

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HUNTER COLLEGE

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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,

## THE HIGH SCHOOL JUBILEE

It is hard to set a date for the beginning of Hunter College High School. In a sense its career began in May 1903 when, with the separation into two parts of the old "college" course of six or seven years, the High School Department of Normal College became a separate entity. But in another sense, since the old Normal College of the 1870's was essentially a secondary school, and was indeed known for a—happily—brief period as the Female Normal and *High School*, Hunter College High School also has a rightful share in the celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary. And 1945 likewise marks for it a special Fifth Anniversary, for only since 1940 has it been united in a single building really its own. The success that has crowned its career and that did so even in the days when the student body was scattered through as many as four different annexes, and crowded into a few borrowed class-rooms in each of these, is one more proof of the triumph of Mark Hopkins at the end of a log, in other words of the importance of high standards and devoted service rather than palatial structures.

The High School's rightful share was also a delightful share. The spirit of the School was demonstrated afresh in their really amazing contribution to the Jubilee program, per-

haps the most elaborate single number, an Original Historical Festival written by the students themselves with Miss Dorothy Bunker as Faculty Adviser, and produced by student committees with the help of the Faculty Advisers of the General Organization (Miss Katherine Kelly, Mrs. Anne Leadley, Mrs. Ida Simpson, and Mrs. Elizabeth Clark), Faculty Advisers on Costumes (Miss Clare Enrico and Miss Katherine Kelly) and Scenery (Mrs. Ruby Papp), and a group of Faculty Directors (Miss Marion Viola Root for dancing, Miss Marion Dancis for Orchestra, Miss Charlotte Hochman for Singing, and Miss Anne Gemble McIntosh for Staging)—the whole gigantic spectacle coördinated and produced by Mrs. Olive B. Davis, Chairman of the Speech Department. The magnitude of the enterprise is indicated by the fact that over 150 girls participated; they filled the huge stage of the Assembly Hall, while an intensely interested and justly enthusiastic audience filled the Hall itself.

The pageant, which opened and closed with a Processional and a Recessional superbly rendered by the large orchestra, and which had Miss Rose Friedman, President of the General Organization, as its narrator, went back to the first entrance examination, long ago in June 1869 (and since Hunter High School still gives entrance examinations, this scene must have struck an especially responsive chord in many young hearts). Then followed amusing scenes in class-rooms, halls, and "Calisthenium" of the 1870's; and a choral class enacted by a group of faculty members with Miss Charlotte Hochman as teacher, and stern disciplinarians much in need of discipline as students, was of course particularly popular with the student part of the audience. Part II opened with the announcement of the new High School in 1903, and showed in succession a tea party with Miss Grace B. Beach, first Principal; the Swimming Club in practice complete without water to swim in; an amusing student debate; and then, with the coming of the first World War, a School War Bond Rally of 1917. Part III presented the interview with Miss Louisa M. Webster, the second Principal, which led to the establishment of student self-government; the first Prom; and a scene in the office of the school paper, the *What's What*. The grand finale, in which all the leading actors reappeared with a number of others, depicted "The Spirit of Hunter To-day".

The entire performance moved swiftly and smoothly without a hitch; and all concerned deserve congratulations on their talents and efficiency, as well as on their good fortune in belonging to an institution distinguished alike for its spirit of service and its devotion to high academic ideals.