

MSS

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CONTENTS

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ANNIVERSARY SECTION

Vol. XII, No. 4	3
Jonathan's House	Marguerite Young 4
Poems	Louise Dauner 5
The Silversmith	Joe Berry 6
A Letter	Joe Berry 7

1945 PRIZE MATERIAL

The Translation of Peter Polo	Mary Kershner 8
Objective	E. Janet Rugg 13
The Birthday	Joan Fuller 16
Not Guilty	Joseph F. Workman 18

UPPERCLASS

Songs from "Wilhelm Tell"	David C. Patrick 22
When The Apple Trees Blossom	Rosemary Haviland 23
It Rained Today	Mary Alice Kessler 25
Case of Claude	Betty Jo Fark 26
That "Exciting Newspaper Life"	Joan Werner 28

FRESHMEN

Canine Caprice	Carolyn Harvey 31
An Asset to Society	Nina Gallin 34
Fashions of Spring	Barbara Bard 35
Informal Interview	Betty Joan Wirth 37
Herr Muller	Mary Fritsche 38
In One World	Tom Beckwith 40
Compulsory Religious Courses	Patricia Jowitt 41
Compulsory Military Training	Rhea McGoldrick 42
My Brother's Recital	Bill Dye 44
Let's Stay Out of It	Mary Schreiber 45
The Value of An Art Course	Susan Arne 46
Highest Place In Indianapolis	Linn Hudson 47
Vignettes—Gene Miller, Jean Farson, Joan Schumacher, Jane Butler, Winifred Ham 48	

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Vol. XII, No. 4

Since this issue of Manuscripts completes ten full years of quarterly MSS publication, the issue includes, in addition to prize material from the 1945 writing contests, a brief anniversary section. In this section are some of the poems of Marguerite Young and Louise Dauner, both of whom won Literary Contest awards while they were Butler students, and Joseph A. Berry, a winner of the League of American Pen Women prize.

MISS YOUNG, whose "Jonathan's House" is re-printed from the 1929 Tower, MSS predecessor, was graduated from Butler in 1930 and has since received her master's degree from Chicago and a doctorate from Iowa. Last year she was awarded an American Association of University Women fellowship. She is the author of two books of poetry, "Prismatic Ground" and "Moderate Fable," and of a prose work called "Angel in the Forest," which is based upon the Rappite and Owen experiments in communal living at New Harmony, Indiana.

Other familiar names from the staff of the Tower are Don Sparks, 1929 editor, who later became a Butler faculty member, and is now in the Army Air Corps, and Lotys Benning, now Lotys Benning Stewart, who was associate editor in 1929 and has since made a name for herself in the writing field. Mrs. Alice B. Wesenberg was faculty adviser of The Tower; Dr. Allegra Stewart has been MSS faculty sponsor since its beginning.

MISS DAUNER, whose poetry won a Literary Contest first place award in 1936, is represented in the anniversary section by a few of these poems, re-printed from the May issue of that year. A 1937 graduate, Miss Dauner was one of the first editors of MSS and a frequent contributor. She taught in the English department while she was working for a master's degree. After taking the doctorate at the University of Iowa, she was granted a fellowship by the A. A. U. W. and is now engaged in a research project at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She expects to teach here in post-summer school and will be on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin next year.

A later MSS contributor who exchanged his pen for a rifle and Butler's halls for the world's battlefields, JOE BERRY was a student at Butler from October, 1940, to June, 1942. He entered the army from the University of Chicago, where he had just gone on a scholarship. A runner in the infantry, he served overseas on the Siegfried Line, and was killed by an enemy grenade on January 4, 1945. He is buried in Belgium. An excerpt from his prize poem "The Silversmith," re-printed from the May, 1942, MSS, and part of a letter he wrote to his mother less than three weeks before his death, complete the anniversary section.

The 1945 writing contest prize material might really also be considered a part of this section; it is the "thirty" at the end of the story. It represents this tenth year, and in so doing represents the whole ten years — the 69 students who have published in MSS Vol. XII and the 573 who have published since Vol. I, No. 1.

As has been the case in each issue of the last nine years, any success MSS has achieved this year in providing a good medium for student expression and a representative laboratory project for the English department has been due to the diligence of its staff members, the guidance of its faculty advisers, the cooperation of its printer, and the active interest of other English faculty members. The product of these forces, then, may it continue to grow in the quality of its material and in its service to Butler and Butler students.