

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Alford, Violet, a member of the Folklore Society (London), of the Executive Committee of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, Correspondent of the Musée Basque de Bayonne, and Member of the Sociedad Internacional de los Estudios Vascos.

Author of nine books, Miss Alford has also contributed more than 80 articles, as well as book reviews, to learned English and Continental reviews and journals. Her books include *English Folk Dances*, *Pyrenean Festivals*, *Introduction to English Folklore and Dances of the Pyrenees*. She has also edited the very successful series of *Handbooks of European National Dances*, which are known throughout the world.

Aquilina, J., Professor of Maltese in the Royal University of Malta. Author of several books of linguistic and literary interest. Editor of *Lehen il-Malti*.

Curmi, J., LL.D. graduate of the Royal University of Malta; Inspector of Secondary Schools; Editor of *Malta Letteraria* (1936-9 and 1952-5); Founder of *Società Universitaria di Letteratura Italiana* (1949); Lecturer in Italian in this University (1945-55); Author of *Liriche* (Catania, 1923); *Frammenti di vita*, novelle (Malta, 1936) — *Cento novelle paradossali* (Malta, 1938-9) — *Il canzoniere della bambina*, versi (Malta, 1940) — *Storia della Letteratura Italiana* (Malta, 1948) — *Bufera*, romanzo (Malta, 1953) — *Sei dialoghi* ('Maia' Siena, 1955) — *L'anima poetica dal Novecento*, saggi critici (Malta, 1954) — *Questa è la vita*, novelle (Malta, 1955) — *Colloqui e cronache*, versi ('Gastaldi' Milano, 1956) — *Nel palazzo degli Anguillara*, romanzo ('Gastaldi' Milano, 1956) — *Genere*, versi (Malta, 1958); has contributed to several Italian literary reviews, amongst these *La Letteratura*; *Noi e il mondo*; *L'Osservatore Romano*; *Il Travaso*; *La Scena Illustrata*.

Hoppe, Harry R., Professor of English in the State University of Michigan, the seventh American Professor to teach in our University as a Fulbright Scholar in the Department of English during the Academic Year 1959-60.

Smith, Warren I., has recently assumed the position of Head, Social Science Division, Pembroke State College, Pembroke, North Carolina. He has both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

Sultana, Donald E., Lecturer in English in the Royal University of Malta.

Weber, Bernard C., Associate Professor in the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama, U.S.A. lectured in the University of Malta as a Fulbright Scholar in the Department of History during the Academical Year 1956-57. While in Malta, he found time to do research work in the archives of the Order of St. John.

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### COMMENT

THE publication of this issue coincides with the implementation of major political policies of a constitutional and political nature that are bound to affect the future of Malta and that of our University. Self-government opens up new horizons, not all of them unclouded. We do hope that our University will be encouraged to make its contribution to the welfare and progress of the country. It can only do this if we Maltese create the right social climate and mental attitude towards higher education. The one-time British Colonies that have now full control of their political and social destiny have created Universities out of their own resources or out of grants from the C.D. & W. Funds. Malta must not misread the signs of the times that are clearly written in large letters. None can mistake the wording and the message. There is no real progress without progress in public-spirited citizenship. There can be no such citizenship on top of the social ladder without a properly staffed and adequately financed University. We have only one University; so we had better look after it as best we can. The University authorities should be placed in a position to cooperate with the government of the country in its pursuit of higher social and educational standards.

The freedom of the University to do so is limited by the extensive powers vested in the Royal University of Malta Commission on whose advice the government is expected to act in all matters involving expenditure. His Excellency the Governor has reconstituted the R.U.M. Commission as follows: J.S. Fulton, Esq., M.A. (Oxon.) — Chairman; Professor G.H. Bell, B.Sc., M.D. (Glas.), F.R.F.P.S.G. (Glas.), F.R.S.E.; Professor C.H. Hassall, M.Sc. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Camb.), F.R.I.C.; T.C. Thomas, Esq., M.A., LL.B. As this is a primarily (or exclusively?) a Government body, personal contact between it and the members of the Teaching Staff has always been formal — too formal to create a feeling of academic comradeship. The University Commission has otherwise done useful work and we do hope that under its new Chairman it will look, and be in fact, much more than a primarily or exclusively government body.

The University has lost the very useful services of Dame Lilian Penson, D.B.E., D.Lit., Hon. LL.D., Ph.D. who for a number of years, served on the council of our University as the representative of the Inter-University Council. We met Professor J.W. Blake, M.A. of the University of North Staffordshire, the new appointee of the Inter-University Council, who will be sitting on the Council instead of Dame Lilian Penson personally or through his deputy. We have been favourably impressed by his wide interests in University education and his determination to be of service to our University teachers.

The University hierarchy has been reorganised according to a British pattern by virtue of Ordinance No. XXXI of 1961 which incorporates the recommendations of the R.U.M. Commission under the Chairmanship of Professor Jennings. These recommendations continue, or modify, those originally made in the Hetherington Report of July 1957. For the first time in its history our University has not only a Chancellor who is the Governor *ex officio*, but also a Pro-Chancellor. The first one to bear this title and, we are sure, will bear it with honour and dignity, is our friend and colleague Sir Anthony Mamo, Professor of Criminal Law in our University from 1944 till 1957 when he was appointed Chief Justice. We congratulate Sir Anthony and wish him the best of luck which in this case for us teachers must be primarily the academic progress of our University as a place of learning and research.

We wish very much that at least one teaching member from the Faculty of Arts could play his part on the Council so that he might contribute his personal experience of the needs of the Faculty to which he belongs. This could only be possible if the Senate had elected an Arts man to sit on the Council. In fact no such man was elected though the members of this Faculty, with one exception, are full-timers with their own case to present to the other members of the Council most of whom have little, if any, personal contact with the members of the Faculty of Arts or direct knowledge of the work they are doing.

We regret that while the Faculty of Laws, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Theology have one representative each and the Faculty of Medicine has three, the Faculty of Arts has none.

We expected that an election under the new Ordinance would have provided for a more balanced Faculty representation. In fact the result of the election held under the new Ordinance repeated the result of a previous election held under the amended Ordinance. The Faculty of Arts had no representative on the Council the five years before and will have no representative of its own for the next three years, perhaps for as many more years as the present system of voting remains in force. And that is not

right.

Though the Ordinance requires Senate to elect any six members from among itself, one would have expected voting to satisfy the need for Faculty representation. The first experiment is very unsatisfactory.

There are also two representatives of the Guild of Graduates on the Council, two medical men whom we personally hold in high regard. These bring up the number of medical men on the Council to five.

We expected on the Council not only a representative of the Faculty of Arts but also one or two representatives of the Association of Teachers of the Royal University of Malta (A.T.R.U.M.). Why not? Faculty representation on the Council could not be more unbalanced.

We expect self-Government to mean self-improvement. Education as one of the essential social services deserves more attention than we have given it in the past. Higher education in Malta can contribute to the well-being of the country by providing the right leadership for Maltese public life.

We do not want to end on a pessimistic note. We prefer to look forward to better times, greater sympathy and understanding as well as support both inside the University and outside.