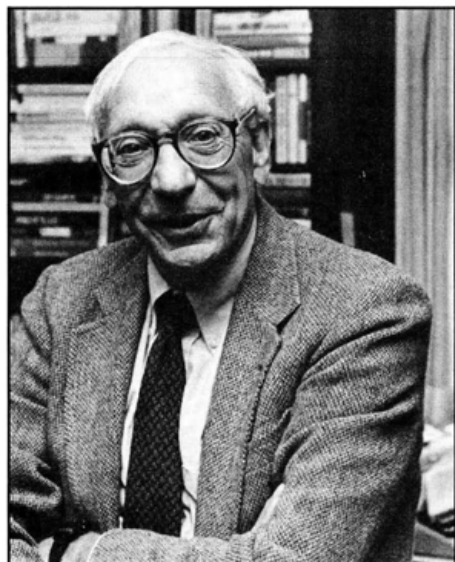


NIEMAN REPORTS

VOL. XLIII, NO. 1 SPRING 1989



The Nieman Foundation Celebrates its 50th Birthday



Howard Simons
Nieman Foundation Curator, 1984 -

It will be readily obvious to all that we decided to devote this entire issue of *Nieman Reports* to the early history of the program. Thanks to Totty Lyons and with great assists from Bill Pinkerton NF '41 and Max Hall NF '50, we are able to publish, for the first time, excerpts from Louis Lyons' memoirs. When I read them, I was struck by the fact that the core program has not changed these 50 years; that those curators who succeeded Archibald MacLeish and Louis Lyons — Dwight Sargent, Jim Thomson, and I — did not seek to aggrandize, to empire-build, to inflate, bloat or expand the Fellowship program or themselves. It is a tribute to belief in the bromide "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

There is a puzzle in Louis' memoirs, at least a puzzle to us contemporary archivists. He says that in the earliest days there were three Nieman Fellows from Latin America. Search as we may, we cannot find them or references to

The Seventh Provision in the Will of Agnes Wahl Nieman

SEVENTH. All the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate, real and personal and where-soever situated, I give, bequeath and devise to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. I request that such gift, bequest and devise be used to constitute a fund to be known as the "Lucius W. Nieman and Agnes Wahl Nieman Fund", which shall be invested and the income thereof used to promote and elevate the standards of journalism in the United States and educate persons deemed specially qualified for journalism, in such manner as the governing authorities of Harvard College from time to time shall deem wise, by the giving of prizes to writers or students or to newspapers or magazines, or by payment for fellowships, scholarships or stipends to undergraduate or graduate students or amateur or professional writers working in journalism or preparing for journalism or deemed specially quali-

fied for work in journalism, or by any other means deemed wise by said governing board of Harvard College, whether similar to or different from the foregoing. The foregoing purposes and methods are stated as an indication of the general purposes I have in mind, but it is my wish and I direct that the governing authorities of Harvard College from time to time shall have the broadest discretion as to the manner of utilization of the income of such fund and that their determination of any question with reference to the same shall be conclusive, and further, that the word "journalism", as here used, shall be interpreted in a broad sense, including, without by this specification limiting its generality, the field of newspapers and magazines of whatsoever nature. I request also that any prizes, stipends, fellowships or scholarships constituted from said fund shall bear the designation "Lucius W. Nieman", in memory of my late husband.

them. The first foreign Fellows — initially called Associate Fellows — joined the class of 1952. From that class to the 50th class, there have been 194 Fellows from abroad from 47 countries. Over the entire 50 years there have been 602 Fellows from the United States.

One other thing that struck me as I was musing about the Nieman history was about all the schemes and plots and dodges to earn a second year

as a Fellow. And, it occurred to me that three of us have found the ideal way — become the curator.

Welcome. Enjoy. A Nieman Year is, as so many of us have said, incomparable. It works because Harvard treats it with great affection and respect. It works because the Fellows treat it and each other with affection and respect. It works because it ain't broke. See you all in 2038.

Howard Simons

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Publisher
HOWARD SIMONS

Editor Emeritus
TENNEY BARBARA K. LEHMAN

Consulting Editor
FAY LEVIERO

Editorial Assistant
ELIZABETH TIBBITTS

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*50th
Anniversary
Issue*

Harvard Meets the Press

Louis M. Lyons

A Personal Account of the Early Nieman Years

Two friends of Louis M. Lyons read this excerpt and offered invaluable suggestions. Both were Nieman Fellows under the curatorship of Mr. Lyons. They are Max Hall, NF '50 and W.M. Pinkerton, NF '41

Mr. Hall was the Social Science Editor of Harvard University Press from 1960-1973. He is the author of several books, his latest details the history of Harvard University. He is an expert on the life of Benjamin Franklin. His book on the American statesman, titled *Benjamin Franklin and Polly Baker; The History of a Literary Deception*, was published in 1960.

Mr. Pinkerton began his journalism career on the *Omaha World-Herald* where he both wrote and edited stories. For 27 years, he headed the Harvard University News Office. And for the last two years of his Harvard tenure he was assistant to the Vice President for Government and Community Affairs. He has also served on the committee for the selection of Nieman Fellows.



Louis M. Lyons, Nieman Fellow Class of '39 and Curator of the Nieman Foundation 1939-1964.

Louis Lyons, star reporter, pioneer newscaster, member of the first class of Nieman Fellows, and Curator of the Nieman Foundation from 1939 to 1964, wrote his memoirs in the middle 1960's. The draft he produced was sparkling, informative, wise, and rambling. For one reason or another it has never been published. He died in 1982 in his 85th year. Only a few passages of the manuscript have found their way into print. They pertained to The Boston Globe, and he adapted them for Newspaper Story, his history of that paper, published in 1971. Now, with the permission of his widow, Catherine (Totty) Lyons, we give you that part of the memoirs that tells of his experiences at Harvard — his own Nieman Fellowship and his management of the Nieman program.

When one of Harvard's fund drives in the 1920's had raised the handsome Graduate School of Business Administration on the Boston side of the Charles, I did a special story on the institution for *The Boston Globe*. This involved an interview with one of the deans and the natural question of what they were going to teach. Teaching business to graduate students was still new, though Harvard had started its school in 1908, in more modest quarters, and had borrowed the idea of case studies from the Law School. The commencement degree awards still cited business as "the oldest of the arts, the youngest of the professions," to set off a rippling chuckle every June at the exercises in Harvard Yard.

But Boston University had an undergraduate business school, and this included a department of journalism. I asked the dean if Harvard's business school would include journalism.

"Good God, no," he exploded. "Journalism is nothing but the gift of gab."

That, so far as I knew, was Harvard's attitude toward journalism education, until in 1937 out of the blue came an announcement that Harvard had received a bequest "to promote and elevate standards of journalism in the United States and educate people deemed especially qualified for

I asked the dean if Harvard's business school would include journalism. "Good God, no," he exploded. "Journalism is nothing but the gift of gab."

journalism."

The bequest was from Agnes Wahl Nieman, in memory of her late husband, Lucius W. Nieman, founder of *The Milwaukee Journal*. The amount turned out to be about \$1,350,000. This raised directly for Harvard the question what it was going to do about journalism.

Of course the great state universities of the West and Midwest had long-established schools of journalism, just as they had schools of agriculture, of pharmacy, of home economics and other practical programs which the older eastern Ivy League colleges had never embraced. In journalism the one Ivy League exception was Columbia, which had a one-year graduate school endowed by the first Joseph Pulitzer. Pulitzer had first made his offer to Harvard, but the plan that President Charles W. Eliot proposed did not satisfy him. It was evidently more academic, less practical than what Pulitzer had in mind.

Harvard was not without a strong representation in the field of journalism. Walter Lippmann, Heywood Broun, the Cowles brothers, the Alsops, Edward A. Weeks, Frederic Lewis Allen, Barry Bingham, Brooks Atkinson, William L. Laurence, and many more were ornaments of that calling. As in the other old eastern colleges, a liberal arts education had proved as acceptable a foundation for journalism as any, and undergraduate work on the *Harvard Crimson* had long proved an open sesame to a newspaper job. Harvard's reluctance to move into formal programs for the lively arts had quite recently been demonstrated in the companion field of the theatre. It had shied away from Professor George Baker's drama workshop, once its practical outlines had become a prominent feature of the Cambridge landscape, and had let Baker take his dramatics down to Yale.

President James B. Conant was not about to start another journalism school either. He had another model in mind. Another bequest, just ahead

of Mrs. Nieman's, had seemed to call for some original patterning. With the great Harvard Tercentenary of 1936 behind him, Conant had taken a breather to think about the bequest of Lucius Littauer, the New York glove manufacturer and protectionist congressman who had provided an endowment for education in public administration. Conant had shaped a plan for that and before it was launched the Nieman bequest suggested a parallel groove.

Conant's plan for the Littauer program was to set up a graduate center in public administration and to bring into it a selected group from government for studies in public policy. They would come on leave from their jobs for a year or two of study in economics and government. While the Littauer Center building was going up, Harvard assembled a group of scholars and specialists who spent a year as consultants, designing the program for the Littauer Fellows in Public Administration. It was during this year of Littauer preparation that the Nieman bequest came.

It was a total surprise to Harvard, a windfall, and without specific prescription except the very general responsibility to strengthen journalism.

As in other old eastern colleges, a liberal arts education had proved as acceptable a foundation for journalism as any, and undergraduate work on the *Harvard Crimson* had long proved an open sesame to a newspaper job.

Conant adapted the Littauer plan. There were some changes. The Littauer Fellows would be taking graduate studies in a combination government-economics program and would qualify for graduate degrees. This, under the Harvard system, had been deemed necessary. But Conant shared with his predecessor, A. Lawrence Lowell, a lack of reverence for degrees and a strong interest in developing interdisciplinary programs. The Nieman bequest offered a chance to go a step beyond the Littauer pattern. Newspapermen didn't need degrees as teachers and government workers did. Moreover, the field of journalism was potentially as broad and various as the curriculum of a university. But the plan to bring in persons already established in their chosen work, to strengthen their background with university studies, could be applied.

The notion of having them come on leave of absence from their jobs must have had a special appeal. For two reasons. This was a very special bequest and it was desirable to put it to work with a quick application. After one year the newspapermen would be back at work. Also, this was in the deep trough of depression. A college president had scant desire to be turning out an additional crop of graduate students to knock at closed doors.

So the Nieman Fellowship program was announced to start in the fall of 1938. A selected group of newspapermen would be admitted to Harvard for one year of studies of their own choice. They would come on leave of absence. The Nieman funds would be used primarily to pay them stipends in lieu of the newspaper salaries they would relinquish for the academic year at Harvard.

Conant had a number of newspapermen among the 30 Harvard graduates elected by the alumni to the Board of Overseers. Among them was Walter Lippmann. The president discussed his plan with his board and then, at their suggestion, with a number of newspaper editors and

publishers. He was disappointed in the response. Most newspaper managers were dubious about it. Probably most felt that newspaper work provided its own education for its own purposes. There was a question whether newspapermen would step out of their fast-paced occupation to take a year off for further study.

But Conant was not to be put off. Long after, he described it as "a very dubious experiment." But by hindsight it can also be seen that it had in it all the elements of the success it rapidly achieved. Harvard's own prestige must have been an essential element in this. The flexibility of the program was another. A man could actually study just what he wanted — just what he'd always wanted, just what he'd come to feel the lack of. And the stipends made it possible. At that time, before the great educational foundations had begun pumping big money into educational grants, the Nieman stipends, to pay full salary, were unique. Of course, the salaries were fairly small.

one requirement, at least three years' experience in journalism.

As it turned out, the informal, less organized Nieman program worked as Conant had planned. The more elaborate and fixed Littauer program did not, for a generation. For one thing the degree provision brought it under control of a very conservative chairman of the economics department who was inhospitable to a flexible program. For another, the war manpower problem soon made it especially difficult for government men to get leave and brought a substitution of graduate students to fill out the quota of Littauer Fellowships. Then political considerations brought a less hospitable attitude in government bureaus. Gradually the Littauer Center became a graduate school of public administration, and a mighty good one.

But it brought one boon for the Nieman Fellows. The very practical seminars set up for the Littauer Fellows, in labor relations, government planning, budgets, fiscal policy,

I was 40 years old, had been 20 years out of college. But once my story was printed [about the Nieman Foundation] . . . it started conversation, both in the office and at home. . . . "Why don't you apply for one of those fellowships?" "Oh, they'll be looking for people younger than I am." "How do you know? . . . Why don't you find out.?"

Harvard had 309 applications for the nine fellowships offered that first year and never a dearth of applications after that. Conant appointed an impressive selecting committee, Walter Lippmann, Ellery Sedgwick, editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, and John Stewart Bryan, publisher of the *Richmond papers* and president of the College of William and Mary. The Harvard Corporation laid down just

international trade, the business cycle, foreign aid, science and public policy, and other subjects proved very useful to the Nieman Fellows. And our Littauer colleagues were ever hospitable, even sending us notices of special programs that brought in senators, labor leaders, cabinet members, and military chiefs, to discuss their fields.

After the war the Littauer seminars

were companioned by others — in a Russian center, a Far East program, and a Middle East center — and Henry Kissinger developed defense seminars and Robert Bowie seminars on foreign policy. All this would expand the practical side of the menu Harvard offered in the background of public affairs, all of it available, with everything else in the university, to Nieman Fellows.

My acquaintance with the Nieman program began with my explorations to do a special story on this interesting announcement, and I expected it to end there. I did not think of it at all as affecting me. I was 40 years old, had been 20 years out of college. But once my story was printed, with all the details spelled out, it started conversation, both in the office and at home. And this kept up. "Why don't you apply for one of those fellowships?" "Oh, they'll be looking for people younger than I am." "How do you know? There's no age limit. Why don't you find out?"

So one day in 1938 I went over to Harvard to inquire about applying. I found that the next day was the deadline for applications and the application was quite an elaborate process. I needed clippings of my work, supporting letters from editor and publisher, three other letters, a statement of what I proposed to do on a fellowship, and a biographical statement. But, scouring around, I got it in next day. I told everyone concerned not to expect anything to come of it, and I didn't. In ensuing weeks, we had almost forgotten about it at home, when one day a letter came informing me that I had been selected for a Nieman Fellowship. The stipend would be at my salary to cover 40 weeks, which was a very generous definition of the college year.

So that was set. I tried to get my mind around the idea of spending a year in a university. The children thought it was funny. Dad was going to college. My oldest son, Richard, in his last year of high school, had already taken some college board exams.

The Globe office took a lively interest in considering how I would get the most out of a year at Harvard. It was James Morgan who suggested I ought to talk to Felix Frankfurter of the Harvard Law School about it, to find out who were the great minds one should not miss at Harvard.

Frankfurter hospitably suggested lunch at the Faculty Club. When I told him my quest for great minds he laughed. "There aren't any," he said. "You go for the things that interest you most." Then he reconsidered. Well, there were two minds I should not miss. One was Gaetano Salvemini, the distinguished historian, exiled from Fascist Italy. The other was Harry Murray in clinical psychology. I mentally added a third, Frankfurter.

I told him that clinical psychology was way outside my orbit and that I had looked up Salvemini's offering and found it was limited to mediaeval history.

years.

That was the only definite suggestion that came out of the talk with Frankfurter. But I got his assurance that I could sit in on his law school course in administrative law.

I had already pretty well made up my mind, and though things never work out as planned, my plan probably did as well for me as any other. What I had in mind was to explore back of the beginnings of the United States, to fill the gap between the mediaeval period and our independence, and get at the roots of our constitutional system.

Some of this quite naturally fell into place; some didn't quite fit; but the experience of organizing my own year of work was to stand me in good stead in later years of helping other Nieman Fellows find their way in a big complex university that is not organized for visiting firemen on a one-year hitch.

But Samuel Eliot Morison's course

Samuel Eliot Morison's course in American colonial history was a natural. I made up my mind to enjoy them — not scribble as Harvard students were doing. When Morison was invited to a Nieman dinner, he was told how much I enjoyed his lectures. "Why Louis just sits there and looks bored," said Morison.

"Never mind what it says," Frankfurter said. "Anything Salvemini teaches is current."

And so it proved. Salvemini's lectures on the Italian city state were relevant to city machines anytime anywhere and he was frequently flashing a point of current application. That exposure to Salvemini also developed a most rewarding acquaintance with one of the great people and brought him into many a session with the Nieman Fellows in subsequent

in American colonial history was a natural. Morison, great historical essayist, had the same distinction of style in his lectures. They were a delight. I made up my mind to enjoy them and not to dilute the experience by scribbling down notes as Harvard students on both sides of me were feverishly doing. So I sat back to drink in Morison's stimulating lectures. This had an unexpected reaction. When Morison was invited to a Nieman dinner, someone told him

how much I enjoyed his lectures. "Why Louis just sits there and looks bored," said Morison.

He had paid me off for my unorthodox behavior. One day a student next to me looked up from his notebook long enough to ask me, "What did he say?" I started to tell him when Morison pounced on the delinquent student to demand what he had said. "I just asked him a question." "Well, he probably knows more about it than I do," snapped Morison. When he became an admiral as naval historian of the Second World War some of his colleagues observed that his temperament was well adapted to the quarterdeck.

One day after class I walked over to the library with Morison to ask him a question about something I had read in Charles Beard's history. "Oh, Beard doesn't know anything about the 17th century," Morison said. "His period is the 19th century." This was a striking appraisal of the author of *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*. I had stumbled upon one of the more contentious of academic feuds. When Beard undertook to interpret the 20th century from his intensely isolationist point of view, Morison wrote a scathing review of *America in Mid-Century* under the title "History Through a Beard."

At the end of our short chat, Morison said, "You're the only one in the class who asked me anything. I keep my study open all the time for students. But they don't take advantage of it." I couldn't tell him the obvious answer, that they were scared to death of him.

In contrast, old Charles McIlwain always had a group of students six deep around his lectern at the close of his lecture on political theory. This proved a very scholastic course, most of it much more theoretical and too minutely detailed for my purposes. The members of the class were graduate students or candidates for honors. McIlwain assigned readings in mediaeval Latin and French and dwelt for many successive hours on dim periods which, so far as I could find,

had never seemed to anyone else to produce any theories of government.

McIlwain was one of the most conservative of men. He had had to convince himself of the "legitimacy" of American independence and had done so through a tortured process that remained all Greek to me, and, I was later comforted to discover, to most other people. He was author of a classic in his field entitled *The Growth of Political Thought in the West*, of which Harold Laski observed that there was no growth in political thought as expounded by McIlwain.

But he was a great teacher and a great human being. He had the classic head of a Roman senator, but his strong face was constantly crinkled in humorous expression and his eyes twinkled in conversation. He ran his course as a continuing conversation. The class was too big for discussion, about 125. But McIlwain managed an illusion of discussion as he shuffled a half dozen books on his desk, describing them, reading passages from them, talking about them, illuminating their obscurities. These were the books he had assigned to us and he must have known perfectly well that most of us had not read any

Every session was a treat. Frankfurter's talk was always exciting . . . The subject was often Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, his guiding light. He was passionately devoted to Holmes's mind and ideas and his concepts of law and of life.

that were not in English, or had got very little from them if we had.

In between McIlwain's political theory and Salvemini's mediaeval history, I chose a course in Intellectual History of the Middle Ages with Charles H. Taylor, who was to become one of my closest Harvard friends. But all that I can remember of that course was endless description, charting, and discussion of Thomas Aquinas on the *City of God*.

Along with Salvemini, Harvard in that winter of 1938-1939 and for some years after had another distinguished exile, Heinrich Bruening one of the last chancellors of Germany before Hitler came to power. I thought I should avail myself of the opportunity to hear the man who had headed Germany in the early 1930's. Bruening was teamed up with William Yandell Elliott in a course on government regulation. Elliott took the British government and Bruening his own, and they ran each session together, in comparative discussion. This was an evening course, featured by coffee, which made it easier to take.

Bruening was a disappointment, a very dry, meticulous speaker who struck me as more a technician of government than an executive. He was full of alibis. If the Allies had allowed him more troops, if the Belgians had not balked Germany's economic recovery with their tariffs, if the Communists had not ganged up with the Nazis against the Center Party. One of the Nieman Fellows suggested that Bruening was the Herbert Hoover of Germany. In private even more than public talk, the Catholic ex-chancellor sounded as though he blamed the Communists about as much as the Hitlerites for the destruction of the Weimar Republic. You could understand how this sensitive, precise, academic man would hesitate to take rigorous action sufficient to meet the developing crisis.

Elliott had enough authoritarianism and egotism in him so that you could imagine, had the temperaments of the two been reversed, that Bruening might have had what it took to cope

with the role for which he was so miscast. The Harvard Crimson's confidential guide to freshman one year described an Elliott course as "Elliott on England, Elliott on Russia, and Elliott on Elliott." Elliott was an able and effective lecturer, but the class would go out tittering after he had searched his briefcase for a memo to announce, "Oh, I must have left that on Ed Stettinius's desk." (The Secretary of State.)

Elliott had as much right as anybody to name-dropping. Through the war and for a decade or more after it, he commuted to Washington where he served in a succession of important administrative and staff director roles. He managed to arrange his Harvard schedule for Mondays and Fridays and spend the rest of the week in Washington. Other key people on the Harvard faculty carried on equally rigorous wartime schedules, and President Conant himself was soon spending most of his time in Washington.

Felix Frankfurter's law course met once a week for a two-hour session. The law students crowded around a long seminar table, which hadn't room for half of them. The rest sat in chairs around the wall of the narrow room. Frankfurter himself sat in the middle of one side of the table. I became embarrassingly conspicuous at the first session by taking the chair which, on his arrival, he announced was his. About half the Nieman Fellows that first year sat in on this course which, as things turned out, was Frankfurter's last at Harvard. His intellectual vitality matched his immense knowledge, not only of law but of government and of political history, and these all blended together that semester in a course that could as well have been named Public Administration. Every session was a treat. Frankfurter's talk was always exciting, whatever the subject.

The subject was often Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, his guiding light. He was passionately devoted to Holmes's mind and ideas and his concepts of law and of life. Frankfurter had two

assistants who attended the course and were obviously on easy intimate terms with him. One day a student developed a critique of a Holmes opinion. Frankfurter interrupted to correct him. One of the assistants said, sotto voce, to the student: "You're stepping on a tender corn there." "The corn is accuracy," flashed Frankfurter. "Well, it's real tender," retorted the assistant with a lugubrious sigh.

Frankfurter talked so much about so many things, and assigned us so many issues to explore and report in class, that when Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court and Thomas Reed Powell took over for the second half, Powell's opening statement was to the effect that we had to get on with the business of administrative law because we had a lot of catching up to do. "The show is over." But it wasn't. Thomas Reed Powell was one of the natural showmen, a remarkable raconteur with a gift for humorous and ribald verse, which he perpetrated on the slightest excuse. The course continued to be a rich experience.

A great bonus of the Harvard year was time to read, and Harvard enhanced this with its "reading

period" between terms. The Christmas recess ran into the reading period, which reached to midyear examinations, making altogether five or six weeks from about December 20 to early February. Students had to spend part of this open stretch reviewing for examinations.

Nieman Fellows were not held to examinations. But I wanted to take some exams just as an exercise, and in a number of courses books were listed that would be covered in the exam; so one could have both his reading and the exams. I enjoyed the experience and always afterwards recommended to Nieman Fellows that they take the examination in at least the course most central to their interest. Most did and naturally, as mature and experienced students, most got high marks, which, in any case, never went beyond the Nieman office files. Ten years later we made it the one requirement that each Fellow should take at least one examination in a subject of his own choice. It has certainly been no hardship, but a useful experience, and it must have helped in our faculty relationships, for the professor sending over the examination grade almost always added a note appreciating the quality of work. When I met Sam Morison on the subway after that first midyears, he said, "You newspapermen certainly know how to take examinations." Writing facility undoubtedly helps, and perhaps it covers up some shortages on facts.

But I knew I hadn't made much on McIlwain's exam. I took it out of curiosity. But the upshot was revealing of the old man's kindly and diffident quality. I could not find mine among the blue books returned. When I asked him about it he said he must still have some at home, and he'd look. Several inquiries brought only apologies for his forgetfulness, and I finally realized that he didn't want to embarrass me by scoring my lame production. But of course the best result of examinations is the chance to check up on what you didn't know and fill the gaps of your

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In the second term I was led by other Fellows to wander into two other courses that proved part of the frosting on the cake.

One was George Sarton's history of science. Sarton's enthusiastic devotion to science made his lectures exciting. A typical lecture would take one subject, say "light," and describe the whole development of science in that field. He liked to show how one generation of research succeeded by understanding the failures of the one before. He would bring out the human equation, the chances, sometimes the accidents, that brought a breakthrough to a whole new area of knowledge, or the scientist looking for one thing discovering something else much more important. His lectures often included profiles of the scientific discoverers. I found that one could be quite ignorant of science and still appreciate what Conant called the tactics and strategy of science.

The other course was a weekly informal seminar with Granville Hicks, who was one of a group of "counsellors in American history" whom President Conant had appointed for that year as an experiment. Each counsellor was attached to one of the Harvard Houses. For the undergraduates, work with them was voluntary and without credit. It didn't work. Harvard students were kept too busy for extra-curricular courses. Conant with typical realism dropped it after that one year. But meantime Hicks and his colleagues were a resource for whoever was interested. One of the members of that first class of Nieman Fellows, Edwin A. Lahey, discovered that Hicks had a kind of tutorial session in American history once a week for such students at Adams House as cared to join. There were only a few. Lahey's enthusiasm brought several of us into it for a most rewarding experience. We would read one book a week and have a discussion on it with Hicks. I think we started with Turner's *The Frontier in American History*, and we ended with

Karl Marx.

Marx was our own choice in order to exploit the exceptional opportunity of a communist's interpretation. For Granville Hicks was to us a *rara avis*, a communist. That is, he said he was a communist. He was to unsay it after the Soviet invasion of Finland before the end of that year, 1939. He was actually an idealist with a deep religious commitment to social justice who had become convinced by the depression that capitalism had failed, and he saw in Marxism a new hope for a more just and workable socio-economic order. A good many intellectuals and others shared his discouragement over the chance of capitalism to overcome the vast unemployment and stagnation of the 1930's, and watched closely to see whether Moscow's new answer held a new hope. Stalinism was to destroy such illusion. It swiftly destroyed it with Hicks, whose total career in communism lasted four years.

But it was the insistent honesty of Hicks's nature that made him declare himself a communist, to wear the label. This marked him as a very

Granville Hicks's contribution to Harvard was as an historian of literature and a social critic. His ideology I discounted. His outlook . . . was no different from that of many of us . . . who had been reformers and rebels against social injustice but had anticipated no Utopia from embracing an alien ideology.

naive person. I found him so — refreshingly naive and totally impractical. Having a real affection for his transparently sincere and compassionate nature, I was impatient with his insistence of wearing a badge that made him a martyr. He had come to communism after divinity-school studies. He was the first communist I can recall having known, and the only one I ever knew well, and it seemed to me that calling himself a communist was a self-imposed hair shirt. It pilloried him in public denunciation, made him an object of attack, directed equally at Harvard for tolerating him. The existence of Granville Hicks at Harvard was a cause celebre in Boston in 1938. Public meetings passed resolutions about him. Legislators orated about the "Kremlin on the Charles."

For my money, Hick's contribution to Harvard was as an historian of literature and a social critic. His ideology I discounted. His outlook, so far as I could see, was no different from that of many of us who all our lives had been reformers and rebels against social injustice but who anticipated no utopia from embracing an alien ideology. We didn't necessarily consider Norman Thomas's mild socialism a practical ideology though it might offer a convenient alternative to such a tweedledum and tweedledee political choice as, say, between John W. Davis and Calvin Coolidge in 1924. After Granville Hicks had visited at my house my four-year-old son, Tom, changed the name of his wooden duck from Donald Duck to Granville Hicks. This was a small boy's tribute to a kindly, imaginative little man whose deep genuine human nature was so readily revealed to a child. I thought this naming of the duck appropriately symbolic of the public image of Granville Hicks, which was so utterly at variance with the questing mind and social conscience of this earnest academic. It was wholly in character for Hicks to be so outraged at the invasion of little Finland by the Russian colossus that he publicly renounced communism.

Hicks was, I think, the only avowed communist then at Harvard. We were later to hear of secret communists among the younger members of this and other universities in that decade of disillusion and ferment. Perhaps, had I been more ideologically inclined myself, I would have been aware of them, but I don't recall that any of my Nieman colleagues was either.

I was much more interested in Conant's development of "The American Radical" in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1935, when he had been president two years. Conant espoused what to me seemed native American radicalism. He expressed it in terms of fluidity and mobility, which he thought were essential to sustain an open society with opportunity reaching to the top of native ability. He went so far in the *Atlantic* article as to advocate a tax program that would liquidate inherited wealth in each generation. He accompanied this concern for a classless society with a concept of the public school as the cement of democracy.

Conant later deepened this latter part of his philosophy, first by fighting against federal aid to any but public schools, and then by exploring and diagnosing the weakness of our public schools to the end that they should become the strength he had idealized in them. Conant's conversion to champion of the public school from a personal life peculiarly insulated by private school associations is one of the hopeful paradoxes of American life and leadership. For 20 years my own work was to be within the perimeter of Conant's activity. My conclusion about Conant is that his education in the largest sense began after he left the presidency of Harvard and the ambassadorship to Germany to immerse himself in the problems of the public school, and in that lay his greatest contribution to American life.

But as to his espousal of the American radical and his emphasis on fluidity and mobility, this I am sure was a result of his own early, and only, experience with American

industry. As a young chemist he went to work for the Duponts and in this feudally closed family industrial empire, he found fluidity and mobility blocked. It deeply offended his own very practical sense of the need to let talent and leadership find their way to the control that was essential if their values were to be realized.

His American Radical article was of course utterly out of character for the president of an institution run by a self-perpetuating corporation composed entirely of Harvard graduates, all solid men of substance, mostly of State Street and Wall Street. This article must have shocked or frightened them as they thought of its effect on all the corporate executives and rich stockholders who had not yet made out their wills to Harvard. Conant never repeated this espousal of native American radicalism in the specific terms of that article.

Years later I wrote those things in a long appreciation of Conant under the guise of a review of one of his books. He was by that time in Germany. He wrote me a long appreciative letter about my article and our long association, but said that I was wrong in suggesting that he had dropped his promotion of radicalism because of any pressure from the corporation or elsewhere. He said the answer was simple — he got no response to his prescription for the American radical and was too practical to wish to pursue a mirage.

One may have his own judgement about the forces and influences that shape or modify a man's views. But Conant was certainly right in assessing practicality as a decisive factor in his own career. It shows clearly in his books on education. He eschewed the controversies and clichés that divided the educationists, in order to emphasize the subjects and programs he felt essential and to urge such forms of operation and control as held the best promise to keep schools free of political intervention or domination by an "educational establishment."

II

One of the very practical arrangements at Harvard that made reading seductive was the library system of placing on the shelves under each course not only the books required for the course but whole banks of others for "suggested reading."

One of my Nieman colleagues that first year, John McL. Clark, listed more than 300 books he had read on Latin America, which was his field of study. Harvard had little organized curriculum then on Latin America, which was the case with American universities generally then and for years after. But John said he was happy just to have a stall in the library and a chance to get at the books.

Journalism wasn't doing much with Latin America either. Frank Knox, publisher of the *Chicago Daily News*, had planned to open a Latin American bureau and talked about it to John Clark. But it didn't come off. Clark, however, immediately found an outlet for his special interest. He helped John Winant, then head of the International Labor Organization, set up the first ILO conference for Latin America in Havana. When the Office of Inter-American Affairs was created in Washington during the war, Clark was one of the first people Nelson Rockefeller recruited to develop that program. Clark came to Harvard from the editorial page of the *Washington Post* but after his Nieman year was unable to conform to the then isolationist policy of its editor. But his diversion from journalism was temporary. A few years later he became publisher of his own paper, the *Claremont (N.H.) Eagle*, and made it an informed and progressive voice until his untimely death at 40 in a New Hampshire flood.

Clark was one of the youngest of our 1938-39 group of nine and one of the best minds in it.

Another vital young member was Edwin Paxton, then city editor of his family paper in Paducah, Kentucky. He later became its president and developed a television station as companion to the newspaper. A rugged

Kentuckian, Paxton quickly adapted to Harvard. He mastered sculling to take his exercise in a wherry on the Charles, and for intellectual relaxation immersed himself in the novels of Henry James.

From farther south we had two Fellows from Alabama, Osborn Zuber of the Birmingham News and Herbert Lyons of the Mobile Register, both editorial writers. One of their primary interests was the history of the South. When I asked innocently why come all the way from Alabama to Cambridge to study the South, they asked me where else they could do it. Paul Buck, professor of history, was a Pulitzer Prize winner for his history of the South, *The Road to Reunion*. He welcomed our Southern pair and a long string of their Nieman successors, and involved them productively in his course. From then on we regularly had a small squad of lively questing minds from the South and each year they made a nucleus of informed participants in Buck's course, whatever their other interests.

Another of the younger men was Frank Hopkins of the Baltimore Sun, a scholarly journalist interested in international affairs, always one of the knowledgeable participants in our

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discussions that year. The war drew Hopkins into a war production job, and after it he followed his international bent into the foreign service.

We had one science student in the group, Wesley Fuller, a young reporter on the Boston Herald. We saw less of him, for his studies took him afield, into Boston to the Medical School and the School of Public Health. The medical scientists hospitably included him in staff sessions, colloquia, clinics, opening up chances to explore the workings of science and medicine beyond the course program. This was to continue, whenever a Nieman group included a science writer. Two of the first three immediately won the Westinghouse award for science writing, a distinction certainly due in no small part to the hospitable interest of Harvard scientists in the Nieman Fellows.

But most newspapers were not yet ready to deal seriously with science. For some years, until the atom bomb, our science writers were more apt than not to find their papers inhospitable to a science specialty. They found more satisfying work on magazines or in research laboratories to edit and interpret the work of scientists.

Irving Dilliard, from the editorial page of the Post-Dispatch in St. Louis, was perhaps our member best prepared for his studies at Harvard. Few newspapermen had followed so closely the constitutional issues resolved in the Supreme Court. This had led Dilliard into correspondence with Felix Frankfurter, who so appreciated Dilliard's commentaries on the law and the court that when he left Cambridge for Washington he turned his Brattle Street house over to the Dilliards. Irving was to become editor of the vigorous Post-Dispatch editorial page and to continue his studies of the courts and produce books on the work of Learned Hand and Hugo Black.

The Bill of Rights was to Dilliard the bulwark of American liberties and he never ceased reminding people of it while he presided over the most

vigorous editorial page in America. Under Dilliard this page was a strong point of sanity during the McCarthy era and it was a powerful factor in uprooting the corrupt Green machine in Illinois and a constant menace to corruptionists nearer home.

The Nieman Fellow who made the largest impact on Harvard that first year was Edwin A. Lahey, then a labor reporter on the Chicago Daily News, later to become Washington bureau chief of all the Knight papers. It was Lahey's first experience with college but he had larger experience of life than any of us, and his gift for pungent expression had Harvard students and faculty collecting "Laheyisms." Lahey took to Harvard with the same enthusiasm he had brought to reporting. When he discovered a book or a lecture course that excited him, nothing would do but the rest of us must share it. We all had a bonus from Lahey's excitements, the most notable one the reading course with Granville Hicks.

As a writer, Lahey had the most individual style of the group, perhaps of any Nieman group over the years. He had color, verve, incisiveness, an earthy touch with reality, an ear for the right word and a sure sense for the heart of the matter. I once asked him to account for this, for he had left school after the eighth grade. He told me that working in a railroad freight house, he had long spells of waiting for something to do and used to read Dickens. Then he amused himself, he said, by trying to write sentences "as long as Dickens's." He must have learned more than length of sentences from Dickens, and from much else, but chiefly from life.

Lahey had an extraordinarily sensitive quality that combined practicality with reflection in a warm human nature, and this made him attractive to the most sensitive intellects at Harvard. They had never known anyone like Lahey. He retained the racy argot of the streets but he spoke it in gentle tone and with a winning smile and evidenced a thoroughly sophisticated interest in everything. Frankfurter

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became at once his admiring friend. It was great good luck for the Nieman Program that its first group brought to Harvard a newspaperman of such pronounced characteristics as to make an indelible impression. Lahey to the Harvard mind was the prototype of Nieman Fellows.

His range of interests was surprising. He shared with me the course in the intellectual history of the Middle Ages. Then he went to a course in accounting. I remonstrated against letting any of his Nieman Year be preempted by accounting. "I'm going to know how to squeeze the water out of a municipal budget," he said. And he did. When the *Daily News* was investigating the delinquencies of a state auditor in a notorious case, they brought Ed Lahey up from Washington to contribute his expertise in exploring the elaborate diversion of public funds.

I once remarked to Ed on a charming article in the *Chicago Daily News* by Donald Culross Peattie on the

trees of Illinois. "I suggested it to them," Lahey said, and sensing my surprise that this man of the sidewalks should have an interest in trees, he explained:

"When Washington gets to be just more than I can take, I've had a habit of packing a knapsack and taking a hike. One day I lay down to rest under a tree and looking up wondered what kind of tree it was. It made me disgusted with myself that I didn't know the names of the common trees. So the first thing on getting back I looked up a book on trees and it was by Donald Culross Peattie, who writes about trees as though they were human beings."

Such insistent curiosity is of course one of the most valuable qualities for journalism. It equipped Ed Lahey to make the most of his year at Harvard, for a Nieman Fellowship is just what you make of it.

For me it was a year of relaxed reading, reflection, much discussion, and for the first time in my life expo-

sure to truly scholarly dissertation on history and government. The quality of Harvard lecturing was to me extraordinary, and this has been the testimony of Nieman Fellows persistently down the years.

President Conant had no reverence for lectures. He was a scientist. At our first meeting with him he suggested we might be looking for short cuts. We could get reading lists from the professors and go at our own pace. But our experience was that the lectures were too good to miss. Often I have suggested to a Fellow that he was carrying so full a schedule I didn't see where he was going to get time for the reading in so many courses. Frequently he would say he thought he got more by ear per hour from such well-organized lectures than he could in the same time reading. The educationists' trend was to deplore lecturing and urge instead the dialogue of seminars. We always had plenty of seminars, but our Fellows tended always to deprecate the time the professor allotted to any talk but his own. Harvard professors were extremely conscientious about their lectures. Over and over I have had one respond to an invitation to a Nieman dinner, "I'd love to come. But I have to prepare a lecture for a 9 o'clock class. Please give me a rain check."

Many lectures I attended covered ground with which I had some familiarity. But the lecturer brought a different point of view, or emphasized an aspect I had not considered, or introduced some fresh element. It gave new dimensions to the subject and required some rethinking

III

President Conant had persuaded Archibald MacLeish, lawyer, poet, and journalist, to leave *Fortune Magazine* and come to Harvard on a half-time basis to guide the new Fellowship Program. This was great good luck for all of us. MacLeish was guide and counsellor and helped us explore the resources of Harvard where he had himself been a law stu-

dent and briefly an instructor.

McLeish and Conant between them had thought up one group activity in addition to our individual studies. This was to be a thread of journalistic discussion through the year. MacLeish organized and presided over a weekly dinner. A leading journalist was asked to come and lead the talk at each. Four or five faculty members were also invited to join each discussion. These immediately became lively, informing, and often provocative. We came to call them the Nieman dinners.

That first season they were held Thursday nights at a restaurant called Joseph's, on the second floor of the Boston Art Club just off Copley Square. Joseph, a gaunt sensitive Alsatian who claimed to have invented his own special version of vichyssoise, had a large square room back of the public restaurant which he reserved on Thursdays for "the professors," as he called us. The room had a fireplace but no firewood. As fall turned to winter, we persuaded the waiters to bring in packing cases, which we jumped on to convert them rapidly to the makings of a blazing fire. We had cocktails before dinner, then ordered from a menu. But almost immediately we discovered Joseph's double lamp chops, soundly filling, which thereafter became a standard fare.

The dinner guests MacLeish coaxed to Cambridge that year were distinguished and the talk was grand. Walter Lippmann came up. So did Heywood Broun. And so did Paul Y. Anderson, the great investigational reporter of the Post-Dispatch, John Gunther, Alexander Woollcott, William Allen White, Henry Luce, Harold Laski, and Raymond Gram Swing. Besides, Ralph Ingersoll came with a blueprint for a new kind of newspaper to be called PM, and James Morgan of The Boston Globe came to describe to us the convention that nominated William Jennings Bryan. These and others made the dinners memorable. MacLeish's own conversation was sparkling. He knew most of the guests. He was deft in directing

the discussion and bringing everyone into it. There was just one ground rule. Everything was off the record. So the talk was full, free, candid.

The next year we moved the dinners to Cambridge where the Signet Society was available, and their steward, Archie Gibbons, became the permanent successor to Joseph.

When Conant in the spring had us all around to his house to hear the returns of our year, he asked about the Nieman dinners. Oh, great. But one Fellow remarked that the faculty guests didn't talk much. Another commented that they didn't get much chance. Conant then suggested a second series, to hear from faculty

I have always felt that an understanding of relationships — one event to another, of one subject to another — is perhaps the most important lesson to a journalist. Some of this comes from his experience of life, which academic work is less apt to provide. But it means more if he has a chance to explore the background of his experience. That is what a Nieman Fellowship is all about. . . . experience and study in the right mixture yields effective educational results.

members. So the next season we started a Tuesday afternoon session over beer and cheese at the Faculty Club and called it a seminar. Each week we would ask one of the faculty to come from 4 to 6 o'clock to talk about some topic in his field.

These two series, the dinners and the seminars, continued as strong thread of the Nieman program. The dinners, thereafter on alternate weeks, always averaged out at a high level but uneven. The faculty seminars on the other hand proved uniformly well organized and incisive, usually searching and in depth. The time of day had something to do with the seminars being more business-like, and the academic disciplines are themselves more organized. The newspaper talk was apt to be more discursive, more rambling, often irrelevant, but always interesting, usually revealing, often exciting. Both in their different ways developed the kind of talk that shouldn't be missed.

After the first year, President Roosevelt took MacLeish away from us and made him Librarian of Congress, and it fell to me to preside over these dinners and seminars for the next 25 years, a rich experience.

In 1939 at the end of that first Fellowship Year we were asked to turn in a report, to be an appraisal, critique, suggestions or whatever. It was a useful exercise to try to add up the experience. I found that any expectation of finding the answers to large issues had been an illusion, but, as a useful corollary to that, I came to realize that there were no final answers to be found to the largest questions. Therefore one had a right to his own informed judgment or to follow his instinct for what was sound. Right or wrong, I proceeded on this premise. It unquestionably gave me more confidence, which I suspect I might have acquired earlier had I earlier had an equal contact with the disciplines of scholarship. I have ever since felt that the largest handicap of the man who has missed a college education is simply his feeling that he has missed something which has left

him incomplete. Yet among Nieman Fellows over the years, a few who have seemed to me the best read and to have achieved the greatest utility from it have been the self-educated who found their own way outside formal educational grooves. Of course they were exceptional people to have the intellectual energy and capacity to do this. They have escaped the danger of intellectual stereotype.

This brings to mind Vernon Parrington's great work, *Main Currents in American Thought*. I read it just before going to Harvard for my Nieman year and nothing I had read till then impressed me so much. His main currents are the Hamiltonian and Jeffersonian, the conservative and radical, the status quo and reform, reaction and rebellion. He traces these main currents in parallel conflict through our history as expressed in the literature and philosophy as well as in the political ideas that formed men's minds on the issues of their times.

Parrington, a lifelong teacher of what at Harvard they were beginning to call intellectual history, was not a Ph.D. Had he been more of a specialist than he was, one may doubt whether he would ever have tackled so large, so general, so universal a theme.

It first shocked and then irked me to discover that the historians of literature at Harvard tended to disparage Parrington. They found errors and misinterpretations. Just as Sam Morison had said of Charles Beard that his field was the 19th century and he didn't know anything about the 17th, so Harvard specialists in one period or one author would pick at pages or Parrington to insist that his research had not gone far enough. Undoubtedly they were right in their details, but would all their details together have produced Parrington's great synthesis? Would they essentially change the pattern he had woven through our history? I heard a great deal of criticism of Parrington that year, but it never convinced me that it added up to a valid critique of his work as a whole.

Later Arnold Toynbee's classic attempt to interpret all world history brought similar criticism, indeed much more, and doubtless more valid in view of the vaster dimensions he sought to encompass. Yet it seemed to me then and does still that the effort of a Parrington or a Toynbee to illuminate and interpret the main currents of history is an admirable application of scholarship to try to find meanings and relationships. My associations with Harvard scholars developed great admiration for their thoroughness and conscientiousness and their brilliance. But just as the journalist is by the nature of his work too much a generalist, so, I concluded, the scholar's specialization is apt to make him too little a generalist, too finicky in his criticism.

For myself, however, the Nieman year brought sharpened regret that I had never specialized at all. For even a brief period of slightly more systematic reading proved a revela-

tion. To dig a little deeper into a subject had its chief effect not in more specialized knowledge but in discovering something that related to something else and exposed another angle of it, that gave it more meaning.

I became convinced that the deeper one goes into any subject the more he finds relations to other things. This sounds like a contradiction to my comment on the finickiness of the specialist. But I don't think it is a contradiction. It depends on whether the specialist excludes other things, and perhaps it means that a late discovery of a specialty is more illuminating to the generalist than to one who has only specialized. I have always felt that an understanding of relationships — of one event to another, of one subject to another — is perhaps the most important lesson for the journalist. Some of this comes from his experience of life, which academic work is less apt to provide. But it means more if he has a chance, or makes a chance, to explore the background of his experience. That of course is what a Nieman Fellowship is all about. The combination of experience and study in the right mixture yields effective educational results. Just what the right mixture is, after how much experience, and with what relevant study is a problem for which no one is wise enough to prescribe. Conant was wise enough not to try, but simply to open doors to all that a university offered to men with experience enough to know they needed to enter. To let them take a university on their own terms was a stroke of genius. It worked. It has worked in varying degrees with different kinds of men at different ages.

I once tried to find some key to it. I added up the experience of the first ten years of the Nieman program and found what seemed to me persuasive evidence that such an experience could most clearly be seen to have been productive with the younger men. That is, men who had been at work five to eight years, at ages 26 to 30. Actually the average age of Nieman groups during the first few

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The august presence of Professor Sydney Bradshaw Fay of Harvard's history department graces a luncheon seminar of Nieman Fellows in 1942.

decades ran around 31 or 32.

But there were always exceptions, which in so small a sample made one draw back from applying such conclusions to policy. An A. B. Guthrie at 45 found in a Nieman Year an open sesame to a new career in literature through his novels *The Big Sky* and *The Way West*. To Edwin Lahey at 36 it opened a larger world. Arthur Eggleston, who was 42 when a Fellowship gave him a year away from his work as labor editor of the San Francisco Chronicle in the second year of the Nieman Program, told me that he would not have been ready for such a fallow year at any earlier age. I knew it was a ripening experience for him.

As the years passed, Harvard was to launch a number of adult programs modeled on the Nieman Fellowships — for trade union officials, for agricultural specialists, educational

administrators and others. David W. Bailey, secretary to the Harvard governing boards, told me I should write an article about this. We could contribute the title: Life as a Preparation for Education. It reminded me of Arthur Eggleston's feeling about it.

IV

The Second World War broke out as the second group of Nieman Fellows started for Cambridge in September 1939. It was to have little impact on us or most Americans through that college year, for it remained in what came to be called "the phony war" stage until the following spring. But it deeply preoccupied James B. Conant, who was vice president of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. Headed by William Allen White, this was the spearhead of American

interventionism.

Conant had me to lunch to discuss the Nieman program that he had asked me to take over for that year, after Macleish had gone to Washington as Librarian of Congress. I think Conant spent about three minutes on the Nieman program and the rest of the luncheon on the implications to America of the war in Europe. He told me he had thought of the fellowship plan as an experiment. After five years he would reappraise it. Meantime, he said, "in an experiment you don't want to have any variables." In short he wanted me to carry on without change. It was quite clear that the only role he had in mind for me was to preside over the Nieman dinners and seminars. With that in mind he had offered what he had the grace to call "an honorarium" of \$1,000. I was back full time at the Globe.

Of course no program continues

without change. But all I hoped to do was to organize extracurricular programs as lively and rewarding as MacLeish had done and to be of some use to the new Fellows in exploring the resources of Harvard. I had in mind the conclusion that my group had come to in our final session together. When someone suggested that we might do something for our successors by preparing memoranda and suggestions, the consensus was that we ought not to deprive them of the excitement of our experience in making discoveries of our own and shaping the individual patterns of our own programs. But I had Saturdays free for conferences and a part-time secretary and part-time use of an office and telephone, which were facilities that we lacked the first year.

But Conant wanted to talk about the war. We were the appropriate heirs of the British Empire and he didn't want to see the Germans take it away from us. Henry Luce was later to articulate "The American Century." But Conant was not thinking of empire. What he meant was cultural supremacy. Deprecating the still strong isolationist influence in America, Conant said, "I'm a cultural isolationist." I took it from his conversation that he wanted a strongly independent American culture, developing its own characteristics out of the American soil. To call this cultural isolationism reflected a state of mind that needed to justify his interventionist position on wholly American grounds. As I grew to know him better over the following decades I would not have labeled him an isolationist of any sort. But he was always convinced of the superiority of American education, and felt we had little to learn from the older British and European systems. He had studied in a German university and preferred his own. He was later to study the British and Australian education systems, and this would deepen his feeling that America must shape its own patterns out of its different experience and conditions.

Later that year, 1939, I was an inter-

An editor suggested that the *Globe* offer scholarships for study in Latin America as a contribution to Good Neighbor relations. W. O. Taylor, president of the *Globe* said he'd like to have Conant's view. I was asked to arrange it. Well, Conant told the *Globe*, there probably wouldn't be any harm in the proposal. Perhaps someone would want to study art in Mexico. But for education there wasn't any sense in going outside the United States.

mediary in an interesting interview with him. A *Globe* editor had suggested that the *Globe* offer some scholarships for study in Latin America, this as a contribution to Good Neighbor relations which the New Deal was emphasizing. W. O. Taylor, president of the *Globe*, said he'd like to have Conant's view of it before going ahead. I was asked to arrange it. Well, Conant told the *Globe*, there probably wouldn't be any harm in the proposal. Perhaps some one would want to study art in Mexico. But for education there wasn't any sense in going outside the United States. We now had the strongest universities, the most advanced science, the greatest vitality in our scholarships, and the largest resources. From all over the world scholars and students were coming to the American universities.

If Conant was aware of the neglect of Latin American studies at Harvard it certainly didn't bother him. Harvard had one course in Latin American history. Even that was more than was offered on Canada. The rest of the Americas continued to be neglected most of the next 25 years. After a time one course was offered on Canada, and about 1960 Harvard began to shape up a Latin American studies program, but up to 1965 it hadn't amounted to much.

This was equally true of nearly all

other American universities in 1939, but several got an earlier start in studies on our hemisphere neighbors than Harvard did.

We were at the time just as scant on India and never did offer anything on Africa until well after the postwar political explosion had brought 20 to 30 African ambassadors to the United Nations. Meantime Boston University developed an African studies program. In its first year Stanley Karnow, who had been a correspondent in Paris and Algeria, was one of the Nieman Fellows. One day he asked me if it was all right if he went over to Boston University for an African course three times a week. I asked if I could help arrange it. "Oh, it's all right," he said. "They've got a good faculty and almost no good students. They're glad to have me."

Harvard had a reciprocal arrangement with M.I.T. so that the occasional Fellow who wanted city planning could go down there for it. New "area" studies were to come into American universities after the war; indeed they grew out of the universities' efforts to provide background and language studies, especially on Japan and Germany, for those specialists selected for administration of occupied territories. But Conant during the early years of the Nieman program saw no reason why Harvard should duplicate area studies. Colum-

bia had, I think, the first developed center for Russian studies. That was all right — let graduate students on the Soviets go to Columbia. The same with Middle East studies. When the University of Pennsylvania developed this area program one of Harvard's distinguished scholars was invited there. He would rather have stayed in Cambridge if Harvard would let him develop such a program. But they let him go. Similarly with geography. Even with all the talk about geopolitics that grew out of the war, Harvard could not see enough in geography to justify more than the one traditional course, and lost its geography professor.

This attitude toward proliferation of programs was doubtless in part a mood of depression, but I think also Conant's own notion of selective excellence. Harvard didn't have to do everything. But both Harvard and her president were to change that view. Harvard was the one place that did have to do everything in the position it had come to occupy in the world of education. It was soon to have a renowned center of Russian studies and later a Middle East center to parallel its Far East studies, which were built around the matchless resources of John Fairbank and Edwin Reischauer.

The extraordinary autonomy of the departments at Harvard accounted for some unevenness. A department reached for the ablest scholar to be had; then what he chose to offer was largely up to him. So Harvard's great history department had three American historians, all reaching retirement at the same time — Sam Morison, Frederick Merk, and Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr. — and then, with no professor of Latin American history, appointed two biographers of Franklin Roosevelt. Nobody would have wanted to miss the brilliance of either Frank Freidel or Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., but this selective process suggests the strong emphasis on individual distinction and less regard for covering the waterfront.

The department of government,

through nearly all my 26 years at Harvard, was deficient in state government. The course usually offered was of a textbook sort, perhaps adequate for the general interest of undergraduates, but quite useless for the reporter who had put in some years in the press gallery. It was an excellent course one year when Tom Eliot took it over. He had been a congressman and had headed a commission to reorganize Massachusetts state government. Another good year brought Earl Latham in from Amherst. But most of the time it was a disappointment and a gap for the Nieman Fellows in that area.

As we always had some Fellows who wanted to study state government and frequently someone who wanted to prepare for work in Latin America, I used to nudge my faculty friends about these deficiencies. I got approximately the same answer on both state government and Latin America, that it was hard to find a first-rate scholar in either field.

My own strong feeling was that the most important study for a journalist was history, especially American history because the journalist would in most cases be reporting on the American scene. This conviction must have been a factor in making American history the primary interest of the largest number, since I was counseling the Fellows through 25 years. But I think it was also a natural interest of most. Happily the history department throughout this period was one of the very strongest at Harvard, and by many appraisals, the strongest anywhere.

Economics was very strong at Harvard too throughout the whole period. Alvin Hansen, Sumner Schlichter, John Williams, and Joseph Schumpeter come to mind for the early period, then J. K. Galbraith, Edward Mason, David Bell, Gottfried Haberler, Wassily Leontief, Alexander Gerschenkron, and Seymour Harris.

The trend to economics among the Nieman Fellows increased after the war as journalists came to realize that most political issues had economic

roots. At the state house or city hall they had to deal with budgets, taxes, labor contracts, and in Washington with the added complexities of balance payments, foreign aid, and programs for defense, space, and science.

For most journalists the subjects of history, government, and economics provided the background of public affairs. The editorial writer or political reporter was most apt to pursue his studies in these fields. The specialist had very little problem filling his needs at Harvard, whether in science or the Soviet Union, law or labor relations. It always interested me that in setting up the Nieman Program, Conant had made no attempt to channel it to specialization, which might well have seemed a natural development. Most newspapers then had few specialists beyond the standbys of politics and finance, and, in the metropolitan papers, books, theatre, and music.

Labor relations was beginning to be a specialty, and science was about to explode into the newspaper's consciousness with the atom bomb. Education as a special field was to come more gradually, and finally, after 1960, race relations claimed a field of its own. The Atlanta Constitution was to make the first full-time assignment to a reporter to cover race relations. Bruce Galphin, who became a Nieman Fellow, had this pioneer assignment. With urban renewal, a new reporting "beat" was shaping up with variations to bring urban problems into more definite focus, parallel to the establishment of a federal cabinet post for urban affairs.

But even had newspaper specialization been more developed than it was in 1938, I would still think Conant sound and wise in avoiding any more definite patterning of the program. The flexibility and freedom of the program were its great features. What the journalist needs is study in depth and breadth more than in specifics. Actually the newspapers have done about as well in developing their own specialists to meet their particular

needs as they have done in anything.

They let the specialty develop out of aptitudes and circumstances. Everybody starts in the common pool of the city room staff. The newcomers do general reporting, small things, then bigger ones, and in the course of their early assignments have to learn the structure of their city or area, learn how to get information, appraise its worth and importance, organize and present it in the available space. In the course of this activity the reporter develops special interests, proves more adept at some things and is given more of those to do. So, gradually, without much conscious direction or election, a staff member comes to be recognized as the one who will get this or that kind of assignment and, depending on the size and resources of the paper, finally becomes the labor reporter, science writer, or financial editor, or goes on the editorial page, to the state house or to Washington.

But the exigencies of news, which is in large part unpredictable, requires a mobile staff. Not everyone can be a specialist and not everyone would want to. Most remain generalists. Even the person assigned a specialty must deal with a great diversity of subject matter — all of science, for example, or the whole range of political departments and projects in an administration. Or the reporter covering the Supreme Court is drawn into the great issues of segregation, of reapportionment, of taxation, and of law enforcement.

The editorial writer, even more than most reporters, must cover a great range of subjects. Only the greatest papers can have more than three or four editorial writers. These may split up the work and each take over a certain area. But much of what commands their attention each day lies outside any special area. This demands exploration of its details, but the judgement brought to bear on it depends on an understanding of what lies behind it and its relation to the broad pattern of events and the whole stream of development, whether

political, social, economic, or historical. Nobody, of course, is ever wise enough to sit in judgement on daily events. But the broader the base of knowledge on which a judgement can be buttressed, the better the chance of at least an informed commentary.

Running the Nieman program from the Globe office that year of 1939-40 had its handicaps. I controlled my own time a good deal because at that time most of my work was for the Sunday paper. But there were series and special assignments. Once I had to fly from Ottawa to Cambridge for a Nieman dinner and back next morning, and a couple of times I had to fly back from Washington just for an evening. But I got through with surprisingly few conflicts. I could get in a good many Nieman conferences on a Saturday morning. Also, as Harvard was within ten minutes by subway I could get out to luncheon with Fellows who had problems to discuss. I found I could handle a good deal of correspondence by telephone. But one such effort brought embarrassment. We wanted to get Arthur Krock, Washington bureau chief of the New York Times, up for a dinner. I dictated a letter to him by phone. The answer came addressed to Louise Lyons, regretting inability to come, and closed with a postscript: By the way, my name is spelled with a K. (Krock, forgiving, came to dinner later in the season.)

Frankfurter came back up from the

Supreme Court in that second year and MacLeish came back for a dinner. Ralph Ingersoll came, his PM launched in its first euphoric flights. Lippmann came again, and Mark Ethridge from Louisville. Frederick Allen of Harper's, Edward Weeks of the Atlantic, Roy Larsen of Time, and Freda Kirchwey, then in charge of The Nation, made a battery of magazine editors. Other dinner guests included Herbert Agar, Vincent Sheean, Lewis Mumford, Branislav Malinowski, the Yale anthropologist; William L. Laurence and Waldemar Kaempffert, both of the New York Times science department; and Lucien Price of the Boston Globe.

And finally Henry L. Mencken. One of the Fellows was from the Baltimore Sun and he helped persuade their pyrotechnical editor to come. Having brought it off, Steve Fitzgerald was nervous as a witch, and kept warning me of Mencken's prejudices till the night came. It came in a blinding blizzard that had me worrying all day whether our guest could get through. I barely made it, late, from my home in Reading, north of Boston. But Mencken was there. Steve was fretting more than ever, for he had discovered that ice cream was for dessert and he had expressly told me Mencken detested ice cream. But I noticed Mencken ate it with apparent relish and no comment.

But this great occasion was the let-down of the year. Several of our liberal and literary faculty friends had begged

We wanted to get Arthur Krock, Washington bureau chief of *The New York Times*, up for a dinner. I dictated a letter to him by phone. The answer came addressed to Louise Lyons, regretting inability to come, and closed with a postscript: By the way, my name is spelled with a K. (Krock, forgiving, came to dinner later in the season.)

And finally Henry L. Mencken. He was persuaded to come by a *Baltimore Sun* Nieman Fellow. The night of his visit came in a blinding blizzard. But this great occasion was the letdown of the year. Mencken was saying the same old things about the New Deal. He was as cynical about the new order as about the old . . . a show, but only a show, with a veteran showman now pretty well worn down to his basic clichés. The only remark I recall was his recipe for dealing with defeated presidential candidates: Shoot 'em.

to attend out of admiration for Mencken's trenchant prose and his merciless mayhem against pomposity and banality. But they were disappointed. They knew Mencken as the champion of the rational against the shams and hypocrisy and cant of the 1920's. But now it was the New Deal and Mencken was using the same vocabulary. He was saying the same old things about new targets. He was as cynical about the new order as about the old. They kept at him from one tangent and then another, but finally gave up and sank in dejection over their drinks. I thought it an entertaining show, but only a show, with a veteran showman now pretty well worn down to his basic clichés. The only remark of Mencken's I recall from that evening was his recipe for dealing with defeated candidates for the presidency: Shoot 'em.

I had enjoyed him more in his work clothes, that is with collar and tie peeled off, on the terrifically hot August day in 1936 when Alf Landon made his acceptance speech before a crowd estimated at 250,000 on a dusty Indiana prairie. As we stalked across the fields to the edge of the vast coatless throng, Mencken sniffed, then said, "They don't smell bad. Anywhere South of the Mason-Dixon Line you could smell this crowd half

a mile away."

Shortly before his Cambridge appearance Mencken had attracted national attention by bringing out his editorial page completely covered with dots. A single line of type explained that each dot represented \$1,000 of taxes paid by Americans.

V

When June 1940 came and the Fellows went back to their papers Conant sent for me. My year was up. It was a stopgap. I assumed he wanted to discuss the future of the Nieman program. So before we met I sent him a memo of suggestions. One was a description of the kind of person I thought he should appoint to run the program. Another recommended that he appoint one or two newspapermen to join in the selection of Fellows each year.

Conant had my memo in his hand when I turned up. He thanked me for it. "But," he said, "I don't think we'll do any of these things." And he tore it up and dropped it in his wastebasket. This with a smile, as he said, "No, I just want to ask you to keep on with us for a while. But we don't want this kind of selection committee. We'll keep it right in our own hands," and he doubled up his fist.

He asked if I knew who the people were who were candidates for the job. It hadn't even occurred to me that there were any. Nothing had been said about it, so far as I knew. He ticked them off and shook his head. Several were well-known editors.

One, a correspondent of note, had just produced a play which had run two weeks in Boston before folding. I mentioned the play.

"Well, he may be a playboy too," Conant offered. "I can't quite imagine moving an active newspaperman up here. It's wonderful to have you with one foot in the door. But I'd like you to keep on with it for another three years. Then we'll have had five years and will make an evaluation. I suppose eventually we'll put it under some wise old professor."

I assured him I had no thought of leaving newspaper work and would be glad to knock off whenever he found a suitable replacement. But he wanted to make an arrangement for a third of my time with salary in proportion. MacLeish had been on half time and used to complain that he couldn't get his own half of the time for lectures and poetry. I had been giving the job just the margin of my time.

But Laurence Winship, Globe managing editor, said, "Go ahead. It's easier than getting you a raise."

So my pro tem position at Harvard continued. In 1943 at the end of the three years I resigned, only to have Conant come on the phone from Washington where he must have been close to the last lap in pursuit of the atom bomb, to ask that I stay on till the end of the war.

After that I resigned with a definite plan to go to England for a two-year hitch to serve under Ambassador John Winant as U.S. information officer. Herbert Agar had held the post during the war and wanted to come home. Winant asked him to get me to take over. I had said I couldn't leave Harvard till the end of the academic year. It was all right with Winship for me to take a leave of absence. "You'll be worth more when you come back."

Conant said, "What am I going to

do now?"

I suggested John Clark, a Fellow of the first year, who had served as assistant to President John Dickey of Dartmouth in setting up their unique Great Issues program. That program included lectures and seminars that John had adapted from the Nieman seminars, and also a course in what amounted to "How to read a newspaper." Conant asked me to feel out Clark. I thought I had persuaded him when Conant had another idea:

"Suppose I dream up a full-time job over here. You could run the news office too." I didn't think I ought to be handing out news releases on Harvard with one hand and Nieman Fellowships with the other. "Well, get somebody else for the news office. You can help me in my public relations."

For the news office I suggested William M. Pinkerton, old AP man, then with U.S. News & World Report in Washington, who had been a Nieman Fellow a few years before. That was one definite contribution I made to Harvard. Pinkerton was soon recognized as about the most effective person in this very special kind of public relations.

I went back to Winship with the new proposal. He urged it on me. So did my wife. After more than seven years of dividing myself between Harvard and the Globe, the prospect of an undivided course had its appeal. And I knew now some things I wanted to do in the Nieman program.

But it was Conant who suggested we have a reunion of former Fellows now the war was over, with a program of meetings that would be worth coming back for. Out of that came the Society of Nieman Fellows and the launching of Nieman Reports, a quarterly in journalism that I was to edit for the next 17 years.

Pinkerton and I did a good deal of teamwork on publicizing Harvard programs for a couple of years. After that my visits to the news office were only for social purposes and on Nieman affairs.

My first contact with President

Conant's notions of publicity had come when he handed me a speech he was going to give, to ask me to go over it and make suggestions. "The thing is," he said, "to make sure there are no headlines in it." This of course was a chemist's view of the press. "Headlines" meant distortion, pulling something up out of context. In this negative view of the press, the best one could hope was not to be misrepresented.

This had been the traditional attitude of Harvard to the press. Conant had himself moved a long way from President Lowell's absolute isolation from press contacts. Lowell's rule that persisted through about 25 years as president was that the president of Harvard never gave interviews. Press photographers were not allowed in Harvard Yard for Commencement. The presence of Nieman Fellows at Harvard was soon to thaw Conant and the Harvard community, as they came to a better understanding of the press and to have confidence in those reporters they knew. Only near the end of his presidency had Lowell accepted a specialist on press relations. The first was Frederick Allen, who had been an instructor in the English department and could be counted on to accept the genteel Harvard tradition. He was given very limited scope, which Lowell tolerated on insistence of his governing boards only after Harvard had earned a very bad press over Lowell's insensitive pronouncements about a "quota" system on Jewish students in the university.

Allen soon moved out of Harvard into a freer atmosphere. Conant was unhappy at the publicity arrangement he found on becoming president and brought in an able Chicago newsman, Arthur Wild, but still on a quite limited assignment. When Wild left during the war, things in the news office drifted. One of the early Nieman Fellows, amazed at the casual news operation at the leading American university, drew up a chart of a suggested public relations system and offered it to Conant. But Conant brushed it off. He didn't want a vice

president in charge of public relations. Good public relations, he said, grow out of sound policy, and if the policy isn't sound, all the public relations in the world won't be a substitute for it.

This always seemed to me good sense, as far as it went. But the president of Harvard is a public figure, and policies and programs at Harvard are of public interest. Conant gradually came to accept this, and to appreciate efficient and intelligent direction of his news office. He wrote his own speeches. There was no ghost writing around his office. Having written a speech, he had a conservator's interest in preserving it, to get all the mileage possible in it. One can sympathize. He made 300 speeches to alumni clubs in his 20 years as president. He kept count of them.

Once, starting out on a trip that involved several speeches, he had Pinkerton and me in for a strategy conference. He had the texts of two speeches that he had already made. There were four major occasions to anticipate. The thing was to make those two speeches do for all the occasions. He said he thought he could finesse the first one. It was a Harvard Club. He could keep that off the record. "How many in that audience?" Pinkerton asked. "About 700, they expect." "But Mr. Conant, you can't make an off-the-record speech to 700 people." Both of us insisted that he couldn't get away with it. Finally he yielded. "All right," he said, "if you fellows are going to make me give away one of these two speeches, you take them and concoct a third one out of them." So we fabricated a third synthetic speech that didn't look quite like either of the others. That was as near as I ever saw him come to accepting any outside writing on a speech. He'd write them out in longhand at home before coming to the office at 10:30. This early morning period in his study he kept clear for working on his own ideas. His "secret weapon" he called this guarded period from breakfast to 10:30. After the speech was typed,



The day the Niemans met the Crimson in a historic softball game — it was 1960. The fans (standing next to their daddies) went wild!

he'd rework it for a revision before he let it go.

He scored one triumph over us on a speech he very much wanted to protect for double exposure. He was going to speak at the University of Virginia, then later in Boston. We tried to tell him that the news from the first speech would take the edge off it the second time. But he came up with the answer. They are the hosts, he said. So you don't have to put it out here. They've asked for an advance copy of the speech. I'll take it down with me.

Well, it worked. We watched the papers anxiously the next two days. Not a line on the Virginia speech. Conant came back and made it in Boston and the roof blew off. It was a strong speech on the danger to democracy of diminishing the vital role of the public school. Both private and parochial schools took it as an attack and their reaction was sharp and vocal. Conant was gleeful when he saw us again. He'd made the speech work twice without lessening its impact. We told him he was lucky in the lethargy of Virginia journalism.

VI

When my full-time appointment at Harvard began in 1946, David Bailey, secretary to the governing boards, with characteristic consideration insisted on yielding the chairmanship of the Nieman Committee to me. From the beginning, the chairmanship had always been held by the secretary to the governing boards, Bailey being the third in succession. He stayed for some years on our committee, a very helpful and strategically located member to have.

The Nieman Committee's only real role had been to select the Fellows. At the start Conant had also set up an advisory committee, representing each of the major divisions of the university. They were very helpful for liaison. But the war broke this up, and after that we didn't need it.

The first chairman of the Nieman Committee was Jerome Greene, who had been secretary to President Eliot and then had returned to serve President Conant after an absence of nearly 25 years. Conant turned innumerable administrative and protocol chores over to Mr. Greene, who had extra-

ordinary talent for administration and large experience. After Greene left Harvard a second time, Conant appointed Calvert Smith to the governing-boards position. Smith, too, brought large administrative talent to the office and was so close to Conant that you could settle any matter with finality with Smith. He shared administrative responsibility with Provost Paul Buck during Conant's practically total absence the final years of the war. Smith's untimely death after a couple of years at Harvard was a real blow to Conant.

But nobody knew the ropes at Harvard better than David Bailey, who had become publication agent of the university many years earlier after a few years on the old Transcript. The change in a couple of years from Greene to Bailey jumped a long generation, and the two men had totally different personalities and backgrounds. Bailey was a couple of years younger than I, and had been a newspaperman long enough so that I could look upon him as a full colleague in Nieman enterprises.

And we soon had a chance to make a third newspaperman, Bill Pinkerton, a member of the little "executive committee" as Conant called it. This little group had begun with no faculty membership, just Greene, Arthur Wild, and me. When Wild left in the war I got Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr., appointed, as the faculty member who had taken the closest interest in the Nieman Fellows. Schlesinger was away a year as visiting professor at the University of Leyden, and we got Pinkerton in his place. But when Schlesinger returned we managed to keep both of them.

To have been associated with Jerome Greene was one of the real experiences of Harvard. He was perhaps the most impressive-looking man in the university, a tall commanding figure, erect, handsome, with great natural dignity and a most formidable presence, terse, precise, and authoritative in speech, unbending in his sense of what was appropriate for

an officer of Harvard. Protocol was a specialty of his and he had had large experience of it. He had taken a major role in the Rockefeller Foundation and many other organizations and had represented America at many international conferences. He had been a member of the distinguished Boston banking house of Lee, Higginson. Conant turned all sorts of things over to Mr. Greene, one of them management of the great Tercentenary of 1936, which he handled magnificently. It gave him occasion to devise a coat of arms for each of the Harvard Houses. This kind of thing was a hobby with him. He designed a bookplate for the Nieman library collection.

Though he was the most formal of men in outward aspect, this exterior melted to the most genial and considerate relationship with his friends and associates. He had his old-fashioned standards but a tolerance of others. When we had interviewed one able newspaperman who had draped his lanky frame all over a sofa, Greene remarked that the man seemed first-rate and had won his vote, but, he added, President Eliot would never have accepted a fellow who slouched down

on the small of his back that way.

The second Nieman year brought the first application of a Harvard graduate, Victor O. Jones, then sports editor, later executive editor of the Boston Globe.

Mr. Greene peered over his glasses to observe: "Well, Mr. Jones, the Nieman Committee has a natural reluctance to educate a Harvard man twice."

Jones said he could appreciate that but that Harvard hadn't had a really good chance at him the first time because he was manager of baseball and an editor of the *Crimson*. This seemed to satisfy Mr. Greene. As it turned out, Harvard didn't have a full chance at Jones in the second round, for when the war broke out at midterm, the Globe couldn't wait to get him back in an executive post.

Mr. Greene's consideration and sense of the fitness of things went far. In order to invite the first group of Nieman Fellows to dinner with him in the spring, he drove to each house, and mine was 13 miles from Cambridge, to deliver his invitation in person. He had returned to Harvard in 1934 after the collapse of the Lee, Higginson firm, caught in the great

swindle of Kruger & Toll. They carried down with them most of the doctors of Marlborough Street and the fortunes of many a Back Bay widow. Mr. Greene told me that it fell to him to meet these ruined clients and tell them the stark facts. The worst hours he ever spent in his life, he said, and "the only thing that made it possible for me was that I had lost every cent of my own."

A widower, with a grown family, he married again in 1942 a little before his final retirement from Harvard. When the first child of his later marriage was born, it amused Mr. Greene that this son was uncle to one of his grandsons, then about ready for college. Next time I saw him he had bought a farm and installed a water system. I assumed he was going to live there in his retirement. "Oh no, not now," he said, "I'll save it for my old age." He lived to 84 and left a manuscript of his memoirs. But it was never published.

VII

The process of selecting our annual group of Nieman Fellows was necessarily elaborate, with an immense amount of paper work — writing to references, acknowledging them, corresponding with the applicants, arranging schedules for interview trips, finally writing why we had to disappoint most of them. When, after the first ten years, we added two or three newspapermen to the selection committee, we had to ship two suitcases of applications around to them.

It was a great comfort to have Bill Pinkerton in on this. Between us we did an initial screening of applications. He would take home a box full as soon as I had got through one, and take a day or two off from the office to expedite the process. Then for a period of two or three weeks while we waited for returns from the other judges, we were almost constantly engaged in comparing our notes on candidates, discussing their strengths and weaknesses, and thinking of people to write to who could tell us more about some of them.

Jerome Greene, first chairman of the Nieman Committee, on interviewing prospective Nieman: . . . one able newspaperman had draped his lanky frame all over a sofa, Greene remarked that the man seemed first-rate and had won his vote, but President Eliot would never have accepted a fellow who slouched down on the small of his back. Victor O. Jones, a Harvard graduate was told by Mr. Greene that "the Nieman Committee has a natural reluctance to educate a Harvard man twice." Jones said he appreciated that but Harvard hadn't a really good chance the first time because he was manager of baseball and an editor of the *Crimson*.

When all the scores of the judges were in, these would be consolidated to determine the top 20 or 25 and then we arranged an interview trip to meet these finalists before making the choice of the dozen or so we could budget. This on the whole worked about as well as any selecting system. Later with different forms of committee we kept up the same method, even the same application form through 26 years. Often, I am sure, a different committee might have picked a different dozen and done just as well. There was always an abundant list of applicants. After the first year's 309, many of them just applying for something free, it fell to 250, then 150, then stabilized at about 100 a year. We did nothing after the first three years to promote it and nothing to publicize it beyond an annual announcement chiefly to let people know the deadline for applications. It would have been easy to promote more applications. But it would only have swamped us with paper work, which was heavy enough as it was, and would have increased the number of disappointments, not only to the applicants but to their papers. Under the conditions of the first couple of years, the selections could hardly have been more than a representative sampling of the many applications, and perhaps that is all that we ever managed. Our problem was always too many well-qualified applicants.

The tendency was to push off the younger men on the ground that they could apply again. It is hard to avoid this and we never succeeded. But I was never reconciled to this tendency and I count it one of our mistakes, although often when a Fellow was appointed on a second application after a gap of several years he would testify that it meant more to him then than it would have earlier. But this would not always be so. In the later years of the program I was constantly meeting newspapermen of distinction who would say, "I applied for one of your fellowships once." When Pierre Salinger became presidential press secretary, he said, "If I'd got that fellowship I'd be on the Supreme Court by now."

But it was surprising how generally we got a consensus of the selecting committee without much difference. We could all readily agree on the top half of the list, then on the next three or four. When it got down to the last couple of places, the eliminations grew more painful. Everyone would have his one or two favorites and hate to give up on them. Usually we would ballot on the last two places and spend more time on those than all the others. We would each have some personal disappointment but agreed that except for that it was a good list, at least the best we could manage.

This proved equally true when, after the first ten years, newspapermen were added to our selection committee. Generally there was no significant difference between the choices of the practicing newspapermen and the university members. They readily reached a consensus on the most promising candidates.

The only exception to this was the very first time we had newspapermen joining in the selection. They were Erwin Canham of the *Christian Science Monitor* and James B. Reston

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of the Washington bureau of the *New York Times*. Both had served on a Review Committee that President Canham had asked to appraise the Nieman Program after ten years. A principal recommendation of the committee was to include newspapermen in the selection process. I welcomed it and for the following 16 years found a weekend interview trip with our newspaper colleagues one of the pleasantest and most instructive episodes of the year. The year Canham and Reston served, we had a number of first-rate foreign correspondents among our applicants. I felt that the two experienced editors would be particularly valuable in this area. To my surprise both men urged that we concentrate on the domestic applicants. The foreign correspondents already had the frosting on the cake in their assignments, they said.

I am sure that they were thinking in terms of policy, that is, thinking of our relations with the newspapers, whose continued cooperation in granting leaves of absence was important. They were probably right. But it is the only time that anything I could identify as a policy issue affected our selections. We usually had among the Fellows one or two foreign correspondents who added to the dimensions of our discussions, and in their careers have added luster to the Nieman Program.

Two great advantages stemmed from the annual appointment of two or three newspapermen to serve on our selection committee. They invariably gained respect for the Nieman Program from their involvement in it, and many came back to lead our dinner discussions. More important, they were always impressed with the quality of the applicants interviewed. Very many times they exclaimed over the excitement and encouragement of realizing the quality of the best of our young newspapermen. They testified, over and over, that it was a stimulating experience to encounter these applicants who represented the future of American journalism. It was heartening to me to find that the editors and publishers shared the elation I found in discovering the intelligence and com-

mitment, the idealism and the competence of so many fine newspapermen. It was always distressing that our small operation could include only a few of them. Every committee that I can remember urged me to encourage several we had to omit to apply again. Nearly every Nieman group after the first has included several Fellows chosen on a second or later application. But of course the changed circumstances of their work kept many from reapplying, and others continued to find the competition too strong.

A difficulty of selection, never wholly resolved, was the size of the country. One would like to interview all candidates. But travel expense would have reduced the program. The committee would meet in two cities, sometimes Washington and Chicago, or New York and Louisville, and pay the travel expenses of the 20 or 25 finalists we invited for interviews. But it was costly to interview applicants from the West Coast, and to bring marginal cases half across the continent meant increasing the final disappointment that was inevitable for most of them in so small a program. The Rhodes Scholarship selection is regionalized, with a local selection committee in each state or region. Our program was too small for that.

As Nieman Fellows became distributed throughout the country and our acquaintance with leading newspapermen also grew, we would set up ad hoc committees sometimes in California or Oregon. This was helpful, but limited. They saw only the applicants in their area. They could tell us which were the best of those, but they could not place them in relation to all the others our committee was considering. On a few occasions I made an extensive trip to see candidates in their home offices. Once Professor Schlesinger joined me in a trip all across the country. But this was generally not possible and it too was expensive, and it still left the rest of the committee to depend on our recommendations.

I was never wholly satisfied with our



Veni, Vidi, Vici. Women were admitted as Nieman Fellows Class of 1946 — two — Mary Ellen Leary and Charlotte L. FitzHenry.

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

Harvard and the nation's newspapers were predominantly masculine institutions before World War II. Then, a professor would deliver a lecture to the men in Harvard Yard and walk across the street to deliver the same lecture to the women of Radcliffe. The mixing of classes occurred first as a wartime necessity. When Mr. Lyons received two applications from women in 1945, he raised the issue with President Conant. Mr. Conant is

said to have mulled over the question and then ventured: "Well, perhaps if you had two they could go around together — like nuns." They came and were accepted as Nieman Fellows. A few years later, a Nieman Committee, interviewing applicants upstairs in the Harvard Club of New York, had to adjourn to a small Visitors Lounge next to the front door to chat with a woman candidate.

W. M. Pinkerton

selection process for Nieman Fellows. But the others who had a part in it seemed to think it as satisfactory as any. It made me acutely conscious of the chance element in any system of awards. I have served on awards committees for newspapers, magazines, and books, and never felt that our awards represented anything more conclusive

than representation of some of the best work considered. Having more recently, as a trustee of my state university, had to participate in awarding a site for a new medical school, I realize that this applies equally in other areas of committee decision. The medical school site for the University of Massachusetts divided the board right

down the middle for two years and was finally made on a 12 to 10 vote. I can't think of any awards committee in my experience that was as divided as that.

Incidentally a board of that size is unwieldy for any decision. A. Lawrence Lowell once determined to his own satisfaction that seven is the optimum number for a committee. That, perhaps coincidentally, was and is the size of the Harvard Corporation. I thought five was a practical number for a committee. I had served on town boards of five and seven and for a time presided over one.

Our Nieman Committee in the early years was three, then four, and after we added newspapermen, five or six. The difference between five and six was considerable, not only in the time to circulate applications and the number who had to agree on dates for interviews, but just to keep a discussion in focus and make sure that every point of view was included and fully comprehended. And with six there seemed to be much more than a one-fifth greater chance of losing one from illness or a conflict of time. There was never any division that made an even number a problem, as there might have been in other circumstances. But we could always come to decisions sooner and more satisfactorily with five than six. But on my limited experience I would hesitate to assert this as the universal that Mr. Lowell laid down for his committee of seven.

On another matter of numbers I came to have a good deal of experience. That was the size of the Nieman group. The first year the number was nine because not all the Nieman funds had been cleared through the court. It soon stabilized at 12, again keyed to the available funds. But not quite all the funds were applied to Fellowships in the first few years when President Conant still counted it an experiment. For the third group we very much wanted to include 14 and persuaded the President to let us budget that many. Newspaper salaries in 1940 were still low. We went on to 15 the next year and then 16. But in groups of this size differences in intellectual capacity and

aptitude for study showed up conspicuously. In a year of close association with the Fellows I became more sharply aware than anyone else of any mistakes in selection. It appeared that in lengthening our list we were following the course of least resistance. More rigorous selection would have raised the average.

I recalled a discussion with William Allen White when he came to a Nieman dinner in our first year. Somehow the question came up, what would you do with a doubled endowment for a Nieman Program? White said he would set up a separate unit somewhere else. He estimated there were four or five American universities whose faculty, resources, and prestige could provide a satisfactory base for such a program. Twelve, White said, was enough for discussions. Beyond that number, you didn't get everybody involved, discussion couldn't be as free and informal.

This in my experience proved sound. A dozen was a very satisfactory size of group for lively discussion and full participation. And we settled down to a dozen.

To add four or five faculty guests for a dinner discussion didn't overload it. But when on occasion we included as many guests as Fellows, I had to devote a disproportionate attention to procedure, to recognize hands and stack up those who wanted to speak. This blocked a free give-and-take, called for special patience and left the less aggressive members silent.

Later our Fellows were increased. Starting in 1952 the Carnegie Corporation proposed sending us three British Commonwealth journalists each year, on their budget. A couple of years later the Asia Foundation made the same proposal. At times the Commonwealth Fund had a journalist from Britain or western Europe among its grantees who wanted to join the Nieman Fellows, and we would include him. After the Carnegie period of grants lapsed, a Canadian and then a South African Fellowship were set up. Each time we raised the question of adding these "associate Fellows," the issue of

size of the group came up. Conant's view was that up to a total of 20 the Fellowships would not be a burden on instruction. Within that limit it was a question of the most manageable or satisfactory size of group. It always seemed to me that, much as we valued these group discussions at dinners and seminars, the opportunity of a year of study at Harvard should not be dependent on convenience of discussion. We managed, whatever the size. Usually the foreign members were less active discussants, content to absorb new experience and information most of the time, so that their additional members didn't weigh heavily on us.

The one season we really felt a negative effect of foreign members was the one year that the Committee on Inter-American Affairs persuaded us to take on three South American journalists. The selection was made by the State Department and was a very poor job. They had wanted us to take five. We felt we'd more readily absorb three and felt lucky we had held out for that. Only one of them ever gained any facility in English. Two of them were only by a generous interpretation journalists. One was a lawyer, brother of a publisher. They were constantly asking to have the talk slowed down so that they could follow it. We determined to insist on a say in selection the following year, but, the war ending, the government dropped that project.*

VIII

Serving as moderator of Nieman discussions became a key role in my life from 1939 on. It was a new experience and I had to find my way in it. It was to lead on to much more moderating of many kinds of groups and panels, and finally into news broadcasting that included interviews with background guests. I had been a town meeting member and served on some committees, and for a brief period was a Newspaper Guild officer. Guild board meetings could be about as wild as any one was apt to encounter.

The first season of running Nieman sessions, 1939-40, is the only one that

**The Nieman Foundation has no record of this.*

I recall as seeming difficult. It was a new form of activity and I had less close association with that group than any later ones. They had been selected before my appointment. It happened that two or three members were more obstreperous than any I later had to deal with. At times the discussion seemed to me to get quite out of control as the more aggressive channeled it into debate over irrelevant issues. But even that year these occasions were rare, and by hindsight I can see that they occurred on those occasions when the program or the speaker lacked the interest to hold attention. For the most part our guests were so interesting, the discussion they precipitated so absorbing, that it held attention throughout.

After that first season, I can recall only two occasions when things got out of hand to a point that led me to a sharp admonishment. On both occasions I later wished I hadn't. For the Fellows reprimanded took it so hard, were so abashed and insisted on such elaborate apologies to the guest that I realized I had taken their distractions, horseplay, or inattention too seriously. Each time I am sure a factor in it was that I was tired.

It was always an inescapable handicap that I had to come to these discussions at the end of a full day's work, in the early years my newspaper work, and in the final 15 years in a rush from a news broadcast that held me till 7 o'clock. This isn't the best preparation for conducting a lively session of vital young people that might last three or four hours. But of course I was lucky in the group. They all shared in some degree the interest and experience of our newspaper guests and they had had experience in interviews. They knew what they wanted to get at and how to ask questions, and most were considerate or soon learned the necessity to consider the time and sensitivities of others. My own view was that one could ask almost any question if asked in the right tone, that one could dissent or debate without being offensive.

There is apt to be someone in a group who tends to monopolize the discussion and must be bypassed or

diverted or reminded that others must have a chance at a first question before his third or fourth. But often he asks provocative and imaginative questions and you don't want to squelch him if you don't have to. Usually you don't; with a little finesse you can see somebody else trying to get in, or suggest "Hold it a bit. Tom has been very patient." If a lively discussion is in full tilt, you don't want it suddenly diverted to something else. You can always say, "OK if it's right on this point, else hold it a minute."

Your worst break is when the very first question takes off on a tangent that develops an interest of its own and keeps up long enough to threaten to sidetrack the main topic. A moderator has a responsibility to get it back on the track. But with a little patience and tact he can give the irrelevancy a short run and avoid an arbitrary cutoff. Most people appreciate a reasonable procedure that is in the interest of the whole group, to keep on the track and give everyone a chance. I found the Fellows almost invariably responsive and cooperative, even to a point of self

Serving as moderator of Nieman discussions became a key role in my life from 1939 on. It was a new experience and I had to find my way in it. It was to lead on to much more moderating of many kinds of groups and panels, and finally into news broadcasting that included interviews with background guests.

denial when they sensed that the discussion was getting pretty crowded.

Much depends on the moderator, to establish the tone and spirit of the session, to ease it into a relaxed mood but alert. I think the moderator needn't be a professional at moderating or an expert on the subject, though the more informed he is the more effective he can be. His first duty is to make the guest speaker feel at home, comfortable, easy, and sensing a keen interest in what he had to offer. The tone of the introduction can do all this if it is informal, appreciative, and suggestive of the expected discourse. A bit of humor, if it comes naturally, can help. It is deadly to recite the whole biography of the guest, and usually superfluous. But it is desirable to point up his relation to the topic, and to recognize a salient aspect of his work or career. If you've taken the trouble to look him up or read his book, you can usually establish a relation with your institution or group or some member of it or someone all know, that will give him a sense of sharing something with us. I have had enough experience of being "introduced" to audiences to know the difference it makes whether one is presented with a gracious, informed, easy, brief statement, or by a ponderous recital of one's whole career and a dissertation on the subject one has come to discuss for himself.

The physical conditions of a meeting room are important. It's a dismal prelude to a talk to be taken into a bleak bare room with which the chairman seems as unfamiliar as you are and sit down to wait for an audience to gather. We were fortunate in the library of the Signet Society, or the Faculty Club, or on occasion the Harvard Club of Boston, places where all hands could be comfortably seated. At the Signet Society we started with cocktails for half an hour before dinner, which gave a chance to meet the guest and get some lively conversation started. Then we went upstairs to dinner, surrounded our chief guest and our other guests with our own members, and after dinner went back down to the

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Looking Back: Journalists Consider the Impact of Two Harvard Semesters on Their Own Lives and Professional Careers

Jerome Aumente

Jerome Aumente, Nieman Fellow '68, is professor and director of the Journalism Resources Institute in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers University. He was founding chairman of the Department of Journalism and Mass Media at Rutgers.

This piece and the following interview with Archibald MacLeish are drawn from research material that Professor Aumente is gathering on midcareer and continuing education programs for print and electronic journalists.

The editor of a Southern newspaper when asked to describe his experience as a Nieman Fellow wrote: "I sometimes dream that I am either back or going back. It is a good dream. The Nieman program is worthy of Harvard."

The editor of a major national newspaper wrote: "The best year of my life . . . and one which had a positive impact on my confidence and self-esteem. I don't believe I would have ever been a Washington bureau chief or the editor of two newspapers without the Nieman Program."

A Canadian television journalist described his Nieman experience this way: "The year away from deadlines in an environment that is nothing less than an intellectual banquet, where you can sample anything you want, as often as you want. In other words, the chance to broaden your mind without

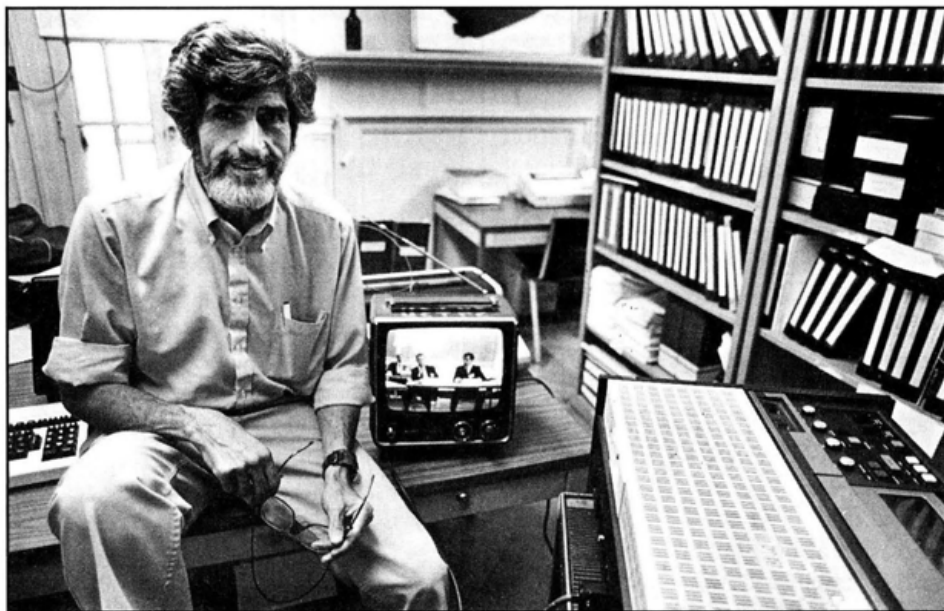
structural, professional or time constraints."

A nationally syndicated columnist summed up her Nieman year in one word: "Boffo!"

Such comments — nostalgic, deeply appreciative of what for most became a golden memory where time erases most traces of the missteps and the scraped knees of their encounter with a major university — run through the responses of a large group of Nieman Fellows who reviewed what the postgraduate fellowship meant to them before, during, and after their

Harvard year.

The responses are drawn from a detailed study of an unusually high number of respondents — nearly 70 percent — who took the time to rate dozens of aspects of their Nieman experience. They include 389 former fellows who range from the first Class of 1939 through the Class of 1982 and span the regimes of four former curators, Archibald MacLeish, Louis Lyons, Dwight Sargent and James C. Thomson, Jr. Mailings were sent to a list of 571 known Niemans in 1983. A second mailing to stragglers went



Professor Aumente in his office at Rutgers University. The answers to his queries about the Nieman Year unveiled a plethora of facts and figures on the program for midcareer journalists.

out the following year, responses came back through 1985, were computerized and analyzed through 1988, with additional interviews and research woven in.

The survey includes findings on how many Niemans return to their former employers, and for how long; on how the Niemans rate various components of the program, from the "credit" course requirement to the freedom to roam through Harvard's academic bounty to the two-semester design of the program; on areas of study favored by Niemans, and on numerous other aspects of the program and its impact on Niemans' lives and careers.

The Nieman program is the grand precursor for many of the resident fellowship programs that continue to sprout at universities across the United States a half century after Harvard President James B. Conant used the bequest from Agnes Nieman to create a "dubious experiment" — brilliant in its simplicity yet so effective in bridging the resources of a great university with the odd-fitting needs of an ever-growing and evolving profession we lump together under print and electronic journalism.

The Fellowships have been flexible enough to absorb the sea changes in journalism brought about in a half century that saw the ascent of radio, the cataclysmic effects of broadcast then cable television, and major changes in the production and content of newspapers and magazines. The era of computers and the promise of new markets through electronic technologies in home and office present a next, still untested wave, but the simple structure of the Nieman program seems ready to carry the weight like a well-built bridge spanning academia and the news media. The survey is important for both historical reasons and what the future might hold for such continuing education efforts between the academy and journalism.

As a former Nieman Fellow ('68) who returned ten years later as a Nieman research associate at the

Nieman Foundation, I have established an academic department and the Journalism Resources Institute at Rutgers University — the topic of continuing professional or midcareer education has been a major focus of my attention over the years. Professor David Riesman of Harvard University was my catalyst for undertaking a comprehensive study when I had originally planned a brief look. Jim Thomson and President Derek Bok were most gracious at Harvard in facilitating access to records and people, and a place to conduct some of the research while also sharing their own impressions.

In addition to the detailed survey of Nieman Fellows, this study has included dozens upon hundreds of interviews with former Fellows and principal players in the Nieman and other continuing education programs, examination of program documents, and oral history with major Harvard figures.

Trying to measure the impact the Nieman Fellowships had on the individual or the field of journalism, or on Harvard itself, is risky. Some see it as foolhardy as walking through the backyards of a diverse and changing neighborhood and trying to describe its inhabitants by documenting the clothes hanging on the lines. Not everything hangs out. Outward appearances are only one clue. Conditions change.

Some even resent any attempt to get beyond anecdote and quantify the experiences more precisely — taking apart the song bird to see why and how it sings. One former Nieman filled out the questionnaire but candidly added: "It was a valuable and happy year and I'm not inclined to chop it up for purposes of your analysis."

SOME OF THE FINDINGS

Journalists tend to be cynical on the surface, more questioning, more sarcastic, less praise-prone. Perhaps because of the occupation — the resonance of much of society's darker side plays loudly in their ears.

So it is all the more surprising to see the unabashed praise heaped on

the program. It is any teacher's dream: the evaluations of an intensely committed and intelligent group of University students like no other on campus who relish very much what they encountered in Harvard Yard and its Cambridge environs.

When the 389 Nieman Fellows, after detailed analytic questions, were asked a bottom line one: "*From your own personal experience in journalism how do you now rate the Nieman program?*" the results were overwhelmingly favorable. The answer came well after they completed the year and had the hindsight and distance to give cool perspective as to how they valued the year, its impact on them and their work:

Answer	Number Responding	Percentage of Total
Very Valuable	351	90.2
Valuable	17	4.4
Useful	9	2.3
Of Little Use	1	0.3
No Answer	10	2.6

Thus nearly 95 percent of the respondents, who represented 70 percent of the then reachable Niemans, rated the program as very valuable or valuable. When these same Niemans were asked "how do your journalistic colleagues who were not Niemans rate the program?" Three hundred and six or 81.6 percent responded "very desirable/valuable" and 15 or 4 percent "somewhat desirable." About 10 percent or 41 were uncertain, and less than one percent thought colleagues would rate it as undesirable. No answer came from 24 or 6.2%.

IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES AND CAREERS

When asked to rate the Nieman year as a positive factor in the later performance of their journalistic duties, 333 rated it very valuable, 33 rated it useful and 11 thought it of little relevance, while 8 listed it as not applicable.

"My work following the Nieman year was broader in scope. I became more capable of viewing issues in their larger sense," one Nieman wrote.

Another wrote that his study of



Dwight E. Sargent (far right), Nieman Fellow '51, and curator of the Nieman Foundation 1964-1972, stands on the steps of Memorial Church in Harvard Yard with the Nieman Fellows Class of '66.

urban affairs provided "new insights and new perspectives. It created more awareness of the problems of urban life and provided background that proved valuable in making assignments and planning coverage of Chicago's problems and challenges." His paper won six Pulitzers under his editorship.

When the question was sharpened even further, and Niemanians were asked if the Fellowship strengthened their "expertise in journalism" 257 gave it a high rating, 81 a middle range value, and 32 a lower valuation.

An open-ended question which also asked for specific examples of how the Nieman Year improved their later journalistic performance produced many examples, and the personal interviews which are continuing generate even more. The written survey produced about 16 categories that ranged from greater depth of understanding cited by 61 to new insights, 52, self confidence, 43, broader horizons, 15, personal growth, 21, and professional advancement, 47.

The Fellows were asked what they would advise younger journalists who

are considering applying for the Nieman or other continuing education programs and among 20 or so categories that emerged, the most significant included the simple admonition to apply for one, 122; have a defined purpose, 52; specialize, 17; seek enrichment, 17; have self-discipline, 14; and time it right, 13.

When asked to assess the Nieman year as a positive factor in their personal and intellectual growth, a whopping 365 rated this as very high, only 15 ranked it middling and 7 gave it a low rating.

A distinguished diplomatic correspondent called the year "my salvation" and he especially valued "the exposure of an untrained and receptive mind to some of the greatest then active."

A television producer said of her year that "it made me dare to be independent, confident, not reliant on a particular news organization. It made me more a citizen of the world, aware of my own values. That's really important."

Ideas and learning inevitably stir

change, and the Fellows were asked what factor the Fellowship was in developing new areas of journalistic interest. In all, 255 said it was a very significant factor, 87 called it somewhat important, and 28 discounted it as a change element.

Niemanians were asked if the year was a factor in their leaving journalism, and only 27 cited this as very significant in their decision, 23 somewhat, and 18 even less. A substantial 314 felt the question not applicable to them (usually because they stayed in the field).

Did the Nieman Year trigger a decision to move from one medium to another? Here 36 felt it was very significant, 19 somewhat and 21 very little. Over three-quarters, 303, said it did not apply to their situations.

The idea of a Nieman as a sabbatical is summed up by a former wire service newspaperman who used the semesters to build the scholarly underpinnings as a later diplomatic correspondent and wrote: "When you need it you know it. When you're overwhelmed by the news, when you're reporting events that you have no time to evaluate or to understand and you need the time and the opportunity to build some intellectual framework from this raw material, then it's Nieman Time."

An editor called his year "one of the most important events of my newspaper career. It reinforced my decision to spend my life in newspaper work." He relished the opportunity to "get away from the routine pressures and see newspapering from a distance."

And so did an overwhelming number of his colleagues. Asked to evaluate the Harvard year as a sabbatical, 346 gave it the most valuable rating, 27 thought it useful and 12 gave it a low rating.

The Niemanians were asked to list what they considered the most valuable aspects of the Harvard year and these tended to fall into about 14 generalized categories. The greatest was academic learning cited by 100; Harvard University itself, 68; the academic freedom, 31; reflection, 25;

the sabbatical, 32; cultural exchange, 24, to cite some of the more significant ones.

In hindsight, would they do anything differently if they did the year over again? Well, 89 said they would change nothing; 42 were uncertain; 47 would seek out more personal contact; 33 would change very little; 16 would specialize more; 26 would attend more courses; while 10 would attend fewer ones; 34 would work harder; and 39 had no answer. Very small percentages would do more travel, reflection, language study, define their purpose, branch out, or attend more to spouse considerations.

GOING BACK AND STAYING

One of the touchiest issues for the Nieman and other Fellowships is the amount of time a Fellow remained on the job with the sponsoring employer. A one-year return policy was instituted early in the program after there were complaints of some Fellows not returning at all — the policy is difficult to enforce legally, but honored in the main.

In reviewing the 389 respondents to the questionnaire who represent the 1939-1982 period, the analysis shows that 98 — or 25 percent — remained less than a year or did not return. The following table gives a more detailed breakdown:

Years with Sponsoring Employer	Number of Fellows	Percent of Total
Zero or less than a year	98	25.2
One year	47	12.1
Two years	38	9.8
Three years	24	6.2
Four years	15	3.9
Five years	21	5.4
Six years	9	2.3
Seven years	7	1.8
Eight years	11	2.8
Nine years	8	2.1
Ten years	9	2.3
Eleven years	4	1.0

(When percentages do not total 100 percent, the remainder is due either to no responses or ambiguous responses).

PRIMARY AREAS OF STUDY

Nieman candidates are asked to outline a plan of study at Harvard University drawing from its courses, other resources, and the relevance to the journalist's future work. The Niemans surveyed were asked to list their primary areas of study, and their second and third choices if these existed.

Among the Niemans responding we find that history was a first choice of 94, while others listed economics; government; international affairs; law; science; urban affairs; race relations; business; sociology, and psychology.

A number of Niemans chose the study of nations for their concentrated course. Leading this subject was the Soviet Union, followed by Latin America, China, and Southeast Asia.

When asked to list a secondary study area, the Niemans again chose about 40 categories and the dominant ones were: history, economics, international affairs, politics, political science, literature, law, race relations, government, and the Soviet Union. About 17 percent did not respond to this question.

In the third area of concentrated study about 57% did not respond, indicating that while everyone had a primary area of study as required by the Fellowship, and at least three-quarters or more did pursue a second course of study, well over half did not list a third area. This fits with analysis of the general written comments of many who advise future colleagues not to spread themselves too thin, while at the same time having a clear set of objectives and pursuing them.

For those who did list a third level of study the subjects chosen were history, economics, international affairs, law, or literature, followed by government, and labor relations.

A FINE-GRAINED LOOK AT THE EXPERIENCE

The Fellows were asked to rate about thirty elements that constitute

the Nieman experience while also realizing that some dimensions came into being or changed during the period of 1939 to 1982, and are undergoing modification even now.

They had a scale of 1 through 9 with 1-3 very valuable, 4-6 useful, 7-9 of little use and NA for not applicable. They also could comment generally at the end of the questionnaire.

Here are some of the highlights from the more significant categories:

Formal courses, listed in the catalogue, that they attended: Here, 287 gave this a high rating, while 79 rated it useful, and 12 rated the courses as of little use.

This high rating logically fits with another question in which Niemans were asked to *measure the opportunity to interact with Harvard faculty*, 295 gave this a very valuable rating, 72 useful, and 11 a low rating.

When asked if Niemans *developed a relationship with a faculty member as advisor or mentor in pursuing studies* the Fellows gave these ratings: 136 very valuable, 88 useful, and 67 of little use, with 89 feeling it was not applicable to them.

The opportunity to explore courses as a Nieman in a random way rather than in a fixed study format:

This smorgasbord or buffet approach to learning rather than the fixed menu of required majors and core programs which characterize more traditional university undergraduate and graduate programs is highly prized by the Fellows. Time and again in their written comments, they relished the freedom and flexibility. It is well-suited to accomplished professionals at midcareer who are sharp-shooting at specific areas of study to fill gaps in their knowledge or open new areas.

Clearly free choice is prized, with 313 rating this highly, 42 rating it useful, and only 13 rating open grazing on the academic range as low.

Another question asking Niemans to rate courses *taken for pleasure in learning and not directly related to career goals* had a high evaluation among 262, a useful rating for 65, and a low rating for 19 Fellows. The written

comments are sometimes rhapsodic over the opportunities to stretch the mind, read literature or dabble in subjects that might make old-line city editors back home cringe.

As to the requirement that Niemans *complete all the work in at least one course as if taking it for credit*, 177 rated this highly, 88 called it useful, and 55 rated it low. Grumblings of tokenism and why bother arise in some of the comments. There is an element of "eat your peas" and you can have the dessert syndrome hanging over this requirement.

Self-designed reading and study programs. Rivaling courses closely as a valued element of the program was this category with 279 rating self-study highly, 53 medium, and 14 rating this low.

Self-designed writing and/or research projects while at Harvard. Here, 153 felt such efforts were very valuable, while 55 gave it a medium rating and 19 rated such efforts low. A large number — 145 — felt it was not applicable to them, and 17 did not answer.

The Nieman Program seeks to protect its Fellows from outside writing, production pressures or requests from the home office to file stories by discouraging outside work while at Harvard. There were occasional lapses or writing projects that overlapped into the year. Unquestionably, the year was a seminal time for many who did research, honed ideas, and polished drafts of future manuscripts and some novels.

But in response to the direct question of how they rated *the Nieman requirement of no outside writing or production assignments* it was clear that most favored this: with 179 rating it highly, another 74 rating it useful, and 52 finding it of little use, while 75 finding it not applicable.

The Fellows are aggressive in seeking out their own sources and mentors and when asked to rate the opportunity to *arrange meetings with individuals at Harvard regarding journalistic interests* 178 found this very valuable, 86 useful, and 50 found it of

little use. *Self-designed field visits* were rated high by 105, useful by 81, and low by 20. Such field visits may be of use for those interested in comprehending new technologies, and for overseas Niemans who wish to spend more time understanding the United States.

One of the glories of the Nieman Program has been its diversity of representation throughout the United States and from overseas.

The Niemans were asked to rate the opportunity to exchange ideas with Fellows from other countries, and 203 called this very valuable, 77 useful, and 33 rated this low.

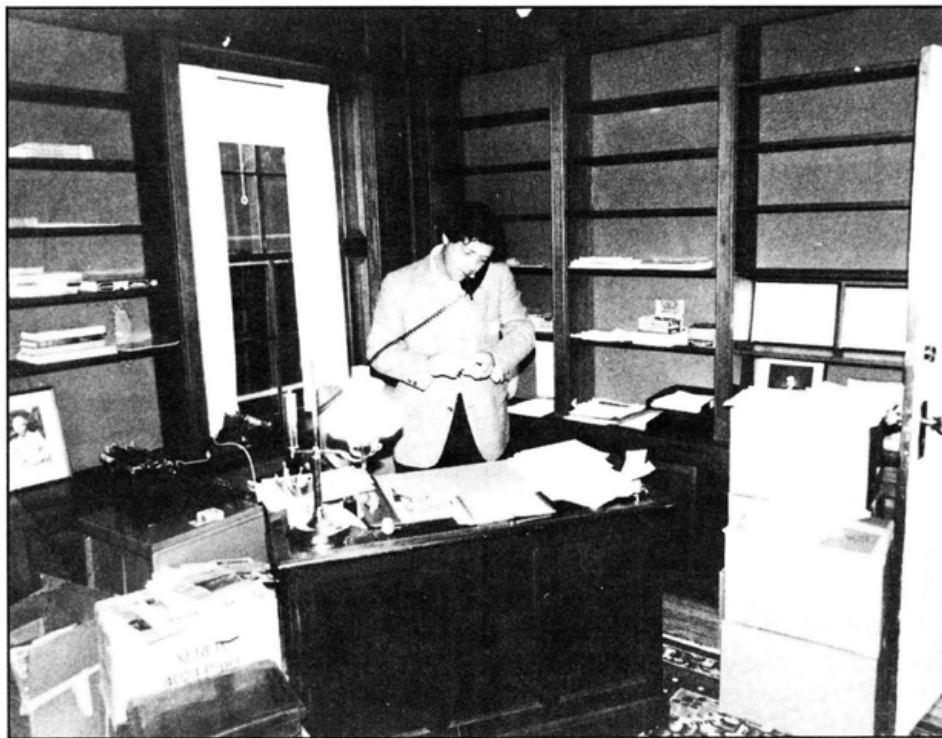
One South African Nieman wrote: "Being with US journalists for nine months showed me that a journalist should ferret out news source. For overseas Niemans — the Nieman Program is just beyond belief. For these Niemans, it might be the first time in their journalistic careers to see how a 'free' journalist thinks and works — a free journalist being a US journalist."

A Nieman from Japan who valued the program highly wants it to continue operating in a way in which the "Fellows irrespective of home countries could realize we're living in a tiny globe to seek mutual happiness and prosperity."

Rating the dinners and guest discussions, 304 Fellows called them highly valuable, while 71 called them useful, and 13 gave them a low rating. Looking at the Nieman luncheons produced similar ratings of 270 valuable, 80 useful, and 11 low. The venerable "beer and cheese" session in late afternoon also produced similar ratings of 261 valuable, 86 useful, and 18 low. Quantitatively, this takes food for thought into new realms.

For Nieman events pegged to speakers with direct journalism ties, the vote was 240 very valuable, 108 useful, and 34 low, compared with 262 valuable, 92 useful, and 9 low for non-journalistic speakers.

The Niemans surveyed about guidance from former Niemans in



The move to Lippmann House: James C. Thomson Jr., curator of the Nieman Foundation, 1972-1984, in his new office surrounded by cartons, photos, and as yet, empty, but soon to be overflowing bookcases.

planning their studies rated this as very valuable by 63, useful by 94, and low by 119. And when asked to do the same rating for guidance from Nieman staff in planning studies, 117 gave a high rating, 116 useful, and 106 a low rating.

The midcareer journalists enjoyed the opportunity to *interact with Harvard students and share ideas*: 170 rated this valuable, 139 useful, and 59 of little value. Being affiliated with Harvard or Radcliffe houses showed 110 rating this valuable, 122 useful, and 108 tagging it of little use. Anecdotal comments range from those who encountered warm reception to some who sampled the houses and rarely returned.

The Nieman experience is very much a spouse or partner mutual experience. Families are uprooted, jobs and home interest put on hold for the non-Nieman, and attention to ways of making this experience a success are important. Asked to assess the *opportunity for Nieman spouse/partner to participate in Nieman events* produced a very high rating from 188, a useful middle range from 52, and a low rating from 36, with 105 feeling it was not applicable to them. Individual comments included examples of some relationships growing stronger between spouses or partners, a few weakened, and most very grateful for equal opportunity for spouses/partners to take classes.

As for Nieman staff help in finding suitable housing in Cambridge-Boston, 195 rated this very valuable, 50 useful, 75 low, and 62 not applicable.

Over the years, many Nieman employers have supplemented the difference between the Fellowship and the salary. Of Niemans surveyed 142 rated this very valuable, 19 said it was useful, 45 of little significance, and 175 indicated it was not applicable to their situation.

ALTERNATIVES AND FUTURE APPROACHES

Asked to rate the two-semester, one
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All About The Respondents

The respondents include members of every class from 1939 through 1982. On average, five to nine members of each class responded, but as many as ten, twelve or even sixteen, nearly an entire class, wrote back. Some of the largest representations came from Washington, D.C. (47); California (23); and New York (39).

Overwhelmingly, the respondents were from the United States (276), but respondents from 31 other countries also answered with the largest number from South Africa (10); Japan (8); Korea (4); China (3); and England (4). In all, responses came from 113 overseas Niemans.

At the time of their responses, the greatest number were still active within the journalism field — over 80 percent. This is an important finding in the continuing discussion as to whether such Fellowship Programs contribute to the field over time. Nine percent (36) were retired, so that nearly 90 percent may have remained within journalism. Eighteen were university professors, one a dean, and one an instructor — almost all in journalism and mass communications studies, arguably a plus for journalism and a far-reaching one.

Of the respondents, over 26 percent were writers/reporters using a variety of titles: national reporter (9); regional reporter (15); staff writer (6); freelance (21); feature writer (3); correspondent (35); critics (2); columnists (8); editorial writers (13); and bureau chiefs (8).

Editors were a significant percentage of the sampling — 66 listing themselves as editors; assistant or

associate editor (24); managing editor (11); and contributing editor (1). Eleven were publishers. Fifteen were in television broadcasting, three in radio, one in photography. There were those in managerial capacities — president (6); vice president (12); director (12); associate director (5); and commissioner (3). Three were consultants, and twelve were in public relations.

At the time they answered the survey, the respondents showed 170 in newspapers, eight in wire services, 34 in magazines, 16 in government, nine self-employed, 15 in freelance, and percentages of less than one in such fields as business and law. About 55 left this unanswered, the response was ambiguous or the respondents were retired.

The respondents tended to be at their then-present jobs from one to five years, and to significantly drop off in numbers after that, reflecting the restless, and ladder-climbing pattern of a highly selective and talented group. In total, 45 percent of the respondents were in their present jobs five years or less. Their former positions showed them doing basically the same work with perhaps a change in locale.

The ages of the respondents ranged from a high of 88 to a low of those in their middle or late twenties. It was a bell curve with most of the respondents in the 40 to 60-plus age range, but with representation from each decade.

All of the lower 48 states were represented as birthplaces of the 389 Nieman respondents. □

Jerome Aumente

Archibald MacLeish, First Nieman Curator Talks About That Innovative Year

Jerome Aumante

It had been a long, particularly cold and blizzardy winter. Now, high in the Berkshires, sitting in the music room built onto the old colonial farmhouse here at Uphill Farm — reached by a precarious climb up Pine Hill Road marked with a hand-painted sign cautioning: “Closed Winter + Spring” — Archibald MacLeish sat in the fading afternoon light and spoke of the Nieman Fellows and their impact on Harvard University.

For some time, we had been talking about his experiences as founding curator of the program, and his memories were laced with names from Lippmann to Roosevelt, from Conant to Luce. The air was fresh high atop Conway, Massachusetts, and after some months of waiting for MacLeish to finish yet another book, and heeding his caution about avoiding the drive up too soon (“Don’t try to come this month or in early March: our hill is steep and snowy”), it was finally time that April in 1978 to drive from Cambridge to his home.

Now a final question as we sipped the last of our drinks. We had talked about the impact of Harvard on the journalists who came from across the nation, later from round the world, to study for a year. But what effect did they have upon Harvard?

“I think it had a wonderful (effect). You know in the Spring of the year when the lawn won’t come up, the best thing to do is go get a plank, drive ten penny nails through it. . . go around the lawn and pound the lawn and let air in it. I think the Nieman

experiment has let more air into Harvard than anything that has happened in this century. I think that Jim (Conant) is very right to be proud of it. . . It let air in, and let air in the right places. I don’t think you will find a single teacher at Harvard who would do anything but thank God for people like you.”

But this was not always the case. In fact, when that first class of Nieman Fellows came on campus, some Harvard faculty were even apprehensive. James B. Conant, Harvard’s president, took Agnes and Lucius Nieman’s money and tinkered with a new idea. He kept it simple in design, and he hired Archibald MacLeish away from Henry Luce’s *Fortune* magazine to be the first director, or curator, of the visiting Fellows and an *ersatz* collection of newspapers on microfilm which were to be MacLeish’s curatorial responsibility.

“We started from scratch. I did not know what I was going to do. What I was going to do nobody knew,” MacLeish said. “I was curator because as Louis Lyons pointed out, Jim had one idea, or one idea as suggested to him that he rather agreed to, but didn’t really. Namely, that what (some of) the money should be used for is to put everything on microfilm. I was therefore going to be curator because I was going to be curator of the microfilm. Well, there was no microfilm, but the name stuck and it amused everybody ever since. It was a good name for that reason.”

But there were problems from the outset: “One of the fears at the start

was that there may be opposition on the faculty to having unknown people, considerably older than undergraduates, walking in and auditing courses or taking them for credit. That proved to be a baseless fear as time went on, but it was real at the start.

Some members of the faculty thought they were being had. . . . I thought the best way to deal with that was to try to involve . . . some of the most influential, some of the most articulate.

“Some members of the faculty thought they were being had, that they were being pushed around. So I thought the best way to deal with that was to try to involve some of them — some of the most influential, some of the most articulate.”

In 1989, fifty years later, such faculty fears seem odd, unbelievable, as curious as old photos and posters of the 1939 World’s Fair.

But MacLeish, wonderful amalgam of writer and scholar, teacher of



The renowned First Class of Nieman Fellows 1939. Archibald MacLeish stands in the first row, third from the right — and next to him the famous newspaperman from Chicago, Edward Lahey. In the last row, first on the right, stands another Class of '39 Nieman — Louis Lyons.

poetry and poet, magazine journalist and law teacher, knew the rhythms of the university, and its quirks and fears. And he knew the world of journalism. Conant's insight in recruiting him, assiduously wooing him really, turned out to be a brilliant survival stroke for the program.

Archibald MacLeish was Conant's key to open the door of Harvard to the pioneer class. MacLeish, a "Yale man", had graduated from Harvard Law school, had taught there and was comfortable in both professions — academic and journalism.

"The apprehension about faculty resistance turned out to be justified. It was less and more localized, but it was very real," MacLeish said. "Some of them felt, 'Good God, this man is a reporter, his whole life is spent reporting. I am lecturing on Tennyson and Browning. He is going to come here and his instinctive operation will be not to present himself to Tennyson and Browning, but to report what I am doing, how the class is reacting, and so forth. He is going to observe the situation. He is observing me in the class.'"

"I can understand what that means and so can you," MacLeish says. "There are plenty of people who offered the opportunities with that sort of access to Harvard of all universities, and having the feeling that Harvard was sort of snooty, would have the time of their lives putting together a series of pieces which might not appear for years but which might raise hell. . ."

To offset this, MacLeish set out immediately to recruit some of the most respected and agreeable members of the faculty as friends of the Nieman program. The first he turned to were the historian, Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., and Felix Frankfurter, then at the Law School. There were many others inside and outside the university, but these two were his initial people.

They were constants at the weekly dinners. MacLeish remembers suggesting to Conant that there be regular weekly dinners and that

faculty should be invited along with visiting journalists such as Walter Lippmann, Henry Luce or James Reston.

"That institutionalized the first Nieman group. I don't mean that exactly. I mean more than that," MacLeish said. "It made it a cohesive whole. They also not only got to know each other, spending a long time talking, getting a little tight — they not only got to know distinguished members of the faculty, but they also got to have a sense of themselves as representatives of their profession. Good for them, good for Harvard, and I think good for the profession."

in a place "difficult to get to and difficult to get away from, but the food was good, really good.

"Felix was a friend of mine and Schlesinger was a special, warm, human being. I approached them and they looked forward with some apprehension, but Felix was gregarious and any new thing fascinated him," MacLeish recounted.

Schlesinger and Frankfurter were regulars "Felix was one of the most talkative people I had ever known. He never stopped talking, but it was useful before they (the Fellows) got to know each other.

"I got Harry Luce to come up, Walter Lippmann a couple of times,

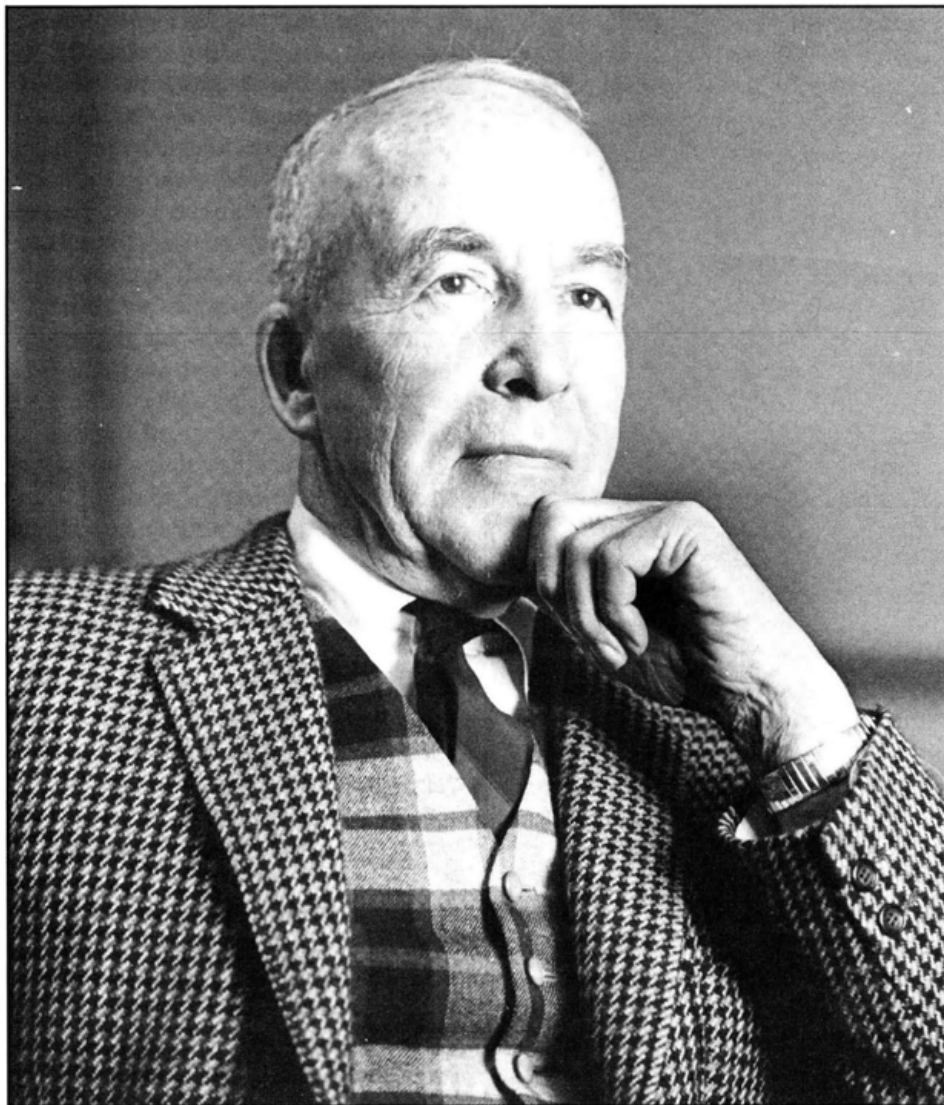
I got Harry Luce to come up, Walter Lippmann a couple of times. . . . They put their two cents in when they wanted to. They were very good evenings. I have very rarely had dinners with better conversation.

Throughout our discussion, MacLeish referred often to Louis Lyons who as longtime curator and historian of the program could unscramble some of the details which MacLeish a vigorous 86 at the time we talked might not remember. But MacLeish insisted, and at apparent variance with Lyons, that he and not James Conant had suggested the dinners as a binding force to the faculty. ("I am quite certain, in fact, I am absolutely certain, in fact I feel a little arrogant about it, that I proposed to Jim that the Fellows should dine together once a week, and that we should try to get some members of the faculty.")

The dinners were held at a restaurant called Joseph's, in a backroom that could just barely hold about 13 from the program and about six outsiders, sidled up to each other,

Scotty (Reston) but they were not guest (speakers) of the evening. They put their two cents in when they wanted to." Conversation flowed randomly and naturally during the meal and over coffee MacLeish guided the conversation toward the guests. "They were very good evenings," he recalled with real relish. "I have very rarely had dinners with better conversation."

Lippmann, on the board of Harvard overseers and a confidant of Conant, according to the early correspondence I have researched, played a key role in the shaping of the Nieman program although MacLeish confirmed the impression that the basic idea was Conant's. Lippmann enjoyed his experience at the dinners and "once he had been there, he suggested himself that he would like to come back and it was wonderful to have him,"



Archibald MacLeish, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory, returned to Harvard in 1949 and continued teaching there until his retirement in 1962.

Photo taken in 1960 by William Tobey,
Harvard News Office.

MacLeish said.

Each week at the dinners, the participants would focus first on issues in the news such as the Sacco and Vanzetti case, talk about the journalistic aspects, but soon go far afield as vital, intelligent conversation tends to do so often. And the dinners sparked their interpersonal magic, binding Fellow to Fellow, faculty to Fellows. "The relationship between the famous Ed Lahey and Felix Frankfurter became the most remarkable in the history of Cambridge. They took to each other like

flies," MacLeish said, chuckling over the memory, and also somewhat awed by it.

A Chicago journalist in the first Nieman class, of little formal education, but with ideas and language, Lahey appears in his 1939 class photo, hands in pockets, crew cut and an "I dare you" stare into the camera.

"Lahey was also fresh as paint, and he was Irish enough to get away with it. But just barely," MacLeish said, laughing. "He started after Felix. He knew all about someone by the time he met him because of his profes-

sional bent. Felix at this time was not the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court but had been deeply involved in the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and Ed liked that. Ed was on his side, but he wasn't going to let Felix see it.

"And their relationship started out, not quite a quarrel, but close to it, and Felix was enchanted by this lad. He liked everything about him, but he was really offended by some of the things that Lahey said that I would have been offended by too. That was the best thing that could have happened because Ed saw it. He was very sensitive and observant. And he spent the rest of the evening trying to climb up a moving sidewalk. And he did succeed and they became very good friends. And it reached the point where Ed felt free enough to go out to Felix's house and just drop in. Something I did not feel free enough to do."

MANDATES AND MARCHING ORDERS

Archibald MacLeish lived with his wife in Europe during the 1920's, authored poetry and verse plays, pursued the life of expatriate in the Paris of the 20's and came back to the United States in the midst of the Depression. They just disappeared to their farm with the children when "out of the cold came a suggestion from Harry Luce that I should become one of the editors of a new business magazine he was starting." Henry Luce, the founder of *Time* had set out to find his *Fortune*.

"For one thing, I know nothing about business," MacLeish told Luce. "And he said, characteristically, 'that's why I want you.' which is a pretty good answer as *Fortune* turned out."

MacLeish told the *Time* Inc. publisher he was in the middle of a long poem that would take about three years to complete, but he also badly needed the job. Luce said: "Tell you what I will do. You can work for *Fortune* as long as you want to, and in any given year, pay your bills and you can go off. You decide."

Luce kept up the arrangement for

eight years, a grateful MacLeish said: "I think that was one of the most remarkably imaginative and generous things I have ever known of a publisher.

"I had just gotten to the end of my usefulness to *Fortune* and *Fortune's* usefulness to me when Jim Conant turned up one day. I had known him sort of in a casual way. I was a Yale man but I had gone to the Harvard Law School, and he told me . . . and I remember the interview with great clarity — he said this gift, or bequest . . . of the family was going to come to Harvard and one thing he was absolutely sure of was he didn't want to start a School of Journalism. I uttered a loud *Amen* to that."

Conant asked him if he would take on the directorship of the Nieman program, and although it was at one third the salary he was earning at *Fortune*, MacLeish accepted at once. "It seemed to me this was a God-given opportunity to really get out from under. I felt quite sure that Luce would understand, that we would not have a break over that, and he did understand."

MacLeish said that beyond insisting the Nieman gift not go toward creating a journalism school, Conant "had an idea that he thought might be fruitful, mainly that of an experimental sort of graduate work which brought together mature journalists . . . for a graduate experiment that in effect would say 'here is Harvard University, it is yours, you can use it in any way you want to and nothing will be required of you in a paper. You will get no degree, what you have is the use of the university.' I thought that was superb. Tremendously inventive and imaginative and the kind of thing only a place like Harvard could do. You have to be absolutely at the top of the heap to do something like that."

And while there has been talk over the years that the idea was perhaps generated by Walter Lippmann, MacLeish said that while he was certain Lippman approved of it "I am perfectly certain it came from Jim."

The Fellows had already been selected when MacLeish arrived to take over as curator. Aside from "helping these lads find rooms and help them get started at Cambridge," MacLeish was on his own. There was no mandate, no marching orders from the Harvard president, certainly nothing like the presidential order he got from Franklin Delano Roosevelt later on in Washington.

MacLeish recalled that one night, shortly after he became Librarian of Congress in 1939, Roosevelt came up to him and said he was planning to start an office of government-wide information and MacLeish would run it. "The theory was that as Librarian of Congress I could run that in the morning before I shaved and that I could take this on after breakfast. All very cheerful, and very flattering, and completely foolish," MacLeish said, amused. Roosevelt did issue an executive order and MacLeish was director of the Office of Facts and Figures and later assistant director of the Office of War Information.

Conant never issued an executive order during his tenure as curator, MacLeish said. "Never. Nothing of that kind. His general attitude was, and it was enough — here is Harvard University, and we are going to open Harvard to these people. It is up to you to get the faculty to agree. He knew that would be difficult in some cases. 'You will have to find out by ear — you will have to find out how much these Fellows should see of each other, maybe they should never see each other at all. Maybe they should not know each other at all. Maybe they should spend a lot of time together.' That answered itself as you know.

"But what he was really saying, call it a mandate, he was saying, 'here's the university. Here are your people they have chosen for you. Find out how they are going to interact. And perhaps you will see things we can do that will improve it. Perhaps you won't. But just try it out and see.' "

The rest is history. The dinners became the institutional glue to hold

Fellows and faculty together. Roosevelt was pressing on MacLeish to come to Washington and he did. MacLeish conferred with the Harvard president as the Nieman program unfolded and Conant was "in the state of mind of wanting to leave everything open, letting the doors close if they closed of themselves, but 'keep it open as long as possible.' "

Conant had the 1939 Nieman class to dinner and MacLeish was "allowed to come but told to keep quiet, and that was a very, very useful evening. A memorable evening at his house on Quincy Street. I was proud of the lads. They behaved extremely well, and Jim behaved well. Jim had no side. . . . never strutted around. They got on. I remember it as a very good dinner. Good talk and it lasted late into the evening."

MacLeish watched the experience of Harvard shape the Fellows over the year. The sabbatical itself was worth a great deal. But opening the "world's greatest university which is great for only one reason — it has more of the most interesting people in the world that you will find anywhere else . . . a group of perfectly extraordinary human beings. Fascinating people."

MacLeish on dinner at the home of President Conant: [I] was allowed to come but told to keep quiet. A useful evening, a memorable evening. I was proud of the lads. They behaved extremely well, and Jim behaved well. They got on. Good talk and it lasted late into the evening.

The Fellow with access to this, combined with the "kind of human curiosity, spiritual curiosity that a journalist must have" produces in the final product, a cultivated man or woman, MacLeish believed.

He watched two in the class develop a strong affinity for visual landscape in their studies at the Fogg museum. "They became cultivated men. I think that perhaps may turn out in the long run to be the richest reward that the Nieman program can yield. You have men who have enlarged themselves. They haven't just pulled in knowledge that enlarged them — they are bigger than they were. I think that is a constantly real possibility."

MacLeish was acutely aware of the problem of this enlargement, of perhaps forcing them back into a journalistic field not expansive enough to give them space. He recalled one in the first class who wrote to him later. During his studies he had become enamored with the work of Kenneth Murdoch a great early New England scholar and friend of MacLeish.

"This lad was deeply, quickly, instinctively drawn to him, and that meant being drawn into the world of scholarship and literature, the world of letters. The lad wrote 'I think that I have let your side down. I certainly have let you down. I am through with journalism. I am not even going to be a writer. My life is devoted to scholarship in this area. It has been open to me. It fascinates me. I have no choice. I just have to do it.'"

"That's one of the risks, and it is not only the publisher at home who wants to keep his work horse who is troubled by this . . . not that I think Jim Conant's decision would have been different. I just think we did not think about it."

As the afternoon light gave way outside, we talked of ideas for more writing classes for the Niemans including more attention to science writing. MacLeish praised the work of Theodore Morrison who labored on the writing of many Niemans over the years, they in turn sing Morrison's



It is 1979 — the first Nieman Curator speaks at the dedication of Lippmann House to the throngs attending the ceremony.

Photo by Rick Stafford.

praises. For MacLeish, the lack of a focused opportunity to polish their prose was a thing we "pretty much failed" at.

"How do you set about it? You have to have a man capable of the mastery of prose and you have to teach it with a God-given excitement and enthusiasm. Thorough comprehensiveness, understanding. That's one thing where as far as I can judge the thing has not worked as well as we hoped it would. Not that I think all Nieman Fellows should come out of the Nieman year writing like Samuel Johnson. I don't mean that. But if they could learn to write like Dean Swift that would be something," he laughed.

MacLeish was strongly against any requirement that the Fellows be obliged to return to their sponsoring news organization — "Any such condition is unenforceable. You can't get specific performance as a contract. It would be slavery if you could. That's the risk one has to take."

MacLeish recalled one Fellow who was profoundly interested in early medieval art of the Near East, and the Fellow sought out someone teaching

in this highly specialized area.

"This raised the question — the entire year's work in those courses would have prepared him to write magnificently one general article about Constantinople in the 8th Century but I don't think it would have helped in any other way. I took this to Jim and asked for advice. Should I discourage it? And he said: 'Never. We have offered him the university and *that* is in the university.'"

Some of Conant's lesser fans perceived the whole Nieman experiment — "if you took the ribs off the wooden horse and looked inside" — as just an attempt to get Harvard a better press over time. MacLeish said he never heard Conant even mention the thought. The journalists were simply getting along with him, and he with them and he was gratified to make new friends for Harvard. "He was a passionately devoted Harvard man, really proud of being president of Harvard. I think he looked at it the other way around — he thought it was a wonderful thing for these people." □

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A Vignette — Louis M. Lyons on *The Boston Globe*

Charles L. Whipple

Charles L. Whipple started at *The Boston Globe* as an office boy in 1936, became a reporter in 1937, and later, served as editor of the editorial page and the op-ed page. In 1975 he was appointed ombudsman of the newspaper. Upon his retirement in 1979, he and his wife traveled to Beijing where he helped start an English language newspaper *The China Daily*. The 1987 Winter Issue of *Nieman Reports* published a story written by Mr. Whipple which unveiled further, and heretofore unknown facts in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. The story created great interest in both the media and the public.

When the Nieman Foundation was established back in the 1930's, there was only one sour note about it in the press, and it appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine's Talk of the Town column, which commented on the hope expressed in the bequest of Agnes Nieman, who had been publisher of *The Milwaukee Journal*, that bringing newspapermen to Harvard for a year might "elevate the standards of journalism."

The New Yorker expressed great doubt that this would achieve its purpose. "After all," said the Talk of the Town piece, "William Randolph Hearst went to Harvard, and he couldn't elevate a standard if it was rigged up with pulleys."

The author of The Talk of the Town piece was Richard O. Boyer, who had once been a top reporter at *The Boston Herald* and had reason to dislike Harvard. At a Community Fund dinner at the Copley Plaza

hotel, sitting on my left at the press table which was just below the head table, Boyer was asked by another reporter if he wouldn't like to be in the shoes of former Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams, a Harvard graduate, who by then was president of the Raytheon Company and at that moment was sitting just above them.

Perhaps stimulated by drink, Boyer shouted, "I'D RATHER BE A WHORE!" This was picked up by the head table microphone and carried all over the grand ballroom. The next morning, Boyer's publisher, Robert B. Choate, received a phone call from Adams, and Boyer was fired. That was why Boyer went to New York where he was hired by Harold Ross at *The New Yorker*.

Toward the end of 1940, after a year as a Nieman Fellow, Louis M. Lyons had just taken over as the Nieman Curator from Archibald MacLeish, who had left to become Librarian of Congress, when Ambassador to Great Britain Joseph P. Kennedy returned home to Boston. Lyons was then part-time Nieman Curator and part-time *Globe* reporter — adding up to much more than a full-time job. Laurence L. Winship, in charge of the news at *The Globe* but without the title of editor, suggested that Lyons get "a Sunday piece on Joe Kennedy."

The interview ran on Page One on Sunday, November 10, under the 8-column headline: "Kennedy Says Democracy All Done in Britain, Maybe Here." As Lyons put it later, "The dynamite in it that blew him out of his ambassadorship, if it did, was his, not mine." Joseph F. Dinneen was on *The Globe* desk when a

London paper called asking for a cable of the interview. Dinneen phoned Kennedy when he returned from church to the Ritz Hotel and read to him the entire interview, while another reporter listened in. Lyons said Dinneen later told him "something like, 'Gosh, he certainly got everything in there, didn't he?' " but made no objection to it.

The quote from Kennedy that I heard in the *Globe* office was, "Well Joe, the fat's in the fire but I guess that's the way I wanted it." At any rate, the story was cabled to London. On Monday the United Press told Lyons that Kennedy was claiming the interview was supposed to be all off the record. On Monday evening Winship phoned Lyons that he had had a call from MacLeish in Washington, obviously inquiring for President Roosevelt about the interview.

Lyons wrote later that "the Kennedy office in Boston . . . was demanding my scalp, and also Winship's." A lot was at stake financially, for Kennedy was said to control almost all Scotch imports into the United States and the advertising for it was handled by Kennedy's friend John F. Dowd, head of the Dowd Advertising Display Co. of Boston. My information at *The Globe* was that Dowd told Taylor that unless a retraction of Lyons's story was printed, *The Globe* would lose all of its Scotch advertising, and that Taylor told Winship *The Globe* couldn't stand that kind of a loss and it must retract.

Winship said Taylor was certainly the boss but if a retraction was printed he, Winship, would have to resign from *The Globe*. Taylor said he

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Nieman Fellows

Class of 1939 through Class of 1989

1939

*John McLane Clark
Irving Dilliard
*Edwin W. Fuller
Frank Snowden Hopkins
*Edwin A. Lahey
*Hilary Herbert Lyons, Jr.
*Louis M. Lyons
Edwin J. Paxton, Jr.
*Osburn Zuber

1940

*J. Edward Allen
*Oscar J. Buttedahl
*W. Hodding Carter, Jr.
*William B. Dickinson, Jr.
*Stephen E. Fitzgerald
*Weldon B. James
*Carroll Kilpatrick
*Glenn C. Nixon
*Steven M. Spencer
Volta W. Torrey
William P. Vogel, Jr.
*Edward A. Wyatt

1941

*Nathan G. Caldwell
George Chaplin
*John H. Crider
*Harry M. Davis
*Charles F. Edmundson
*Arthur D. Eggleston
Vance Johnson
Alexander Kendrick
*Lowell Limpus
*William J. Miller
Harry T. Montgomery
William M. Pinkerton
Boyd T. Simmons
*Ralph Werner

1942

Stanley Allen
Harry S. Ashmore
*Donald Burke
James E. Colvin
*Sanford L. Cooper
Neil O. Davis
*Robert E. Dickson
*Donald Grant

*Henning Heldt
Everett R. Holles
*Victor O. Jones
Robert Lasch
Edward M. Miller
Thomas Sancton
*Kenneth Stewart

1943

Millard C. Browne
James Daniel
*John F. Day
Edward J. Donohoe
*Robert C. Elliott
*James P. Etheridge, Jr.
*Ernest M. Hill
Thomas H. Griffith
Frank K. Kelly
Erwin W. Kieckhefer
Kenneth F. McCormick
Arthur A. Musgrave
Fred Warner Neal
Robert Okin
*Oren M. Stephens
William A. Townes

1944

Theodore Andrica
*Lawrence A. Fernsworth
*Paul J. Hughes
*Charles S. Jennings
*Robert C. Lasseter
*Fred Maguire
*Jacob S. Qualey
John W. Shively
*John B. Terry
*Leigh White
Herbert C. Yahraes, Jr.

1945

*Robert Bordner
*David Botter
*William H. Clark
*Edward Edstrom
*Kendall Foss
A. B. Guthrie, Jr.
*Benjamin F. Holstrom
*Nathan W. Robertson
*Charles A. Wagner
Houstoun Waring

1946

*James Batal
Charlotte L. FitzHenry (Robling)
Arthur Hepner
Frank W. Hewlett
Mary Ellen Leary (Sherry)
Robert Manning
*Cary Robertson
Richard E. Stockwell
*Leon Svirsky
Ben Yablonky

1947

Francis E. Carey
Paul L. Evans
Stephen M. Fischer
Jack Foisie
Henry H. Hornsby
*Richard E. Lauterbach
Ernest H. Linford
Francis P. Locke
Fletcher P. Martin
*William H. McDougall, Jr.
Robert C. Miller
Jay G. Odell, Jr.
Clark Porteous
Gilbert W. Stewart, Jr.

1948

Charles W. Gilmore
Robert W. Glasgow
Lester H. Grant
Rebecca F. Gross
Carl W. Larsen
*Justin G. McCarthy, Jr.
*Walter G. Rundle
*Robert M. Shaplen
Lois Sager
Walter H. Waggoner
George Weller

1949

*Alan Barth
*Robert R. Brunn
Grady Clay
Robert de Roos
*Christopher Rand
David B. Dreiman

Tillman Durdin
 *Elmer L. Holland, Jr.
 *Peter Lisagor
 *Aldric R. Revell
 Lawrence G. Weiss
 *Delbert Willis

1950

*Robert H. Fleming
 William German
 Donald J. Gonzales
 Hays Gorey
 Max Hall
 John L. Hulteng
 Murrey Marder
 John P. McCormally
 Clark R. Mollenhoff
 *William M. Stucky
 *Richard J. Wallace, Jr.
 Melvix Wax

1951

Malcolm C. Bauer
 Simeon S. Booker
 *Bob Eddy
 Roy M. Fisher
 Edwin O. Guthman
 William J. Lederer
 Sylvan H. Meyer
 E. Hugh Morris, Jr.
 *Hoke M. Norris
 Dwight E. Sargent
 Dana Adam Schmidt
 Angus M. Thuermer
 *Wellington Wales

1952

*Robert W. Brown
 Robert S. Crandall
 John O. Davies, Jr.
 William F. Freehoff, Jr.
 *Joseph Givando
 John M. Harrison
 *Alfred G. Ivey
 *Herbert J. E. Kane
 Shane MacKay
 Robert P. Martin
 Charles Molony
 Lawrence K. Nakatsuka
 John L. Steele
 *E. W. Tipping
 *Kevin R. Wallace

1953

Arthur C. Barschdorf
 Keyes Beech
 Beverly L. Britton

John H. Flower
 *Robert B. Frazier
 William Gordon
 Donald D. Janson
 Robert E. Lee
 Calvin W. Mayne
 Melvin Mencher
 Robert F. Nielsen
 Ross C. Sayers
 Watson S. Sims
 William Steif
 John Strohmeyer
 Kenneth E. Wilson

1954

Robert C. Bergenheim
 Barry Brown
 Alvin Davis
 Richard B. Dudman
 *Charles L. Eberhardt
 Robert E. Farrell
 Hazel G. Holly
 Robert E. Hoyt
 Lionel V. Hudson
 Douglas S. Leiterman
 *Garth L. Mead
 Harold M. Schmeck, Jr.
 Henry L. Trehwitt
 Wayne Whitt
 Donald L. Zylstra

1955

Piers B. Anderton
 Ian R. Cross
 Robert L. Drew
 Fred C. Flowers
 William H. French
 Selig S. Harrison
 *Carlton M. Johnson
 *Thomas G. Karsell III
 Albert L. Kraus
 Guy E. Munger
 Archibald J. Parsons, Jr.
 Henry Shapiro
 Mortimer P. Stern
 Henry Tanner
 William J. Woestendiek
 Samuel D. Zagoria

1956

*John L. Dougherty
 Julius C. Duscha
 J. Edward Hale, Jr.
 *Robert H. Hansen
 Richard Harwood
 Robert L. Healy
 Hisashi Maeda

Donald Marsh
 Richard E. Mooney
 Ronald S. Plater
 Sharada Prasad
 Harry N. Press
 *Edgar F. Seney, Jr.
 Donald J. Sterling, Jr.
 Desmond Stone
 J. Pat Whealen

1957

Robert F. Campbell
 Hale Champion
 John Cornwell
 Andreas DeRhoda
 Burnell A. Heinecke
 Kazuo Kuroda
 Anthony Lewis
 Harold V. Liston
 *John C. Obert
 Frederick W. Pillsbury
 Gunupati K. Reddy
 Dietrich Schulz
 Manzur Siddiqui
 Marvin D. Wall
 Denis A. Warner
 William Worthy
 Lawson M. Wright, Jr.

1958

John A. Armstrong
 Dean Brelis
 *John S. Fentress
 *Mary Handy
 Hiroshi Ishihara
 Stanley A. Karnow
 Peter J. Kumpa
 David N. Lawson
 *John J. Lindsay
 John L. Marshall
 William F. McIlwain, Jr.
 John Edward Pearce
 Juan V. Saez
 J. Wesley Sullivan
 Tom Wicker
 Piyal Wickramasinghe

1959

*Norman A. Cherniss
 Evans Clinchy
 Bruce Grant
 *Harold Hayes
 Philip Johnson
 Maurice Jones
 *J. Patrick Kelly
 Mitchel R. Levitas
 Perry E. Morgan

T. V. Parasuram
Wilfred C. Rodgers
John L. Seigenthaler
Howard A. Simons
Wallace L. Turner
Daphne E. Whittam (Cowan)

1960

Dominic D. Bonafede
Peter Braestrup
John F. Burby
Thomas L. Dearmore
Veetikad V. Eswaran
William G. Lambert
*Neil V. McNeil
J. Reginald Murphy
Satoshi Otani
Ralph M. Otwell
*Robert K. Plumb
Edmund J. Rooney, Jr.
John G. Samson
Shan Shen
Howard J. Sochurek

1961

*Lowell S. Brandie
Donald G. Brazier
Robert P. Clark
Peter L. Goldman
John N. Herbers
Thomas H. Joyce
Joseph A. Loftus
*Robert L. McCarthy
Lewis P. Nkosi
John D. Pomfret
J. Thomas Pugh
Chanchal Sarkar
Andrew M. Secrest
Michinobu Shirakawa
Robert C. Smith
Aubrey Sussens
Robert C. Toth
Francis K. Wong

1962

Peter H. Bizen
Te Cheng Chiang
John O. Emmerich, Jr.
*Martin W. Goodman
John A. Hamilton
John Hughes
Yukio Ichinose
Sebastian J. Kleu
David J. Kraslow
K. R. Malkani
James V. Mathis

Ian Menzies
Jack Nelson
Henry Raymont
Eugene L. Roberts, Jr.
Murray A. Seeger

1963

Daniel Berger
William J. Eaton
Saul Friedman
Bruce M. Galphin
*Gene S. Graham
Paul Kidd
Yong-koo Kim
John W. Kole
Victor K. McElheny
Bernard D. Nossiter
Patrick J. Owens
Chiu-Yin Pun
Shelby T. Scates
Allister Sparks
*Francois Sully
Nguyen Thai

1964

Clarence H. Jones
Wayne P. Kelly
Robert J. Korengold
P. N. Krishnaswami
Guy Lamarche
David M. Mazie
James H. McCartney
Morton A. Mintz
Chirabha Onruang
Woon-Yin Pang
Roy E. Reed
Thomas B. Ross
Jerrold L. Schechter
Robert C. Steyn
Dan Wakefield

1965

David L. Baumfield
John J. Corry
Timothy W. Creery
James S. Doyle
Arthur W. Geiselman, Jr.
Smith Hempstone, Jr.
C. Ray Jenkins
Donald M. Kendall
Alexander W. Maldonado
Kyoichi Morinaga
*Nathaniel Nakasa
Ronald J. Ostrow
Kwong-sang Park
Shankar R. L. Sarda

1966

Jack S. Bass
Robert A. Caro
W. Hodding Carter III
Sae Hyong Cho
David E. Corbett
Charles A. Ferguson
Robert H. Giles
Ralph Hancox
Donald D. Jackson
Dev Prasad Kumar
Robert C. Maynard
Robert H. Metz
David Miller
James F. Montgomery
Tertius Myburgh
Rodolfo T. Reyes
Michio Shimizu
Howard K. Spergel
Wayne Woodlief

1967

Dana R. Bullen II
Ken W. Clawson
Anthony Day
Syed Z. Hasan
*David H. Hoffman
Crispulo J. Icbán
L. Dewey James, Jr.
Hiranmay Karlekar
Bang-hyun Lim
Louis Louw
W. William Meek
Philip E. Meyer
Joesph E. Mohbat
*Satoshi Ogawa
Alvin Shuster
Richard H. Stewart
Remer H. Tyson
James R. Whelan
William F. Woo

1968

Jerome L. Aumente
H. Brandt Ayers
James B. Ayers
Thomas A. Blinkhorn
Lewis Chester
*Atsuko Chiba
Allan T. Demaree
Gerald P. Grant
Michael J. Green
Philip D. Hager
Eduardo D. Lachica
Edmund B. Lambeth

Jack Landau
*Catherine P. Mackin
Floyd J. McKay
Gene E. Miller
Jaehae Nam
Thomas S. Sloan

1969

Larry Allison
George E. Amick, Jr.
Gisela Bolte
Henry Bradsher
Paul J. Hemphill, Jr.
Paul G. Houston
O-Kie Kwon
Robert L. Levey
Richard Longworth
J. Anthony Lukas
Michael R. McGrady
Yoshihiko Muramatsu
Harald Pakendorf
Pedronio O. Ramos
*Joseph Strickland
Jonathan Yardley
John J. Zakarian

1970

Louis Banks
Carl M. Cobb
Eugene F. Goltz
J. Barlow Herget
Larry L. King
William D. Montalbano
Robert C. Nelson
John G. Ryan
Austin D. Scott
Hedrick L. Smith
James N. Standard
Clifford L. Terry
Wallace H. Terry
Henri F. Van Aal
Hong-bin Yim
Joseph R. Zelnik

1971

James F. Ahearn
*Frederick V. H. Garretson
Jerome G. Kelly
Michael J. Kirkhorn
Gerry C. LaFollette
Hyuck-In Lew
*Eddie B. Monteclaro
John R. Pekkanen
Richard J. Pothier
Daniel Rapoport
Itsuo Sakane
Jack Schwartz

James D. Squires
Josephine D. Thomas
Theunissen Vosloo
Ronald R. Walker
Jerome R. Watson

1972

John S. Carroll
Stewart S. Carlyle
Benjamin G. Defensor
Robert E. Deitz
Mike D. Flanagan
David S. Greenway
Syed Mozammel Huq
John W. Kifner
Dong-ik Kim
Bobby J. Lancaster
Carol F. Liston (Surkin)
Gerald J. Meyer
W. Jefferson Morgan
R. Gregory Nokes
Eugene V. Risher
Lee Winfrey

1973

Kevin P. Buckley
Wayne Greenhaw
James O. Jackson
Peter A. Jay
Jin-Hyun Kim
Jose U. Macaspac
Michael R. McGovern
Edward C. Norton
Alfred F. Ries
Michael Ritchey
Carl W. Sims
G. W. Stockton
Luther R. West
Edwin N. Williams
Robert Wyrick

1974

Paul Bichara
Shirley Christian
Ned Cline
Nicholas Daniloff
Edward Doman
Ronald Gollobin
Ellen Goodman
Whitney Gould
E. Philip Hudgins
Morton Kondracke
Jung Suk Lee
Stephen D. Northup
Patricia O'Brien
Gregor Pinney
Hollie West

1975

John P. Corr
Thomas J. Dolan
Andrew P. Drysdale
Sheryl A. Fitzgerald
John J. Grimond
Ranjan K. Gupta
David V. Hawpe
Yong-tae Kim
Gloria B. Lubkin
John N. Maclean
Curtis Matthews, Jr.
Wendy L. Moonan
Teru Nakamura
Segun Osoba
Eugene Pell
Michael A. Ruby
James R. Scudder
Elaine Shannon
Frank W. A. Swoboda
Gunther E. Vogel
Dee Wedemeyer
Joseph D. Whitaker

1976

Peter Behr
Dale Burk
Eugene Carlson
Cornelia Carrier
Foster Davis
Robert Fiess
Yoichi Funabashi
Robert Gillette
Gunter Haaf
Jim Henderson
Janos Horvat
Ronald Javers
Arnold Markowitz
David McNeeley
*Percy Qoboza
James Rubin
Maggie Scarf
Lester Sloan
Raymond White

1977

Robert J. Azzi
Tony Castro
Rodney Decker
Zvi Dor-Ner
Melvin Goo
Kathryn Johnson
Dolores Katz
Alfred Larkin
Jose Antonio Martinez Soler
Jamil Mroue
John Painter

M. G. G. Pillai
Barbara Reynolds
Paul Solman
Cassandra Tate
Hennie van Deventer
William Wheatley
Jack White

1978

Frederic Barnes
Alice Bonner
Arun Chaco
David DeJean
Alan Ehrenhalt
Kenneth Freed
William Henson
Obed Kunene
Bruce Locklin
Richard Nichols
Daniel Schechter
Molly Sinclair
Frank Sutherland
Karol Szyndzielorz
Satoshi Yoshida

1979

Graeme Beaton
Sidney Cassese
V. Khen Chin
Nancy Day
Thomas Dillen
Margaret Engel
Dominique Ferry
William Gildea
Katherine Harting (Travers)
John Huff
Victor Lewis
Michael McDowell
Michael McIvor
John Mojapelo
Robert Porterfield
Sabam Siagian
Peggy Simpson
Frank Van Riper
Lawrence Walsh
Donald Woods
*Royston Wright

1980

James Boyd
Everett Dennis
Stanley J. Forman
Annelies Furtmayr-Schuh
William R. Grant
Michael J. Kirk
Aggrey Z. Klaaste
Atsushi Kuse

*Bistra Lankova
Jonathan Z. Larsen
Paul J. Lieberman
Lynda McDonnell
Acel Moore
Judy Nicol
Daniel Passent
Judith M. Stoia
Jan C. Stucker
Robert R. Timberg
Suthichai Yoon

1981

Frank Adams
Carlos Aguilar
Peter Almond
Gerald Boyd
Robert Cox
Fleur De Villiers
Rose Economou
Mustafa Gursel
Michael Hill
Masayuki Ikeda
David Lamb
Douglas Marlette
Donald McNeill
Daniel Samper
Laurel Shackelford
Howard Shapire
James Stewart
Nancy Warnecke (Rhoda)
Jinglun Zhao

1982

Margot Adler
Ameen Akhalwaya
Piero Benetazzo
Christopher Bogan
Peter A. Brown
Anita Harris
Alexander Jones
Gerald B. Jordan
*Fay Smulevitz Joyce
Ram Loevy
Johanna Neuman
Steve Oney
Ake Ortmark
Judy Rosenfield
Ramindar Singh
Claude Van Engeland
Edward Walsh

1983

Eric Best
Daniel Brewster
Huntly Collins

Callie Crossley
Salomon de Swardt
Gilbert Gaul
Guy Gugliotta
Sonja Hillgren
David Himmelstein
Karl Idsvoog
Bernd Kuhn
William Marimow
Ellis Reed
Charles Sherman
Bruce Stannard
Nigel Wade
Andrzej Wroblewski
Dezheng Zou

1984

Nina Bernstein
Bruce Butterfield
Conroy Chino
D'Vera Cohn
Jane Daugherty
Derrick Jackson
Jan Jarboe
Alice Kao
Paul Knox
Bert Lindler
M. R. Montgomery
Ghislaine Ottenheimer
Wendy Ross
Dalia Shehori
Jacqueline Thomas
Nicholas Valery
Nancy Webb
Ivor Wilkins

1985

Edwin Chen
Sharon Crosbie
Jerelyn Eddings
Bernard Edinger
Margaret Finucane
Lucinda Fleeson
Philip Hiltz
Ching Chang Hsiao
Deborah Johnson
Joel Kaplan
Joe Oglesby
C. Mike Pride
Samuel Rachlin
Carol Risman
Zwelakhe Sisulu
Pamela Spaulding
Douglas Stanglin
Vicente Verdu
Gregory Weston

1986

Micha Bar-Am
Harry Bissinger III
Madeleine Blais
Lynn Emmerman (Lumley)
I. Roberto Eisenmann
Mark Ethridge III
Carmen Fields
Mary Lou Finlay
Gustavo Gorriti
Nadarajah Kanagaratnam
Athelia Knight
Geneva Overholser
Laura Parker
Paul Sheehan
Barry Shlachter
Frank Sotomayor
Richard Steyn
David Sylvester
Stanley Tiner
Yvonne van der Heijden

1987

Charles Alston
Douglas Cumming
Marites Danguilan-Vitug
Michael Davis
Susan Dentzer
Valerie Hyman
Songpol Kaopatuntip
James Lamb
Nancy Lee
Fernando Lima
Martha Matzke
Albert May
Michael Meyers
Malgorzata Niezabitowska
Charles Powers
Sabine Rollberg
Ira Rosen
Maha Samara
Andries van Heerden
Linda Wilson

1988

Rosental Alves
Agnes Bragadottir
Elinor Brecher
Frank del Olmo
William Dietrich
Robert Hitt III
John MacCormack
Dale Maharidge
Michele McDonald
Eileen McNamara
Lindsay Miller

Emily O'Reilly
Dennis Pather
Eugene Robinson
Juan Manuel Santos
Mitsuko Shimomura
William Sutton
Rigoberto Tiglao
Eduardo Ulibarri
Gene Weingarten
Anthony Heard

1989

Cecilia Alvear
Constance Casey
Michael Connor
William Patrick Dougherty
Jonathan Ferguson
Catherine Gicheru
D. B. S. Jeyaraj
Bill Kovach
Binyan Liu
Rosnah Majid
Moeletsi Mbeki
Rodney Nordland
Peter Richmond
Norman Robinson
Sunil Sethi
Jim Tharpe
Joseph Thloloe
Martha Trevino
Cynthia Tucker
Frederic Tulskey
Irene Virag
Dorothy Wickenden



Louis Lyons

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Louis M. Lyons,
September 1, 1897-April 11, 1982.

library to sit around the room, more or less in a circle, with enough end tables for ashtrays and glasses. This created a mildly convivial atmosphere, and by the time our guest started his talk he would have become enough acquainted with at least some of the group to gauge his performance. He often picked up a cue at dinner that gave him a thread for his talk or a lead into it.

In their annual reports our Fellows continually testified to the value of these informal academic associations. Along with formal courses and Nieman dinners and seminars, informal associations were there for the taking.

As Ed Lahey demonstrated in the opening year of the program, a Nieman Year is just what you can make of it. □

Looking Back

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academic year design that exists for Harvard Fellowship, 295 favored this most highly, 51 gave it a useful rating, and 11 rated it low, while 10 did not answer and 22 marked it as not applicable.

When the respondents were asked to rate alternative patterns of one semester, one month or one week, the results were decidedly against if it meant giving up the two-semester sequence. Only 40 gave high rating to a one semester approach, 9 to a one-monther, and 12 to a two-week replacement. At the medium rating range, 129 supported one semester, 61 a one-monther, and 27 a two-week alternative.

When Nieman students were asked what they thought of periodic, short-term returns to Harvard for seminars and/or refresher courses, 213 rated this very highly, 95 at the middle range, 28 gave it a low rating, while 32 labelled it not applicable, and 21 left it blank.

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR SHORT RANGE PROGRAMS

The Nieman students were asked to list priority topics for future seminars and workshops. A sampling of the most frequently mentioned topics include international affairs, economics, public policy, politics, government, peace studies, and technology.

As for a category directed at practical subjects related to journalism skills, the most frequently mentioned were ethics, communication, communication law, media management, and technology.

Asked to suggest general topics of intellectual interest that Harvard can best offer in these short-term seminars, 32 specific areas cropped up. History led the list, and other leaders included science, political science, economics, ethics, and technology to cite a few.

No matter how it is sliced and diced in the computer, the sum of all the surveying results echoes with the deep affection most of those who have gone through the Nieman Year have for the program.

A television news director revealed in the fellowship "and the revelation that the Ivory Tower had many doors and windows, entrances and exits, and I was free to come and go as I pleased."

A Hong Kong business editor advises his future Nieman colleagues; "This is probably the only time you'll ever have when you know what you'd like and have the chance to get it without the pressure of work and money. So make the most of it and you'll have the rest of your life to run the rat race . . . Enjoy it."

A Miami newspaper editor wrote of his year: "It exposed me to intellectual zeal for the first time. The year reinforced my personal career convictions, prepared me for specific continuing community service through my newspaper; awakened me to a higher level of professional achievement and reinforced ethical directions in journalism — a life-changing year."

Agnes Nieman would consider her bequest well-spent, and James Conant could declare his experiment no longer a dubious one. □

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A Vignette

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didn't want that to happen, and a retraction was never printed. It was Kennedy who had to resign as ambassador.

Years later, the Taylor family made amends to all concerned. In 1955, when William O. Taylor died and his son, William Davis Taylor became publisher, one of his first acts was to tell L. L. Winship that he, Winship, was now *The Globe* editor. Years later, after Lyons had retired as Nieman Curator, Davis Taylor asked him if he would write a history of the newspaper for its centennial. Lyons wrote it, and *The Globe* paid him handsomely. The book was published in 1971 with the title, *Newspaper Story — 100 Years of The Boston Globe*.

In it, on Page 193, was the following footnote by Lyons: "*The Globe's* refusal to retract anything on the interview cost them many thousands of dollars in advertising for the Scotch whiskies controlled by Kennedy, which was kept out of *The Globe* for years. It was wholly characteristic of *The Globe* management under W. O. Taylor that I never heard of this penalty until I came to write *The Globe* history."

And when Dwight Sargent became the Nieman Curator, *Globe* Publisher Davis Taylor made quite a few trips around the country with him to raise funds for the Nieman Foundation from other publishers. So all was well and the story had a happy ending. □



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