

Dean Oldfather Encourages Study of History

BY MILLIE HOOTWALKER.

When it comes to history, the Greeks had a word for it: "It piles up experience for man," according to Dean Charles H. Oldfather of the College of Arts and Sciences. As a scholar in history and Greek, he should know.

"History," said Dean Oldfather, "is now being taught more and more through social and economic interpretation of events than through a dry compiling of dates. If you study in history the experience of all mankind, you don't have to make the same mistakes yourself. To quote a colleague, 'History puts old heads on young shoulders.'"

In his leisure hours Dr. Oldfather is translating from Greek the history of the world written by Diodorus of Sicily. Four volumes of this scholarly work have been published, another is on the press, and he is at work on his sixth and last volume.

Born in Persia, having studied in Munich, Germany, and having taught in Beirut, Syria, Dean Oldfather has a broad interest in and understanding of world affairs. He has made many walking trips, he said, through Syria and Palestine, and is strongly against partition there. "That is the opinion of almost all educators who are familiar with that area," he continued.

Unhappy over 'Modern Art.'

Dean Oldfather describes his taste in art as classical. "I like art to be restful," he said. "Art has been very important in every civilization, and it is a very happy antidote for the utilitarian tendency of our American civilization. Even in a kitchen, don't you have a happier cook if the room and its furnishings have pleasing lines? Maybe you even get better meals."

"I am not very happy about modernistic painting," the dean admitted.

Commenting on radio programs on the air today, Dean Oldfather said, "I like the free enterprise system on the radio even though it does give us a terrible lot of tripe!" He continued that he felt radio's influence could be enormous in the field of education and true appreciation of the better things. "One of the boys from radio asked me to fill out a questionnaire as to what programs I listened to. He said the radio people were afraid that



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people don't listen enough to serious programs. I told him that I always listen to 'Elmer Davis and the News,' and confess that Amos 'n Andy and Charlie McCarthy were also among my regulars."

People Always Interesting.

Dean Oldfather began his career at the University as a professor ancient history in 1926, was chairman of the history department from 1929 to 1946 and became dean of the college in 1932. He enjoys the administrative duties of that office which now take up his time, because they deal with people, and "people are always interesting."

The Arts and Science College was the first college of the university, opening its doors—the

doors of University Hall, in 1871. Today this college gives 50 percent of the instruction in credit hours on the two Lincoln campuses, he said. Instruction in English and mathematics, for example, is taken by all students of the university through the Arts College, rather than in separate departments in college of their major.

"The Arts College has general requirements wider than any of the professional colleges, to give a student background in the main bodies of knowledge. Its general aim is to develop a student's mental powers, rather than to fit him for a specific profession," the dean said. "However, a number of our departments are quite professional in their advanced work, for example, geol-

ogy, chemistry and bacteriology, and give the student a foundation for a professional career."

The 16 departments of the college fall into four main divisions, corresponding to the four main bodies of knowledge; the formal sciences, the natural sciences, social studies, and humane letters.

Fundamentals Stressed.

"After all," said Dean Oldfather, "the Arts College teaches subjects which are still considered to be the fundamentals of knowledge. The degree offered by this college is still the prize undergraduate degree in the minds of the public. Other colleges are allowed to give degrees of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in a specific subject. Only the Arts and Science College confers the unspecialized degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science."

In Dean Oldfather's opinion, Latin definitely has a place in modern education. "Its vocabulary is diffused through every other language." I am one of these old-fashioned people who believe that you learn your own language by studying another. Latin should be the first foreign language learned. In most other countries they start it in what we would call the seventh grade."

are experimenting with very general courses such as a course in social science, a course in social

Dean Oldfather expressed his regret that in this age of specialization of knowledge, most people now cannot get even the elements of knowledge in all fields. "Educators are very greatly concerned about the problem," he said, "and sciences," so that introductory courses at least in the basic fields of knowledge may be available to all college students.

Campus News In Brief

Simon's winning ad of the display ad contest cannot be published this Friday as previously announced because of an unavoidable delay in judging and reproduction of the ad. The winning ad will appear in next week's Rag and winners will be notified next week. Entries are now being taken for the institutional ad contest.

Patter by Pat

And then there's the weather. Some like it hot, some like it cold but all agree they need a change.

For instance, Freddie Herzog is praying for a spring thaw to further his cause with Ruth Ann Finkle. When interviewed on the subject, Fred stated, "Just how long can things freeze up?"

Although stormy weather caused a break in the Johnny Williams-Bobbie Sprow relationship, Johnny is in pursuit of a silver lining—and Phil Kone. If this doesn't pan out, Dauntless John has two other Tri Delth in view.

Chills and Thrills.

After going barefoot for one entire chill and icy semester, Ervie Evnen has prospects of a cozy spring due to the argyle socks Eileen Gotsdiner is knitting for him.

Complications have been clouding up George Bostwick's week-ends of late. He is sure, however, that Norma Spear could clear things up if she would only save her week-ends for him.

The latest in vocal organizations, renowned as Krause's Kampus Krooners, are planning a spring concert as soon as the weather permits. The group includes Bud Krause, tenor, Dick Olney, alto, Van Bunger, soprano, and Gene Berg, plan to tour the sorority houses where they will all join hands and sing something gay.

Sandy Crawford allegedly prefers a warm and torrid climate. Maybe that's how he found out so much about the Zulu people.

Engaged: Bev Stenberg-Bill Carlson.
Probable: Eleanora Swan-Bill Critchfield.
Impossible: Romy Ewing.
Carter Iddings.

That's that, Pat.

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