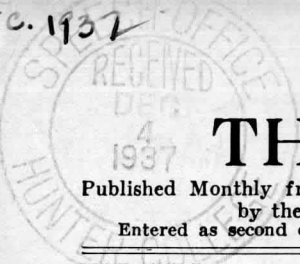


Dec. 1937

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THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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VOL. XLII

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1937

No. 9

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following are the names of the members of the Nominating Committee:—

- Professor Marie K. Gallagher
- Miss B. Elizabeth Kallman
- Miss Ruth E. Salley
- Miss Ellen Nugent
- Mrs. Maybella C. Williams
- Miss Nettie Judels
- Professor Elsie R. Kingla

Suggestions should be sent at once to the chairman, Professor Marie K. Gallagher, at Alumnae Hall, 204 West 55th Street.

IRENE B. GRAFF, President.

ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

Slowly but surely time is slipping away, and very soon the eventful occasion will be at hand—our annual Alumnae Breakfast. We are hoping all our members are planning to attend. If you have not yet done so, won't you start now to reach classmates in an effort to make our party a real get-together?

The Committee would especially like to engage the attention of members of the Golden and Silver Jubilee Classes, the Class of 1888 and the Class of 1913. Arrange your tables early and make reservations promptly.

The Alumnae Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 12th, at the Hotel Astor. Tickets are \$2.50. Address communications to

Mrs. JAMES A. CROTTY, Chairman,
200 West 90th Street.
Telephone Schuyler 4-6274.

1888—1938

Golden Anniversary Girls! Please, please make a great effort to attend our gathering, at the Hunter Alumnae Breakfast on February 12th, at Hotel Astor.

Be sure to reply to our class notice, send your acceptance, and *come!!* We want *you!* What a Day!—Once in a lifetime!!

If you locate any classmate, please notify at once
VIOLA YOERG HARTMANN,
(Mrs. P.) 2440 Webb Avenue.

JANUARY-JUNE 1918

Celebrate your twentieth anniversary by attending the Alumnae Breakfast, Saturday, Feb. 12th! Send your reservation with \$2.50 to Miss Emilie Lustig, 41 West 86th Street.

ROSE SEGAL GOLOMB, President.

CALENDAR, JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Wed., Jan. 5—Officers and Directors
- Wed., Jan. 26—Commencement
- Sat., Feb. 12—Alumnae Breakfast
- Wed., Feb. 16—Birthday Celebration

COLLEGE NOTES

Working plans will be completed in February or March of next year for a new \$5,000,000 building to replace the 65-year-structure on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue, which was destroyed by fire two years ago. Preliminary plans for the 16-story building, which will accommodate 5,000 College students and 500 Model School pupils, have been submitted already to the Administrative Committee of the Board of Higher Education in charge of the project by the firm of Shreve, Lamb, & Harmon, with Harrison and Fouilhoux as associated architects.

The new structure will connect with the present building by a wing extending eastward. There will be four entrances, the principal one to be on 69th Street.

Besides the classrooms and laboratories, there will be a library, a swimming pool, a faculty dining room, a student cafeteria, a gymnasium, an auditorium, a little theater, and a roof terrace on the seventh floor.

The structure will be made fireproof to prevent a repetition of the disaster of two years ago, and soundproof by the use of "floating" walls.

As part of the celebration of American Education Week, students of Hunter, Brooklyn, and City Colleges joined in a program in the Great Hall of City College. The Hunter College Choir, under the direction of Mr. Anders Emile of the Department of Music, sang a selection from Bach's *Cantata Opus No. 60*. There were also a dance program under the direction of Professor Augusta Neidhardt of the Department of Physical Education, and an Art Exhibition of the studio work of students of the Art Department under the direction of Professor Joseph Cummings Chase, Head of the Department of Art.

The Hunter College Orchestra and the Senior and Junior Group of the Hunter College Choir, under the direction of Mr. Anders Emile of the Music Department, presented a program of classical music in the auditorium of the 68th Street Building on Wednesday, November 3.

The orchestra and the choir joined in a presentation of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Cantata Opus No. 60*, and the choir sang a group of folk songs.

To commemorate Armistice Day, the students arranged a special Peace Week program. A special Peace Supplement to the *Bulletin* was issued which includes articles on peace contributed by students and faculty. A peace mobilization meeting was held in the Little Theater at the Bronx Building.

IN MEMORIAM

When, in 1899, the College chair of Latin and English became, as one of its two new occupants aptly put it, a settee, it was given into the keeping of a pair to whom may well be applied the words written by Horace of two other poet-friends, "earth has borne no whiter souls". Helen Gray Cone has always been peculiarly Hunter's own; but George Meason Whicher, though he came to us from other parts, soon made himself wholly ours, and it is safe to say that not only every student who sat within his classes during the quarter-century of his teaching at Hunter, but every alumna whose path in any way crossed his during that happy period, felt that her own life, and the life of her College, had been gladdened and enriched by contact with one who so fully exemplified the finest virtues and values of that fair classical culture whose beauty he spread about him.

Tall, ruddy-cheeked, snowy-haired, Professor Whicher made a fair picture. He looked the part of the gentleman and scholar, and he played that part to the full. There was about him a gentle courtesy that was an essential part of the man, and that was bound to beget an answering courtesy from those with whom he dealt. His rare charm, enriched by grace and enlivened by wit, his delicate taste and tact, never failed, whether he was seated behind the teacher's desk or standing upon the speaker's rostrum. Any who had once heard him lecture came back eagerly to every program that included his name.

He was born July 29, 1860, in the little Iowa town that he celebrated in his early volume of verse (1912), "From Muscatine". From Iowa (later Grinnell) College, he received his A. B. in 1882, his A. M. in 1885, and his D. Lit. in 1905, and there it was that he met Lillian Frisbie of Des Moines, whom he and his son apostrophize so charmingly in their joint volume, "On the Tibur Road", as "Our best third". He did his first teaching, in 1882-3, in the high school of his own Muscatine, then went to Hastings College in Nebraska, where he spent several years as Professor of Greek and German, and thence to Grinnell Academy, where he taught from 1888 to 1889. But he "came out of the West", first to spend a year of study at Johns Hopkins, and later to teach, as Classical Master at Lawrenceville from 1889 to 1892, and then as Professor of Greek and Latin at Packer Institute from 1892 to 1899, when he came to us. The Normal College of those days was not yet an institution of true collegiate stature; that it did within the next decade become so, and that another decade saw it measuring up to the best of the country's colleges, so that one feature of the Golden Jubilee of 1920 was the awarding to Hunter of a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, was perhaps due more to George Meason Whicher than to any other individual. The high standards that

marked his own class-room, wherein one witness gladly testifies that she obtained her first notions of genuine scholarship, he did his utmost to spread throughout the entire institution.

He was active among the organizations of the professional classicists, serving as President of the New York Classical Club for two terms, as President of the New York Archaeological Society for three years, and as General Secretary of the Archaeological Institute of America for many years; and he was still more active in interpreting classical life and letters to the lay public, through lectures and writings. From 1921 to 1922 he had the distinction of serving as Professor in Charge of the School of Classical Studies of the American Academy in Rome. This connection gave his friends at Hunter the incentive to raise the sum of \$5,000.00 necessary to make Hunter a Member in Perpetuity of the American Academy; this amount was collected in a fairly short period of time, \$1,000.00 of it being contributed specifically in Professor Whicher's honor on the occasion of his much-lamented retirement in 1924.

It was, too, during that year at Rome that he went as Hunter's emissary to the seven-hundredth anniversary celebration of the University of Padua, and received an honorary doctor's degree from that venerable institution.

Like Helen Gray Cone, he loved poetry, he spread its appreciation, and he created it. Keats was his great enthusiasm. He arranged a fine Keats program at Hunter at the time of the Keats Centennial, in 1921, and one of the few—too few—poems of his own that he included in the "Anthology of Hunter College Verse", the charming little volume that he edited in 1924, was one on the Spanish Steps, thus combining with his love for Keats his love for Rome. Things Roman, too, provide the occasion and scene for his "Roman Pearls" (1926) and his "Roba d'Italia" (1930), while his two chief loves among the Roman poets, Horace and Vergil, furnish the subject matter for two more volumes, "On the Tibur Road" (1911), a delightful medley of Horatian translations and adaptations, and "Vergiliana", an imaginary collection of letters to Pliny (1931), published in the year of the Vergil Bimillennium, and constituting a sympathetic commentary on the Mantuan. But in his last book, "Amity Street" (1935), he came back to America, and to that part of America which, for all his middle western birth and bringing-up, was most truly his—New England.

Surely it was to his New England forebears, among them the poet Whittier (the spelling had got changed a bit in the course of years), that he owed in great part his integrity and his high ideals, his hatred of pomp and of cheapness and of empty show. It was to a New England college—Amherst—that his son went to study, and after him

his son's sons. And here it was that he went after his retirement to join his son—professor now at his alma mater—and to spend thirteen happy years filled with the fragrance of books and blossoms, he and his wife next-door to the home of the two younger generations, with nothing but grass and flowers to separate the two abodes, on that most aptly-named Amity Street that he celebrated in his last volume of verse.

Here on October 2, while working at his beloved vines, he suffered that fall whose results took him from us just a month later. But let us rather think of him as he was a month and a day earlier, on that glorious golden wedding day of September first, which has already been recorded in the NEWS. It is as he was then, side-by-side with his loved helpmate, that we shall always want to picture him.

His bust, carved out of candid marble by an admiring alumna, Yan MacLeod, and given to the Alma Mater in his honor by other admiring alumnae, stands in the Hunter College Faculty Room. His photograph hangs in the office of the Department of Latin and Greek that owes so much to him, over the desk of one who is so proud to have been both his pupil and his colleague. But clearer and dearer yet, his image lives on in the hearts of all of us.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE HUNTER COLLEGE FACULTY IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR WHICHER

WHEREAS, there has been removed from us one of whom, because of the fineness of his ideals and the integrity of his character, it may well be said,

.... cui Pudor et Iustitiae soror,
incompacta Fides, nudaque Veritas
quando ullum inveniet parem?

WHEREAS, George Meason Whicher served our College faithfully and well for a period of five-and-twenty years, winning to a rare degree the respect, admiration, and warm affection alike of colleagues, of students, and of alumnae;

WHEREAS, during this period he did much to advance the intellectual life of the College, as a teacher passing on to his students the torch that is kept alight by the love of scholarship and the appreciation of literature, and as an administrator being one of a devoted little group that, actuated by their knowledge and understanding of the highest aims and the best practices of the academic world, labored to make our institution a liberal arts college of the first rank; whereas this group, of which he "was a large part", built up our requirements for the entrance and the graduation of the student body, and for the appointment and the promotion of the teaching staff, in accordance with approved usage; and whereas they worked to such good effect that their efforts were rewarded by the admission of the College to the approved

list of the Association of American Universities, and by the granting to the College of a Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, which Chapter was won largely through the personal efforts of Professor Whicher, and which he served not only as Charter Member but also as first President;

WHEREAS, led by his own taste and gift for poetry, he did much to spread the appreciative enjoyment of this art throughout the College, by the foundation of the Rhymers' Club and of the Poets' Corner and by the publication of "A Half-Century of Song, an Anthology of Hunter College Verse", the editing of which he undertook as a labor of love;

AND WHEREAS, he likewise served the cause of friendship and good fellowship at the College by acting as founder and as first President of the Faculty Club, and in countless other ways, above all by being his own gracious self;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, at this meeting of the Faculty of Hunter College held on November 10, 1937—and be these Resolutions spread upon the minutes and transmitted to the family of Professor Whicher—that the Faculty of Hunter College express their deep appreciation of all that George Meason Whicher did and was, their profound sympathy with his family over the irreparable loss caused by his going, and their heartfelt gratitude that it was vouchsafed to him for a happy span of years

frui paratis et valido...

.... ac ... integra

cum mente nec turpem senectam

degere nec cithara carentem.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS:—

EDGAR S. DAWSON

LAO G. SIMONS

E. ADELAIDE HAHN, Chairman.

AN EDITORIAL FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

FROM MUSCATINE

It was a boy from the banks of the Mississippi who in age wrote an imagined letter to the Younger Pliny in praise of Virgil, dating it in the Autumn of A. D. 99:

Nor Rome itself, nay, not all Italy
Nor Rome's wide-flung dominions
e'er can hold

Our Virgil—bound his fame—confine
his glory.

Professor George M. Whicher, who was a graduate of one of the small colleges in the Middle West where Virgil is still known and read, has brought fresh tribute to "Rome's greatest spirit"—to the genius of the "mighty Mantuan." It is a long way from Muscatine to Mantua, but it is a great good thing that there are teachers who still keep the road open. One of these has been the Iowa student who became the teacher and poet, who walked "the Tibur Road" and knew the "sparkling shore" "where Virgil lived and dreamed and wrote."