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Benefactor for Science in the Liberal Arts Colleges

Wolfe's editorial (12 Aug., p. 697) notes this foundation's long interest in the liberal arts colleges, and his thoughtful and succinct analysis has led us to a review and projection of Research Corporation's activities directed specifically toward aiding science programs in the liberal arts colleges during the decade of the sixties.

Since 1960, when the foundation began its broad program of grants to strengthen science departments, grantee institutions have acquired additional faculty and research equipment, achieving both numerical and qualitative gains in the sciences. Many of the colleges have been able to attract faculty of high caliber and to provide new opportunities for research and creative scholarship. Some reports indicate an infusion of research-orientation into academic departments other than the sciences following the spur of these grants.

In the period 1960-66, grants of \$3.4 million have been made for science departments in about 80 liberal arts colleges, and project grants of slightly over \$1 million were made to 172 liberal arts colleges. In the next 3 years, at the cost of invading its limited resources, the foundation has budgeted about \$2.6 million for further contributions to the science departments of the liberal arts colleges. Thus, in this decade, about \$7 million will be committed by the foundation in the conviction that strong science is an integral aspect of a vigorous liberal education, and that the liberal arts colleges are vital to higher education in this country. With others now turning to this area, Research Corporation looks to the seventies as a decade of new challenges.

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History's Grant Swingers

The enchanting adventures of Grant Swinger described by Greenberg (News and Comment, 16 Dec., p. 1424) are an injustice to the scientist who has been an asset to science. Promoters of scientific enterprise should not be looked upon askance. Francis Bacon had a grand scheme for scientific research. A recent biographer of Galileo [L. Geymonat, *Galileo Galilei* (Mc-

Graw-Hill, New York, 1965)] calls him the Tom Paine of science. Count Rumford may have been a scoundrel in other affairs but he was a grant swinger, a promoter of science. George Ellery Hale never met ridicule in promoting the construction of large telescopes. On the basis of the success of their projects, most scientists are grant swingers; only a very small percentage of research comes to a successful conclusion. That many institutions are blessed with people who know how to acquire grants is a discredit neither to the institution nor the person. If the projects are faulty from the start, it is the disbursing agency and the review boards who are to blame.

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Reprints Unlimited

In a recent editorial (7 Oct., p. 74) Abelson commented on the services made available commercially by the Institute for Scientific Information, which publishes, among other things, *Current Contents*, to which I subscribe (out of my own pocket) and which provides extremely useful information about the existence of work of possible interest to me. By this means I can keep a comprehensive current bibliography, and I send for reprints only when I expect to have frequent and continuing occasion to consult the works in question.

I also personally pay for reprints of my own publications (as do many of my European colleagues), although postage is generally met by the university. The title of a recent article of mine appeared in *Current Contents* and shortly after, reprint requests began to arrive in far larger numbers than I had expected. A particular error in my address occurred in two-thirds of the request cards and it was the identical error which appeared with the citation of my article in the ISI list. Also, half of the reprint requests came from medical schools or hospitals, despite the fact that the paper concerned observations on a marine invertebrate, which suggests that the writers had not seen the original paper, but were only using such key words in the title as "histochemical," "monoamines" or "nervous system" as sufficient clues to warrant sending for a reprint. I am not