

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## THE ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

The Alumnae Breakfast has a new and delightful feature. Between the Mocha of a perfect meal which figured in the program merely as "Breakfast", and the rest of the program, ten minutes were set aside for "Auld Acquaintance". People at even-numbered tables stayed at home, while odd-numbered tables went visiting. Everybody played the game with great gusto.

Miss Marguerite E. Jones, Chairman of Arrangements for the Breakfast, opened the program with a word of special appreciation for Professor Prentiss, Mrs. Powell, and Miss Christman, for their help. She then introduced Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott in her new capacity as Assistant Dean of Hunter College. Mrs. Elliott will be in charge of the Freshmen at the New Building.

"For sixty-one years," said Mrs. Elliott, "faculty, students, and trustees have been selling the idea of free education. The result is that in the midst of a period of depression, Hunter College is moving forward to one of the greatest milestones in its history. We are going to have a building that will far surpass our wildest dreams."

Mrs. Elliott presented our senior trustee, Mrs. Mulqueen, and our junior trustee, appointed on February 11, Mrs. Mack, a Wellesley graduate and the granddaughter of Adolf Lewisohn.

Mrs. Graff, Third Vice-President, made "Post-Prandial Acknowledgments" which consisted of thanks to the Hotel Astor, the trio who provided the music, Miss Jones and her committee, and Professor Prentiss, who carried on in Miss Jones's absence.

President Kieran was greeted with particularly enthusiastic applause.

"College is progressing as it always has," he said. "It is probably still the largest woman's college, even without the Brooklyn girls. Our endeavor is to keep it good, and make it better. And that is going on in every way. We are trying to improve the course of study; but that was made so good in former days that we find it difficult. We don't think it's the best, but we're trying to make it better."

"There are 3,000 in the summer college and nearly 13,000 in the extension division. We endeavor to keep both of these up to the standard of the day college. Every department, not only in the day college, but also in the other divisions, is under the direction of the department head in the day college."

"We're going to open the first unit of the new building in September. We couldn't

open in February because we were afraid the girls might drop down into the holes about the building. As soon as everything's ready, however, we're going to open it and send Mrs. Elliott to take charge of it. You know I'm her boss now. And she's doing very well."

President Kieran went on to say that the second instruction unit and the Social Hall (the power house and cafeteria) would soon be completed. Plans and specifications for the Gymnasium Building are before the Board of Estimate.

One of the best features of the breakfast was, as always, the reading of "A Valentine to Alma Mater" by Professor-Emeritus Helen Gray Cone, our Poet Laureate. Our beloved alumna read the poem in a voice which never fails to move her hearers. There is no doubt about the sincerity of the love and admiration that Hunter College feels for Professor Cone.

The Fifty-Year Class, this year the class of 1881, was represented by Miss Jenny Hunter, daughter of the college's first president. Twenty-five members of the class were present. The sum of four hundred dollars, the contribution of '81 to the fund for the Fence, was turned over to the Alumnae.

The Twenty-five Year Class, 1906, was represented by Miss Margaret A. Lindquist. That class was the first to enter the Normal College from the High School. Ten members were present at the Breakfast.

For the second part of the program, Mrs. Elliott yielded the chair to Mrs. Lilly, First Vice-President. This part of the program consisted of tributes to Thomas Hunter, George Samler Davis, James M. Kieran, and our own President—Mrs. Elliott.

Mrs. Eleonore F. Hahn and Professor E. Adelaide Hahn, "Two Generations of Hunter Graduates", mother and daughter, paid tribute to President Hunter. He was born just a century ago, but still, as Mrs. Hahn began her speech, "He lives!" She rapidly outlined the main events of his life—his vigorous championship of the cause of liberty which led to his being forced to leave his native land of Ireland at the age of nineteen, and his subsequent career as a schoolman in America, where he served as drawing teacher, as Principal of P. S. 35, seat of the Thomas Hunter Association, and finally as President of the Normal College, later renamed for him. "It fills us with happiness," said Mrs. Hahn, "to recall that he lived to receive that tribute."

Mrs. Hahn emphasized the vision that stressed the need of a broad academic train-

"average" has changed in our eyes. This term there are five freshmen who are only 14 years old! Forty-eight more are 15. The other groups run as follows:

16 years .....	202
17 years .....	158
18 years .....	48
19 years .....	8
20 years .....	1
21 years .....	1
22 years .....	1
26 years .....	2
35 years .....	1

The distribution according to boroughs gives the lead to the Bronx with 237, Manhattan following with 159, and Brooklyn, greatly reduced this term, having only 19.

French, Mathematics, and History are the three most popular majors, in the order named.

While we are on the subject of statistics:—it has recently been found that of a staff of 739 at Hunter, 478 members are women. These figures of course include the evening session group. About the same proportion holds true of department heads, nine out of sixteen being women.

The date for the 1931 Sing has been fixed as May 8. The dates set for the advance sale of tickets for the Alumnae are March 16-30. Further information and an order blank are to be found below.

MISS VIRGINIA LEVITT,  
Hunter College, New York.

Please reserve the following seats for the Hunter College Sing, to be held at the Metropolitan Opera House on Friday, May 8th, at 1:30 P. M. (Alumnae and faculty will be restricted to two tickets.)

Orchestra—

A-M is reserved for the students in the Sing.

	Price	No.	Total
			Am't
Side Section front .....	\$1.25	.....	.....
Rest of Orchestra .....	1.50	.....	.....
Parterre Boxes			
(6 seats per box) .....	@ 2.50	.....	.....
Grand Tier Boxes			
(6 seats per box) .....	@ 2.50	.....	.....
Stall V and W			
(5 seats per box) .....	@ 2.50	.....	.....
Omnibus Box .....	1.50	.....	.....
Stall Boxes			
(4 seats per box) .....	@ 2.00	.....	.....
Rear Stall (4 seats per box) .....	@ 1.50	.....	.....
Side Front Dress Circle .....	1.00	.....	.....
Rest of Dress Circle .....	1.25	.....	.....
Side Front Balcony .....	.75	.....	.....
Rear Balcony K-M .....	.75	.....	.....
Rest of Balcony .....	1.00	.....	.....
Family Circle (Side) .....	.50	.....	.....
Family Circle (Rear) .....	.50	.....	.....
Family Circle (Center) .....	.75	.....	.....

Enclosed please find check .....

cash .....

Name .....

Address .....

The *Echo* has long been the "problem child" of the undergraduate publications. Although much of the material within its covers has been of high quality, even the students have felt the tone of the whole lowered by what can probably best be described as the pessimism of youth. The most recent scheme to achieve improvement is the offering of two prizes of \$25 each, one for the most distinguished prose article, either short story or essay, the other for the best poem, published in the magazine each year. The judges who will make the decision are the members of the literary staff of the *Echo* and an equal number of faculty members of the English Department.

The sport fields in which Hunter is represented are constantly increasing. Riding and fencing are pastimes which have been added comparatively recently. Mr. Joseph Smith, at one time Metropolitan fencing champion, is the newly appointed coach of the fencing squad, and under his direction it is expected that Hunter will soon be ready to challenge Brooklyn College, Pratt, and the German Women's Athletic Club.

The Senior Hop took place at the Ritz-Carlton on February 19. There was general regret at the announcement that it would be impossible for Dr. and Mrs. Kieran to attend.

During the absence of Dr. Blanche Colton Williams on a sabbatical leave, Dr. Joseph J. Reilly will be Acting Head of the English Department. Dr. Reilly is in his fifth year of service at Hunter College. He is an authority on Cardinal Newman, and his special field is the prose and poetry of the Nineteenth Century. He is the author of *Lowell as a Critic*, *Newman as a Man of Letters*, and *Masters of Nineteenth Century Prose*, and is preparing two more volumes for the press, *Fine Gold of Newman* and *Mary Lamb Looks at Charles*, and *Other Essays*. Those who have met Dr. Reilly outside of his writings know too the admirable personal characteristics which, along with his scholarly achievement, have won for him the respect of his colleagues and students.

Dr. Vittorio Ceroni, Instructor of the Department of Romance Languages, through a new honor recently conferred upon him by His Majesty, the King of Italy, is now "Knight Officer of the Crown of Italy."

Dr. J. L. Holmes has this term joined the staff of the Education Department, having come to us from the Psychology Department of Columbia University.

The Library Department has secured a book-plate for the books purchased from time to time from the Wood Memorial Fund. This fund was established March 18, 1920, by Dr. Margaret Barclay Wilson, Head of the Department of Physiology; and the interest is

used for the purchase of books in English literature. The Wood Memorial Collection includes numerous volumes of unusual worth, in some cases in fine editions which will have a special alcove in the new Hunter College now being erected. The legend on the book-plate is as follows:

Ex Libris  
HUNTER COLLEGE  
of the  
City of New York  
—  
WOOD MEMORIAL  
Gift of  
Dr. Margaret Barclay Wilson  
in honor of the  
HON. WILLIAM WOOD  
1808-1894  
Lover of books and  
Friend of the College  
MARY ROSE SHEEHAN.

#### MORE ABOUT BOOKS

In a recent article, we referred to certain Mathematics books of historical interest which the less frequented alcoves of our College Library had been made to yield. Professor Simons, who was responsible for the discovery of these, has since suggested that a review of other valuable specimens kept in her office might be interesting to our graduates. And indeed it is hard to imagine that these venerable volumes which fill almost a whole case could fail to fascinate even those whose mathematical limitations make them quite content to "let  $x$  remain the unknown quantity". For the most part the books are in an excellent state of preservation, the bindings intact, the ink scarcely affected by centuries. Occasionally a bookworm has made inroads into a vellum cover, but his havoc has usually had little more serious effect than to lend interest and nobility to the appearance of the volume.

The oldest book in the collection is dated 1545—a first edition of Girolamo Cardano's "Artis Magnae, sive de regulis algebraicis". This work, as the first great Latin treatise on Algebra, is regarded as a landmark in the history of the subject.

Representative of the Arithmetic books of the period is one having the date 1570, the work of an Italian. The title page of this has been destroyed, but the volume is otherwise in good condition. The form is interesting for the illustrations of the text and the examples which line the margins—features characteristic of the time. In its pages are demonstrated the "Jealousy" and "Lightning" methods of multiplication, and the "Scratch" method of division: lost arts, perhaps, to the world in general, but familiar to the student of Mathematical History.

A third edition of Christopher Clavius's "Euclidis Elementorum Libri XV", dated 1591, is another valued possession. Clavius (Christoph Schlüssel, 1531-1621) was a Jesuit whose text-books were highly es-

teemed, particularly for their arrangement, and the present specimen, which in reality is more than the translation it purports to be, has in addition the merit of extensive scholia, some original, some adopted from other commentators, all showing the broad scholarship of the author. A second edition of Clavius's "Algebra" (1609), the first edition of which appeared in 1608, is also included in the collection.

The one who is supposed to have most influenced Mathematics in the 17th Century is Bonaventura Cavalieri, a Jesuit pupil of Galileo, and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Bologna. The library contains a first edition of his "Trigonometrica, Plana et Sphaerica" (1643).

The 18th Century books take on new characteristics. Usually bound in sturdy leather, they seem prepared to resist the ravages of a dozen more centuries. Latin has given way to the vernacular, and the numbering of the pages and placing of the illustrations date them in the "modern" period. Among the most valuable of this group in our possession is "A Treatise of Fluxions or an Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy", by Charles Hayes, Gent. This is the work which really introduced Newtonian Calculus in the vernacular to the English, Colson's translation of Newton's "Methods of Fluxions and Infinite Series" following in 1736. We have also a first edition of this later work.

Other interesting, though less valuable, specimens of the 18th Century are Edmund Stone's translation of Bion's "Construction and Principal Uses of Mathematical Instruments" (1723), and an Italian book dating from 1751, "Trattato della Pratica di Geometria", the work of Ludivico Perini, who describes himself as "Pubblico Ingegnere, ed Architetto Veronese". Professor Simons points out with reference to this book that the practical application of geometry which is thought of as such a modern tendency can be seen actually to have been anticipated centuries ago.

Besides these, there are a group of the Mathematic texts that were in use in the colonies before and during the Revolutionary period. The earliest of these were printed in England, of course. Such a one is John Ward's "The Young Mathematician's Guide", printed in 1719. Later, the colonies produced their own text-books, a well-known contributor to the number of these being Thomas Dilworth. He is represented here by his "Schoolmaster's Assistant: being a compendium of Arithmetic both Practical and Theoretical", printed in 1781 "in Market Street, 3 Doors above the Coffee House." It contains an essay addressed by the author to parents on "the Education of Youth", and the recommendations and psychology to be found therein are modern enough to make us sagely shake our heads when they are not quaint enough to make us smile!

M. R. S.