



# PERMANENT THINGS

Number 5

*This number of Permanent Things features a profile of Kirk Center Senior Fellow and Edmund Burke scholar, Ian Crowe, as well as an account of a goodwill meeting in London between Center President Annette Kirk and Mrs. T. S. Eliot, and a recent seminar on conservatism and first principles held at the Center.*

## OUR EMINENT FELLOW:

### REVIVING INTEREST IN A POLITICAL AND LITERARY GIANT

The Kirk Center is honored to introduce Ian Crowe as one of its newest Senior Fellows. Ian is an academic tutor, lecturer, and writer, specializing in the work of the eighteenth-century Irish politician and thinker Edmund Burke: the father of modern intellectual conservatism. He also writes and lectures on the wider history of the development of British and American conservative thought since the French Revolution. His publications include *The Enduring Edmund Burke*, *Unwelcome Truths*, "The Hereditary Peerage: a Voice in and for Rural Britain" in *Another Country*, and a number of articles and reviews in *Modern Age*, *The Methodist Recorder*, and *Conference and Common Room*. He is the editor of *Reflections*, a biannual newsletter of The Edmund Burke Society in England. He is readying an American version of *Reflections* scheduled for publication under the auspices of the Kirk Center this spring (more in future numbers of *PT*). Ian is also editing a series of pamphlets on "Conservative Thinkers" designed to increase access to central texts of political and social thought among students and the wider public.



*Senior Fellow Ian Crowe (left) and William Hay (right), from the University of Virginia, meet at the Kirk library during a Center seminar.*

As a Senior Fellow at the Russell Kirk Center, he is pursuing a comparative study of contemporary American and British conservatism and completing a pamphlet on *Burke, Conservatism and Rights* for the “Conservative Thinkers” series. For Boswell, Burke was simply “our eminent friend”; but it is not certain that his eminence will be recognizable to young scholars and conservatives. Ian’s is a lively and engaging conservative mind, and his efforts to rescue Burke from radical scholars like Kramnick and O’Brien are thus much needed and offer hope that the genuine and rich Burke scholarship of the Kirk, Stanlis, Canavan generation will remain vital and accessible for future generations to draw upon.

“As a resident scholar, the Russell Kirk Center’s library and the opportunities that the Center offered for me to build links with a wide range of institutions, academics, and practicing politicians... provided me with invaluable material for achieving my goals,” Ian said of his experience as a Senior Fellow. “The Center is a place where Burke’s notion of the ‘unbought grace of life’ is daily evidenced, and it is my hope that it will flourish as a community of students and scholars devoted to exploring the works of the seminal minds of the West as sources of cultural renewal.”

## MRS. T. S. ELIOT AND THE KIRK CENTER

Center President Annette Kirk met with Valerie Eliot, widow of the Nobel-laureate poet T. S. Eliot, in London this past June, while on a trip to her daughter Andrea’s graduation from St. Andrew’s University in Scotland.

Through her oversight of the house of Faber & Faber, Mrs. Eliot remains a



*Mrs. T.S. Eliot meets with Annette Kirk and her daughters Felicia and Andrea.*

respected figure in the world of publishing. As editor of her husband’s collected letters, she is also prominent in circles of T. S. scholarship. During their visit, Mrs. Kirk and Mrs. Eliot discussed the demands of publishing and editing Eliot’s writings, as well as contemporary currents in letters

and culture that present obstacles and opportunities for advancing interest in both Eliot and Kirk. Mrs. Eliot was keenly interested in the activities of the Kirk Center, and offered it her warm and enthusiastic endorsement. She encouraged the Center's current plan to hold a seminar on T. S. Eliot's influence on Russell Kirk's thought.

## ISI STUDENT FELLOWS CONVENE AT KIRK CENTER



*Undergraduates and their professor mentors gather at Piety Hill to begin ISI's year-long Honors Program.*

In August, the Kirk Center hosted a week-long seminar for the 1999-2000 Honors Fellows of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI). ISI Honors Students are some of the premier undergraduates in the country. They form the core of a unique year-long program that pairs an exceptional student with a distinguished faculty mentor willing to direct an agreed upon course of study. Entitled "The Conservative Tradition," the seminar focused upon people and principles that formed the conservative movement in America. Faculty mentors and students found the Kirk Center experience to be integral in fashioning a sense of community and friendship among the participants--a fact testified by the students spontaneous formation of a group that hopes to reunite at Piety Hill in the future. One ISI Honors Fellow expressed his enthusiasm for the Piety Hill experience by remarking that the "conference made me realize that there are intelligent individuals who take ideas seriously and who also possess conservative sentiments."

## THE GLORY OF EVERY NATION ARISES FROM ITS AUTHORS

The *University Bookman* will turn forty this spring and we have a number of new offerings to unveil in our anniversary issue. In the coming months we will be sending out notices to those who have let, or are on the verge of letting, their subscription expire. Also, we will be printing subscription information directly on your mailing labels. We once again want to invite you to re-subscribe to *The University Bookman* and thus signal your appreciation for good writing and books of enduring value.

As you know, the *Bookman* occupies a unique niche in the intellectual firmament. Our quarterly is the oldest conservative book review publication in the country and has established its reputation by resolutely setting its face against the fads and conceits of the dominant literary establishments. A renewal of your *Bookman* subscription is a positive way to respond to the liberal monolith that dominates the book world.

*The Bookman* is committed to providing you with the highest quality writing, featuring today's most gifted and thoughtful conservative authors, and considering the most important works of our age from a traditional point of view. Past issues have included:

**Gilbert Meilaender** on Vigen Guroian's *Tending the Heart of Virtue*

**Eugene Genovese** on Russell Kirk's *Redeeming the Time*

**George Carey** on Thomas West's *Vindicating the Founders*

"A Tribute to William Bentley Ball" by **Douglas Kmiec**

"Life with Russell Kirk" by **Annette Y. Kirk**

Other contributors include: **Russell Hittinger, Bruce Frohnen, Grace**

**Goodell, Brad Minor, Robert Royal, Suzanne M. Wolfe, Edward**

**Ericson, Peter A. Lawler, and Allan Carlson**

We hope you will agree that the intellectual and cultural yield of this quarterly is worth incalculably more than the modest subscription price, which remains a mere ten dollars. Please remember to re-subscribe in the coming months as we seek to advance the Permanent Things for another forty years. Thanks to you, our readers, for your loyalty and dedication to the Kirk Center and its flagship publication: *The University Bookman*.

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