

Visiting Professor translates *ANTIGONE*

Ursula Mahoney '54

The Theatre Workshop production of "Antigone," held in the Hunter Playhouse on March 27, 28 and 30, marked the presentation of a new translation of Sophocles' tragedy, and also introduced its translator to the world of Hunter—Constantine A. Trypanis, a visiting professor under the new Ph. D. graduate program.

Mr. Trypanis, Byewater and Southeby professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek literature and language at Exeter College, Oxford, is presently teaching two courses at Hunter—a lecture course on "The Alexandrians as Forerunners of Modern Literature," and a seminar on Yeats and Eliot. He will remain here until the end of the semester, and then will give a course at Harvard before returning to Oxford next fall.

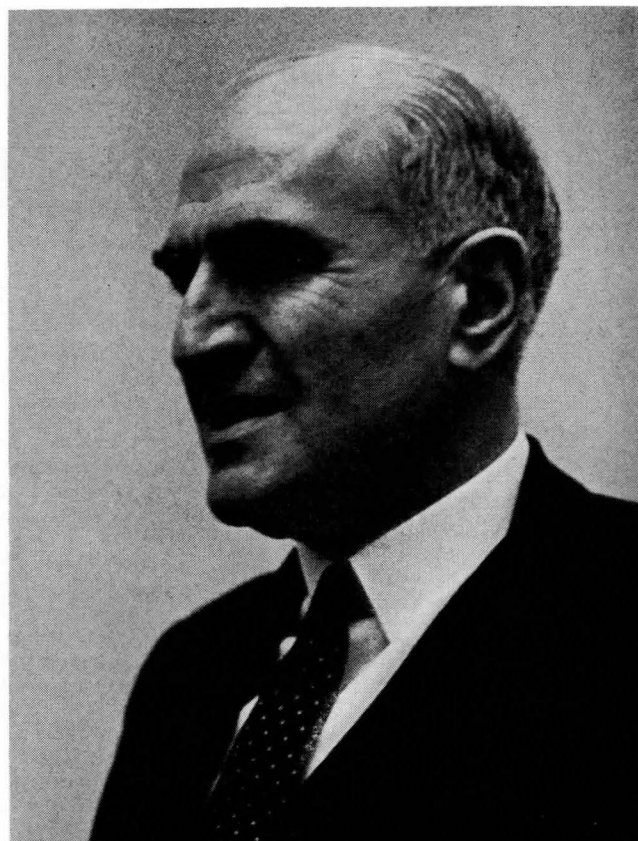
Arriving in New York only two days before his first class, and only one month before "Antigone" was to be performed, Professor Trypanis plunged into a busy round of activities but managed to sift out these first impressions.

Commenting on the Hunter students he said, "I find them very responsive. Of course, I've known American students before, at Oxford, Rhodes scholars and the like, so this is not my first experience with American students. I feel great warmth from the students here. They are hardworking people, eager to learn."

"Another thing about Hunter that is so impressive," he continued, "is the extraordinary kindness of everyone. In a matter of days I have experienced a sense of belonging. In a large place such as this you expect impersonality, a vast sea of faces; but I have found an element of intimacy and can already identify faces."

An added attraction of Hunter, at least for Professor Trypanis, is its compactness. "Hunter is a small world of its own," he said. "At Oxford you have these separate colleges and you have to wander all about the place to do anything. Here you can eat, buy things, go to class, the library—all in one building. It's quite convenient."

Aside from his interest as director of "Antigone," Mr. Trypanis views the play with the eye of the careful translator, searching for its meaning in today's world. "The tragedy is concerned," he says, "with the great



Dr. Constantine A. Trypanis

problem of the state versus the individual and the order of the gods. Its political message is that rulers of a state should not go against that order. When they do, they are in for punishment. It is a call to follow individual conscience, as expressed in religious terms."

Professor Trypanis' new translation of "Antigone" was originally commissioned in 1961 by Val Gielgud of the BBC, and performed on that network with Joan Plowright in the title role.

The Departments of Classics, English and Music joined the Theatre Workshop in the production at the College. Opening night was sold out to the Athens College Scholarship Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION CELEBRATION

Marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Physical Education Major, the members of the department and the students have planned a luncheon to be held on Saturday, May 4, in the Royal Ballroom of the Americana. Reservation blanks for the luncheon have been issued.

All the graduates of the past twenty-five years and all the alumni of the "pre-major era" are invited to join in a grand reunion.