

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HUNTER COLLEGE

By E. ADELAIDE HAHN

Hunter's Diamond Jubilee opened on the birthday of the Great Liberator, an appropriate date for an institution that is free in every sense of the word—free in that the students equipped to avail themselves of its opportunities may do so without charge, which is of the very essence of democracy; free in its conduct of business and free in the pursuit of truth, which is of the very essence of scholarship; and dedicated to that type of training which has ever been deemed the suitable one for free men and women, a liberal education.

The opening was in the form of a radio address by President George N. Shuster over Station WNYC, "Seventy-five Years of Hunter College Students". The President described the type of girl that Hunter College trains, and the type of training that it gives her. Sympathetic understanding of the student body, and an unswerving determination to give them of the best, characterized his speech, which could not but make the Hunterites in his unseen audience proud to be so ably and so nobly represented.

This address, on the eve of the celebration proper, opened a week of festivities. The seventy-five-year-old College proper—faculty, students, alumnae—had its big two days on Tuesday, February 13th, and Wednesday, February 14th (the day itself); the Elementary School, founded soon after the College, celebrated on Thursday, and the High School, youngest of the three, on Friday; the Alumnae had a Jubilee Tea for their members on Saturday, and a Jubilee Canteen for the armed forces on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Hunter Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa had its own special Silver Anniversary Celebration on Thursday. All these events are chronicled below.

### OPENING OF THE LIBRARY EXHIBIT

As at its Golden Jubilee, so at its Diamond Jubilee, the City's great public college for women was honored by an exhibit at the City's great public library. This exhibit, consisting of pictures, documents, books, and personal mementos of various kinds, mainly connected with Thomas Hunter, shared the honors with another of equal interest, which showed graphically the absurdity of discriminations based on the fallacious notion of "race". Could finer partner be found for our own institution which has always been happily free from any taint of discrimination?

The official opening of the exhibit, on Tuesday, February 13th, was in the form of a program that began promptly at 10:30 A. M.,

with President Shuster as chairman. In the absence, due to illness, of the Director, Franklin F. Hopper, the Library was officially represented by Mr. Paul North Rice, Chief of its Reference Department, who greeted the audience on behalf of his institution. The Board of Higher Education was represented by its Chairman, Dr. Ordway Tead, who urged that "new times demand new measures and new men"; and the Associate Alumnae by its President, Dr. Ruth Lewinson, who outlined the interests and vocations of our graduates, including various professions, motherhood, and war work. The students had a part in the program through the melodious singing of Ruth Kleinman, accompanied by Ruth Pressburg.

The City of New York had as its representative its Chief Magistrate, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who delivered a dynamic speech. He urged that in our studies we must not forget the past; we must study it in order to keep what it had of good, to avoid its mistakes, and thus to use it as a guide in charting the future. Subjects should not be eliminated or discarded because difficult. "And now," he said solemnly, "I am going to shock some educators; I know of no better exercise for the mind than mathematics or one of the dead languages." To judge by its applause, the audience was not deeply shocked.

In conclusion, the Mayor declared that he was proud of Hunter and of his own part in the improvements of the last ten years. He explained that he was not referring to the new building, but to the fact that the College had been given a new soul, new life—and Dr. Shuster. And the audience showed by its prolonged applause that it shared this pride.

### OPENING OF THE COLLEGE EXHIBIT

A goodly audience of which a large part had hastened up from the Forty-second Street Library for the purpose, filled the Hunter Playhouse—alias the Auditorium—for the official opening, at 12:30 on February 13th, of the Hunter College Exhibit, "As We Were and As We Are".

After the singing of the National Anthem, President Shuster, who presided, read from the Scriptures, and then presented the heroine of the occasion, Professor Edna Wells Luetz of the Art Department, who, as Chairman of the Brochure and Exhibit Committee, and with notable assistance from Mrs. Alva Critchley Cooper, Secretary of the same Department, had spent many weary hours on "the double shift" that the Exhibit might achieve the artistic beauty and fascinating interest which all have found in it. Professor Luetz, "covered", as she put it herself,

"with the dust and glamor of 75 years", gave a charming speech, free of the dust and full of the glamor of her investigations. First paying a special tribute to Thomas Hunter and Lydia Wadleigh, she then held her hearers spellbound with a host of memories—her own and those of others—of some of the College's memorable figures who had meant most to her, Professor Cone, Professor Williams, Professor Reid of the Art Department, Dean Hickenbottom.

Professor Luetz was followed by Ruth Kleinman, whose noble singing of a noble song, "The Good Ship Alma Mater", made at least one member of the audience mourn afresh the severance of the sweet tradition dating from 1876, the rendering of this first and finest of our college songs by the graduates at each Commencement, and wonder whether the venerable custom might not be renewed this June in honor of our Jubilee.

"Highlights of Our History" were now presented by representatives of the Elementary School, the High School, the College, and the Alumnae. A tiny tot, Ann Carol Heyman, bravely stood up to deliver a speech that was intelligible to those on the platform, and was rapturously taken on trust by the rest of the audience. Rose Friedman, President of the General Organization of the High School, spoke with poise and dignity, outlining the School's history under the supervision of a college committee and then under its three successive principals, Miss Beach, Miss Webster, and Dr. Brown, and telling of some of the honors won by its students, of their war work, and of their desire to uphold their institution's high standards of scholarship and personality. Vera Andruson, Chairman of the Traditions Committee of the College, gave a brief epitome of the College's history, and with charming sincerity and spontaneity paid a tribute to her Alma Mater, where "we may study everything from typewriting up to Greek", and where girls from all walks of life are received "simply because they have the brains to come". Finally, Louise F. Draddy, introduced as "the genial First Vice-President of the Alumnae", fully justified that characterization by a gay speech in which she assured the audience that "the older alumnae of Hunter College are much younger than any other alumnae".

The program concluded with the singing of "The Ivy Leaf" and "Fame" by the audience, which then adjourned to the lobby to view the Exhibit so auspiciously inaugurated.