

## The Academic Week

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Monday, 10:40—12:10. Shakespeare.

My people came from Ipsley, and their name  
Stands beside Shakespeare's on a legal claim.  
Ten years after the Folio they crossed the sea  
For exegetical autonomy.

Then for ten generations they were shut  
Among the hills of west Connecticut.  
Now, having crossed another ocean, I have come  
As far from them as they had come from home.

In this third station of my pilgrimage  
I turn once more the immarcescible page.  
With new acquist the words come back to me:  
*This precious stone set in the silver sea.*

Monday, 12:50—2:20. Modern Poetry.

When I was young my elders frowned  
On Joyce and Eliot and Pound  
And resolutely would decline  
To read the works of Gertrude Stein.  
These writers now are in Parnassus  
And here I sit among my classes  
Launching (while history repeats)  
My diatribes against the Beats.

Tuesday, 12:50—2:20. 17th Century Poetry.

The seventeenth century lyric maintains  
an equilibrium between  
the mellifluence of the Elizabethan  
and the acerbity of the eighteenth  
century . . .

Did someone speak?

That's funny,

I thought I heard a voice say,  
“Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.”

Tuesday, 2:30—4:00. Greek Tragedy.

Electra appears first in the Oresteia of Stesichorus, who may have taken her from that of Xanthus (vide Athenaeus, 12. 512 f.), her name being formed (in defiance of the laws of quantity) by adding *alpha* privitive to *lektron* (Doric) although she is twice wedded in Euripides. She is called Laodice in Homer (Iliad, IX, 145, 287) if indeed it be she.

Iphigeneia is called Iphianassa in the Iliad (Book IX), the Iphigeneia sacrificed at Aulis is said by Pausanias to have been the daughter of Helen by Theseus, who abducted her when she was nine years old (this is denied by Ovid, who claims she was not yet nubile when restored to Sparta) but some say that Iphigeneia is Chrysothemis. in the Iliad and not identical with Iphianassa at all. Sophocles says there were four daughters, nobody being identical with anybody.

Hyginus (in the Fabulae) gives Agamemnon a son Chryses, by his slave Chryseis (Iliad, I, 111) but this statement would gain credence from no sane person.

Friday, 10:40—12:10. Creative Writing: Poetry.

I have taught you to turn anapaests,  
Dactyls and trochaics,  
And to wield the hexameter,  
Sapphics and Alcaics.  
As for the poetry within the verse,  
The marrow in the bone,  
You want that too? Oh no, my dears,  
You get that on your own.

Friday, 12:50—2:20. The Classics and English Literature.

Darwin, Frazer, Marx and Freud  
Are writers no one should avoid.  
Still, for cleaning out our attics,  
There's nothing like the pre-Socratics.  
In youth our hearts are supersonic  
And easily become Platonic,  
But when we've passed our perihelions  
We freeze into Aristotelians.  
These things are what I brought with me  
Across the poluphloisboious sea.  
They are my hope for years to come,  
My strength, and my viaticum.