

MUSINGS IN THE TURL

An Occasional Newsletter of the Northern California Branch of the Oxford Society

Number 7

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From the Secretary

Many thanks to all of you who have sent in your \$15 subscription for the year. It is through your support in this way that our wheels run smoothly; without it they would not run at all. Copies of the 1999 edition of the *Directory of Oxonians Residing in Northern California* have been sent to all subscribers. If any slip-ups have occurred and you have subscribed and not yet received a *Directory*, please let me know. If you have not yet subscribed, we would greatly appreciate your joining the helpful throng.

And thank you also for your support of our program of events by your participation. That has helped them become the successful occasions that they have been. Participants in our inaugural event for the year, "The Impressionists in Winter" at the Yerba Buena Center, numbered in the nineties, and those who ordered tickets for our group attendance at Tom Stoppard's *Indian Ink* far out-reached the ticket block that we had reserved. Our thanks to Oxonian Director Carey Perloff for her superb discussion of the production with us following the performance.

On this very point, Carey will be directing Stoppard's play, *The Invention of Love*, on the life of E. A. Houseman, to be presented by ACT next January. As much of the plot unfolds on an Oxford college lawn during a croquet game, it will be a natural for us as the inaugural event for 2000. As soon as we can set a date for our group attendance, I will let you know so that you can hold it open.

—Hamilton Hess

Program for the Rest of 1999

July 17 (Saturday)—Winery tour and wine tasting social and picnic to follow at Clos du Bois winery and vineyard near Healdsburg.

August 21 (Saturday)—Group attendance at the 2:00 pm performance of George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, directed by Oxonian Paul Whitworth, Artistic Director of the Santa Cruz Festival at U.C. Santa Cruz. We have chosen Shaw's interesting play this year instead of one of Shakespeare's particularly because Paul is directing the production and will provide us with his usual fine commentary afterward.

October 2 (Saturday)—Tour led by Education Director Patience Young of the art collections of the newly opened, expanded and greatly acclaimed Stanford University Museum. The tour will begin at 2:00 pm and will be followed by a reception.

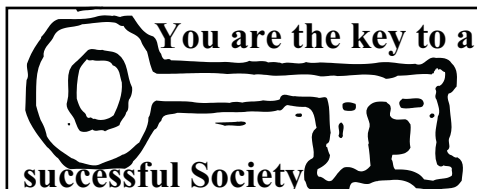
November 28 (Sunday)—Annual Pre-Christmas Party at the Huntington Hotel in San Francisco, preceded by the Advent Carol Service at 3:30 pm at Grace Cathedral.

Pre-booking for Events

For some of our events it is becoming necessary to know more than a week or two in advance how many of us will be planning to participate. We must give firm numbers in the near future for both *Arms and the Man* at the Santa Cruz Festival and the Stanford Museum tour, and it is our hope that the numbers can be realistic. We cannot afford financially to overbook, but we do not, on the other hand, want to book for too few, as we did for *Indian Ink*. Please let the Secretary know as soon as possible if you will be able to attend either of these events.

West Coast Oxford Trinity Gathering

The Trinity Gathering arranged by the New York Office of the University of Oxford and held at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco on May 22nd was a great success. About eighty Oxonians attended, mostly from our northern California area. An interesting and informative presentation on "The Extending of Teaching Beyond the Limits of the University" was given by Geoffrey Thomas, President of Kellogg College and Head of the University's



Department for Continuing Education. While, perhaps surprising to learn, the University has been engaged in educational work and extension courses outside Oxford in the UK for over one-hundred years, the computer age and the Internet have made many new extensions of the University's educational work possible on a world-wide basis, and this is now being implemented and rapidly expanded in the Third World as well as in industrialized countries. During the late afternoon Reception, the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Susan D. Iverson, Magdalen, gave a lively report on the state of the University with an interesting discussion of the future of the tutorial system at Oxford and Cambridge in face of increasing financial constraint. Both universities are committed to its survival at the heart of their educational system.

Tilden Park Botanical Garden

About twenty-five of us greatly enjoyed an educational tour of the lovely botanical garden of California flora and shrubs in Berkeley's Tilden Park. We were led, as arranged, by Professor John K. Anderson (Christ Church, 1946), U.C. Professor of Classical Archaeology, retired, who is a well informed botanist, together with Mrs. Anderson, an expert gardener, and Sue Rosenthal, head of docents at the Botanical Garden. It was a delightful tour, with a congenial picnic following.

Edward B. Gregg

We are saddened by the sudden death of Edward Gregg (Wadham 1933), retired lawyer and Palo Alto resident who has been a frequent

and enthusiastic participant in our events since the inauguration of this branch of the Oxford Society, and often in the company of a granddaughter. He became a friend to many of us, and we will miss him. Our condolences have been conveyed to his family.

Humor from Oxford to San Francisco?

One of our members, David Hutton (Balliol, 1963), is an avid promoter of the San Francisco Cartoon Art Museum located at the Yerba Buena Center, and he invites participation in its planning and its work by interested persons. He may be reached at 925/938-5084 or e-mail hutton@pacbell.net. The Museum regards cartoon art as a serious and important medium, both revelatory of our social, economic and cultural history and as a shaping influence on how we live and think and communicate. A tour of the museum may well be one of our future events.

Bodleian Library Christmas Cards

A number of us ordered Christmas cards in a package order from the Bodleian Library last year. If you are interested in this source for cards for this year, please contact the Secretary soon, and you will receive in return a photocopy array of selections together with a statement of cost.

New Oxonians Among Us

Two new Oxonians have come into association with us since the 1999 Directory went to press. We

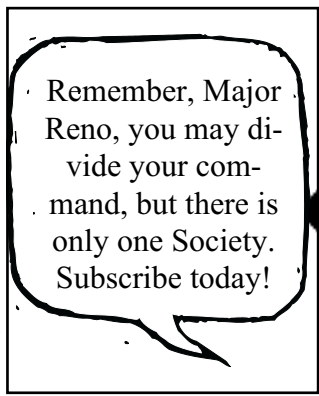
welcome Dr. **Cynthia Saenz** (St. Catherine's, 1991) and Mr. **Stephen De Berry** (Hertford, 1996)

Moved Away

James Butcher (Merton, 1982) has moved to New Mexico

Wisdom from Dacre Balsdon

From *Oxford Life*, 1958—"The Oxford Accent exists, but it defies definition. It is not, as the



French think, the kind of English which is spoken within a twenty mile radius of the city. Indeed, it is not an accent at all, but a manner of speaking. In particular it is a manner of pausing in your speech, in pausing not at the end of sentences, where you might be interrupted, but in the middle of sentences. Nobody, it is to be hoped, will be so rude as to interrupt you when you are in the middle of a sentence. So pause there, to decide what your next sentence is going to be. Then, having decided, move quickly forward to it without a moment's pause at the full stop. Yes, jumping your full stops—that is the Oxford accent. Do it well and you will be able to talk forever. Nobody will have the chance of breaking in and stealing the conversation from you."