

The Anachronist 1995 is intended as an antidote to the gloom created by the many pessimists whose vision is circumscribed by factors subject to change. It is a volume of essays that signals the coming-of-age of students who, in the course of their undergraduate or postgraduate studies, have nurtured a passionate intellectual interest in topics as diverse as the conventions of mediaeval poetry, the feminist thought of Anne Sexton, the philosophy of the Renaissance, the Metaphysicals and Shelley, the religious experience of Milton, Blake and T.S.Eliot, the aesthetics of the Pre-Raphaelites and Greenaway, and the narrative techniques of Sterne, Hardy, Joyce, Virginia Woolf and Burgess. In the following papers attitudes vary, approaches differ, but the voice remains personal, the research reliable, and the touch of originality undeniable.

With so many economic forces at work destructive of what has traditionally been called a university education, it is vital for us to create an intellectual ambiance within our department; an ambiance that would encourage a spirit of adventure, a tolerance for the unorthodox, and a hunger for the new, while preserving a respect for the more traditional scholarly practices still worthy of our attention. For it is certain that only intellectual strength, courage, and discipline will have the persuasive power in the lean years ahead.

Heartfelt thanks is due to those teachers who have spared neither time nor energy in encouraging and guiding students. We can only hope that *The Anachronist 1995* will be followed by *The Anachronist 1996*, and that this collection of student essays will become a watchword for renewal, continuity, and relevance.

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