

## *The Burke Newsletter*

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### *General Announcements*

THE MASTER LIST of persons interested in Burke studies has reached a total of 337 names and addresses; 239 in the United States, 69 in Britain, 11 in Canada and the Commonwealth, and 18 in seven European countries. Through an exchange arrangement with Professor James L. Clifford, Department of English, Columbia University, the 613 names and addresses

of subscribers to the *Johnsonian News Letter* have also been made available on a separate list. Even when duplications are omitted, these combined lists contain a hard core of over 900 scholars and interested lay readers, with a special concern for the historical events, the thought, the writings and persons of Burke and Johnson. Copies of both lists for delivery in the United States may be secured by sending fifteen cents in stamps to Peter J. Stanlis, Department of English, University of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan.

At the second annual meeting of the Johnsonian Society of the Great Lakes Region, held April 30 at John Carroll University, over 200 Johnsonians heard eight excellent lectures on various eighteenth century literary, historical and philosophical subjects. Burkeans should take note that this Johnsonian Society is not restricted to papers on Johnson; a panel of papers on Burke would be very much in order for the next annual meeting.

The highlight of the Johnsonian conference was Professor James Clifford's after dinner lecture, "Recent Trends in Eighteenth Century Scholarship." Respectful notice was given to Burke studies over the past two decades and those currently in progress.

At the end of the conference it was announced that for the third annual meeting, to be held on April 15, 1961, at Loyola University, Chicago, a debate has been arranged on the topic: "Resolved, that the politics of Samuel Johnson and of Edmund Burke are fundamentally different." Professor Donald Greene, University of New Mexico, will take the affirmative side, and Dr. Russell Kirk will argue the negative. Professor Greene's *The Politics of Samuel Johnson* (Yale University Press, 1960), presented a thesis flatly opposed to the central argument put forth by Dr. Kirk in his lecture at the first meeting of the Johnsonian Society. The debate calls for two thirty-minute papers, to be exchanged before the meeting for the writing of rebuttals, and after the reading of the rebuttals there will be cross-examinations, followed by questions from the floor. Midwesterners interested in attending this debate should write the secretary of the Johnsonian Society, Dr. Warren Fleischauer, Department of English, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio.

#### *Burke's Correspondence, Volume III*

WORK ON *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke* has continued unabated throughout 1960. Early this year the publication by the University of Chicago Press of volume two, under Miss Sutherland's able editorship, was a great step forward toward having Burke's correspondence in definitive form. Dr. John A. Woods, editor of volume four, is getting on rapidly with his work at Sheffield. Professor Copeland reports that typescript for volume four should be ready to go to Cambridge in the fall of 1960. We will have a report on this volume by Dr. Woods in a later newsletter. Professor Furber, editor of volume five, wrote that he expected to be at work on Burke all summer.

Of more immediate interest is the forthcoming publication of the third volume of Burke's correspondence. Page proofs were returned in July, so that this book will come out late in 1960 or very early in 1961. The editor of this volume, George H. Guttridge, Sather Professor of History, University of California at Berkeley, has submitted the following account of the essential content of the third volume.

The third volume of *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke* contains letters from July 1774 to June 1778. It opens with a tentative suggestion that Burke might represent the city of Bristol in parliament; and this connection becomes a principal theme of the volume, closely related as it is to the developing crisis of the American Revolution. Over three hundred letters are included, half being printed for the first time. Of the two hundred and twenty-five written by Burke himself, sixty-two appeared in the edition of 1844, and another seventy-five have been printed elsewhere. At least a few important letters previously printed have had incorrect dates attributed to them, and have thus become a source of misunderstanding to scholars. Several letters written by members of Burke's family, or on his behalf, are included, and between sixty and seventy written to him. Of these the great majority have not been printed before. They have been selected for the light they throw on Burke's character and activities, and for their reference to his own letters. Often they refer to letters now known to be missing.

As in the previous volume, the correspondence is predominantly political. The importance of Burke's connection with the Marquess of Rockingham justifies the inclusion of nearly all of Rockingham's letters to him. These are taken from the great collections at the Central Library, Shef-

field, England. The publication of both sides of this correspondence makes it possible for the first time to examine minutely the subtle relationship between Burke and his aristocratic friend and patron. The Duke of Portland also appears frequently; his papers, including Burke's letters to him, are now accessible at the University of Nottingham. Burke's letters to William Baker can also be printed from the original manuscripts at Hertford. The Duke of Richmond and Charles Fox—a significant newcomer—are important correspondents; but relatively few of Burke's letters to them are available. Two exchanges which were prominent earlier—those with the New York Assembly and with Charles O'Hara—come to an end by the middle of this volume. On the other hand, Burke's connection with Bristol introduces a mass of new letters which shift the balance of the whole correspondence and give it a large measure of unity. As member of parliament for the great trading city he is besieged by demands concerning its commercial affairs and its intensely partisan politics. His election brings him new friendships, including one of the most intimate in his entire career—that with Richard Champion, the Quaker politician, merchant and manufacturer of Bristol porcelain. This exchange, more frequent than any other, survives in various manuscript sources, and is a notable addition to our knowledge of Burke in both his public and private life. It confirms, elaborates and occasionally re-adjusts the picture of his relations with his constituents at Bristol, beginning early in the volume and reaching sad disagreement before its close.

Although this volume throws much light on Burke's association with his Whig colleagues and his Bristol constituents, it adds little to our existing knowledge of his views on America. This may be somewhat sur-

prising, in light of the momentous sequence of events which produced the great speeches, the *Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol*, and the proposed address of 1777 to the king and to the colonists. There are a few details concerning the delivery of the speeches and the publication of the *Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol*; there are the reports which he sent to New York as Agent for that colony before war broke out; and there is an occasional reference in the later letters to O'Hara. But the main emphasis throughout is on the strategy and tactics of opposition. Moreover, in marked contrast to the second volume of his correspondence, there is hardly any discussion of East Indian business. There is the usual dearth of intimate private letters, resulting no doubt from his own destruction of such correspondence.

Nevertheless, in an occasional letter to Garrick, James Barry, or one of several scholars and writers, there are many revealing glimpses of character, temperament and broad interests. There are a few useful additions to our still incomplete knowledge of William Burke, and of the financial affairs of the whole family, including Richard's forlorn hopes of fortune, and Edmund's complicated Irish estate of Clogher. But the correspondence of these four years will probably be welcomed chiefly for the light it throws on Burke's relations with Rockingham, and with his constituents at Bristol, particularly with Richard Champion.

*Recent Ph.D. Theses,  
Publications and Work in Progress*

MR. DANIEL L. MC CUE, Boston College, is writing a Ph.D. thesis at Columbia University, called "Pamphlet Replies to Burke's Reflections." Mr. Hildreth Kritzer, Long Island University, is writing a Ph.D. thesis at Brandeis, entitled "The Ethics of Rhetoric in Burke's Political Writings."

A thematic treatment of the same subject in eighteenth century English thought is being written by Paul Fussell, Jr., of Rutgers, "Rhetoric and Ethics in Pope, Swift, Johnson, Burke and Gibbon." Mr. George C. McElroy is writing "Burke's concern with India" for a Ph.D. thesis at the University of Chicago. Professor Ernest Tuveson, Department of English, University of California at Berkeley, is currently at work on Burke's aesthetic theory. Mr. Paul J. Edmunds has recently completed a Ph.D. thesis at Wisconsin, "The Political Pamphlets of Edmund Burke." (See *Dissertation Abstracts*, XX, 660-661).

Among recently published works of interest are John Brooke's "Burke in the 1760's," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, LVIII, 548-555, and James F. Davidson's "Natural Law and International Law in Edmund Burke," *Review of Politics*, XXI, 483-494. S. F. Johnson has a chapter called "Hardy and Burke's 'Sublime,'" in *Style in Prose Fiction* (16), pp. 55-86. Professor Walter D. Love has published "New Studies of Edmund Burke," *Emory University Quarterly*, XV, pp. 96-109. Mr. Stanley D. Rose has published two analytical book reviews; one on *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke*, Vol. I, and the other on *A Philosophical Enquiry into . . . the Sublime and Beautiful*, edited by J. T. Boulton. These appeared in *The Catholic University of America Law Review*, IX (May, 1960), pp. 112-119.

Professor Peter T. Underdown, Worcester Training College, Worcester, England, wrote "Edmund Burke as Member of Parliament for Bristol, 1774-1780," as a Ph.D. thesis at London University (1954). Since then he has published "Henry Cruger and Edmund Burke: Colleagues and Rivals at the Bristol Election of 1774," *William and Mary Quarterly*, XV (Jan., 1958), pp. 14-34. In this article the speech of Cruger and Burke is

compared. Professor Underdown has also published "Edmund Burke, the Commissary of his Bristol Constituents, 1774-1780," *The English Historical Review*, LXXIII (April, 1958), pp. 252-69; "Religious Opposition to Licensing the Bristol and Birmingham Theatres," in *The University of Birmingham Historical Journal*, VI, (1958), pp. 149-60; "Burke's Bristol Friends," in *The Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1958* (Vol. 77), pp. 127-50. Professor Underdown is interested chiefly in the political activities of Burke, especially as M.P. for Bristol. We are pleased to have his note on Wesley R. Savadge's B.Litt thesis at Oxford in 1951: "It was mainly economic theory, but contained a good deal on Burke. Title: 'The West Country and the American Mainland Colonies, 1763-83,' with special reference to the Merchants of Bristol."

Professor A. Goodwin, Department of History, The University, Manchester, England, directed a recent Ph.D. dissertation by Miss L.R.Q. Henriques, "Some Aspects of the Theory and Practice of Religious Toleration in England: 1787-1833" (1959). Chapter III is a study of Burke's theory of religious toleration, based on his published writings and the Wentworth Woodhouse collection of Burke manuscripts. Professor Goodwin teaches a third-year honors history special subject on "Reform and Revolution in England, 1784-1799," for which Burke's pamphlets on the French Revolution are set texts. He is mainly interested in Burke's activities within the Whig Party at the time of the French Revolution.

At Sheffield this summer Dr. Woods and Miss Sutherland pretty much completed their study of William Burke's finances. Dr. C. P. Courtney, who finished his Ph.D. dissertation on "Burke and Montesquieu," (Oxford, 1960), is now on the Sheffield

University faculty, in the Department of French, and is working on Burke's connections with French *émigrés*.

The first number of *P A N L* (March, 1960), a newsletter on British public address, edited by Donald C. Bryant, devoted pages 4-5 to bibliographical matters on Burke. An item of interest related to Burke is Peter D. G. Thomas' "The Beginning of Parliamentary Reporting in Newspapers, 1768-1774," *English Historical Review*, LXXIV, 623-636. This account broadens the earlier treatment of Aspinall and Hoover. Sometimes reporting was so poor that it expressed views the opposite of what was spoken by members, as Burke had occasion to complain in February, 1771.

#### *A New Burke Anthology*

A NEW TEXTBOOK anthology of approximately 300 pages, *The Philosophy of Ed-*

*mund Burke* (under \$3.00), will be published this fall in a paperback printing, a season ahead of the trade printing, by the University of Michigan Press. Joint editors of this worthy enterprise are Professors Louis I. Bredvold and Ralph G. Ross. The anthology will include extensive passages from Burke's speeches, writings and correspondence that represent Burke's essential views on such important subjects as "Theory of Law and Legislation," "Prudence as a Political Virtue," "Government and Human Nature," "Reform and Tradition," "Tradition in the English Establishment," "Jacobinism," and "Aesthetics." The anthology will provide introductory material, notes, and a list of suggested readings. This anthology is pitched at the upper-division and graduate-student level, and will be a welcome text to teachers of seminars in eighteenth century English thought.

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