

# EDITORIALS

## Salzburg Seminar



WHILE learned conferences in this country on international education have raised and are still raising mountains of paper work, something concrete has been accomplished by at least one student group. The Harvard Student Council has quietly organized the first general experiment in international education in postwar Europe. It has assembled a distinguished faculty from the areas of American civilization—Professors F. O. Matthiessen and Benjamin F. Wright among them—and will invite some eighty scholars and advanced students from all over Europe to work with this faculty and ten American students in Castle Leopoldskron near Salzburg, Austria. In the sponsor group are such Harvard teachers as Rupert Emerson, William Y. Elliott, Gaetano Salvemini, Perry Miller, and David Owen, as well as artists like Bruno Walter and Helen Hayes.

The Salzburg Seminar will be held this summer from July 15 to August 31. It is organized to provide for the most immediate physical and intellectual needs of European students and scholars by providing them with an opportunity for advanced study and contact with the outside world under favorable living conditions. All the European members of the Seminar will be teachers or will soon hold teaching positions in their home countries. Although the Seminar is not designed to propagandize American ways, it is not too much to hope that its European members will return to to or assume their teaching with a deeper and more explicit understanding of America and their own countries. In other words, their stay at Leopoldskron should strengthen these young men and women in their faith in a reconstruction of Europe on a democratic basis.

During the winter months to come Castle Leopoldskron, the former residence of Max Reinhardt and intellectual center of the Salzburg Festivals, will be run as a rest home for European students. The Student Council hopes to repeat this summer's experiment in 1948 on a broader basis; and it is well within the range of possibility that in time the Salzburg Seminar may develop into the permanent center of cultural exchange between Europe and America.

Not the least important feature of the first Salzburg Seminar is the fact that it was conceived and realized entirely by a group of Harvard students without the help of any large-scale organization. It must stand, therefore, as an encouragement to those American students who still believe in the value of personal initiative, and who have as yet not succumbed to that rising bureaucratic submissiveness succinctly expressed by the remark, apropos of the present undertaking, "Why, if the army is not doing it, should Harvard do it?"

The Salzburg Seminar will be financed by funds now being raised by members of the student group, to be administered through the World Student Service Fund, of

New York and Geneva. The small budget of \$23,000 includes the cost of food for all members of the Seminar, travelling expenses for the European members, and minor administrative costs, such as the purchase of books. If more than \$23,000 is raised, the group will be able to finance a few American students who cannot otherwise attend.

Within a fortnight the Harvard Food Relief Committee sent a check for \$21,000 to the WSSF for the purchase of food for students in Europe and China—the largest single contribution the WSSF has ever received. Now, with the establishment of the Salzburg Seminar, Harvard students lead all American universities in the effort to help repair the physical and intellectual bankruptcy of the war. Their action is a vivid answer to President Conant's call for "hard-headed idealism" in the postwar world.

## The Farnsworth Room



WHEN the Farnsworth Room was opened in the Widener Library on the fifth of December 1916, it was putting it mildly to say that it filled a long-felt want. It opened a new world to the generation of Harvard undergraduates about to enter the first global war, and in the succeeding thirty years it ministered to the instant need of countless young men who had never in their brief lives enjoyed the run of what amounted to a private library where taste and catholicity of interest were the controlling factors. If it appeared somewhat austere in atmosphere and in prohibitions governing the casual occupants' behavior, it was nevertheless the green oasis to which the thirsty of heart and mind might come to drink not water, but vintages of the most fruitful years of the world's best vineyards. Across the years the room has served as a model for a great many similar rooms in other colleges and public libraries in the United States and Canada; for how many private libraries it has been the creative example, there is no possible telling.

When the new Lamont Undergraduate Library is completed, the Farnsworth Room will be reestablished under its roof. It will carry over to its probably ampler quarters the loom and spirit of an old room that has meant everything to many. It will carry over, too, the bulk of the books which are now on its shelves. Many more in new and old categories will be added. Supplemental to the House Libraries, the Farnsworth Room "will continue to cater to that need of the sequestered and adventurous which the House Libraries, in their more active and functional spheres, do not quite supply." It will stand at the crossroads for all undergraduates to use in their own light and after their own bent. It will be there always, even better than it is now, for the "non-reading reading man", as Edward Fitzgerald has been described in his Trinity days. Fitzgerald read widely and voraciously, but not in the set books. The Farnsworth Room has a long record of making indefatigable readers out of non-reading men. So may it continue!

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