



History in Stained Glass

As a result of discussion encouraged by Chancellor Frank Strong, Religious Studies at KU began in 1901 when the Disciples of Christ founded the Kansas Bible Chair. Wallace C. Payne was the first teacher and Dean. He conducted classes in the Lawrence Christian Church. The following year the Rush farm house was acquired by the Disciples for a "Bible Classroom" and living headquarters for the Paynes. It was in 1907 that the building was named Meyers after a gift from Mrs. Mary Meyers from Philadelphia in memory of her husband J. Lewis Meyers. The window in stained glass acknowledged the Women's Missionary Society of the Disciples who were responsible for this expansion. When Meyers Hall was razed in 1967 to make room for the present Irma I. Smith Hall, the window was transferred and installed in the new building. It is currently the window to the lounge that is a memorial to Dean and Mrs. Harold Barr.

The celebrated library window in Irma I. Smith Hall represents, in stained glass beauty the Burning Bush that will not be consumed. This is taken from the scene on the seal of the University which depicts Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus, chapter 3). The Latin inscription on the seal, "I will see this great sight why the bush is not burned," is a reminder of the fascination of the unquenchable flame that has symbolized the pursuit of truth at KU for generations, the unsated search for knowledge.

The celebrated Burning Bush window in the library of the School of Religion was created by Jacoby Studios of St. Louis and was the gift of an anonymous donor. It was installed with the new building in 1967.

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From the Editor

The secretary of the Board of Trustees, a geologist by trade, reminds us that every natural system follows the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This means that all natural systems tend to a state of minimum energy and maximum disorder. Kenneth Boulding described the Second Law of Thermodynamics as going from "bad to worse." Robert Frost described it more poetically in his poem, "Mending Wall." "Something there is that doesn't love a wall," he begins, and he relates how two neighbors each spring walk a stone wall and put back in place the rocks that had fallen to the ground during the winter. Is it pixies and elves? No, the wall is obeying the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Freeze and thaw and gravity cause the wall to fall down to a state of minimum energy and maximum disorder. It is ameliorated by human effort.

If the Second Law of Thermodynamics carried on like this unattended in human systems, eventually society would be all flattened out.

The Kansas School of Religion is maintained by people who are concerned about the building up process as they focus the study of religion with the experience of education.

Troy Organ once wrote in this journal: The ideal of the liberal education is best expressed in the wellknown vow of Thomas Jefferson, "I have sworn on the altar of God eternal hostility against every tyranny over the minds of men." A truly liberal arts education will strive to implement four freedoms:

(1) from ignorance, i.e., from knowing too little:

(2) from atrophy, i.e., from ceasing to grow;

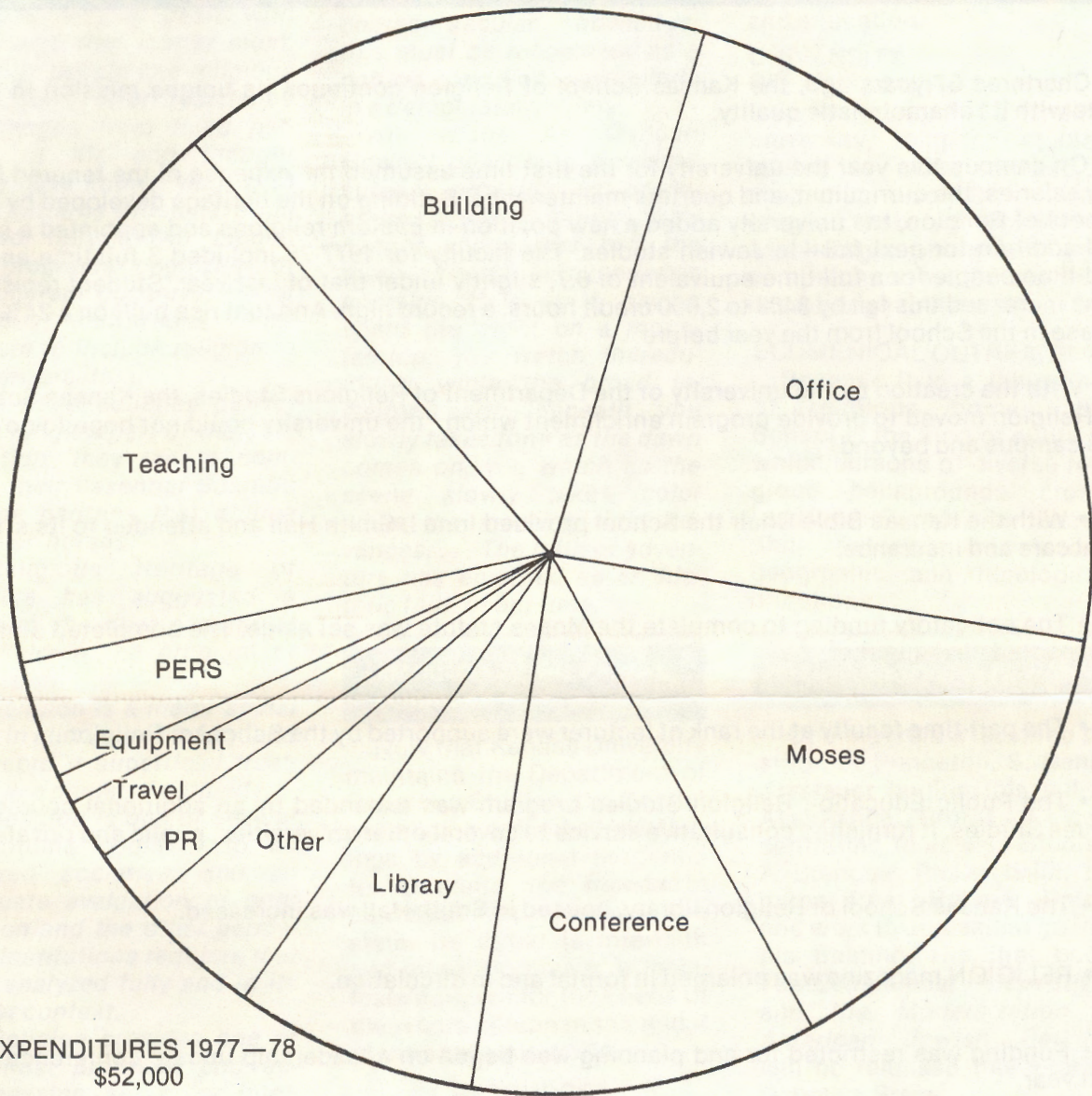
(3) from dogmatism, i.e., from knowing the false security; and

(4) from intolerance, i.e., from closing the mind to other points of view.

If the principal aim of a liberal education is to free the minds of men, there must be a conversation in all subject matters, and especially in those areas where ignorance, atrophy, dogmatism, and intolerance are most prevalent.

(Continued on page 5)

Expenditures 1977-1978



EXPENDITURES 1977—78
\$52,000

	approximate percentage
Teaching and lecturer program	17
Building care	16
Office expense and part time staff.....	23
Moses statute, restricted	14
Reserved for 1979 leadership conference.....	10
Library improvement	7
Public Education Religious program.....	4
Travel, director and faculty	2
Public Relations and programs	2
Equipment maintenance.....	1
Other; audit, utilities, etc.....	4
 Total Expenditures:	 \$52,000

Annual Report

Chartered 57 years ago, the Kansas School of Religion continues its unique mission in the state with its characteristic quality.

On campus this year the university for the first time assumed the expense of the tenured faculty salaries, the curriculum, and quarters maintenance. Building on the heritage developed by the School of Religion, the university added a new position in Eastern religions and appointed a second addition for next fall—in Jewish studies. The faculty for 1977-78 included 3 full-time and 7 part-time people for a full-time equivalent of 6.7, slightly under that of last year. Student registrations increased this fall by 34% to 2,000 credit hours, a record high. And that rise built on a 24% increase in the School from the year before.

With the creation by the university of the Department of Religious Studies, the Kansas School of Religion moved to provide program enrichment which “the university could not hope to do” on the campus and beyond.

- With the Kansas Bible Chair the School provided Irma I. Smith Hall and attended to its structural care and insurance.
- The obligatory funding to complete the Moses statute was set aside. The completed statute is expected next summer.
- The part-time faculty at the rank of lecturer were supported by the School of Religion.
- The Public Education Religion Studies program was expanded by an additional course in Values Studies. It furnished consultative service to several other universities, public and private.
- The Kansas School of Religion library, housed in Smith Hall was increased.
- RELIGION magazine was enlarged in format and in circulation.
- Funding was restricted for and planning was begun on a leadership update conference for next year.
- Assistance was given to other causes: visiting lecturers, conference travel, African students' conference.

Since this was a transition year, it's a base of reference. Watch next year! A unique thoroughfare between the resources in Smith Hall and the needs of the people of Kansas is naturally provided by the School of Religion. The School is using its opportunity to confer programmatically with participating religious bodies.

A thoroughfare is a two way street.

Lynn Taylor
Director
Kansas School of Religion

FROM THE EDITOR (CONT.)

Religion is one of these areas. Because religion deals with the things that matter most, religious people and religious institutions offer resistance to changes from fixed patterns of life and thought which have known values, to other patterns which have values not fully known. Liberal arts programs cognizant of the inherent conservatism of religious institutions, may hesitate to include religion in the conversation.

Yet when colleges do not make religion part of the conversation, they fail to complete their essential Socratic role as gadflies that arouse sluggish horses:

- *Religious Heritage of America has suggested a guide to the development of this field in the program of education.*

- *Religion is a major social force in all human history, and to accord it superficial treatment is a denial of actuality.*

- *Religion is one of several institutions common to all civilized societies, and an adequate evaluation of both religion and the other permanent institutions requires that it be analyzed fully and in its proper context.*

- *Religion provides one of the most profound and encompassing areas for intellectual activity, which all education, ostensibly at least, is supposed to stimulate; thus, since study of religion is a means for developing the capacities of the human mind, students would not be denied access to this intellectual highway.*

From certain vantage points it is obvious that organized religion has not always promoted the cause of humanity; such aspects are as essential as any others to

basic understanding and must be discussed. The teachings of any religion are likely to vary at times from accepted secular knowledge; this must be recognized as a natural condition, particularly in a democratic society.

An image by Duncan Howlett describing a related subject provides an appropriate stopping point: "You cannot encompass half the meaning such as experience contains. It is as if, having spent the night on a mountaintop, you watch incredulously while the broad invisible earth beneath you slowly takes form as the dawn comes on; you watch as the scene slowly takes color while the morning light advances. . . . The faith of adventure has emerged as an historic faith of our time."

RESOURCES OF THE KANSAS SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Now that Kansas University maintains the Department of Religious Studies, the School of Religion enriches the offerings by additional programs for students and friends in Lawrence and across the state. Its thrust is interfaith and interdisciplinary. It manifests concern for the needs of the whole person in the midst of the academic world.

RESOURCES

SPECIAL PROGRAMS—

AB and MA in Religious Studies

Religion and Personality
International religions
Special lecture series
Education Religion Studies
Library
RELIGION Magazine

FACULTY—

Ten people, all with doctorate, special competencies in Biblical studies, contemporary theology, Soviet reli-

gion studies Eastern religions, post Biblical Judaism, ethics, contemporary movements, church history, culture and education.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP—

In the context of a leading university, religious studies relates to other developed academic disciplines, sociology, history, literature, psychology, philosophy and comprehensive area studies; it is a bridge to the university.

ECUMENICAL OUTREACH—

Because it is a fellowship of religious bodies, the School is the kind of entity to which persons of diverse religious backgrounds crossroads of Kansas, its leadership extends in various geographic and ideological directions.

NEW FACULTY

Coming from a teaching position at Princeton, **S. Daniel Breslauer** begins this fall as Assistance Professor, concentrating in Jewish Studies. A Brandeis Ph.D. (1970), degrees from Hebrew Union, and work in Jerusalem go into his training. His first book, *The Ecumenical Perspectives and the Modernization of American Jewish Religion* will be released this year by Scholars Press.

Francis T. Fallon is the new Assistant Professor in New Testament area. Presently he is teaching at St. John's Seminary in Boston, from which school he took the M.Div. in 1965. His doctorate is the Harvard Divinity School Th.D. He has studied at Tuebingen. Coming this year from Brill is his book, *The Enthronement of Sabaoth*.

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1060

RELIGION

Published quarterly in October, January, April, and July by Kansas School of Religion at The University of Kansas at Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

Editor, Lynn Taylor

Subscription \$1.00 per year.

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas