



# Almanac

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TO

Non Profit Org.

## The Educational Survey: Biggest Such Academic Study in the U.S.

The modest little frame building at 3441 Woodland Avenue, which dates back to about 1750, houses the main offices of the biggest academic study of its kind ever projected in the United States, the University's Educational Survey.

Organized early in 1954 under the co-directorship of Dr. Joseph H. Willits, former Director of Social Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation and former Dean of the Wharton School, and Dr. Malcolm G. Preston, Professor of Psychology, with a grant of \$185,000 from the Fund for the Advancement of Education, the Survey has so far completed two missions, one on the University Press and the other on Microbiology. The report on the Press has been implemented (see *The Almanac*, December, 1955). The report on Microbiology is now in President Harnwell's hands.

### Education: Two Views

What is the task of education? Dr. James B. Conant, former President of Harvard and present Ambassador to West Germany, addresses himself to this crucial question in his brilliant little new book, *The Citadel of Learning* (Yale): "To test beliefs by various methods, to find standards by which interpretations of tragedy and joy may be evaluated, to find standards for assessing common-sense judgments of good and evil, for accepting new ideas as part of the cultural heritage or rejecting them as passing illusions of a disordered brain—such are the tasks of the dwellers in the citadel of learning."

\* \* \* \* \*

"We are well advised, I think, to take very seriously the admonition that education for all may come to mean real education for none. The struggle is very real today between massiveness, standardization, conformity on the one hand, and on the other the spirit of individualism which has given freedom and democracy and life their meaning." (From Adlai E. Stevenson's *What I Think*, recently published by Harper & Brothers.)

We called on Dr. Preston to bring ourselves up to date on work in progress.

"More than a score of projects are in various stages of completion," he said. "For example, five Surveys are so well advanced that we expect reports from them by June 30th of this year. They include the Survey of the Social Sciences, under the general direction of Dr. Merrill K. Bennett of Leland Stanford University; the Survey of Statistics and Statistical Services, under the general direction of a committee chaired by Dr. Irwin Friend, Research Professor of Finance; the Survey of the Engineering Schools, under the general direction of a committee headed by the late Dr. William Christians, Professor of Geography, with Dr. Frank Wood, Professor of Astronomy, as Executive Secretary; the Survey of the School of Social Work, under the general direction of a committee chaired by Dr. Paul Bruton, Professor of Law; and a Survey of the contribution of the University to the education and training of teachers, under the general direction of Dr. David Robb, Professor of the History of Art, who is being assisted by a committee."

What about the library, we asked.

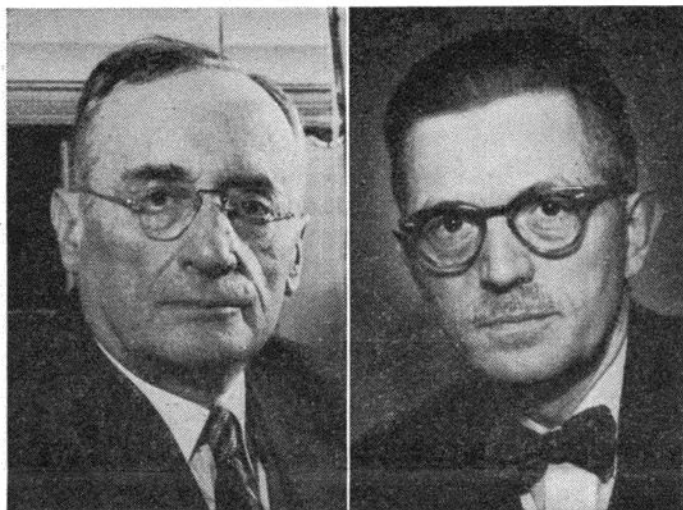
### New Library Needed

"That Survey is well advanced," said Dr. Preston, "and will probably be ready early next year. This much can be said now, though; there's not a single problem connected with the library that does not point to a new building for solution."

What else was the Survey looking into?

"Among other reports expected early in 1957 are the Survey of the Law School, under the direction of a committee chaired by Dr. George Taylor, Professor of Industry; the Survey of Medical Education, now in its second year of study, under the general direction of an external committee under the chairmanship of Dean Stanley Dorst of the Medical School of the University of

(Continued On Page Two)



Dr. Joseph H. Willits

Dr. Malcolm G. Preston

### The Survey (Continued From Page One)

Cincinnati; the Survey of the University's financial situation, under the direction of a committee chaired by Dr. Clyde Kahler, Professor and Chairman of Insurance; and the Survey directed towards an affirmative policy for faculty personnel, under the direction of a committee chaired by Dr. David Goddard, Professor of Botany. This is not all, of course, for we're also making or about to make surveys of the University Museum, the Institute of Cooperative Research, the School of Fine Arts, the College, education of women at Pennsylvania, student personnel policies, Humanistic Education at the undergraduate level, the Wharton School, the School of Dentistry, and so on. And we have still to develop Surveys in regard to Adult Education, the Physical Sciences, the Biological Sciences, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences."

We asked Dr. Preston to comment on the Survey of the Mission of the University.

"Well, of course, as Dr. Harnwell said in his recent Presidential Report, all of our problems in one way or another relate to the way in which we define that term. We are now in our second year of work. I think all of us would agree that Pennsylvania should stand for academic freedom, academic excellence, variety in the composition of our student and faculty bodies, and similar ideals. Our problem is to translate these ideals into the actuality of the quality of the student body and the quality of the faculty. Undoubtedly the solution of these and similar practical problems depends upon an increasing perfection of the channels of communication among the various University publics."

### Financing of Survey

As we noted the work done, in progress, and planned, and looked at the names of some 150 members of the faculty serving as committee members or chairmen, as well as the names of some fifty persons from outside the University presently participating in the studies, we could not help thinking (out loud) that all this was costing a pretty penny.

"More than pennies," Dr. Preston chuckled. "Some of our staff are serving gratuitously and some under arrangements for direct compensation—or with the Survey assuming the cost of a replacement in order to provide release of teaching time. But the bill comes high. Besides the \$185,000 grant that got us started, we've received \$60,000 from the Ford Foundation, \$25,000 from the Fels Foundation, \$10,000 from the Sloan Foundation, and \$500 from an interested alumnus. The studies could well use another \$300,000 for their work—and I am happy to say that such support is in good prospect. Look," he added, "the Survey of the Social Sciences may illustrate the dimensions of our aims and tasks. We received a special grant of \$50,000 to do this job, and I would suppose that about \$40,000 of it has been spent. One phase of this Survey alone involved appraisals from about 17 independent visitors and consultants, which alone has cost in excess of \$10,000."

Each project, as it is completed, will take the form of a report; some of these reports will be published (including a final report to be prepared by Drs. Willits and Preston). The reports, to be prepared largely by committees of the faculty—and to be appraised and reviewed by committees of the faculty, will eventually reach the President's desk. Dr. Preston directed our attention to the following paragraph from the President's Report relative to the matter of implementing the Survey's recommendations:

"We are convinced that the Survey will not attain its optimum effectiveness if, upon completion, it merely prepares a series of reports. It is essential that the most significant issues in each area be identified and presented before conferences whose participants, drawn from individuals both within and without the University family, are well briefed upon them in advance. Such conferences should aid in bringing wider criticism to these essential issues, should resolve those differences which might otherwise becloud the policies to be adopted, and through participation in this evolutionary process enlist the wholehearted support of all concerned in the implementation of those policies."

These conferences, of course, will be held only in connection with matters deemed of critical importance. The reports may or may not include additional recommendations from invited external authorities. Upon completion, they will be reviewed by the Director and Co-Director of the Survey for their final judgment, then submitted to Dr. Harnwell. He, in turn, will send them to Dr. Arthur Whitaker, Professor and Chairman of History, and Chairman of the Educational Policy Committee of the Educational Council, which will study them for a fortnight or so for the purpose of advising the President whether they can be acted upon by the Administration without debate or whether they should be submitted to debate on the floor of the Educational Council and/or the University Senate. Any additional advices resultant from these debates will then be sent to the President, who will take appropriate administrative actions.

*The Almanac* hopes to publish the final recommendations and the grounds that support them for the benefit and interest of its readers.

## I Remember...

(With this issue *The Almanac* begins a new feature entitled "I Remember," a department of nostalgia about Pennsylvania men, events, and customs. Our first contributor is Dr. William P. Harbeson, laureate of wassail and wit and Emeritus Professor of English.)



### MEET & DRINK

by WILLIAM P. HARBESON  
*Emeritus Professor of English*

Up until World War One there was a social custom hereabouts that deserves its faint memento. It centered around Friday night, dedicated in those days to Thespis. Fraternities and dormitories alike were gray and untenanted, for their tenants had gone Down-Town in little groups to seek diversion in a dozen-or-so playhouses of varying quality, audience, and price. The play, of course, was the thing. But since they were out to make a night of it, there was ever the prologue of generous dinner to put them in a proper frame of mind, and an epilogue of beer to bring them back to the world again. Two temples of pleasure were their favored abiding places: L'Aiglon, which ministered to the stomach, and The Rathskeller, which slaked the thirst.

L'Aiglon was one of the best restaurants Philadelphia ever knew. It homed in the tall office building at 15th and Chestnut and was richly, though quietly, appointed in light panelling, English sporting prints, and majolica. There were alcoves where groups could be with the crowd but not of it, like the compartments in English trains. Food was not cheap, but worth every penny it cost, and served efficiently. Music too: a pianist and two singers, all of them artists; and melody was a background for conversation, not a floorshow or pandemonium. People tarried there an hour or two savoring the food and the atmosphere, and left almost with a sigh. A good place.

As for the Rathskeller, familiarly The Rats, that was hidden deep down in the bowels of the earth under the Betz Building, shining example of the arty ugliness of the Mauve Decade at Broad and Penn Square. It was all mock-Tyrolese, with antlered chandeliers, trestle tables, cruel little fiddle-back chairs, and phlegmatic waiters toting mugs of beer. Echt Deutsch. There you would encounter

the world without his wife. It was strictly a man's company: Old Wiggers who used it as an extra-territorial club, strangers anxious for wassail, and innumerable young bloods; all weaving to and fro in the smoking atmosphere with the regularity of an old quadrille or the game of Going to Jerusalem. But what made the place rememberable was its song, entirely unaccompanied and spontaneous; some good voice starting a catch and the others joining in—drinking songs, popular songs, bawdy songs, even original songs that came spontaneously as the old ballads. The company stayed on until the German doors were shut on them officially in the early morning hours, and walked back home in varying states of equilibrium at a time when walking was not demoded; and still singing.

It has all gone now, that little world, vanished into air, into thin air. Today we have our two-color cars, entertainment by button-pushing, quick lunches, hamburger heavens, and gibble-gabble-gobble-git. A progressive world. But the old folks had their innings, not bad ones at that. Like the old Roman they could say: "Fate cannot harm me; I have dined today." They, too, had been in Arcady.

## Adult Education Grants Offered

The Fund for Adult Education is offering for 1957-1958 approximately thirty-five grants to individuals for practical experience, university study, or combinations of the two, in liberal adult education. The objective is the improvement and advancement of leadership in liberal education for adults. The Fund particularly stresses education for adults in world affairs, economics, and the humanities.

The largest percentage of grants will go to persons concerned with liberal adult education who are associated with colleges and universities. The grants will vary greatly, with some covering only tuition costs and others covering a variety of expenses, including family subsistence. The period of the grant can be from approximately four to no more than twelve months.

All inquiries, requests for applications, and other communications should be addressed to "Leadership Training Awards, The Fund for Adult Education," 595 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. The deadline for receipt of applications is October 31, 1956.

### The Price of Ignorance

"The tax which will be paid for the purpose of education is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests, and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance."

—THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1786

## Among Other Things

**Names:** *Dr. Albert C. Baugh*, Professor and Chairman of English, will receive an Honorary Degree at the Franklin and Marshall commencement on June 4th. On the preceding evening he will deliver the Phi Beta Kappa Oration at that institution. . . . Congratulations to *Dr. Sydney Weintraub*, Professor of Economics, who has just received notice that he has been awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study "Debt Management and the Structure of Interest Rates." Dr. Weintraub will be on leave from the University from September, 1956 to September, 1957. . . . Welcome to *Dr. Richard A. Dodd*, British metallurgist, who has been named an Assistant Professor of Metallurgical Engineering. Dr. Dodd was previously research metallurgist in the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. . . .

**Overheard at the Lenape Club:** "I was concerned about having to drop one of my assistant instructors until he reassured me by saying, 'Don't worry about it. I have a private income. My wife works.'"

**Literary Almanac:** *Thomas Yoseloff*, Director of the University Press, reports that the Summer-Autumn list will present some nineteen new titles and three new editions. Highlights include the following: *The Large Family System*, by *Dr. James H. S. Bossard*, Professor of Sociology, and *Dr. Eleanor Boll*, Assistant Professor of Sociology; *Inter-American Studies*, edited by *Dr. Arthur P. Whitaker*, Professor and Chairman of History; *Advance Agents of American Destiny*, by *Dr. Roy F. Nichols*, Vice-Provost, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of History; *Criminal Homicide*, by *E. Marvin Wolfgang*, Instructor of Sociology; *Jay Gould* (2 vols., boxed), by *Dr. Julius Grodinsky*, Professor of Finance; and a new edition of *Franklin Pierce*, also by *Dr. Nichols*. . . .

**Worth Another Thought:** "A college graduate is a person who had a chance to get an education."—*Joe Laurie, Jr.*

**Hobby Corner:** *Dr. Schuyler V. R. Cammann*, Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, recently exhibited his collection of Mongolian chess sets (personally collected in Inner Mongolia) in the Ludington Memorial Library in Bryn Mawr. We shouldn't be a bit surprised if someone now persuades him to exhibit his collection of Afghan sugar-axes, exotic implements for breaking the old-fashioned loaf sugar still sold and used in Afghanistan. . . . In between his Educational Survey stints *Dr. Malcolm G. Preston*, Professor of Psychology, likes to paint abstractions in oils. Maybe a psychologist will explain why? Incidentally, if you want to see Malcolm really wax enthusiastic, get him to talk about "Father's Folly" in the Canadian woods. . . .

**Best Books Poll:** Oxford University Press tells us that the faculty of Queens College, Charlotte, N. C., recently asked to pick the ten books they would choose if their reading were to be confined henceforth to only that

number, selected the following: *The Bible*, *Shakespeare*, *Tolstoy's War and Peace*, *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*, *The Oxford Book of English Verse*, *Toynbee's A Study of History*, *Robert Browning's Poems*, *The Iliad*, *Gone with the Wind*, and any first-rate cookbook. Perhaps the choice of *Gone with the Wind* will stir up a thesis on the relationship of geography to literary criticism? Oxford, by the way, proudly advises us that it has *The Bible* available in more than 200 styles of type and binding, ranging in price from \$2.15 to \$265. . . .

**Roundup:** At his press conference following his recent return from the Far East, *Dr. Harnwell* surprised his questioners by telling them that the University of Karachi in Pakistan has an enrollment of about 13,000 students. Pennsylvania's contract with Karachi has been extended to four years. . . . Whittier College, California, boasts a pair of distinguished alumni: Vice-President *Richard Nixon* and University Archivist *Dr. Leonidas Dodson*. . . . *Dr. William T. Kelley*, Associate Professor of Marketing and Commerce, sends us a recent issue of *Economic Intelligence* carrying statistics indicating only slight differences between the average weekly pay of coal miners and associate professors in large universities. *The Economic Intelligence* suggests that the popular ballad *Sixteen Tons* might have a new stanza climaxing with: "You teach sixteen kids/ Sixteen kids and what do you get?/ Another day older and deeper in debt!" . . .

**Anecdote Annex:** And then there's the story of the teacher who was questioning Johnny. "If a number of cattle is called a herd, and a number of sheep a flock, what would a number of camels be called?" Johnny smiled. "That's easy," he said. "A carton."

**Catching up with the News:** Next Fall *The Daily Pennsylvanian* plans to institute a new department in its "Notices" feature. *Official Notices*, we are told, will be those inserted by the Offices of the Administration and of the various Schools and by individual professors. Compulsory meetings, changes in room and time for classes, and similar official announcements will be included in this category. The boxes for collection of notices are located in the lobby of Houston Hall, the Towne School Lounge, the Vice-Dean's Office in the Wharton School, the College Office, and the entry to the Franklin Society Building at 3443 Woodland Avenue.

### THE ALMANAC

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