

Speaking Out

By MARTHA ANN BUTLER

Recently I was confronted with the questions: "What are the purposes of the two societies at Meredith? Are they really needed on campus?"

Such questions indicate that we need to examine the roles of the Astrotekton and Philaretian societies. It is hoped that through a better understanding of what they are and what they can do, we can revitalize our societies.

A tradition at Meredith, the two societies were founded in 1899 as literary organizations. In a society less mobile than ours, these two groups fulfilled a social need as well as providing a means for expressing literary talents. As the times changed, however, so did the role of the societies, and the organizations expanded to include service projects.

As they are now, the Astrotekton and Philaretian societies are two organizations in which every student can participate. In addition to such service projects as programs for handicapped children and the campaign for the United Fund, the societies give students from all classes a chance to work together. Finally, with Rush activities and literary competition, the society members are able to express their creative talents.

Since the societies can involve all students, they should be an important part of Meredith life.

They cannot, however, be justified if Rush is the only real function; that is, the only function in which students actively participate.

Facing us now is the problem of increasing interest in society activities. Will more social activities increase enthusiasm in societies or should we concentrate our efforts in projects which would benefit Meredith and the Raleigh community? Has increased enrollment led to the need for more societies on campus? Whatever the solutions are for reviving our societies, the problem cannot be solved by ignoring the societies' presence or withdrawing from membership. To be effective, the societies must incorporate the active interest and cooperation of all students. If interest and cooperation cannot be legitimately achieved, however, perhaps the status of societies should be scrutinized by the student body to determine whether or not there are valid reasons for the existence of Meredith's societies.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The purpose of this column is to allow members of the student body, faculty, or administration to speak out on issues which are pertinent to the Meredith community. Any person who wishes to express his opinion on campus issues or national or international affairs is asked to submit material to the editor. For publication in the next issue of THE TWIG, material should be given to the editor by October 13.)

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Gates, Tilley, McLain Find England "The Place to Be"

Faculty Members Travel, Study in England

By ANNE STONE

England was definitely the "in" place to be this past summer.

For proof of this, ask any of the three Meredith faculty members who were there, and they will quickly provide you with a lively account of busy and exciting days spent in sightseeing and study. Dr. Rosalie Gates, Dr. Ethel Tilley, and Dr. Ralph McLain each went for different purposes, but all have fond memories and the satisfaction of time well spent.

Gates Studied Records

The purpose of Dr. Gates' two weeks in London was to see and study the documents that had been opened in the India Office Library and Public Record Office since her previous visit there in 1964. This library, she explained "is probably for the Indian historian the most interesting place for research. It is a gold mine for the British period of Indian history." Dr. Gates evidently took every advantage of this opportunity, for she recalled being "the first to check in the library each morning and the last to leave at night."

"This trip," she said, "might sound pretty creepy to Meredith freshmen, but it all depends on your viewpoint." And anyone who knows of Dr. Gates' interest in India and its history will understand her pleasure in this work, which she describes as "seeking understanding through old brown ink."

Lunch at Landsdowne Club

One of the highlights of her trip was lunch at the Landsdowne Club with Sir Olaf Caroe, an outstanding civil servant while Britain ruled India. An expert on Indian frontier history, he is the author of *The Pathans*.

Commenting on this experience and the entire two weeks in London, Dr. Gates said, "Nothing delights me more than talking with those who share an interest in Indian history. The spirit that unites people with scholarly interests is one that gives you potential friends all over the world."

Although Dr. Ethel Tilley was not involved in any formal program of study, she did much reading on English history and drama "to keep up with what she saw and did" during her three months in the British Isles. She went especially for music, drama, and art galleries, and found all these and more in abundance, particularly at the various festivals she attended.

Interesting Festivals

Dr. Tilley describes these festivals as "combinations of many things — orchestras, chamber mu-

sic, choruses, Greek drama, early mystery plays, Shakespeare, modern drama, and opera," and they range in length from two to four weeks. Among the festivals she attended were those of York, Bath, Edinburgh, and Chichester.

This is a year of historical significance in England, and Dr. Tilley visited Hastings, where the celebration of the conquest of 1066 is being held. It is also the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey, where she viewed a special display of treasures in the famous crypt. And, of course, she found time for the traditional trip to Stratford, where she saw *Henry IV* and *Twelfth Night*.

Celebrities Galore

While at a Noel Coward play in London, Dr. Tilley found herself in attendance along with Queen Elizabeth ("in white"), Prince Phillip, Princess Anne, and the Duke of Gloucester. Although in interview she commented that they "looked as they do on television," who can forget the animated account of this which she recently gave in chapel? She did not, however, tell of her accidental but pleasant meeting with the Philippine ambassador to the Court of St. James. It seems that Dr. Tilley mistook him for another tourist after a church service, and with her characteristic friendliness and warmth, struck up a conversation!

Another faculty member had an ironic experience at a church service in England this summer. While attending mid-day worship at Coventry Cathedral, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph McLain, glancing over a crowd of strangers, spotted Miss Mary Bland Josey, Meredith's registrar. This meeting occurred on one of the side trips the McLains took from their studies in the summer theological research program at Oxford University.

Dr. McLain is quick to point out

that there is actually no such thing as Oxford University; it is merely a degree-granting business office. The system is composed of thirty-four small colleges in the town of Oxford, none of which operate on the same basis. The McLains, studying at Mansfield College, were fascinated with this concept of the university system.

Early in the summer, Dr. and Mrs. McLain spent fifteen days in London, "getting into all the nooks and crannies" of the city. In Westminster Abbey they sat within thirty feet of the altar on the day when the Archbishop of Canterbury and his guest, the Patriarch of Rumania, were present. This event of pomp and ceremony, recalls Dr. Mac, "made one realize the interrelationships of Christians across lines of language, people, and institutions." However, on the lighter side, he noted that most British men "needed a haircut a year ago," not excepting the Archbishop himself!

McLains Toured England

After the summer session at Oxford ended, the McLains rented a car and drove cross-country, staying in English homes and generally avoiding Americans. In Edinburgh they stayed in a home which Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson had formerly visited. Finally, on the coast of England, they made another Meredith connection when they visited Ellen Kirby, who worked at the Knoll House, a summer resort.

These are but a few of the interesting experiences and impressions which the summer provided for these faculty travelers. England, anyone?

ROUSES WRATH

(Continued from page 1)

The question is basic; why do you date at all?

Some will agree that dating is a fun process through which a girl comes to realize what kind of person she wants to marry. If this is true, girls, we're in luck, for that guy can be found on any campus, U.S.A.

ATTENTION, FACULTY MEMBERS

Competition is now open for Woodrow Wilson Fellowships for the academic year, 1967-1968.

Students in your departments whom you think are capable of becoming outstanding future college teachers in the liberal arts and sciences must be nominated by October 31.

Dean L. A. Peacock is the Woodrow Wilson Foundation campus representative, and he will provide information concerning nominations.

Also, interested students may consult their faculty advisors about these fellowships.

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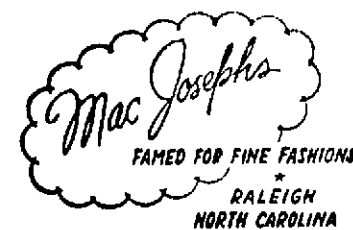
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