

# The Association of American University Presses, Inc.

20 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

WISCONSIN 7-1790

## REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

Chester Kerr

Annual Meeting, June 1966

It is my task to make to you a presidential report--an annual event begun so successfully by Harold Ingle, carried forth in such unique style by the incomparable Frank Wardlaw, and handled with such remarkable philosophical overtones by Roger Shugg. In the event that I am returned to the high office for a second year, I would like next year to present to you, as part of such a report, some observations on scholarly publishing in a proper perspective. This year, in midstream, where the Raritan flows, it seems more pertinent to report to you on what has happened in the affairs of our Association in the twelve months since we met in the Blue Grass, and to speak to you of the tasks ahead in the year before we meet on the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario.

It has been quite a year. It has been the year in which a nine-man Board, a group far more truly representative of the membership of our organization than any we've had before, assumed responsibility for the conduct of the Association. You see them here alongside me.

I said at Lexington, after taking office, that in having such fellow members as these I expected to be supported far beyond the good fortune of most executives. This has proved to be exactly so.

They have been willing to meet and talk, and talk and meet, through four long two-day sessions--at New Haven in November, in New York in February, in Princeton in April, and, in a marathon finish, here at New Brunswick beginning Sunday afternoon, continuing into Sunday evening, resuming Monday morning, and finishing, finally, Monday night just before midnight. You may take my word for it that, although I am keenly aware of the kind of devoted service past officers and executive committees have rendered to the AAUP, no elected board has rendered our organization more conspicuous or extended or valuable service, and on your behalf I wish to thank them publicly, inviting you to join me as I do.

I hesitate to single out any one of them, as each has carried a full share of the enterprise. Yet it ought to be recognized that, particularly in reference to his special assignments at Pittsburgh and in the chairmanship of our Ad Hoc Search Committee, the Vice-President this year, Bruce Denbo, has provided the Board and the members with a calibre and a content of service that will not be equalled for years to come. Bruce, we thank you and salute you.

It should also be remarked, as will be plain in the forthcoming business meeting, that this particular year has required far more of our Treasurer, Bill Harvey, than one can ordinarily expect and that on every occasion he has risen to it, skillfully, diligently, generously. Bill, we thank you too.

Not wholly visible to you at this table is the other Board, the one that constructs and guides the policies of the subsidiary organization we set up at Chicago, the AUPS Board--headed for a second year by Curly Bowen, who had with him, in addition to Leon Seltzer and Bill Harvey, Roger Howley, Herb Morton, Jack Goellner, and Jack Schulman. You will hear their report this afternoon, but I ask you also to join me now in thanking this group if they will rise wherever they are.

My remarks about Dana Pratt and the staff of our Central Office will be reserved until tomorrow's lunch. They will be warm.

I do not wish to wait until tomorrow, though, to express our warm appreciation to the Committees of the AAUP who have, as always, made possible the area-by-area assigned work of our Association. I mean Savoie Lottinville and his Membership Committee, wrestling with some difficult decisions this year; Tom Wilson and the Nominating Committee, faced with a new and significant set of problems; Gordon Hubel who took over Copyright, a topic of the utmost importance to all of us; Frank Wardlaw, the seasoned internationalist; Ashbel Brice with the Scholarly Journals Committee; Emily Schossberger with Library Relationships; and Jane McCarthy of Minnesota, who carried forward the work of that remarkable new Committee on Production Quality so ably begun by Burt Stratton and John Goetz. Of what has been done by these Committees you will learn more during the business meeting, and this will be true of the Ad Hoc groups--Roger Shugg and the Editorial Institute, Herb Bailey on Printing Developments, and Fon Boardman on Publications, but they too, believe me, have earned our gratitude.

But I suppose that the single labor with the greatest implications for this Association in all its components, this year and for many to come, is that which has been performed by the Ad Hoc Committee headed by Harold Ingle, assisted by Jack Schulman and Jim Kobak of Lasser, all of them backstopped by Dana Pratt. This is the committee originally appointed by Curly Bowen to study the administrative needs of AUPS, a task urged on us with considerable zest and foresight by Bernard Perry and John Dessauer at Lexington and before--a committee which, it was quickly apparent, had a service to perform not merely to the structure of AUPS but to the whole parent body, the AAUP itself.

You have had that report in your hands since February. You do not need to have me tell you, I'm sure, that its recommendations are a logical and inevitable sequel to the establishment of the Central Office at New Haven in 1958, and the creation of the subsidiary service corporation at Chicago in 1964. The Ingle Report, with all its implications, including costs, is to be put before you in the next day and a half. Its adoption will, in my solemn judgment, complete the bold yet

deliberate design which will bring into being the kind of Association its members so plainly need. If they are ready to accept the full responsibility for it, it is now within their grasp.

What kind of Association? Let me try to tell you. How do I know? Because during the past year I have visited over half of our members on their home grounds and out of that welcome and rich opportunity have been able to learn a great deal about their needs and wishes. Because a great many members have responded to the appeal I made at Lexington, the appeal for improved communications, whether to the officers or to Board members or to each other, in regional groups or as individuals. And because I truly believe that this Board, more than any previous body, has a better understanding and a greater realization of the aspirations, the troubles, and the desires of the 67 scholarly publishing organizations that make up this remarkable Association.

It has not always been easy, this act of communication. There have been long long sessions. There have been long long memoranda and letters. There have been long long telephone calls. There have been misunderstandings and bruises and spiked exchanges. But in the end, as befits citizens of the democratic society, as befits gentlemen and scholars with common ends in view, we have managed to do what I urged at Lexington: to remain flexible in our thinking and to act always in good faith.

We have sought to gather up all the threads of possibility and belief and weave them into the fabric of decision--designed, as we interpret the results of the Board's questionnaire, to serve the greatest good of the greatest number. As with Vietnam, we have remained aware that there is no sure and resistless logic by which the questions can all be answered or the problems solved. But it has been the task of this Board, growing out of the tasks performed by Roger Shugg's Board before us, to identify the problems and clarify the possible solutions. I submit that we have fulfilled that task, and I speak with pride for this Board when I say that we take satisfaction in the recommendations we will place before you this afternoon and tomorrow.

These recommendations, based on the Ingle Report, are buttressed by the responses from the 51 presses who sent in replies to our questionnaire. From these replies the Board has had a fine chance to learn some obvious things and many that have been freshly advanced. From these replies we know that the members value this annual meeting for what it is and, in a sense has always been, a splendid chance to compare notes, to raise sights, to acquire new information, to meet and talk with others engaged in like pursuits. We know that the members wish to improve the flow of information among presses between these annual encounters--and that they are now using, with increasing effect, regional meetings to supplement this flow, as well as such specialized sessions as the ones held this spring on direct mail. We know that no new idea dangled before us in recent years has seemed so desirable as the Shugg Institute--and that they are impatient to get on with the construction of the Editorial

Institute, as a starter. We know of the large determination to maintain unified representation on such matters as copyright, on projects for foundations, on liaison with the federal agencies which Dan Lacy described to us so brilliantly in his lunch speech yesterday. We know of the constant need for advice to new presses and help for older ones and of the recurring educational process that this entails. We know of the desire for new surveys and handbooks and statements of common purpose, and of a more effective employment or referral service, new translation projects, and a host of other useful and valuable suggestions which we are placing in the hands of the Board that will succeed this one.

That's why we are now ready to place the Ingle Report before you this afternoon, to identify the price tag on it, to suggest a way to pay for it as we go, and to say to you that in our view the way lies forward, not backward--that we see only growth and an exciting new prospect ahead, for the scholarly publishing profession we have all chosen to embrace, for the presses we represent, and for the Association which, we believe, can serve our profession and our presses and our universities with increased effect and improved relationship to the new worlds it is clear that we are all moving into.