

May 25th

Dear des,

Thanks so much for
a copy of your speech and
your generous words to us.

It is a good speech indeed
and makes me proud to
be your colleague. I am
glad our students heard
it and I wish more
of the faculty had — the
I refuse Hyde Painter's
blanket indictment!

Affectionately,

Helma and Ward

May 30, 1972

Dear Leslie:

Thank you for your interesting pass-out on the talk you gave at Honora Day at Y. S. U. The article is well written and is quite interesting. It is too bad that that sound system was not functioning properly on Honora Day.

Give my best regards to your wife and family.

Sincerely yours,
Elmer Foldvary

25 May 1972

Les -

Thank you for the copy of the Honors Day address, which seems to me exactly the combination of scholarship and concern for today that the occasion requires. It was especially nice to be able to read it - as you probably were told by a number of people, the speaker system was so bad we heard very little of your remarks at the time.

Les

President's Office

TO: Mr. Demoukos

Date: 5/19/72

Dear Les -

I am about to go to the Phi
Kappa Phi installation and
have just read your honors
day speech - "I wish I
had said that"

It is good - inspiring,
and worthy of you -

Thanks for letting me
have a copy -

Cordially

ALP

A L. Pugsley

THE RELEVANCE OF THE RENAISSANCE IDEA OF MAN

I CONSIDER IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY, AS THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION, JOINED BY THE PARENTS, HONORS THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF OUR INSTITUTION. TONIGHT THE UNIVERSITY IS PERFORMING ITS MOST NOBLE FUNCTION, THAT IS, WE ARE GATHERED HERE AS A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS DEDICATED TO TRUTH. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF ANY UNIVERSITY.

TRADITIONALLY, THE HONORS DAY SPEAKER IS REQUESTED TO GIVE HIS ADDRESS IN AN AREA CLOSE TO HIS ACADEMIC PREPARATION AND INTEREST. THIS IS THE TRADITION I INTEND TO FOLLOW. (THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS, BY THE WAY, WAS THE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROF. BERNARD YOZWIAK, A MATHEMATICIAN, WHO WISELY, REALIZED THAT EVEN IF HE THREW THE MOST BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED EQUATIONS AND MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS AT THE AUDIENCE, HE WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY, LOSE THEIR INTEREST AT THE END OF TWENTY MINUTES. HE, THEREFORE PROCEEDED TO DELIVER A SPEECH WITH A MORE UNIVERSAL APPEAL, WHEN HE SPOKE FOUR YEARS AGO.)

PRESIDENT PUGSLEY MENTIONED IN HIS INTRODUCTION, THAT FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE DEVOTED MY ATTENTION TO THE HISTORY OF MEDIAEVAL UNIVERSITIES, AND I WAS OBVIOUSLY TEMPTED TO COME HERE TONIGHT AND DELIVER A TALK ON HOW THE MEDIAEVAL UNIVERSITY RESEMBLES ITS MODERN DESCENDANT. IF THIS CONVOCATION ~~WOULD HAD~~ BEEN HELD IN JONES HALL, WITH ITS PSEUDO-GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE, CREAKING AUDITORIUM FLOOR, SLIGHTLY TATTERED STAGE AND LATE 14TH CENTURY VENTILATION SYSTEM, THEN, AN ADDRESS ON THE MEDIAEVAL UNIVERSITY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDOUBTEDLY APPROPRIATE. HERE, HOWEVER, IN THE SPLENDOR OF THIS NEW FACILITY, I AM CERTAIN THAT A TALK ON A RENAISSANCE TOPIC WOULD BE MORE IN KEEPING WITH OUR SURROUNDINGS.

THE AGE OF THE RENAISSANCE, ONE OF THE MOST VITAL AND INTERESTING AGES IN THE COURSE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, HAS MANY SIMILARITIES WITH OUR OWN PERIOD, BUT ABOVE ALL, IT HAD AN ATTITUDE TOWARD MAN, WHICH DESERVES CLOSER EXAMINATION. IT IS THIS RENAISSANCE CONCEPT OF MAN WHICH IS THE CENTRAL THEME OF MY TALK, AND WHICH CAN HAVE RELEVANCE TO THE NEEDS OF MODERN MAN.

MAY I STRESS AT THE OUTSET, THAT I AM NOT A BELIEVER IN THE CYCLICAL INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. IF THERE ARE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CERTAIN HISTORICAL PERIODS, IT IS MAINLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HUMANS DO NOT REALLY CHANGE MUCH, AND THOUGH EMPIRES RISE AND FALL, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS GO THROUGH VARIOUS STAGES OF MORPHOSIS, VARIOUS "ISMS" COME AND DISAPPEAR, MAN IS NOT RADICALLY ~~CHANGED~~ ^{ALTERED}. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP IN MIND, IS THAT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT A PERIOD OF HISTORY, SUCH AS THE RENAISSANCE, AND DRAW CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM IT, WE MUST BE AWARE OF THE INNATE WEAKNESSES OF ALL GENERALIZATIONS. DURING THE 250 YEARS OR SO, THAT WE SET OFF AS THE AGE OF THE RENAISSANCE, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY DIVERGENCE OF ATTITUDES, IDEAS AND WORLD-VIEWS.

TAKING THEN ALL THIS INTO CONSIDERATION, LET US SEE WHAT SIMILAR PROBLEMS CONFRONTED OUR ANCESTORS 500 YEARS OR SO AGO, HOW THEY FACED UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF HISTORY, AND WHAT IN THEIR ATTITUDES ENABLED THEM TO SURVIVE AND EXCELL.

AFTER 1300, THE MAJORITY OF MEDIAEVAL INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN ITALY, BEGAN TO DECLINE, ~~AND~~ OPENING THE WAY TO A NEW AGE. CHIVALRY, THE FEUDAL STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, THE UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY OF THE PAPACY, THE GUILD SYSTEM, ALL WERE BEING WEAKENED AND EVENTUALLY MANY OF THESE ~~MEDIAEVAL~~ INSTITUTIONS DISAPPEARED. THE GREAT AGE OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRALS WAS PRACTICALLY OVER, SCHOLASTIC PHILOSOPHY WAS INCREASINGLY RIDICULED AND THE SUPREMACY OF THE RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL

INTERPRETATIONS OF LIFE WERE SLOWLY BUT EFFECTIVELY UNDERMINED. IN PLACE OF ALL THIS THERE EMERGED NEW INSTITUTIONS AND NEW WAYS OF THINKING. THE RENAISSANCE PRODUCED AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF NEW ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARTS, LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, SCIENCE AND TO A LESSER DEGREE, PHILOSOPHY. MUCH OF THIS WAS BUILT ON CLASSICAL FOUNDATIONS, BUT THERE WAS ALSO A GREAT DEAL OF ORIGINALITY, ~~PARTICULARLY~~ ^{ESPECIALLY} IN THE FINE ARTS.

PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR US IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUMBER OF IDEAS AND ATTITUDES WHICH DIFFERENTIATE THE RENAISSANCE MAN FROM THE PREVIOUS AGE. CONSPICUOUS AMONG THESE IS OPTIMISM, WORLDLINESS, NATURALISM, INDIVIDUALISM, AND ABOVE ALL, HUMANISM. A PERFECT COMBINATION OF ALL THESE CHARACTERISTICS AND ATTITUDES LED TO THE IDEAL RENAISSANCE MAN, AN INDIVIDUAL THE ITALIANS CALLED, "L'UOMO UNIVERSALE", OR UNIVERSAL MAN.

ONE OF THE FALLACIES OF HISTORY IS THAT PEACE, EFFICIENT AND ORDERLY GOVERNMENT ARE ABSOLUTE PREREQUISITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUPERIOR CULTURE, AND THAT WAR, REBELLION, SOCIAL UNREST AND CHAOS, NECESSARILY MEAN THAT INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE DECLINE OR WITHER AWAY. IF THIS WERE TRUE, THERE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A RENAISSANCE. THE RENAISSANCE WAS BORN IN TURMOIL AND CHAOS. ITALY WAS IN ALMOST CONSTANT STATE OF UPHEAVAL, FACED SERIOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WAS POLITICALLY FRAGMENTED AND THERE WAS HARDLY A YEAR IN THE 14TH, 15TH, AND 16TH CENTURIES WHEN WAR WAS NOT RAVAGING THE LAND. AND STILL, THERE ROSE A SUPERIOR CULTURE. THIS AGE GAVE US A DANTE, PETRARCH AND BOCCACCIO, A GIOTTO, BOTTICELLI, RAPHAEL, LEONARDO AND MICHAELANGELO, SCHOLARS SUCH AS BRUNI, POGGIO, ~~AND~~ MACHIAVELLI, ^{ERASMUS AND MORE,} AND PATRONS OF ART IN THE PERSONS OF THE MEDICI, SFORZA, PIUS II, JULIUS II, AND LEO X.

HOW COULD SAVAGERY, WAR, DESOLATION, POVERTY AND OPPRESSION COEXIST WITH SO MUCH BEAUTY, NOBILITY, AND INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE? HOW COULD AN

AGE SO FULL OF EXCESSES, CRUELTY, LAWLESSNESS AND IMMORALITY BE SO PRODUCTIVE IN GREAT MEN? THE ANSWER, I THINK, LIES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE RENAISSANCE TOWARD MAN. WITHSTANDING ALL THE EVILS, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND MORAL, THAT HE SAW AROUND HIM, THE RENAISSANCE INTELLECTUAL STILL BELIEVED THAT MAN IS THE NOBLEST PRODUCT OF CREATION AND THAT HIS POTENTIAL IS UNLIMITED. NOT THAT RENAISSANCE MAN SHUT HIS EYES TO THE PROBLEMS OF HIS DAY AND LIVED IN AN IVORY TOWER. NO! MOST OF THE GREAT MINDS SAW THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR SOCIETY CLEARLY, BUT THEY REFUSED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT WE ARE ON A HOPELESS PATH TO DOOM.

EVEN A CURSORY GLANCE AT RENAISSANCE ITALY SHOWS US A PICTURE WHICH EASILY WOULD LEAD TO PESSIMISM IF NOT DESPAIR. THE PENINSULA WAS FRAGMENTED, PETTY STATES WERE BEING SWALLOWED UP BY LARGER POLITICAL UNITS, THE SANCTITY OF TREATIES WAS EASILY DISCARDED FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY. POLITICAL ASSASSINATION WAS A FREQUENTLY USED TOOL. MERCENARY TROOPS, WHO SOLD THEIR SERVICES TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PILLAGED, BURNED AND RAPED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE.

WHILE THE RENAISSANCE WAS, IN GENERAL, A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GULF WHICH DIVIDED RICH AND POOR WAS AS GREAT AS TODAY. THE RESULT WAS SOCIAL UNREST AND EVEN REVOLUTION. THE OPPRESSED WORKING-CLASSES OFTEN ROSE IN ANGRY REVOLT TO GAIN RELIEF FROM ABUSE AND VOICE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR AFFAIRS. THE ITALIAN CITIES REPEATEDLY SAW REBELLION AND INSURRECTION IN THE 13TH AND 14TH CENTURIES. THESE WERE OFTEN VERY BLOODY EPISODES, SUCH AS THE REVOLT OF WORKERS IN GENOA, LED BY THE BUTCHERS, WHO USING THE TOOLS OF THEIR TRADE, TOOK FRIGHTFUL VENGEANCE ON THEIR ENEMIES. MOST OF THESE UPRISINGS FAILED, AND ORDER WAS RESTORED WITH UNBELIEVABLE CRUELTY AND FURY. THE ARISTOCRACY OF BIRTH AND WEALTH, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY, BUILT CITY RESIDENCES WHICH WERE REALLY FORTRESSES, OR BUILT THEIR PALACES IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY FELT MORE SECURE.

LAWLESSNESS WAS AN ACCEPTED FACT. TO VENTURE OUTSIDE AFTER SUNDOWN WAS AN INVITATION TO ROBBERY, RAPE, OR EVEN MURDER. THE RECORDS OF THE CITY OF ROME, SHOW AN AVERAGE OF SEVEN MURDERS PER NIGHT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 15TH CENTURY. BENVENUTO CELLINI, THE SUPERBLY SKILLFUL GOLD-SMITH, TELLS US IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, HOW HE DISPATCHED A NUMBER OF HIS OPPONENTS, WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF REMORSE. THE HIGHWAYS AND APPROACHES TO CITIES WERE UNSAFE. A FRENCH EMBASSY TO THE COURT OF POPE SIXTUS IV, ARRIVED IN ROME, PERFECTLY NAKED, HAVING BEEN RELIEVED OF THEIR CLOTHING BY HIGHWAYMEN, WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR. STUDENTS, WHO HAD FLUNKED OUT OF UNIVERSITIES, OFTEN FORMED BANDS AND WAYLAYED OTHER SCHOLARS WHO WERE COMING FROM ALL PARTS OF EUROPE TO STUDY, ROBBING THEM OF TUITION MONEY. ~~THEY CARRIED ON THEIR PERSON.~~

THE UNIVERSITIES THEMSELVES, INCREASINGLY SECULAR AND CAREER ORIENTED, WERE DENOUNCED AS BREEDING PLACES OF HERESY, RADICALISM, AND UNGODLINESS. AS A YOUNG MAN, SAVANOROLA WROTE HOME TO HIS PARENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, SAYING:

"TO BE CONSIDERED A MAN HERE, YOU MUST DEFILE YOUR MOUTH WITH THE MOST FILTHY, BRUTAL AND HORRIBLE BLASPHEMIES... IF YOU STUDY PHILOSOPHY AND THE LIBERAL ARTS YOU ARE CALLED A DREAMER. IF YOU LIVE CHASTELY AND MODESTLY, YOU ARE CALLED A FOOL, IF YOU ARE PIOUS, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF BEING A HYPOCRITE, IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, YOU ARE CALLED AN IMBECILE."

STUDENTS RIOTED REGULARLY, PROFESSORS WERE TRUSTED SO LITTLE THAT IF THEY LEFT TOWN, EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS, THEY HAD TO POST A BOND, OR LEAVE BEHIND A VALUABLE BOOK, TO INSURE THAT THEY WOULD RETURN.

IN MATTERS OF SEXUAL MORALITY, THE RENAISSANCE WAS A REVOLUTIONARY AGE. (I AM SORRY TO DISAPPOINT THOSE OF YOU WHO THINK THAT THE PEPSI GENERATION BROUGHT ABOUT THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION. YOU DIDN'T.)

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT MEDIAEVAL PEOPLE DID NOT SPEND ALL THEIR TIME PRAYING ON THEIR KNEES IN GOTHIC CATHEDRALS AND WERE NOT CONSTANTLY LABORING TO SAVE THEIR SOULS, AND THAT THEY MANAGED TO HAVE A JOLLY GOOD TIME, STILL, THE RENAISSANCE SAW A MORE OPEN DISPLAY OF SEXUALITY THAN POSSIBLY ANY PERIOD UNTIL OUR OWN. THE MEDIAEVAL IDEALS OF ETHICAL LIFE WERE BREAKING DOWN; AESCETICISM HAD LITTLE APPEAL.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY PROVIDED THE WEALTH NECESSARY TO PURSUE VICES. SIN IS OFTEN EXPENSIVE, BUT MANY WERE WILLING TO PAY. (THIS MIGHT BE A PARTIAL EXPLANATION WHY ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES ARE RELATIVELY FREE OF VICE-- WE ARE RELATIVELY FREE FROM WEALTH.)

ADULTERY, PROSTITUTION AND ILLEGITIMACY FLOURISHED. ANY MARRIED WOMAN WAS CONSIDERED OPEN PREY, AND SINCE THE USUAL AGE OF MARRIAGE WAS BETWEEN ✓ 14-16, THIS LEFT CONSIDERABLE TIME TO BREAK DOWN RESISTANCE AND VIRTUE. EVEN THE CLERGY WAS NOT FREE FROM THIS TYPE OF VICE. THE ARCHIVES OF VENICE CONTAIN 20 THICK VOLUMES OF TRANSCRIPTS FROM TRIALS DEALING WITH THE COHABITATION OF MONKS AND NUNS OVER A PERIOD OF 40 YEARS. THESE WERE THE ONES WHO WERE CAUGHT! ILLEGITIMACY WAS SO RAMPANT ON ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY, THAT ONE HISTORIAN CALLED THIS PERIOD, "THE AGE OF BASTARDS". WE WITNESS THE INCREASE IN OBSCENITY AND THE RISE OF PORNOGRAPHY. SOME OF THE RENAISSANCE PLAYS ARE ^{GROSS, SO} SO BOLD IN THEIR ACTION AND TEXT, THAT THEY MAKE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SEEM, IN COMPARISON, LIKE A PLAYWRIGHT FOR "SESAME STREET."

LET US TURN FROM THIS SEAMY ASPECT OF THE RENAISSANCE TO ITS NOBLER SIDE, AND EXAMINE HOW, WITH ALL ITS SHORTCOMINGS, IT STILL COULD INSPIRE MAN TO GREATNESS. WHAT ARE THEN, THOSE QUALITIES WHICH OUR INTELLECTUAL ANCESTORS SOUGHT IN THE RENAISSANCE MAN, THE UNIVERSAL MAN? WHAT WERE THOSE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WE SHOULD SEEK IN THE RENAISSANCE MAN, AS A POSSIBLE GUIDE IN OUR OWN TROUBLED TIME?

INDIVIDUALISM WAS GREATLY STRESSED, AND THEN, AS NOW, OFTEN ABUSED. THE TRULY INDIVIDUALISTIC MAN, HOWEVER, BY RATIONALLY APPLYING THE FAMOUS GREEK SOPHIST DICTUM THAT, "MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS," IS ABLE TO FULLY DEVELOP HIS OWN INDIVIDUALITY. MEN AND WOMEN IN THE RENAISSANCE MADE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO BREAK WITH THE COLLECTIVISM OF THE PAST AND TO DEVELOP THEIR IDENTITY. IT IS AMAZING HOW SUCCESSFUL THEY WERE. WE MUST BE, HOWEVER, CAREFUL THAT IN OUR OWN SEARCH FOR INDIVIDUALISM WE DO NOT GO TO EXCESS AND THUS, CURB THE RIGHTS OF OUR FELLOW MEN, AND FURTHERMORE, WHILE PROFESSING INDIVIDUALISM WE DO NOT WEAR THE SAME UNIFORM CLOTHING, LISTEN TO THE SAME MUSIC, AND REPEAT THE SAME ~~POLITICAL~~ SLOGANS.

THE RENAISSANCE MAN WAS AN OPTIMIST, HE BELIEVED LIFE IS WORTH LIVING AND DID NOT LOOK UPON EARTH AS A VALLEY OF TEARS FROM WHICH HE HOPEFULLY WILL BE RELEASED THROUGH DEATH. HE DID NOT AND COULD NOT SHUT HIS EYES TO THE CONSTANT WARS AROUND HIM, THE UNEARNED WEALTH AND UNDESERVED POVERTY. YET, HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE IN THE NOBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL MAN. UNDOUBTEDLY, OUR ANCESTORS MUST ALSO HAVE HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE PERFECTABILITY OF HUMANITY, YET, THEIR OPTIMISM TRIUMPHED AND THEIR SPIRIT IS REFLECTED IN THOUSANDS OF PAINTINGS, IN BOOKS, IN ARCHITECTURE AND ALL THAT THE RENAISSANCE PRODUCED WHICH EXUDES JOY AND CELEBRATES MAN. SUCH AN OPTIMISTIC VISION OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE INSPIRED BY THIS AGE, STILL LIES AT THE HEART OF THE WESTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, WITHSTANDING ALL THE TRAGEDIES WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH OR ARE WITNESS TO.

THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION WHICH WAS TO PRODUCE THE UNIVERSAL MAN WAS THE STUDIA HUMANITATIS, THE "HUMANITIES" OR STUDIES BEFITTING A HUMAN BEING. WHEN THE RENAISSANCE HUMANISTS CALLED THEIR STUDIES HUMANITIES, THEY EXPRESSED THE CLAIM THAT THESE STUDIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION OF A DESIRABLE HUMAN BEING AND, THEREFORE, ARE OF VITAL CONCERN FOR MAN AS MAN.

THE HUMANITIES WERE MEANT TO MAKE A HUMAN BEING MORE HUMAN, MORE NOBLE, AND HUMANE. THIS ALSO HAS IMPORTANT SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR AS THE FAMOUS

NEO-PLATONIST PHILOSOPHER, MARSILIO FICINO, POINTS OUT, MAN PROVES HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE BY LOVING OTHER MEN AS HIS EQUALS, BY BEING HUMANE.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE RENAISSANCE LOOKED UPON THE HUMANITIES IN FAR MORE NARROW SCOPE THAN WE DO TODAY. TO THEM IT MEANT THE GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS. TO US, THE TERM SHOULD AND CAN MEAN SO MUCH MORE. THERE EXISTS A GREAT AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL MAKE A HUMAN BEING MORE NOBLE. THE WEALTH OF AGES IS AT OUR DISPOSAL AND WITHIN OUR REACH. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE MUST APPEAL TO OUR MORE SUBLIME NATURE IN ORDER TO DEVELOP OUR HUMAN POTENTIAL MORE FULLY; WE MUST DO MORE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE "BEFITTING A HUMAN BEING." AND HERE, THE TECHNOLOGY OF OUR AGE FACILITATES OUR QUEST IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD BE UTTERLY UNBELIEVABLE TO OUR RENAISSANCE PRECURSORS. THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, RECORDS, PICTURE REPRODUCTIONS, BOOKS, BRING YOU THE WISDOM OF AGES. FOR THE PRICE OF TWO "MAC BURGERS", AND A COKE, YOU CAN BUY THE PARADISIO OF DANTE AND READ WHY THE LAST CANTOS OR VERSES WERE ACCLAIMED BY T. S. ELLIOT AS ~~the greatest~~ "THE HIGHEST POINT POETRY EVER REACHED OR EVER CAN REACH." (IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY THE SAME BOOK WOULD HAVE COST A PRINCELY FORTUNE.) IN ORDER TO APPEAL TO YOUR SUBLIME NATURE, EXPAND YOUR MIND, NOT WITH DRUGS, BUT WITH THE BEAUTY OF MEN'S INTELLECTUAL CREATION. READ, LISTEN, SEE, EXPLORE!!! PLAY BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY, BEYOND THE FIRST FEW NOTES YOU HEAR IN THE "VANQUISH"--AD. READ A GREEK PLAY BY SOPHOCLES OR EURIPIDES AND SEE HOW MODERN THEIR PROBLEMS SEEM. LISTEN TO A MOZART PIANO CONCERTO, AND I AM POSITIVE YOU WILL FEEL MORE HUMAN AND YOUR FAITH IN MAN'S GENIUS WILL INCREASE. TOLSTOY'S WAR AND PEACE MIGHT MOVE YOU, ALDOUS HUXLEY'S LITTLE NOVEL, APE AND ESSENCE, DEPRESS YOU. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE. YOU CAN SEE THE SISTINE CHAPEL'S CEILING, OR THE RAVENNA

MOSAICS IN YOUR LIVING ROOM, PROBABLY MORE CLEARLY THAN ANYONE BEFORE OUR TIME. MAN HAS BUILT THE CAPACITY TO DESTROY HIMSELF, BUT ALSO THE CAPACITY TO EXPAND HIS MIND BEYOND ALL PREVIOUSLY KNOWN FRONTIERS. WE HAVE IN OUR GRASP THE NECESSARY PREREQUISITES FOR THE UNIVERSAL MAN, AND YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE, THE INTELLECTUAL ELITE OF THIS INSTITUTION, HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARD FULFILLING YOUR OWN POTENTIAL.

FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE AND WE ARE IN POSSESSION OF AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF INTELLECTUAL AND ARTISTIC RICHNESS. WE CAN DRAW UPON THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREEKS, THE ROMANS, THE WEALTH OF THE RENAISSANCE HERITAGE, THE ENLIGHTENMENT, AND THE ROMANTIC AGE. WE CAN TRY TO TRANSLATE THIS KNOWLEDGE INTO WISDOM. OUR UNIVERSITIES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS, ARE FILLED WITH WONDROUS THINGS, CAPABLE OF EXCITING OUR MINDS AND OUR IMAGINATIONS. NEVER BEFORE, IN THE HISTORY OF MAN, NOTWITHSTANDING ALL OUR GRAVE AND VERY REAL PROBLEMS, DID WE HAVE SUCH A MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME FULLY HUMAN.

PICO DELLA MIRANDOLA, WHO WROTE IN THE 15TH CENTURY, IN HIS ORATION ON THE DIGNITY OF MAN, REALLY CHALLENGES US TO FULL HUMANITY WHEN HE WRITES:

"TO MAN IS GRANTED TO HAVE WHATEVER HE CHOOSES, TO BE WHATEVER HE WILLS. GOD ENDOWED HIM FROM BIRTH WITH THE SEEDS OF EVERY POSSIBILITY AND EVERY LIFE."

IT IS UP TO US THEN, TO NURTURE THESE SEEDS OF POSSIBILITY AND TO BECOME HUMAN IN THE NOBLEST SENSE OF THE WORD. IF WE REJECT THIS CHALLENGE, AND EVEN REFUSE TO DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD, WE WILL BE LOST--AND WE WILL DESERVE THAT FATE!