

The *Other* Discussion Group: The Pub Club



OCKBRIDGE is the home of two extremely serious intellectual societies whose

members are expected to spend months learning and writing well-organized, well-argued papers about important topics, both contemporary and historical. The two clubs are the Fortnightly founded in 1899, with membership limited to men, and the Ignorance, 1904, for women. Both thrive today and remain true to their original purposes, and more than a few papers from each have found their way into print elsewhere (including this site's sibling online publication, *Rockbridge Epilogues*.

Those citadels of scholarship left a gap, however, between the truly serious men and women of Rockbridge and the rest of us, and in 1945 that vacuum came to be filled by a third discussion club, which had less scholarly aspirations: The Pub Club. Interestingly, more than a few members of the Fortnightly were also members of the Pub. One can serve two masters, it seems.

This informal history of the Pub Club has no attribution. It does, however, have the ring of authenticity.

Pub Club's logo in the 1970s



11 May 1966

THE PUB CLUB

A Record of 21 Years of Service
To The Intellectual World



ounded August 16, 1945, at the home of Col. R. E. Dixon, those present being

Maj. C. C. Tutwiler, Dr. Rowland Nelson, Mr. Fred Fitzgerald, Dr. M. C. Bell, and Maj. Arthur Lipscomb Jr. Others now nobly supporting the tradition: Col. Gilliam, Dr. Ford, Mr. Clayton, Dr. Light, Col. Morrison, Dr. Brush, Col. Barksdale

Decisions



HE CLUB will be composed of nine members, including the above named, and three

additional members to be elected.

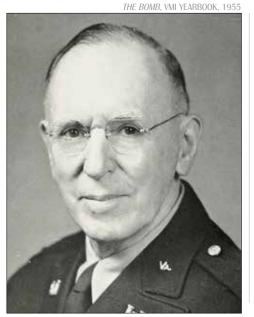
Purpose: Members propose to meet periodically to converse, debate, and argue on topics of interest to the group; to exchange information and misinformation, views, and prejudices with utmost abandon on any subject of depth and significance which the group may select; but to refrain to the very extent of their abilities from — at any meeting — descending to the level of local trivia and bridge table gossip. To these noble purposes, they solemnly dedicate their hearts, their intellects, and their vocal chords.

Conduct of Meetings: All meetings are to be informal. No prepared papers are to be read, no formal speeches will be made. There will be no chairman. Questions of any sort will be in order at any time, by any member. At each meeting, the subject of discussion of the next meeting will be selected. Discussion is not necessarily confined to the subject selected, however. Also, at each meeting, the host for the next meeting will be selected.

Guests: Members may bring guests to meetings. The host should be notified as far in advance as possible of the anticipated number of guests.

Guest of Honor: The club may select for any meeting a guest of honor to lead the discussion, the intention being that a guest of honor have special knowledge of the subject discussed. The guest of honor will NOT be expect to make a talk or read a paper; he will merely participate in the discussion and answer questions at his pleasure.

Host: The Host will be expected to take all steps necessary to see that all club members and any guests



Raymond E. Dixon, chairman of the VMI English department, 1919–55, and founding host of the Pub Club

are informed as to place and time of meeting. The host also will beep the Record Book after his meeting, place in it some pertinent data about his meeting, and turn the book over to the new host at the next meeting.

Refreshments: The host may serve refreshments provided the alcoholic content be not such as might endanger the accurate transmission of information among the club members or wash away the intellectual foundations of the discussion.

SOME TOPICS

The Returning Veteran
International Relations in
the Pacific
The Atomic Bomb
Trial of German War
Criminals
What is a gentleman?
War, sex, and the Negro
problem
What is Virtue?

Who Was the Greatest
American?
Relations with Russia
Congressional
Investigative
Committees
Universal Military Training
Modern Art
Segregation in Colleges

Has there been a decline in moral values?
The Problem of Pain
Conditions in England
Does the Church justify itself?
Extra-sensory perception
The Kinsey Report
Culture vs. democracy

Athletics & Education
Beauty
Communist College
Professors
Evidence of Progress
Prospects for the Future
The Welfare State
Economic Consequences
of the World Situation