

teenth-century Commencements often included a student address in Italian.

Italian did not re-appear in the twentieth-century curriculum until the Curriculum Committee approved, in January 1936, a request from Division 1 to substitute elementary Italian for elementary Spanish; the following November the committee sanctioned alternating the introductory course with one in Dante. (Notwithstanding the maneuver used to make a place for Italian, Spanish never left the curriculum.)

The Italian courses were taught by Professor Gordon Silber, whose major responsibility was teaching French. After the Second World War, he gave the introductory course only occasionally (1948/49, 1952/53, 1957/58) and the Dante course not at all. A year after his departure at the end of 1959/60, Italian was dropped from the course offerings.

In 1971/72, after Jewish students had successfully petitioned for a course in HEBREW, Italian-American students petitioned for an Italian course. Because no provision had been made in the Modern Language Department budget, English professor Frank Gado taught a one-term course as a volunteer.

Since 1978/79, the Modern Language Department has offered Basic Italian for students accepted for the Term Abroad in Florence; a more advanced course has been given in Florence.

Iwanik, John (Oct. 12, 1911–July 19, 1976). Professor of Spanish and Russian, 1947–66.

A native of Mayfield, Pennsylvania, where he grew up in a Russian-speaking community, John Iwanik briefly attended the University of Scranton, then transferred to Pennsylvania State University, where he majored in Spanish and French.

Graduating in 1934, he taught for eight years at the Mayfield High School. During part of that time (1937–39), he also edited the *Russian Orthodox Journal*. In 1942 he resumed his education, earning an MA from Syracuse University (1944) and a PhD from Cornell (1947), while teaching as a graduate assistant. He married the former Olga Urda; they had one daughter.

Union hired Iwanik to begin a RUSSIAN program, but since the College did not require a full-time professor in that field, he always taught Spanish as well. In 1962 he published an intermediate-level reader entitled *Russian short stories*.

Afflicted with Parkinson's disease, Iwanik retired on permanent disability at fifty-five.

Jackson, Isaac Wilbur (Aug. 28, 1804–July 28, 1877). Class of 1826. Tutor, 1826–31; Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, 1831–77.

A native of Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Isaac Jackson was the second son of William and Phebe Townsend Jackson. The family were Quakers. Following his father's death, Isaac was sent to live with rela-

tives in Albany, where he graduated in 1824 from the Albany Academy with highest honors in mathematics and chemistry. His classmate Joseph Henry, the future world-famous physicist and first Director of the Smithsonian Institution, became a lifelong friend.

Entering Union College as a junior, Jackson graduated in two years, again with first honors in mathematics and chemistry. While an undergraduate, he was elected student captain of one of two companies of the Cadet Corps (see STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: MILITARY)—whence his lifetime student nickname, "Captain Jack"—and at about the same time, Jackson, his roommate, and two friends organized KAPPA ALPHA, now regarded as the oldest Greek letter social fraternity with a continuing record.

As soon as Jackson graduated in 1826, the College retained him as a tutor. He became the faculty leader of the cadet corps, and for a few years, until it disbanded in the early 1830s, his uniformed cadets marched at Commencement and other ceremonies. For most of the rest of his career he served as marshall of commencement processions. In 1829 he married Elizabeth Pomeroy.

In 1831 Jackson was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and it was probably in that year that he and his family moved into the north faculty apartment of North College, where they would live until his death. His gardening hobby, which later grew into a major avocation discussed at length in the article on JACKSON'S GARDEN, was first undertaken at the suggestion of President Nott as therapy for bouts of anxiety and depression. It became "the delight and solace of his life," according to his diary.

When a student, JONATHAN PEARSON assessed him in an 1833 diary entry:

Capt. Jackson, our Prof. in Mathematics, is a little man about 4 ft. 9 in. with a high receding forehead, sharp eyes and a remarkably intelligent phiz. In his intercourse with students he is remarkably familiar and jesting so that many think he lacks that very necessary qualification of a Prof., dignity. In recitations [sic], however, I never found one sopho. could [find] aught to accuse him of unless that he is too critical, or has too much jocularity and fun.

He may not have been quite as short as Pearson estimated. Later, at least, he wore a beard.

Best remembered for his gardens, Jackson deserves greater recognition for the fifty-one years he taught mathematics and physics. Mathematics was his first love, but he also taught optics, mechanics, electricity and magnetism, acoustics and astronomy. His was the first generation of college professors to devote themselves entirely to the teaching of science and mathematics, without the demands of other responsibilities, such as medicine or the ministry.

Many years before there were graduate schools for advanced study in science, Jackson and his contemporaries read European texts and journals, mastered new

material neglected in American colleges, and then passed it on to their students. Up-to-date textbooks in English were lacking, and Jackson wrote four to help meet that need. *Elementary treatise on optics* (1848) went through three editions and became the standard text in most American and some English colleges; *Elementary treatise on mechanics* (1852) went through four editions; *Elements of conic sections* (1857) was extremely popular (eight editions); and *Elements of trigonometry* was published in 1860.

Jackson's popularity as a teacher varied with the aptitude of his students. One complained about the boring subject matter and Jackson's scolding manner. During a lesson in optics, Jackson reportedly railed that "students did not now study as they used to when he was in college," and he lectured on the need for self-discipline and maintenance of habitual study hours to avoid becoming "intellectual paupers." That student's attitude may have been influenced by hunger: his class was held before breakfast.

Like some other faculty members, Jackson hoped Vice President LAURENS PERSEUS HICKOK would not succeed Eliphalet Nott as president. When Hickok published his metaphysical work, *Rational cosmology* (1858), Jackson seized on what he considered the book's scientific errors. He first denounced the book to his astronomy class, about March 1, 1859, and then spent the next several months engaged in what he called in his diary "the Cosmological war," lobbying the trustees and soliciting other scientists' opinions, with the intention of presenting them to the trustees to discredit Hickok. Eventually TAYLER LEWIS brokered a truce in what some saw as a rather unseemly dispute.

Hickok did succeed to the presidency, but in part as a result of faculty opposition he resigned after two years. Jackson, who had been Union's senior professor in years of service since 1849, became *de facto* acting president, under the authority of the non-resident board chairman IRA J. HARRIS, during much of the fifteen-month interregnum (July 1, 1868–October 12, 1869) before President Charles Aiken took office. He later served briefly as acting president during ELIPHALET NOTT POTTER's absence from the campus.

The Jacksons outlived two of their five children; their elder son, Col. William A. Jackson '51, succumbed to disease in 1861 while serving with the Union army during the Civil War, and their daughter Gertrude died in 1864, aged twenty-eight.

Hobart College honored Jackson with an LLD in 1858. At a special college-wide celebration of the semi-centennial of his years on the Union faculty in 1876, his former students presented him with a massive silver bowl. The College published a book of the proceedings. He died a year later, following a stroke. Only Jonathan Pearson ever equaled him in length of service on the faculty.

One of his last students later recalled: "Captain Jack' [was] most beloved of teachers... although it must be confessed that few took him seriously since the dear old man was too kindly to 'stick' any of us.... He retained, even then, after fifty years of service, the vigor of mind and clearness of expression that had made him a splendid teacher of mathematics...."

Jackson Place, a short street between Union Street and Eastern Avenue near the College, is named for him.

See also: BENEDICT, JULIA; BENEDICT HOUSE.

—V.E. Pilcher

Jackson's Garden. JOSEPH RAMÉE's 1813 plan for Union College called for a formal garden in the approximate present location of Jackson's Garden, a fact Eliphalet Nott surely had in mind when he encouraged Professor ISAAC JACKSON to create a garden there.

The Jackson Era. Jackson probably moved into the north end of North College in 1831, when his status changed from tutor to professor and the previous occupant left the College. Some writers, however, have dated the move (and hence the possible beginning of the Garden) in 1829, the year of Jackson's marriage.

Tradition has it that Jackson took up gardening when President Nott recommended it as therapy for dyspepsia. Jackson began his new avocation in the triangular plot immediately north of his house, where the Yulman Theatre now stands, and where previous occupants of the house, beginning with THOMAS MCAULEY, had raised vegetables.

Relocating the vegetable plot to the rear, Jackson replaced it with flowers and shrubs, graveled paths and oval, circular and triangular beds, including lilies and roses. He also planted abundant lilacs and other shrubs. By 1832 he had begun to clear and cultivate the overgrown lower area where the Garden now lies, and to plant it with vegetables, shrubs and flowers. There were few American landscape gardens in those days, and Jackson's creation was soon drawing such visitors as John James Audubon, who found the "superb garden and grounds" something to write home about in 1844. Jonathan Pearson called it "our only Lion," and it has remained the College's greatest attraction to visitors.

Jackson exchanged seeds with other botanists, including the English novelist Maria Edgeworth, and eventually, as some of his former pupils became missionaries in distant countries, he received and planted many gifts of seeds and specimens from Asia and elsewhere.

An entry in the 1837 student diary of Martin Burt conveys Jackson's spirit and his approach to gardening six years into his forty-six year curatorship of the Garden:

We found [Jackson] in the rear of his barn in what he called his sanctum-sanctorum (hot-bed grounds), charged to the brim, and ready to expatiate on his great improvements in the culinary part of his establishment, with his "giant" this thing and "giant" that. (Asparagus and celery for example.) And in the ornamental part, his "last arrivals from London" his "rare and valuable Chinese" this and "Persian" that—very enthusiastic and very clever.

Jackson worked in the Garden wearing what he called the only proper costume for a gentleman: a swallow-tailed blue coat and white trousers. He had help, however, from others whose dress was less constrained by their class (in one account book he designated the laborers of the moment as "Irishman no. 1" and "Irishman no. 2"). Although the workers were on the College payroll, Jackson eventually estimated that he had spent about \$10,000 of his own money on the Garden. He also sold some of its products.

It may be that much of the garden's charm derives from the fact that Jackson's limited means compelled him—whatever his inclinations as a geometer—to work with the terrain as he found it. He left no record of his thinking about his garden, or of his reading on the subject, but it seems likely, given the botanical books in his library and his many botanical correspondents and visitors, that he was familiar with contemporary landscape gardening theory. Richard Schermerhorn, a landscape architect who had studied Jackson's Garden, wrote that Jackson was "a friend of Wilder of Boston and a close student of landscape architecture as it was then propounded in the works of Repton and Loudon."

One book Jackson could not have escaped knowing, because Eliphalet Nott used it as a textbook for many years, was *The elements of criticism*, by Lord Kames. In a section on gardens, Kames urges:

Good professors are not more essential to a college, than a spacious garden sweetly ornamented, ...to inspire our youth with a taste no less for simplicity than for elegance.

Kames's description of a garden might easily have inspired Jackson:

The beautiful bordering of the walks delineating symmetrical curves; their gradual descent to the banks of a running brook: thence abruptly ascending to the depths and gloom of the forest only to emerge upon some half obscured lawn, fragrant with the rarest of flowers....

Early student descriptions of Jackson's Garden always mention the shade and the sounds of the brook. Graduating seniors chose to have their CLASS DAY, or "Grove" exercises under the "old elm" (later called NOTT ELM) from at least 1863; the custom continued, with interruptions, until 1968.

During the Garden's early decades, when the life of the College centered on the North College / South College axis, its entrance was just north of Jackson's residence in North College; the original plot probably remained a horticultural garden and anteway to the

lower garden until BENEDICT HOUSE was begun in 1872. Thereafter, the most notable feature of the upper garden was a long alley of overarching lilac bushes.

In the lower area, the two north-south paths and the major east-west paths were probably in or near their present locations, although the evergreen garden did not exist in Jackson's time; a third, parallel, north-south path probably lay to the east of the present evergreen garden. A lateral path halfway up the terrace joined to walks north of the brook to form a continuous embankment circuit. Prominent features of the Garden were a long row of Chinese tree peonies and, near the present entrance, a ginkgo tree, which survives (a male, it once had a female counterpart to the west in the upper garden).

A hedge surrounded the upper garden by 1833, and subsequently FENCES of wood (until 1915) or wire protected the Garden to some degree. As late as 1873, Jackson was still enlarging the area.

The Benedict Era. Isaac Jackson died in 1877, and responsibility for the Garden fell to his daughter, JULIA BENEDICT, who lived with her husband in the Benedict House, on part of the present site of the Yulman Theatre. Mrs. Benedict maintained the Garden as best she could for the next forty-eight years, loyally preserving what her father had planted, even when aged specimens should have been replaced. It was regarded as her property, and students needed her permission to use it, but the College provided her with a gardener and there were occasional gifts—such as the carload of rhododendrons given in memory of President Richmond's mother in 1910 by James Fenimore Cooper, the novelist's grandson; they were planted on the terrace below the Benedict house.

President Richmond later remarked that when he came in 1909, Mrs. Benedict's daily exercise was chasing students out of the Garden; on at least one occasion she accomplished that by firing a shotgun from her balcony. The residents of North College had their own grievance: in 1879 and again in 1890, Mrs. Benedict owned a peacock which lived in the Garden and "scream[ed] all night."

A College Garden. In Mrs. Benedict's old age the Garden gradually fell into neglect. A few months before her death at 87 in the fall of 1925, the College assumed full responsibility for the Garden, which had been under the care of the Jackson family for nearly its first century. John C. Van Voast '87 took charge of restoring it, and Richard Schermerhorn Jr., a New York City landscape architect, was retained to plan improvements.

At that time, the vegetable cultivations were eliminated and the flower areas nearly doubled in size, with beds for perennials along the main walk. A rose garden was created, replacing the one formerly near the Benedict house.

Construction of the KAPPA ALPHA GATE in 1926 moved the formal entrance to its present position. A tree nursery, started in the Pasture on the present site of Richmond House, remained until 1941.

When Van Voast died in 1935, MARIAN OSGOOD FOX took over his responsibility. An ardent and energetic gardener who had recently made a special study of college gardens during a trip through Virginia, she had come to Union the previous year with her husband, President Dixon Ryan Fox. Several other wives of Union's presidents have shown their interest in the Garden, but Marian Fox made it one of her foremost priorities, and until the death of Dr. Fox in 1945 she organized groups of faculty wives to do the planting and the weeding.

One of her first acts was to execute Van Voast's plans for an evergreen garden. Using specimens from his own garden as well as from those of FRANK BAILEY and Ludlow Melius, she created the VAN VOAST EVERGREEN GARDEN, which lies to the east of the main path. Elsewhere, Mrs. Fox gave special attention to removing shrubs and replanting the lower garden. In the woods, she had the undergrowth cleared, new paths laid out, and thousands of ferns, daffodils and wildflowers planted.

She also had the CLASS OF 1906 WELL restored in 1935, and in the summer of 1938 she installed old fashioned iron seats in several locations. President Fox, never a strong advocate of bricks and mortar, once boasted that the only construction on the campus during his presidency was the outdoor fireplace he had built in Jackson's Garden for Mrs. Fox and her faculty garden volunteers.

The general effect of Mrs. Fox's alterations was to make the Garden more of a showplace, with some inevitable loss of natural informality. The Garden even had peacocks again; "Eliphalet" and "Urania," a gift from Caryl P. Haskins, graced the Garden from May 3, 1937, until they were killed by a dog in the summer of 1938. They left behind three eggs, and two white peacocks hatched from them were still alive in the summer of 1940.

All was not sweetness and light, however; the College brook became so grossly polluted by the periodic overflowing of a sewer on Nott Street that Mrs. Fox threatened to plug the overflow with concrete personally unless the city remedied the situation. But the problem continued—indeed, becoming so severe that the gate to the Garden was kept locked for several years after Mrs. Fox departed.

About 1949, faculty, students and alumni prevailed upon President Carter Davidson to restore the Garden to its former beauty. Professor Gilbert Harlow, who had made the most noise, was appointed chairman of a committee charged with the task. At this time C. William Huntley had returned to the College as dean. An energetic alumnus as well as second in command of

the College, he devoted much time to improving the Garden as well as the entire campus. His ability to convince the trustees and the alumni of the importance of the campus's appearance started a rehabilitation program that continues to this day (see LANDSCAPING).

The Garden's central area, adjacent to the ginkgo tree, was filled with overgrown lilacs. When large specimens had to be removed, it was prudent to do it during the summer absence of students and faculty; otherwise well-meaning conservationists would oppose the action. The lilacs were removed one summer and a much-improved lawn provides a setting for outdoor weddings and photo opportunities for post-wedding gatherings.

When Professor Harlow was asked to help restore Jackson's Garden, Henry Kahre was in charge of the Melius Greenhouse and was responsible for planting the President's Garden, Mrs. Perkins's Garden, and Jackson's Garden. Mrs. Fox had trained Kahre, whose background was in farming, to cultivate the annuals and perennials and to care for the large rose garden. Mrs. Fox disliked red flowers, and it took some time after her departure before Kahre could be induced to plant them in the Garden.

Richard Lunieski became the College gardener in 1966, when Henry Kahre retired. Having worked for several florists, Dick was not only a skilled grower but an excellent flower arranger as well. His floral creations graced the tables of innumerable College functions. To augment the material from the garden in season, Dick grew large quantities of carnations, chrysanthemums and snapdragons in the Melius greenhouse. When a plastic-covered greenhouse was provided for the Biology Department, a portion was generously allotted to Dick in his expanding role as a provider of plants for Jackson's Garden, the President's Garden and Mrs. Perkins' Garden, as well as for large new gardens in the Library Court and the McIlwaine Court. In the late winter and spring, Dick had both greenhouses crammed with bedding plants growing in ground beds, benches and shelves, some of them several tiers high.

The rose garden, long the center of the cultivated portion of the Garden, gradually produced poorer and poorer specimens, despite the introduction of new plants. The soil was found to be infested with nematodes, tiny worms that attack the roots, and the old rose garden was abandoned in 1970. Dick made the site into a formal garden with attractive patterns of begonias, santalinas, and impatiens.

A new rose garden did well for a few years on the upper level, near the site of the old Benedict house, but the surrounding trees eventually produced too much shade.

The ROBISON HERB GARDEN was given in 1976, but from 1985 to 1988, during the construction of the College Center addition, it suffered under piles of construction materials and equipment. When the College

Center was completed, the garden adjacent to it was redesigned. Handsome new stone walls were built with money donated by the Shaffer Foundation and the Robison Foundation. Beds of annuals were planted to provide an attractive view from the new dining facility, and the entry path was rerouted. To accommodate a new wall and seat at the Kappa Alpha Gate, the LEVINE WILDFLOWER GARDEN was added in 1989 with funds provided by Ron Levine '55.

The much-needed new entrance to the campus from Nott Street took land from the Garden in 1984, and after the period covered by this book, the Yulman Theatre eliminated the greenhouses, tool shed, cold frames and nursery.

Prospects. At the end of the period covered by this book, the outlook for Jackson's Garden was not encouraging, but later developments gave some cause for hope.

Large gardens are so labor-intensive that few can be kept in prime condition without the cooperation of many volunteers, even in very prestigious gardens such as the Bronx Botanical Garden, which has hundreds of paid workers. In recent decades at Union the gardener has belonged to the Maintenance Department. His ability to devote his time to the Garden, even outside the growing season, and to obtain the materials needed to properly maintain the plantings, depended on the Superintendent of Grounds. Some of the first ladies of the College, most notably Mrs. Carter Davidson, were able to intercede on the gardener's behalf, but many times there was no one to come to his aid. To further exacerbate the problem, student help ceased to be provided in the summer. However, the arrival in 1992 of Vice President Daniel West and the later move giving Vice President Joseph Mammola responsibility for campus physical facilities brightened prospects for the Garden for a time.

The danger of further encroachments remains a constant concern. Someone once observed that the area of Jackson's Garden was variously reported as seventeen acres or twenty-three acres, depending on which group of freshmen engineers surveyed it. Whatever its present area, it will only grow smaller.

See also: CLASS OF 1906 WELL; DELTA PHI SUNDIAL; LANDSCAPING; MELIUS CONSERVATORY; KAPPA ALPHA GATE; HANS GROOT'S KILL; LEVINE WILDFLOWER GARDEN; NOTT ELM; ROBISON HERB GARDEN; VAN VOAST EVERGREEN GARDEN; VAN DER VEER, ALICE.

—H. Gilbert Harlow

Jaffe (William B) Art Lecture Series. On October 17, 1967, trustee William B. Jaffe '26 established an endowed fund "for the purpose of bringing artists from many facets of the art world to Union campus for an annual lecture and visit." The first Jaffe lecture was given May 2, 1969.

Jagu, Fernand (1865–Dec. 2, 1939). Professor of French and Spanish, 1920–35.

A native of Nantes, France, Fernand Jagu graduated from the Université de Rennes (1886) and earned a law degree in Paris (1889). Before emigrating, he taught history at St. Joseph's College at Sarcelles (1894–1900).

In the U.S., he taught French in a seminary near Philadelphia (1906–12), then at a teacher's institute in Philadelphia and at Cornell University (1917–20).

Union hired him in 1920 as an instructor in French and Spanish, but after 1926 he taught only French. He was remembered as a genial, garrulous man in the classroom.

Jagu wrote no books, but in collaboration with Gaston Calmette he published articles on world politics in *Le Figaro*, then for some years, under the pseudonym "Palafox," he conducted a *New York Evening Telegraph* column called "Europe Day by Day," and again wrote articles for *Le Figaro*. He also translated laws and legal documents for attorneys.

Jagu retired in 1935, aged seventy, with the rank of assistant professor. He and his wife Martha had one daughter.

James, William (Dec. 29, 1771–Dec. 19, 1832). Merchant, land speculator. Trustee, 1827–32.

Born in Curkish, Ireland, the second of three sons of "the first William James" (1736–1822), a farmer of Welsh or Scotch Presbyterian stock, "William James of Albany" emigrated to America in 1789, at eighteen. According to family tradition, he carried a little money and his Latin grammar, and he wanted to visit a battlefield of the American Revolution.

Nothing is known of his first four years in America, but by 1793 he was a clerk in an Albany store, and two years later he became a partner in a tobacco store. After another two years, James opened a dry goods and grocery store; soon he began expanding beyond Albany, with stores in Utica and New York City and an express business. In 1802 he became a naturalized citizen.

As the owner of businesses in Albany, a rapidly rising trading center, James was very well situated to profit from the burgeoning westward expansion in the decades following the Revolution, especially after regular steamboat service to New York City commenced in 1807.

In 1818, James turned his mercantile pursuits over to his son Robert in order to devote his attention to investments. A director of Albany's New York State Bank since 1803, he became First Vice President of the Albany Savings Bank on its opening in 1820. His major interest, however, was in land speculation and development, and he acquired real estate across the state as well as in New York City. In 1824, he bought and began to develop all the land now occupied by the

downtown business section of Syracuse. The names of Jamestown, New York, and of the James Streets in Syracuse and Albany testify to the extent of his influence in the development of upstate New York. He was very active in Albany civic life, and his obituary claimed "He has done more to build up the city of Albany than any other individual."

James married three times: his first wife died in childbirth after bearing twin sons; his second died in childbirth after bearing a daughter; and his third, Catharine Barber, bore ten children and survived him. The fourth of those children was Henry James Sr. '30, the philosopher and father of Henry James the novelist and William James the philosopher/psychologist.

A year before Henry James Sr. entered Union, his father, who had been ELIPHALET NOTT's parishioner when the president was a minister in Albany, was elected a trustee of the College. James had become Nott's confidant in financial matters as Nott sought, through state-authorized LOTTERIES, to acquire an endowment commensurate with his ambitions for the College. In 1821, James secretly lent Nott \$56,000, at 6.5 percent, to enable him to buy out the interest of Hamilton College and other grantees in the proceeds of the next lottery. Shortly before the drawing, Nott borrowed another \$100,000 on January 11, 1826, because without it the lottery firm would have defaulted, taking Nott's plans and possibly his reputation with it. The latter loan was secured by all the College lands and buildings, thereby making James potentially the owner of Union College. He returned the securities two weeks before he died of cholera, the loan presumably having been repaid.

With an estate estimated at three million dollars, James is generally reckoned to have been the second wealthiest New York State resident in his time, after John Jacob Astor. Through his will he tried to punish those heirs of whose past conduct he disapproved and to extort the future good conduct of the remainder. Challenged by his executors and by two of his sons, the will was overturned; had it prevailed, his grandsons William and Henry would have enjoyed a far less affluent—and probably less cosmopolitan—upbringing. Neither boy knew his grandfather, but some critics and biographers have discerned in Henry James's fiction the writer's uneasy consciousness of descent from wealth of a distinctly American kind.

Japanese. Japanese was first taught at Union in the spring of 1987.

Jenkins Award for Bibliography. For his help in recovering a volume of the "elephant folio" edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* stolen from Union, the College paid JOHN H. JENKINS a two thousand dollar reward. On November 1, 1971, Jenkins returned the reward money, stipulating that it be used to create

an annual award of \$250 for the period of eight or more years...for the best bibliography or bibliographical work published during the year, or for a bibliographical research project of significance while in preparation.

To administer the prize, President Harold Martin appointed a committee with representatives from Union College and from the bibliographical world at large. The award went to:

1973: Tanselle, G. Thomas—*Guide to the study of United States imprints*. 1971.

1974: Gaskell, Philip—*A new introduction to bibliography*. 1972.

1975: Blanck, Jacob—*Bibliography of American literature*, volume 6. 1973.

1976: De Waal, Ronald Burt—*The world bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*. 1974.

1978: Hanham, Harold J.—*Bibliography of British history, 1851–1914*. 1976.

1980: Bentley, Gerald Eades—*Blake books*. 1977.

1981: Gribben, Alan—*Mark Twain's library, a reconstruction*. 1980.

Jenkins, John Holmes (March 22, 1940–April 16, 1989). Author, rare book dealer, publisher. Trustee of Union College, 1977–79.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, to an old Texas family, John Jenkins was a precocious boy, launching dual careers as scholar and businessman while still in high school. His first book, *Recollections of early Texas*, edited from the manuscript memoirs of John Holland Jenkins, his great-great-grandfather, was published by the University of Texas Press on the day he graduated from high school. It was an occasion of great hoopla—the town declared "Johnnie Jenkins Day"—and Jenkins may have acquired at that time the appetite for publicity that accompanied most of his subsequent activities, and even drove some of them.

Also by his late teens, Jenkins owned a mail order coin business that had evolved from a collection he began by cashing a hundred dollar savings bond at age ten; he would later sell the inventory for \$35,000 to finance a three-month honeymoon trip around the world.

Graduating from the University of Texas in 1962, Jenkins spent the following year in law school but left without a degree to start a bevy of businesses: alone or in partnership, he began separate enterprises dealing in coins, rare books, and antiques, and an art gallery that became the largest in the Southwest. He also started in 1963 the Pemberton Press and the Jenkins Publishing Co.; they would eventually publish over three hundred books, some of them vanity publications but many solid contributions to regional history.

Jenkins himself wrote or edited more than a few of the books; his fifth was a 509-page bibliography of Texas local histories entitled *Cracker barrel chronicles* (1965). His edition of the *Papers of the Texas Revolution* appeared in ten volumes in 1973, followed a decade later by his most widely used book, *Basic Texas books; an annotated bibliography* (1983; rev. ed. 1988).

Gradually the antiquarian book business dominated his activities. Begun with a part of the estate of Albany, New York, dealer John Scopes, and employing computers before most of the book trade did so, Jenkins's book business became the region's largest, issuing a steady stream of sometimes imaginative catalogues.

Jenkins's relations with Union College stemmed from an incident in 1971. On the night of June 13–14, a thief broke a window and a display case in Schaffer Library to steal the only volume on display of Union's set of the "elephant folio" edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*. Union immediately informed a book trade magazine, which published a notice of the theft, along with that of another from a New York City book dealer. On July 8, a man later identified as Kenneth Paull, an ex-convict with a history of armed robbery, came to Jenkins's offices in Austin to offer some rare books and "bird pictures," allegedly from the attic of his late aunt; Jenkins expressed interest in seeing them. After Paull left, Jenkins read the magazine notice, realized that the materials offered matched some of those reported stolen, and called the F.B.I.

With the F.B.I.'s encouragement, Jenkins arranged to meet Paull in New York to examine the books and prints, and after he had done so, the F.B.I. moved in and arrested Paull. It was a dramatic event, and Jenkins had reason to feel himself in some danger, though, *pace* his later oral revisions of the story, no shots were fired. A reasonably accurate version appears in Jenkins's *Audubon and other capers* (1976). The story also became the basis for an episode entitled "The Diogenes syndrome," in the *Kojak* television series.

Jenkins received a two thousand dollar reward offered by Union College for return of the Audubon volume, but returned the money on November 1, 1971, stipulating that it be used to create the JENKINS AWARD FOR BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Union responded with two honors, the Founders' Medal, awarded to Jenkins in 1973 during groundbreaking ceremonies for the Schaffer Library addition, and an Honorary Doctor of Literature degree, conferred in 1976 for his "high standard of integrity in business, intellectual contributions, and activities in the world of literature and scholarship." In 1977, the Board of Trustees elected him to finish an unexpired term on the board, ending June 1979.

As a result of his role in recovering the stolen books, Jenkins took the lead within the Antiquarian Book-

seller's Association of America (ABAA) in promoting cooperation among dealers, librarians and the police to disseminate timely information about book thefts. Jenkins was named to the newly created position of ABAA Security Officer.

The capstone of his career as a book dealer came in 1975 with his purchase, for an estimated \$2.7 million, of the legendary stock of the long-dormant Eberstadt firm, pioneers in the field of western Americana. The transfer of the forty thousand Eberstadt books from New Jersey to Austin, described by Jenkins in *The Eberstadt caper* (1975), was heralded as marking a "cultural shift" in the antiquarian book world.

This supposed shift was symbolically ratified in 1980 when the forty-year-old Jenkins, a rather short man who smoked big cigars and affected cowboy boots and a Stetson hat when visiting Eastern book fairs (though not in Texas), was elected to a two-year term as president of the ABAA, an honor normally accorded only to dignified senior members of the trade.

By the mid-1980s, observers felt that Jenkins had become less important in the rare book world, and seemed bored by it. He had long had other interests, such as backing movies (he had been one of the investors in the extremely lucrative "Texas Chain Saw Massacre" but would be less lucky producing "The Wizard of Texas and Frank.") He bought the campus of a defunct college, with the intention, never fulfilled, of converting it to a conference center. A regular poker player in Las Vegas—where he relished the sobriquet "Austin Squatty," bestowed for his habit of sitting on his folded legs—he sometimes won tournaments (but didn't speak of his losses).

By the late 1980s Jenkins, like many Texas businessmen, was in serious financial trouble. More worrisome, his reputation for integrity seemed to some observers to be imperiled on two fronts. His business premises were struck by fires in 1969, in 1985 and in 1987; the last fire was investigated and ruled an arson. Forgeries and fabrications of about fifteen very rare early Texas printed documents had been appearing in the trade, and many of them had been sold by Jenkins privately (not through catalogues), with no demonstrable earlier provenance. The most charitable interpretation was that, in not being suspicious of these documents, he had not lived up to his reputation as an expert.

On April 16, 1989, John Jenkins' body was found in the Colorado River near Austin, shot in the head. Although the death appeared to be a murder and was so ruled by the County Justice of the Peace, County Sheriff Con Keirse, a former Austin homicide detective, believed it was suicide. He claimed that Jenkins knew he was soon to be indicted for arson, and that he had discussed means of disguising suicide as murder; both claims have been disputed by family and some friends.

The mystery of Jenkins' death and the unresolved questions about his alleged illegal and unethical activities are likely to linger, but John Jenkins will continue to have a solid reputation as the author and publisher of several useful books, while thanks to his courage Union will continue to enjoy its Audubon birds.

Jews at Union. It is not possible to determine who was the first Jewish student to attend Union College or when he arrived. Jews first matriculated at the College in very small numbers in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. A steady stream entered in the first years of the twentieth century, and there were at least three Jews in the Class of 1912. By the 'teens Jews were coming in somewhat larger numbers and were increasingly visible. Some were the recipients of academic awards, members of Phi Beta Kappa and athletes. Morris Schaffer '14, M. H. Sternfeld '16, and Jacob Frankel '17 received numerous academic awards, and Isadore "Doc" Yavits '19 was the premier Union College basketball player of his time. By the early 1920s Jews constituted about seven percent of the student body and in 1929 they made up fourteen percent. For reasons discussed below, their numbers retreated to about ten percent for over thirty years and began to rise dramatically only in the 1960s. By 1990 almost twenty-five percent of the student body was Jewish.

Many of Union's several thousand Jewish graduates entered business, the professions and government service. Some of the most prominent are: Baruch Blumberg '46, Nobel Prize winner in Medicine and Master of Balliol College, Oxford; Arnold Burns '50, former Associate Attorney General of the United States; Jay Cohen '52, cardiologist; Morris Marshall Cohen '24, New York State Supreme Court judge; Stephen David '78, Chairman of the Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins; Michael Fuchs '67, Chairman and CEO, Home Box Office, Inc.; Martin Jay '65, historian; Phil Robinson '71, writer, producer and director; Eric Schmertz '48, former Dean of the Hofstra Law School, arbitrator; Howard Simons '51, Managing Editor of the Washington Post; Morton Yulman '36, President and Chairman, Sealy Mattress Co., and David Yunich, '39, former President of Macy's and Executive Director of the New York Transit System. A future historian of Jewish life at Union will most certainly include in the list of prominent Jewish alumni the names of some of the Jewish women who began entering Union with the first class of women in 1970 and who were consequently in mid-career at the end of the period covered by this book.

From the 1920s to the 1960s the strongest Jewish institutions on campus were the KAPPA NU, PHI EPSILON PI, and PHI SIGMA DELTA fraternities, the so-called Jewish houses. A ZETA BETA TAU chapter founded at Union in 1909 was dormant from 1932 to

1982, when it revived. Formal student Jewish organizations, such as the Jewish Religious Fellowship, Hillel, and the Jewish Student Organization existed but did not play an important role in Jewish life until the end of the 1960s when they began to sponsor a variety of programs (see STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: RELIGIOUS).

The Jewish fraternities, which arose in response to the refusal of campus fraternities to accept Jews, developed large memberships and had their own residences. The Jewish houses sponsored many social programs and from the 1920s, first Kappa Nu and then Phi Epsilon Pi and Phi Sigma Delta, became notable for their scholastic achievements, perennial leaders among fraternities in rankings of academic averages (see BERG SCHOLARSHIP CUP).

The apogee of Jewish fraternity life was in the late '50s and early '60s. In May 1963 the College Public Relations Office issued a news release hailing the impressive accomplishments of the sixteen seniors in Phi Epsilon Pi. They included the presidents of the student body, the Dramatic Society, the Campus Religious Council, the International Relations Club, the Jewish Student Club and the Editor of *Concordiensis*. All of the sixteen were on Dean's List and five were member of Phi Beta Kappa. The academic average for the group was A- and the news release indicated that all sixteen would attend graduate or professional schools.

On four significant occasions in the period 1914-90, events at the College involving issues related to Jews elicited a response from Jewish students and the Schenectady Jewish community. The first occurred in December 1937 as a consequence of an invitation by the International Relations Club to Fritz Kuhn, the head of the German-American Bund and America's leading Nazi. Jewish students, together with the local Jewish community and veterans' and Catholic organizations, protested the visit. President DIXON RYAN FOX maintained that the College should hear first hand a discussion of Kuhn's views and refused to cancel the speech. The students who attended Kuhn's talk challenged him vigorously and at the close of the session voted 296 to 22 their disapproval of Nazism. (See ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND CIVIL LIBERTIES).

In a related matter, in November 1938 it was a Jewish student, Student Council President David I. Yunich '39, who, with another student, took the lead in establishing a group dedicated to protesting Nazi anti-Semitism and aiding German Jews. Other local colleges were asked to join the group and eventually an Inter-Collegiate Committee for the Relief of German Minorities was created.

In February 1949, as the Mountebanks prepared to stage *The Merchant of Venice*, the Schenectady Jewish community sent an open letter of protest to President CARTER DAVIDSON condemning the play as anti-Semitic and as one which would generate prejudice

against Jews both at the College and in Schenectady. It appears that Jewish students did not play a significant role in the protest movement. After considerable discussion the play was presented.

The fourth event occurred in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War in October 1973. Jewish students and Jewish faculty conducted a fund drive and held meetings in support of Israel. Several thousand dollars were raised and participation was of such a magnitude that this can be characterized as the most significant response of Jewish students and faculty to a Jewish issue in Union College history. This contrasts sharply to the near total silence on the campus in 1948 at the time of the creation of the State of Israel. Twenty-five years later Israel resonated among Jews at Union much in the same way as it had in the American Jewish community; Jewish consciousness had increased greatly.

Contrary to popular belief, CHARLES STEINMETZ, an agnostic of Lutheran background, was not Jewish. The first Jew to serve on the Union faculty for an extended period was BERTRAND MAX WAINGER, who taught English (later, American Studies), 1927–51. Wainger was preceded by several Jews who taught at Union for brief periods. The first was Rabbi Rudolph Farber, who taught Hebrew in 1885/86. Like Rabbi S. Schaumberg, who taught Hebrew in the 1890s, he was not a regular member of the faculty, but an unpaid volunteer. Samuel Robinson, a 1919 Union graduate, served as a physics instructor, 1920–24. The number of Jewish faculty members increased significantly in the 1960s, and by 1990 almost eighteen percent of the full-time faculty was Jewish.

Jews came late to the administration of Union College. Milton Enzer '30, became the head of the news bureau immediately after graduation, the first Jew in the administration (see PUBLIC RELATIONS). The number of Jewish administrators has never been large, but in 1966 Martin Lichterman became Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, to be followed two decades later by Terry Weiner as Associate Dean of the Faculty. Graduate and Continuing Studies was headed by Aaron Feinsot (1976–85) and Arnold E.S. Gussin (1985–). In 1990 Roger Hull became the first Jewish president of Union College.

Jews also arrived belatedly as trustees. HENRY SCHAFFER (1953–82), William B. Jaffe '26 (1964–72), Arthur Vash '51 (1971–83), Morton Yulman '36 (1974–86), and Arnold I. Burns '50 (1976–96), were among the Jewish trustees in the 1960–90 period. Burns chaired the board and Schaffer and Yulman made major financial contributions to the College, including SCHAFFER LIBRARY, and the Yulman Theater. Jaffe endowed the JAFFE ART LECTURE SERIES.

The influx of Jewish faculty and administrators led to course offerings in Judaic studies, something that had never existed at Union (with the exception of Biblical HEBREW, taught in the College's earliest years but

only sporadically throughout most of the nineteenth century). Beginning in the 1970s, courses in Jewish history and modern Hebrew became permanent features in the curriculum, as did a TERMS ABROAD program in Israel. The same period also saw the creation of a kosher kitchen in West College, the first time such facilities were established on a continuing basis at Union. A Jewish chaplain joined the Campus Ministry in 1986 (see CHAPLAIN AND CAMPUS MINISTRY).

An element of Jewish life at Union, more important in some periods than others, was anti-Semitism, which began with the admissions process. Documentary evidence, discussed in the article on ADMISSIONS, shows that Union used a direct quota to limit Jewish admissions from about 1930 or earlier until the state legislature outlawed consideration of race, religion, etc. in 1948. From 1950 until incoming president Martin abolished the practice in 1965, the College sought to achieve the same end through a geographical quota on applicants from the greater New York City area. One Jewish applicant actually received a letter from the College informing him that "the quota under which you fall has already been filled."

During most of this period, the aim was apparently to limit Jews to about eight to ten percent of the student body. Interviews with alumni from the 1930s through the 1960s suggest that existence of such a quota was widely known or suspected. Administrators, such as admissions director CHARLES WALDRON, defended the quota system on the ground that admitting too many Jews "lowers the respect" for the college felt by undergraduates and alumni, and by the principals and teachers who steered students to Union. Waldron also believed, however, that those Jews who were admitted should not have to confront discrimination. In the early 1920s, as editor of the alumni magazine, he criticized the Union Interfraternity Council for excluding Jewish fraternities.

Union's behavior was not unique. Beginning in the 1920s, many universities and colleges, including some of the nation's most prominent, instituted Jewish quotas, a reflection of the rising tide of anti-Semitism in the interwar period, combined with an increase in the numbers of Jewish immigrants' children seeking to attend college. Some of the quotas were higher than Union's (e.g., Harvard's), some lower (e.g., Princeton's). It would not be until the late '50s and early '60s that such quotas were abolished in all forms.

Although very few of them speak of a pervasive atmosphere of anti-Semitism at Union, Jewish alumni, especially from the '20s and '30s, do recall feeling a sense of apartness from the College. This can be explained in part by the strong role played by the YMCA on the campus in the first decades of the twentieth century and the compulsory chapels at which most of the religious speakers were Christian clergymen—although rabbis were occasionally scheduled as well. (See

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE RULES). From 1934 through 1948, the General Information number of the Union College Bulletin stated: "Union College, although non-sectarian, is a Christian institution." As late as the early 1960s, a dean was heard to say "After all, Union is a Christian college."

Faculty anti-Semitism does not seem to have been a factor in the dealings of professors with students, but occasional student hostility toward Jews did manifest itself in personal encounters during which anti-Semitic language was used. In rare instances, Jewish students were physically attacked.

Many fraternities contributed to anti-Semitism and a certain sense of alienation felt by some Jews. As explained in the article on FRATERNITIES, nearly all of Union's twentieth-century fraternities except the Jewish fraternities excluded Jews, often being required to do so by their national charters (for a long time, at least some of the Jewish fraternities, in response, formally excluded Gentiles). The Inter-Fraternity Council in the 1920s excluded Jewish fraternities.

Anti-Semitism did not go entirely unchallenged at Union. Faculty, students and administrators sometimes voiced their opposition to anti-Jewish sentiments. As early as 1893, Professor WILLIAM WELLS wrote of the virtues of religious toleration and praised the fact that young men of the Hebrew faith did not suffer discrimination at the College. In the early 1920s some students joined Waldron in his criticism of the Union Inter-Fraternity Council for barring Jewish fraternities. In 1929, President Frank Parker Day's inaugural address included an appeal to fraternity men to "make our College spirit finer" by eliminating discrimination from the campus. He specifically mentioned Jews, against whom there should be no hostility (he did not, however, abolish the quota on Jewish admissions and may indeed have presided over its introduction).

Unfortunately, Day's two immediate successors, Dixon Ryan Fox (1934-45) and Carter Davidson (1946-65), apparently exercised little or no moral leadership on this issue. As a national officer of his own fraternity (which had no chapter at Union), Fox vigorously defended Jewish exclusion, and Davidson argued in print that, without being able to ask questions about a candidate's ethnicity, an admissions officer could not adequately determine whether an interviewee could benefit from attending Union. Reflecting the stance of Union's board, when other college administrations began to force their fraternities to end discrimination Davidson said that Union believed the students should undertake such reforms on their own.

In the '50s and '60s, the *CONCORDIENSIS*, by that time nearly always edited by members of one of the Jewish fraternities, carried editorials and letters condemning the quota system. But at other times the campus was silent in the face of bigotry, and some Jewish alumni recall these occasions with bitterness.

The discussion of anti-Semitism should not obscure certain basic facts. In the last century thousands of Jewish students graduated from Union College. The great bulk of them believe that their college experience was valuable and that anti-Semitism, while present, did not impinge upon their lives in a substantial way.

—Stephen M. Berk

Johnson, Burges Americus (Nov. 9, 1877–Feb. 23, 1963). Professor of English, 1935–44.

A native of Rutland, Vermont, one of four children of Congregational minister James Gibson Johnson (an 1863 Union College graduate), and Mary Abigail Rankin Johnson, Burges Johnson grew up in a large, articulate and high-spirited extended family.

As James Johnson was called to larger churches, the family moved to New London, Connecticut, when Burges was eleven, and to Chicago when he was fifteen. Already suffering from the asthma and bronchitis that would plague him all his life, the boy spent the summer of his fourteenth year in the Southwest, visiting an uncle who commanded an Army fort in Indian Territory (and had once employed Buffalo Bill as a scout). Through the influence of another uncle, he then worked briefly as a hand on a Mexican ranch, participated in a cattle drive, and worked for a while on a railway construction gang.

In Chicago, Johnson worked at the World's Columbian Exposition (1893), witnessed the great Pullman strike (1894), heard William Jennings Bryan deliver his "Cross of Gold" speech (1896), and appeared as an extra in Metropolitan Opera Company travelling productions of *Carmen* and *Faust*.

Along with an appetite for experience (he would advise his students, "The thing to do is to vary your experiences, to do the thing that invites—the next thing"), Johnson inherited the confidence that his modest social status need not prevent him from knowing famous people. His father, who had served as Senator William Seward's secretary before going to college, once took young Burges to meet the aged John Greenleaf Whittier; Burges in his turn much later took his daughter to the White House and introduced her to President Coolidge, whom he did not know. But Johnson also enjoyed genuine friendships with a wide variety of more or less public men. When he came to publish his memoirs in 1944 (within the period covered by this book, he remains the only Union College professor to write a real autobiography), he filled a lively 346-page book while barely mentioning the academic career that had occupied him for twenty-nine years.

After earning a BA (1899) from Amherst, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Johnson worked briefly as a reporter on the *New York Evening Post* and on the *Commercial Advertiser*, but that paper's city editor, Lincoln Steffens (who remained a lifelong friend), urged him to look for magazine work.