

# Oklahoma Does Her Part

BY JESSIE D. NEWBY, '10

DECEMBER 8, 1935 was the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of Quintus Horatius Flaccus, the lyric poet of Latin literature. Though born the son of a slave, no writer of antiquity, perhaps, has been as universal in his outlook on life. Even in this hectic age his sayings are applicable.

The American Classical League appointed Dr. Roy C. Flickinger, of the State University of Iowa, who originated the idea, to encourage the observance of this unusual span of influence. He organized many committees to direct different phases of the celebration. First, he selected a chairman for each state to arrange programs for clubs, teachers and students, and to cooperate with the various national committees. For Oklahoma the state chairman is Miss Isabelle Work, '17as, of Southeastern at Durant.

Two of the national committees directed translation contests among high school and college Latin students. Miss Jessie D. Newby, '25M.A., C. S. T. C., Edmond, was chairman of the national high school Translation Contest committee. Thirty-six states entered the contest. These included the four corners of the United States, among them the states in which are located our largest cities—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. It was Miss Newby's ambition that at least two thousand high school Latin pupils would make an original translation of one of Horace's poems in this two thousandth year since his birth. This ambition has been realized for more than four thousand translations were submitted to state jurors! Elimination contests were held in many schools so the real number was far more than four thousand.

For a long time a suitable form of awards for the winners in these translation contests was sought. Books? A check? Yes, but something else more distinctive and still suitable could surely be found.

In the very first ode of his first book Horace tells the heart's desires of different people—a winning chariot team, public offices, bounteous crops, stores of merchandise, warfare, wine and play, spoils of the chase—But his own greatest desire was that he might be entitled to

wear on his brow the ivy as a reward of his literary productions. "me doctarum hederæ premia frontium dis miscent superis. . ."

What reward could be more distinctive, or more suitable for an embryo Horace than a spray of ivy from Horace's own Sabine Farm?

A letter to the head of the Italian government, Signor Mussolini, quoting these very lines of Horace, gained the desired consent. Carlo Galassi Paluzzi, president of the Instituto di Studi Romani in Rome, who is also director of the Bimillennium in Italy, was appointed to fulfill this request. On May 26th, he with Dr. Lily Ross Taylor as representative of the American Classical School in Rome, in a brief ceremony tore from the crumbling walls of the villa at Horace's Sabine Farm some sprays of ivy. These sprays, packed in wet moss and hermetically sealed, were forwarded through consular mail by the Department of Press and Propaganda of the Italian government.

Six typical groups of leaves were given a metallic coating of antique (greenish) bronze. Mounted on placques with proper plates, they were presented to the schools by the winners in these national Translation Contests.

The state chairman for this committee was President John O. Moseley, '16M.A., C. S. T. C., Edmond at that time, professor of Latin at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. One of his committee members was J. C. M. Krumtum, '23 M.A., Southwestern, Weatherford. Miss Work served as one of the jurors. Another juror was Miss Mary Ellen Haines, '34 M.A., then of Bartlesville high school. Dr. J. W. Sturgis and Dr. J. R. Branton, both on the University faculty, were on the college translation committee.

President Moseley himself has given generously of his time to acquaint people with the work of this great poet. His lecture, "Horace in the Living of Men," was one of the Public Lectures of the University of Oklahoma for 1934-1935. During the meeting of the Oklahoma Educational Association at Tulsa in February he gave, as the main part of the program of the Latin teachers conference, a lecture on "The Influence of Horace." At Easter time he appeared on the program of the Classical Association of the

Middle West and South at St. Louis. Here his paper about "Horace and the Law," elicited many favorable comments. When the Central district of the Oklahoma Educational Association met in Edmond the last of October, his talk on "Horace in Modern Literature" was appreciated by both Latin and Romance language teachers. Early in November the Edmond Branch of the American Association of University Women enjoyed President Moseley's development of "Horace and His Influence Today."

On November 8th, using the "Ars Poetica" in the original Latin as the basis, Mr. Moseley talked to Central's writers club, Sigma Tau Delta, on "Horace and His Standards of Creative Writing."

Later in the month Big John (O. Moseley) told Little John (N. Moseley) and other fathers and sons at a father and son banquet at the Presbyterian Church of Edmond about "Horace and His Father." Most any father of low estate would be glad to spend everything he had on his son's education if the result would be a man of such influence as this son became. Horace himself was not unappreciative of the sacrifices made by his father in his behalf. He paid his father many fine tributes. Among the things that he said were these: "All that I am I owe to my father." "Never while I am in my right mind will I be ashamed of such a father." "My father wanted me to be prepared for any station in life, but having given me my opportunity he would not have been ashamed of me if I were only an auctioneer's clerk.

On November 19th on Dad's Day here at the University of Oklahoma, he used the elder Horace as a classical example of what a father ought to be, when talking to the fathers and sons gathered at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house of which fraternity he is national president.

President Moseley went to Tennessee on December 7th to address the various classical groups and clubs of Memphis and Nashville on "Horace and the Bimillennium." This program is being sponsored by the classical department of Peabody College. It is to be given in that classical state capitol building, the Parthenon.

On December 11, at chapel of Central State Teachers College, Edmond, he delivered a lecture on "Horace and His Monument more lasting than Bronze." This same speech was given to the students of Southeastern Teachers College at Durant a week later.

In New York City on December 28th, he read a paper, "Did Horace Study Law," at the meeting of the Classical Philological Association.

All through Oklahoma during the year of 1935 there have been many programs given about Horace.