

Cone's iron hand. She knew Shakespeare better than almost any other scholar in our ken. She had edited a number of his plays, for the Riverside Literature Series published by Houghton Mifflin, had studied and re-studied all of him. She was able to impart his essence fully and wonderfully. It would have been folly to dilute this over-measure of wisdom.

We find in Shakespeare — where else? — the apt, the goodly tribute to our great teacher and scholar, Helen Gray Cone. To paraphrase *Two Gentlemen of Verona*:

She is (our) own,  
And I as rich in having such a jewel,  
As twenty seas, if all their sand were pearl,  
The water nectar and the roots pure gold.

## Shakespeare at Hunter

Edward McAleer

Chairman, Department of English

(From Address at the College on February 19)

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare, and all over the world people are honoring the poet in the seventy-nine languages into which his plays have been translated. Were we in Toronto this week, we could see Richard Burton in *Hamlet*. Were we in Ankara, Turkey, we could see the Turkish actress Sevda Aydan in *Macbeth* tonight and tomorrow night in a musical drama with the Turkish title *Op Beni, Kate*. *Op Beni, Kate* in Turkish means in English *Kiss Me, Kate*, which means in Elizabethan English *The Taming of the Shrew*, which was written by Shakespeare. From Toronto around the world to Ankara and around to world again to Toronto Shakespeare is proving himself to be the one man in literature, art, music, or science, best able to elicit honor and affection from all people who know him in whatever country.

Hunter College has arranged its own Shakespeare Festival to be celebrated throughout the spring semester. The festival began on January 8 when the American Shakespeare Festival Company of Stratford, Connecticut, gave a "final run-through" of *Romeo and Juliet* in the Playhouse. We paid the actors the compliment of overflowing the theater, and the actors paid us the compliment of wishing to return, because we proved to be an intelligent and responsive audience.

Today the Departments of Music, Physical Education, Speech and Drama combine their talents for this Founder's Day Convocation, presenting us with Elizabethan music, songs, dances, and readings.

On March 15, selected undergraduates from some dozen colleges in the New York area will come to Hunter College to take part in a Shakespeare essay contest. The winner of the first prize will spend the summer studying at Shakespeare's birthplace in Strat-

ford-on-Avon. This contest is financed by the participating colleges, and Hunter's contribution of \$100 is made by our Student Council. Last year the winner of the first prize was a Hunter College senior.

March 17 marks the founding of Roosevelt House, and the Theater Workshop will present scenes from Shakespeare in the form of a Theater-in-the-Round at Roosevelt House.

During April the Department of Art will display in the lobby of the Playhouse an exhibit of photographic Elizabethan graphics, approximately fifteen large graphics arranged in a three-dimensional exhibit. On the Bronx campus there will be an exhibit of Elizabethan costumes from April 13 to April 17, and the libraries on both campuses will show rare books having to do with Shakespeare, his contemporaries, and his stage.

On April 14, we hope to have a distinguished Shakespearean scholar from Scotland deliver the Louise Draddy lecture on Shakespeare's *Othello*, and the next day and for the remainder of the week the Theater Workshop will present *Othello* as its major spring production. For this production the American Shakespeare Festival Company is making available to us its wardrobe of Elizabethan costumes.

On Sunday April 19 the Theater Workshop will join with the Opera Workshop in the presentation of parallel scenes from Shakespeare's *Othello* and Verdi's *Otello* in both matinee and evening performances. We shall have the opportunity to see how a great dramatist handled a situation and emotion and then immediately to see how a great musician thereafter handled the same material. We shall also have as commentator a distinguished Shakespearean actor to interpret and to tell us what it all means. With gracious generosity, the Alumni

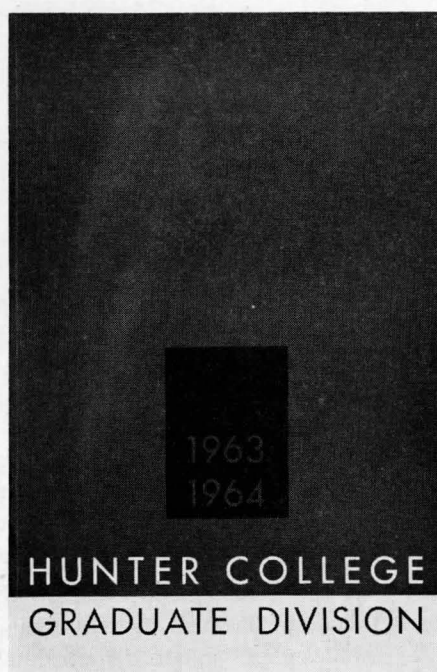
Association of Hunter College has assumed the expenses of both these Sunday performances, honoring Shakespeare and concomitantly making it possible for us all to attend free of charge.

Having tasted the joy of doing opera based on a Shakespearean play, the Opera Workshop will present on April 29 and May 1 as its major spring production Nicolai's Shakespearean opera, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The Student Self Government Association at Park Avenue will sponsor three Shakespearean motion pic-

tures: *Hamlet* on March 13; *Romeo and Juliet* on April 22; and *Henry V* on May 15. On the Bronx campus, students are sponsoring the showing of *Henry V* on April 9; *Julius Caesar* on April 23; and *Richard III* on May 13. On April 23, the birthday proper, a Shakespearean scholar from the English department will introduce the film and speak in honor of the poet. Throughout the semester English classes will study the plays to be presented and will supply the performers with intelligent audiences.

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The City University's Doctoral Program in English and Comparative Literature was authorized in May 1962 and began in September of that year. Based at Hunter, the Program is under the direction of Dr. Helaine Newstead '27 who serves as Executive Officer.

The Program calls on the services of faculty members of the four senior colleges appointed by the Graduate Council of the City University. The first year of study is available on all four senior campuses, the second and third years only at Hunter. Theses by Ph.D. candidates are under the direction of the University faculty.

The Doctoral Program in English this year received five National Defense Education Act Fellowships. Four additional Fellowships are expected next year.

There are currently twenty-one doctoral candidates

## The Doctoral Program in English

enrolled in the Program on a full-time basis. Two will be taking their qualifying oral examinations this spring and expect to receive their degrees next year.

Both faculty and students have been drawn from colleges throughout the country. Recent appointments to the English faculty are Irving Howe, formerly at Stanford, David L. Stevenson, formerly at Western Reserve (see page 5) and David M. Vieth, formerly at the University of Kansas.

Students in the Doctoral Program have done their undergraduate work at the City University, Columbia, Barnard, Johns Hopkins, University of Michigan and University of Wisconsin, to name but a few of the institutions represented.

Courses in the Doctoral Program include The English Language, Medieval Literature, Renaissance Literature and Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Literature as well as Modern British and American Literature and Dramatic Literature. There are also special seminars.

For candidates whose objective is college teaching, the Department of English offers a seminar, to be taken without credit, devoted to the problems of college teaching of English. Where possible, promising candidates are given an opportunity to teach appropriate college classes under supervision.