources. A selection from the finest Latin hymns in English translation has been included, as well as a Bibliography of Latin Hymnology.

As Dr. Messenger's former pupils may recall, she has been chiefly interested in the aspects of thought and culture in every historical period, and especially in those which reflect a classical heritage. She has endeavored in this book to present to readers who may or may not have a knowledge of Latin, an account of the Latin hymn not hitherto available in English.

Hunterites will be interested to learn that one of the candidates for the post of teacher-member of the Retirement Board, which administers the pensions of the teachers in the municipal schools and colleges, is a member of the Hunter College Faculty, Professor Hobart Bushey of the Mathematics Department. The committee endorsing his candidacy, which includes six members of the Hunter faculty, as well as representatives of a number of outside institutions and educational organizations, comments as follows on his qualifications: "Dr. Bushey's competence as a technical pension expert is evidenced by his 22 years as teacher of statistics and the mathematics of annuities, pensions, and insurance at Hunter College. His leadership in teacher pension problems is attested by his position as Chairman of the Pension Committee of the Legislative Committee of the four New York City Colleges. His advice on pensions has been given freely to hundreds of teachers."

The colleagues and students of Dr. Ellen E. Brennan, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Hunter College, were grieved and shocked to learn of her sudden death on January 9. She had been absent from College on January 8, and had telephoned directions for the care of her classes; but no one dreamed that her illness was of so serious a nature.

Dr. Brennan had been on the Hunter staff for twenty-five years, and served as a volunteer attorney for the Legal Aid Society. She held the degrees of A.B. from Radcliffe ('20), A.M. from Bryn Mawr ('21), Ph.D. from Radcliffe ('31), and LL.B. from Columbia ('44).

Our alumna, Mrs. Ethel Davidson, Sept. '43, who was her fellow-student at Columbia Law School, writes concerning her: "She was one of the most sincere and noble women I have ever known. I feel that some memorial ought to be undertaken for her, and perhaps suggestions might be asked for in the NEWS. It should be something living and useful, to benefit young people, because I am sure that is the way Ellen would have wanted it."