

# Sooner Profile



DR. ROY T. HOUSE  
Language professor and editor of BOOKS ABROAD

## 'Books Abroad' Ends 20th Year

By RICHARD DALE, '47  
O.U. Journalism Senior

With its fall, 1946, issue, Oklahoma's literary claim to fame, BOOKS ABROAD, ended its 20th year of publication under the able editorship of Dr. Roy Temple House, professor of modern languages at the University.

The magazine, which is devoted to reviews of foreign language books by some of the world's outstanding authorities, was launched in January, 1927, by Dr. House and two other Oklahoma professors, two Kansas professors, one from Arkansas, one from Chicago, and one from an Oklahoma high school.

These educators, feeling the need for a magazine that would give an overall picture of the contemporary literary and philosophical thought of the world, published the first issue. The lead article of this first magazine was in Italian, and subsequent issues had articles in French, German, and Spanish, but the practice had to be abandoned because of objections of readers who, although interested, had mastered only one or two foreign tongues.

Books Abroad has been published quarterly since that first issue, and through all of its 80 issues, Dr. House has tried to see that in all controversies, both sides of a question were aired. This policy has led to criticism on several occasions.

For instance, in 1933, the Books Abroad became involved in discussions that became acrimonious when Hitler came into power. "We are not a partisan publication," Dr. House recalls, "and during the early years of Nazism we published contributions representing various shades of political opinion." The worst criticism on this point came from a university professor who didn't think material from Nazi contributors should be allowed in the pages of the magazine, and accused the editors of being, in effect agents of the Nazis.

In defense, Dr. House says, "We're merely reflecting the world—not reforming it." He observes that the man who doesn't take sides in a controversy always gets twice as many kicks as the partisan . . . he gets them coming and going.

The BOOKS ABROAD editor recalls that they did take an editorial stand in one instance, however, and even crusaded a little.

An attempt was made to bring about an improvement in the notoriously haphazard Parisian postal service. This made the Seine area postal authorities fretful, but nothing was done to improve the service.

The magazine which started as a 32-page pamphlet, mailed to a select group of 900, was extremely successful even in its infant years. By the time the second issue came out there were a good many bouquets from critics. . . . An editor in THE NATION said "There was no such magazine before." The poet and critic, Mark van Doren said, "Certainly was needed . . . and promises to fill the gap most satisfactorily."

By the third issue there were puffs from foreign countries. The famous Leipzig publisher, Felix Meiner, wrote, "It will do much for foreign literature in the United States."

The magazine doubled in size by the summer of 1928, and Joseph A. Brandt, the Rhodes scholar and later University president had come to O.U. as director of the University Press and managing editor of BOOKS ABROAD.

The following year the office was swamped with books, especially from France and Germany. At this time the magazine was still being printed on ordinary university bulletin paper, in what Dr. House refers to as "undistinguished small type," carried no illustrations, and was distributed free of charge. The change to a better grade of paper was made in 1930, which permitted the use of pictures, and the type was changed to a more artistic face.

Books Abroad is supported partly by subscriptions and advertising, but it has been helped on numerous occasions by awards, gifts, and subventions by interested groups and organizations. In 1930 they received subventions from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and from the Commission for Relief in Belgium Educational Foundation. The prominent New York lawyer, Ralph Goodman, '26ba, made a substantial contribution and in 1932 the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation voted Books Abroad a subvention. A \$650 "promotion award" was received in 1935 from Mrs. Ada P. McCormick, editor of the magazine, "Letter."

Before the war, books in Spanish were quite few in proportion to those from French and German authors. But the war years saw quite a reverse in the situation, with Spanish language books comprising the great majority of those reviewed.

Since its beginning, there have appeared in BOOKS ABROAD reviews of books written in almost every language of any importance and Dr. House has always attempted to give the best books the most prominent play, without playing any favorites. Thus it wasn't quite understandable when the editorial office received a package from a Russian publisher containing what the editor insists must have been a purely typographical error.—The address read, "BOOBS ABROAD."

Dr. House has always done an excellent job of selecting men to review the books, and many important names have appeared in Books Abroad's list of contributors. The eminent French critic and scholar, Daniel Mornet of the Sorbonne, and Professor Friedrich Schoenemann of Berlin joined the staff of contributing editors in 1930, and in this same year, Books Abroad suffered its first bereavement. The promising young Norwegian scholar, Hans Dilling, who lived in Cleveland, Ohio, and helped with Scandinavian reviews, died there at the age of 32.

The next year the solid Spanish scholar, Professor Homero Seris of the Centro de Estudios Historicos in Madrid joined them as a contributing editor, in addition to one from Carcassone, France, and one from Anacapri, Italy. The magazine published indignant replies to the attack on the United States in the "Scenes From the Future," by the French novelist, Georges Duhamel, and a quiet answer from Duhamel himself.

Numerous contributions were also published on the plight of the European intellectuals, by such distinguished European writers as Arthur Schnitzler, Jose Vasconcelos, Gustav Frenssen, Leon Lemonnier, and Luc Durtain. People didn't suspect in those days how much worse the plight of the in-

tellectuals, as well as nearly everybody else would be in a few years.

One member of the editorial board, a young Italian who was a determined enemy of Mussolini, disappeared mysteriously while trying to scatter anti-Fascist leaflets over Rome from an airplane. Several other contacts and contributors have been lost sight of during the war, and some of them have never been located since.

In the office of Savoie Lottinville, director of the University Press and business manager of BOOKS ABROAD, a curious document, carefully framed, stands on top of a book case. It is a BOOKS ABROAD mailing envelope, addressed to the late King Alfonso XIII, Madrid, Spain. Under the address, there is a phrase equivalent to, "Left town; address unknown."

In every one of the belligerent countries, publishing nearly ceased for years, and if it had not been for South America and the many European refugees who reached our own shores, there would have been no foreign books to review. But in one way or another, there always seems to be more books to mention than there was space for mentioning them.

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## McNeely-O.U. 'Activities Boy'

A graduate of Oklahoma A. and M. College who came to the University for higher professional training is James McNeely. And if anyone thinks that he's unable to allot his time to take care of that extra activity or two, McNeely's the man to see for a solution, for he's one of the busiest students on the campus.

Aside from being president of the student senate, the tall, sandy-haired and single transfer student was fall commander of the O. U. Veterans of Foreign Wars post, president of Irving House, parliamentarian of Congress Club, councilman of the I.M.A., member of the Union Activities Board and the Ruf Neks. What's more, he's carrying 16 hours in Law School.

Before joining the Army in 1942, McNeely worked at A. and M. as a graduate assistant after having received degrees in history and government there.

"I like a lot of things about O. U. better than A. and M.," McNeely said, "but I miss that 'hail fellow well met' atmosphere you find around Stillwater; and they have us outmatched in school spirit."

A junior in the School of Law, McNeely hails from Broken Arrow. He came to the University in the fall of 1945 and is working toward a master's degree as well as his LL.B.



JAMES MCNEELY

Law student and busy campusite



CANDIDATES FOR THE TITLE OF "MISS PHARMACY OF 1947" ARE: BELLE STANDIFER (extreme left), Elk City, a senior in the School of Pharmacy, was born in Fort Worth, Texas 21 years ago. Belle plays an atomic game of tennis and is an accomplished equestrienne. ELAINE WILSON (second from left), a freshman from Enid, loves to swim and go dancing, and can coax sweet music from a French horn. She is 18 years old. BETTY KERR (second from right), 19-year-old sophomore from Altus,

likes to read novels and play the piano. For her career, she has her eyes set on a hospital pharmacy position. EVELYN HARRIS (extreme right), is a 19-year-old sophomore pharmacy student from Foreman, Arkansas. Her father and brother being pharmacists, Evelyn "was more or less raised in a drug store." MISS PHARMACY OF 1947 will be selected at the 13th annual convention of the Oklahoma University Pharmaceutical Association on February 21.

## The Drug Mill

By DR. RALPH BIENFANG

**MISS PHARMACY CANDIDATES**—So far, the candidacy of four girls, for the title of "MISS PHARMACY OF 1947," has been announced. Decision will be arrived at through member-registrant voting on the day of the 13th annual convention of the Oklahoma University Pharmaceutical Association, February 21. Candidates and their managers are as follows: Evelyn Harris, Foreman, Arkansas, (Don Balden, Enid); Betty Kerr, Altus, (Duayne Hatchett, Bethany); Belle Standifer, Elk City, (Duane Feely, Manchester); and Elaine Wilson, Enid, (Adelbert Briggs, Pueblo, Colorado). Whether your special invitation reaches you or not, plan now to attend the convention. "MISS PHARMACY OF 1947" will be crowned during the intermission at the convention dance in the Ballroom of the Oklahoma Memorial Union by Lace Fitschen of Alexander Drug, honorary president of the O. U. Ph.A.

**MILITARY PHARMACY**—Loran Key, Amarillo, Texas, has put on deposit a Nazi Esmarch bandage, foreign stamps and coins, and a Nazi medal. Duayne Hatchett, Bethany has brought in a Japanese aviator's "wings," and collar emblem. Carl Glass, Anadarko, gave a copy of the German Phrase Book, an August 15, 1945 issue of the South Germany edition of "The Stars and Stripes" and a November 2, 1945 copy of "YANK."

**J. & J. FILMS**—Students in pharmacy were treated to two J. & J. films on November 26. One was titled "First Aid," and the other was the \$75,000 Walt Disney technicolor movie "Bathing Time for Baby." For the latter, it was the national premiere showing.

**NEW BOOK**—The library has just received from Author Tom G. McGee a copy of "Who Killed Pat Hennessey," a book which deals with the Hennessey massacre.

**SHANNON ELECTED**—Clyde Shannon, has been elected vice-president of the O. U. Ph.A. This position automatically make him also chairman of the program committee for the Association.

In the short space of a few months the cry has gone from "send me a druggist," to "there are going to be far too many pharmacists." The first situation was brought about by, among other things, low enrollments in pharmacy schools due to short recompense and long hours in drug stores; the second is now prophesied by reason of unusually large registrations for the pharmacy course. That there was, and still is, a shortage of registered men and women, there can be no

doubt. But that there will soon be "too many pharmacists" is open to question.

Before we join in the mournful cry, let us question the degree of pharmacist saturation in the following organizations or agencies all of which are involved with the handling of drugs, compounded or not.

U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, United States Public Health Service, United States Maritime Service, Veteran's Administration, Indian Agency, Public hospitals, Private hospitals, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, Wholesale drug houses, Drug manufacturing houses, Steamship lines.

Is there room? Then now is the time for every good pharmacist to come to the aid of pharmacy.

## Medical School Notes

Dr. Richard B. Ford, '28med, succumbed following a heart attack at his home in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dr. Ford practiced in Holdenville for several years before moving to Corpus Christi.

Dr. Paul Williamson, '46med, who is interning at Denver, Colorado, visited the University Medical School recently. Dr. and Mrs. Williamson are the parents of a new daughter, Paula Lee, born November 29 in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Ardell Nichols Taylor was appointed assistant professor of physiology in the University School of Medicine last fall. Dr. Taylor received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas in 1943.

Dr. J. P. Gray, dean, and Dr. Donald B. McMullen, associate professor of preventative medicine and public health, attended the Southern Medical Association meeting held at Miami, Florida last fall. Dr. Gray is secretary of the section on Medical Education and Hospital Training. Dr. McMullen presented a paper on "Effect of Various Chemicals on the Cercariae of Schistosoma Japonicum" at the American Society of Tropical Medicine which met in conjunction with the Medical Association.

Dr. J. P. Gray, dean and Dr. John P. Hackler, professor of preventative medicine and public health, School of Medicine, attended the 74th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association held at Cleveland, Ohio, last November.

Dr. Weldon K. Ruth, '33med, O'Keene, recently was retired from military duties. Dr. Ruth, who entered the service in December, 1936, held the rank of lieutenant colonel at the time of his release from the Army.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for risking death and brutalities at the hands of the Japanese during the "death march" of Bataan. (See story

on page 10 in July, '46, issue of SOONER MAGAZINE. G. S.)

## Vaden Gets Air Medal, Star

Foley W. Vaden, Jr., '40-'41, former lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve has been awarded the Air Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Air Medal.

Citation for the former award, which was signed by Vice Admiral A. E. Montgomery, U.S.N., reads:

"For a series of meritorious acts while participating in aerial flight in a combat area where enemy anti-aircraft fire was expected to be effective or where enemy aircraft patrols usually occurred."

Vaden entered the Navy in 1942 and served overseas 12 months. While serving as a fighter plane pilot aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Princeton, he participated in raids on Nauru, Wotja, Taroa, Eniwetok, Palau, Hollandia and Truk. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Vaden, Sr., Oklahoma City.

## Mrs. Ashley Tells Fish Story

December 3, 1946

Dear Mr. Beard:

Sorry the delay in answering your alumni letter. Have been away for some time.

Jerry and I have been fishing for marlin and sailfish off the coast of Mexico at Acapulco. The largest one I can personally brag about was a nine-foot, six inch sailfish weighing 95 pounds.

I'm glad O. U. won that last football game for more than one reason—Jerry is an A. & M. man. It will make him easier to live with.

If you see any Sooners coming this way, ask them to stop and see us . . . Ashley Chevrolet, Highway 90, Crowley, Louisiana.

Mrs. Jerry Ashley,  
(Thelma Townsend, '27he)

## Hollingsworth Gets Promotion

Capt. Francis Willis Hollingsworth, '41bs, '42ba, '44med, of the U. S. Medical Corps, was promoted to the rank of captain on November 8, 1946.

Captain Hollingsworth now is stationed at Maxwell Field, Alabama. Prior to that he served with the 3rd Service Command at Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

At the University, Captain Hollingsworth was a member of Scabbard and Blade, the R.O.T.C., and Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Epsilon Delta and Phi Sigma honorary fraternities.

Captain and Mrs. Hollingsworth, the former Almarian Berch, '42bs, now reside in Montgomery, Alabama.