

How to Help Modern Age

AS AN EMINENT liberal scholar—Professor Louis Filler, of Antioch College—writes in the correspondence columns of this third number of MODERN AGE, “There is no question but that conservatism is the dynamic intellectual movement today on our national scene.” The liberal conservatives and the conservative liberals who write for MODERN AGE, and who read it, have intellectual vigor, honesty, and courage, we feel. But they lack two important things: money and power. Intelligent conservatives, as the *Times Literary Supplement* observes, are a minority today: and a minority not merely in numbers, but even more markedly a small remnant in terms of wealth and influence. MODERN AGE, the only quarterly review in America which calls itself conservative—and which tries, as best it can, to conserve the heritage of our civilization—has no millionaires and no great foundations to subsidize it.

Yet we feel that we have found many of the writers and the readers for whom we have been seeking. This present number goes to nearly four thousand subscribers. To have attracted so much interest in a mere six months of publication is almost without parallel in the history of American quarterly journalism; and we have found our readers with next to no advertising, and next to no mail-solicitation. We do not even have a single full-time employee, not even a typist or a mailing-clerk. As for finance, we struggle along from issue to issue upon what money we receive from subscriptions, plus occasional small gifts from well-wishers—not all of whom call themselves conservatives.

Our audience exists; and we believe we are beginning to have some influence upon the people we most desire to interest: editors, professors, teachers, college and university students, clergymen, lawyers, doctors, and men of business. Lawyers, in particular, seem to like MODERN AGE. We have been commended by great newspapers from the London *Times* to the Chicago *Tribune*, and by weeklies from *National Review* to *Commonweal*. The Glasgow *Herald* and the Portland *Oregonian* welcome our appearance. We have subscribers in Nigeria, Angola, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Colombia, Austria, Australia. (We have more subscribers from New York than from any other state; Illinois comes second.) We are beginning to do our work.

Yet we cannot continue to do our work without increased support. We must more than double our subscription-list before we can defray even the direct cost of publication: the printer’s bills, and the postage. It is here that our present readers can help us directly.

First of all, we solicit your aid in increasing our subscription-list. If we can find ten thousand subscribers, we will be the largest general quarterly review in the United States and will be able to make ends meet, probably, after a fashion. We ask you to show our review to your friends, and to tell them about it. We will be grateful for your gift-subscriptions. We suggest, especially, that you give subscriptions to clergymen, professors, teachers, and college and university students. Critical reviews like ours generally find their largest audience among young instructors, graduate students, and the more able college undergraduates. We do hope you may help us get this journal into the hands of many such people, whose opinions are formed for life, very often, at this stage of their intellectual development.

We suggest, too, that you request your local library to subscribe; or that you donate a subscription to that library, or to the library of your college.

We have on hand a list of libraries, cler-

gymen, teachers, and students interested in receiving introductory subscriptions to MODERN AGE. If you care to donate directly to us for this purpose, we will be happy to enroll as many such gift-subscriptions as you care to undertake.

MODERN AGE also can—and eagerly will—accept gifts in money. These gifts, whether for subscriptions or for the general overhead of the magazine, are eligible for tax-exemption; our review is sponsored by the Foundation for Foreign Affairs, Inc. (64 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 4). And we continue to cherish a hope that other charitable foundations may come to see some merit in MODERN AGE, and contribute, even modestly, toward its existence.

Three years ago, a different sort of magazine was founded in Chicago: *Playboy*, “for college men,” which specializes in color photographs of young women in the altogether. *Playboy*, it is said, now has a monthly circulation of more than a million

copies, and two score imitators: which imitator-magazines also specialize in pictures of girls even more naked, to coin an Irish bull. Now we do not expect to equal the circulation of *Playboy*; nor do we anticipate having even one imitator in our field. But surely, if there are a million Americans who will buy slick pornography, there must be somewhere a mere ten thousand Americans willing to read a magazine dedicated to the conservation of our moral and intellectual heritage. There may even be some college men who prefer an old master to a young mistress: especially if the mistress is only a paper doll.

If there are not ten thousand Americans able to read MODERN AGE, we may as well prepare for the day of wrath which fell upon the Cities of the Plain. We are trying to reach less than one one-hundredth of one per cent of that portion of the American public which is supposed to be able to read. We do ask your grace and favor.

The Schoolhouse

1

I find it now, the schoolhouse by the tree,
And through the broken door, in the dusk-
light,
I glimpse the benches where we sat, while he
Paced with his vision through the school-
room's night,
And the fruit went red, and the leaves
windled
In the fall, and winter possessed his head.

And it was here in this house we were taught
All there was, we believed, a man may know,
All action, all passion, all heavenward
thought,
What Socrates quoted from Diotima,
How Troilus laughed the tears into his eyes,
That years leapfrog through blood: flings
of the dice.