

# 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,

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by  
THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNÆ  
OF HUNTER COLLEGE

President,

DR. RUTH LEWINSON

18 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Editor *pro tem.*,

MISS E. ADELAIDE HAHN

640 Riverside Drive, New York 31, N. Y.

Telephone Edgecombe 4-8071

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Here is the promised Special Jubilee Number. Other material has been kept at a minimum; the overflow will appear next month.

It is good to look back—back not only at our wonderful week in February, but at the glorious three-quarters of a century that culminated in our Diamond Jubilee. Hunter has a record of service and achievement of which we may all be truly proud.

But it is good to look forward too. Turn the page, and see our indefatigable President's stimulating plans for further growth, and announcements of interesting events that are to come. Hunter does not rest upon her laurels. "To-morrow to fresh woods, and pastures new."

## PHI BETA KAPPA JUBILEE

The Hunter College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, installed in February 1920, celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary on Thursday evening, February 15th.

About 200 members and guests gathered in the Faculty Commons at six for a dinner characterized by a pleasant atmosphere of festive good will. At the close of the dinner, the Chapter President, Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, Chairman of the Classics Department, called on the guests of honor, each of whom gave a brief greeting. They included the Presidents of the College and of the Alumnae (Dr. Shuster is an Honorary Member, and Dr. Lewinson an Alumna Member, of the Chapter); representatives of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumnae in New York, and of the City College and Columbia Chapters; also three of the Hunter Chapter's twelve Charter Members, Professor Emeritus Edgar Dawson, former Chairman of the Hunter College History Department, Professor Emeritus Luise Haessler, former Chairman of the Brooklyn College German Department, and Professor Philip R. V. Curoe, Chairman of the Hunter College Education Department. Four of the original group of seven Hunter Alumnae initiated in 1920 were present: Mrs. Evangeline Moon Brown, formerly of the Geology Department; Professor Olive Merritt Cross of the Biology Department; Dean Hannah M. Egan; and Professor Hahn. After presenting the Charter Members and her fellow

Alumnae Members as representing the past of the Chapter, Professor Hahn presented the Members-in-Course from the Classes of September '44 and February and June '45 as representing its present, and the seven ranking students of '46 and '47 as representing its future; all these young women were in attendance as guests of the Chapter.

The initiation of the newly elected Members-in-Course into Nu Chapter followed the Silver Anniversary dinner. In warm and felicitous words Professor Hahn welcomed the initiates and their parents and friends who had gathered in the Auditorium of the College for the ceremony.

Under the direction of Mr. Vincent Aita five students of the College, Ethel Haas, Bess Meyerson, Felicia Presser, Marcia Newkrieg, and Muriel Bloom, played Handel's Sonata in G Major, op. 5, No. 4. The quiet charm of the music was beautifully conceived and expressed.

The orator of these Silver Anniversary exercises was Professor Thomas Ollive Mabbott of the English Department of the College, who chose for his address the topic "The Centenary of 'The Raven': the Harmony of Art and Science". Professor Mabbott spoke first of the evidence extant of the date of composition of this famous poem, and of its first appearances in print on January 29 and February 1, 1845. Commenting on the works Poe had read upon which he may have drawn for occasional phrase or metrical form, Professor Mabbott made clear that Poe was trying to write a poem that would satisfy the taste of the highly cultivated and the simple man. Poe himself said that he wrote the poem to see how close to the ridiculous he could come and still achieve an effect of the sublime. Some eight versions of the poem are extant; various alterations by Poe appear. The version of "The Raven" popularly known is of the year 1849; Poe's essay, *The Philosophy of Composition*, gives details of the whole composition of the poem.

Professor Mabbott pointed out that poetry and science both require observation, care, examination, labor, and imagination; he emphasized their identity in the whole of Poe's creative process, both in fiction and in poetry. Concluding his illuminating address, Professor Mabbott paid tribute to Poe's high, unswerving standards both of art and of morality in all that he composed throughout his difficult life.

Following this address, Professor Hahn conducted the traditional initiation ceremony. Twelve students had been elected as Junior members in a corps; forty-nine as Senior members: all but four were present to voice their pledge to cherish the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa.

Organ music for both the processional and the recessional of faculty and student members of the Society was provided by Dr. Anastasia Van Burkalow of the College.

ANNA M. TRINSEY.