

The Burke Newsletter

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General Announcements

WE ARE PLEASED to report that your editors have received many expressions of interest and approval of the Burke newsletter, from both laymen and academic specialists, and that there is a wide consensus in favor of our policy of appealing to as broad an area of interests as possible. We feel that this policy is sound, because it reflects the extensive range of interests of Burke himself. He has been read by the public at large, and in our universities he is studied in political science, history, literature, philosophy, and speech.

For the past nine months we have been compiling a master list of persons interested in Burke studies, and of societies which may well include a place for Burke in their

proceedings. This list of names and addresses is now available, and may be secured by sending a self-addressed and stamped envelope to Peter J. Stanlis, Department of English, University of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan. To keep the list up-to-date, from time to time new names and addresses will be included in a supplement. This master list of Burke readers and scholars will be invaluable to publishers of new books on Burke, and will give a sense of corporate purpose to Burke studies in Britain and the United States. Such a list will also be useful to readers who may wish to form a local Burke society, or to scholars who may wish to organize a conference on Burke at the annual meetings of the various learned societies.

Professor Donald C. Bryant reports that a new vehicle of contact with people interested in eighteenth-century speaking has been created in the Speech Association of America. At their convention last December, a committee on British public address was created, with Professor Jerome Landfield, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, as chairman, and Professor Robert Smith, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, as secretary. Dr. Bryant is the editor of a newsletter for this committee, whose work will include an interest in Burke as a parliamentarian speaker and debater.

We are confident that an inventory of outstanding collections of materials by, on, or closely related to Burke, in manuscripts, books, or pamphlets, held by persons or libraries in Britain and the United States, would be of great interest to many of our readers, and of value to scholars. For example, it is important to know that in recent years Harvard University library has bought up much Burke material, and that the Newberry Library has an outstanding collection of eighteenth-century political pamphlets from the time of Burke. If the Burke newsletter is to be a clearing house

for Burke studies, it is necessary that we know of such collections, from individual owners and librarians, so that we can report about them in future numbers of the newsletter.

Our winter number stated that one portion of the Fitzwilliam collection was owned by Captain Thomas W. Fitzwilliam, and was on deposit at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire. This is an error which needs to be corrected. Captain Fitzwilliam has since become the Earl, hence is owner of both parts of the collection; the Fitzwilliam papers are now in their new quarters at Delapré Abbey, Northampton.

Recent American Publications and Work in Progress

A SEPARATE English edition of Professor Thomas H. D. Mahoney's *Edmund Burke and Ireland* (Harvard University Press, 1960), is scheduled for publication this spring at the Oxford University Press. Two other books on Burke which have appeared this year are Francis P. Canavan's *The Political Reason of Edmund Burke* (Duke University Press, 1960), and *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke*, Vol. II (University of Chicago Press, 1960). Professor John C. Weston, Jr., University of Massachusetts, has published a letter, *Times Literary Supplement*, May 17, 1957, demonstrating Burke's authorship of *An Abridgment of English History*, and a reply to W. B. Todd on the same subject, July 19, 1957. He has also published "Burke's Authorship of the 'Historical Articles' in Dodsley's *Annual Register*," in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, LI (1957), 244-49. "The Ironic Purpose of Burke's *Vindication Vindicated*," in *Journal of the History of Ideas*, XIX (June, 1958), 435-41, was his excellent reply to Murray N. Rothbard's "A Note on Burke's *Vindication of Natural Society*," in *Journal of the History of Ideas*, XIX (Jan., 1958), 114-

18. Professor Weston is working on an edition of the first five historical articles in the *Annual Register*, to be called *A History of the Seven Years' War*.

During the spring semester, Professor Donald C. Bryant gave a seminar, "Burke: Special Studies of his Work as Speaker and Controversial Writer," for graduate students in English and in Speech at the State University of Iowa. He used Burke's notes and drafts among the manuscripts at Sheffield and Delapr e Addey, to reconstruct Burke's day-to-day debating. He correlated Burke's manuscript notes with the reports of Burke's speeches in Hansard, the Caven-
dish Debates, The Parliamentary Register, and other printed accounts. A brief sample of the results of this research was published in *Quarterly Journal of Speech* (Dec., 1952), but recently, with the help of a graduate research assistant, Professor Bryant has greatly extended his research, and hopes to publish the results at a later date. From this study, which in some cases amounts to an original variorum, he will present a great deal about Burke's habits of thought and composition, as reflected in alterations in his style.

The first draft of Professor Ross Hoffman's book on Burke and Rockingham has reached about 500 pages of manuscript, with ten of about fourteen chapters completed. After the first draft there is revision, correction, and polishing, so that publication of this important book is not contemplated for at least another year. Readers of Professor Hoffman's *Burke, New York Agent* (The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1956), know that scholarship as thorough and brilliant as he has produced cannot be hurried, and will patiently await the appearance of the Rockingham volume, which will define the most intimate political relationship Burke ever knew.

After a semester of fruitful research in

England, working mostly with manuscripts, Professor Carl B. Cone taught during the spring semester at Louisiana State University, where he began to write his second volume of *Burke and the Nature of Politics*. In April he gave a lecture at the University of Kentucky, "The Burke Revival." His second volume will cover the last fifteen years of Burke's life, and he will make use of a great mass of materials that no previous biographer could have employed. His synthesis of individual articles, monographs, and manuscripts will enable us to see the period after 1782 as a unified whole.

In untangling the complicated politics of England from March, 1782 to early 1784, Professor Cone will discuss further Burke's important contribution to the idea of political party, and his interpretation of the British constitution. Professor Cone's recent research has shown him that the Fox-North coalition was neither as unnatural nor as monstrous as it has always been considered by historians. It endured until the French Revolution, and when the split occurred, it cut across the lines of the coalition rather than separating the Fox-North groups.

The period from 1784 to the French Revolution has never been adequately presented in any biography of Burke. Although Burke was concerned mainly with Hastings and India, much more needs to be made clear of his other activities during these five years between the American and French Revolutions. No previous writer on Burke's impeachment of Hastings has ever worked the materials from both sides. The motives and purposes of Burke and Philip Francis will be considered, along with the character and conduct of Hastings, and a new evaluation will emerge from the new evidence. The role of Thurlow as a champion of Hastings, especially during the debates upon the evidence in the House of

Lords in 1795, will receive special attention.

In considering the impeachment as a whole, for the biographer of Burke the really important question is not, Was Hastings guilty?, but rather, Was the evidence sufficient to justify the proceedings against him? In the past, too many scholars have addressed themselves to the wrong question, and have forgotten that the purpose of a trial is to determine whether the evidence that justifies the trial is also sufficient to justify conviction. An indictment is not a conviction, so that Burke won a great triumph when the Commons decided to carry out the impeachment, because the evidence against Hastings justified action; however, since the impeachment was a judicial process, the prosecution had to prove its case, and failed to do so. But this in itself is no reason to condemn Burke for undertaking the business in the first place. In the final section of *Burke and the Nature of Politics* an attempt will be made to integrate Burke's part in Irish and French affairs with the earlier part of his life, and to discuss his political thought in its historical setting, and in the light of recent Burke studies.

Galleys for *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke*, Vol. III, were read by the editors and returned to Cambridge around the middle of April. If press schedules hold to normal, the editors will have page proofs by this summer, and publication will be late in 1960 or early in 1961. Professor George Guttridge, University of California at Berkeley, editor of volume III, will submit an account of this volume either in the fall or winter number of the newsletter, depending upon the publication date. Last spring Professor Guttridge taught his annual pro-seminar, "Burke and his Age, 1750-1800," a reading and discussion graduate course based on materials by or about Burke.

Recent British Publications and Work in Progress

AN INQUIRY was circulated recently by Professor J. T. Boulton to the heads of all the departments of English and history in British universities, for information about Burke studies and research. The large crop of replies indicated interest in depth. Current news of research in progress will be amplified by relevant information in the future. We will summarize some of the replies of current interest.

Mr. E. Anthony Smith, Department of Modern History, The University, White Knight's Park, Reading, Berkshire, is working on the political career of William Wentworth, Second Earl Fitzwilliam, between 1782 and 1833, with special reference to his parliamentary and electoral importance, and to his connections with Ireland. He is interested in the history of the Whig Party, particularly between 1782-1807, and in the political contribution of Burke to the Whig Party. Mr. Smith is scheduled to write the biography of Richard Burke, Jr., for the *History of Parliament* volume for 1790-1820.

Mr. Ian R. Christie, Department of History, University College, London, Gower St., W.C.1., has published "Henry Cruger and the End of Edmund Burke's Connection with Bristol," *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archeological Society*, Vol. 74 (1955), pp. 153-70; *The End of North's Ministry, 1780-1782* (London: Macmillan Co., 1958). He is preparing a book with the provisional title "The Parliamentary Reform Movement in British Politics, 1763-1785."

Mr. P. J. Marshall, Kings College, University of London, Strand W.C.2, has written a Ph.D. thesis, "The Impeachment of Warren Hastings," Oxford University. Mr. K. R. Minogue, Assistant Lecturer, London School of Economics, is working on a

Ph.D. thesis entitled "The Function of Poetic Statement in the Political Philosophy of Edmund Burke."

Mr. James Hogan, Department of History, University College, Cork, Ireland, has written "Edmund Burke and Representative Government," in *Election and Representation* (Cork University Press, 1945), pp. 157-203. This work was also published by B. H. Blackwell, Oxford, 1945. Professor Hogan has also written an extensive review of Parkin's *The Moral Basis of Burke's Political Thought*, in *Philosophical Studies* (Dec. 1957), pp. 130-36. This journal is published by the Editorial Office, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland. Under the direction of Professor Hogan, Sean

J. McCarthy wrote an M.A. Dissertation, "The Idea of Religious Toleration in Edmund Burke's Writings."

Mr. Basil O'Connell, Genealogical Office, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, has published "Basis for a Pedigree of the Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke," in *Cork Historical Society Journal*, Vols. XL-VLI (1955-56). Mr. O'Connell is a direct descendent of Patrick Nagle of Ballyduff, uncle of Edmund Burke. He has also completed a genealogical study of Edmund Burke and the Nagles, based upon all available eighteenth-century newspapers. Mr. O'Connell has given a talk at the Trinity College Dublin History Society, on the problems of Burke's genealogical background.

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