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One Moment in Time: An Editorial

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One Moment in Time: An Editorial

A person reading a copy of this magazine sees a partial reflection of the current trends of thought that prevail at Denison. He is not aware of the 125 years of evolutionary development that are the progenitors of these trends. By failing to recognize the influence of the past upon the present we often lose sight of the responsibility we, the present college generation, have in forming and shaping the future.

Denison University was founded 125 years ago with one aim—to educate young men for roles of leadership in the Baptist Church. This original aim has slowly evolved into the Denison of today—something far different. Yet it is this concise and specific statement of purpose at the beginning that is in a sense responsible for the present moment. Each refinement of purpose along the way, each change of emphasis is responsible for what we have today. And it is today’s emphasis and statement of purpose, the forming of which is the responsibility of the present student body, that will be the progenitor of the future Denison.

Exile, like Denison, was founded with one aim—to give students an outlet for creative expression, to stimulate talents that were being wasted or surpressed by lack of direction.

For some time there has been a growing interest in the arts at Denison. Exile is one of the results of this interest. Exile has a duty to foster this interest and to help it grow to its fullest achievement. Instead of examining Exile purely in the light of the present—seeing this issue as an isolated reflection of the moment—we should try to see the magazine as a product of the past and shaper of the future. This magazine then has its responsibility; and each person who is stimulated by an interest in the arts must assume his share of the responsibility for the projection of creativeness into Denison’s future.

But it is, of course, the present moment we see most clearly. In it we create; and in it we recognize our potentiality. To do both these we must constantly seek perfection—a perfection of talents.

These talents deserve a word of explanation. A perceptive scholar once distinguished a short story from a novel by describing a short story as revelation of character, a novel as evolution of character. Oversimplified though this distinction is, it has an aptness when applied to the development of the artist. This issue of Exile is a moment’s revelation—and a step in the evolution of creativity at this school.

If we recognize the importance of the present moment in itself and as it takes its place in the total evolutionary process we will serve ourselves and the institution we help to shape. What this magazine will be tomorrow depends upon what those with talent do today. The same is true of Denison.

The Editors

In this issue the editors of EXILE are proud to publish “The Flight of the Falcon” by Hans Peeters. This story has been awarded the first Denison Book Store - EXILE Creative Writing Prize.