

Peabody Foundation, Andover, Mass.) described flint ballast stones at Strawberry Bank in Portsmouth, N.H., and the presence of small chips in the lower levels of the recently excavated Fort Constitution in Portsmouth harbor that are suggestive of local manufacture of gunflints. Lastly, V. K. Prest (Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa) reported the presence of English flint at an old sailing-ship port near the southeastern end of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Although the quantity of European Cretaceous flint brought to North America as ship ballast can never be known, it must easily exceed 100,000 tons, considering the large number of ships that carried it as ballast and the very large number of known points of discharge.

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References

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Scoundrelly Fellow

The allusion to "The groves of academe" in Nelson's excellent article ("University of Hawaii," 16 Aug., p. 673), is apposite, but is inaccurate in some respects. The character (Henry Mulcahy) in the novel is not an "out-spoken professor," but a "self-pitying," incompetent, and lazy instructor in literature. Confronted with a letter terminating his appointment, he decides to fabricate a story that he had long been a member of the Communist Party. This falsehood he exploits successfully as a form of job insurance by leaking the lie to sympathetic fellow faculty members. They rally vigorously to the cause of academic freedom and, without attempting to get the facts, they fight for the right of Henry to be a Communist. Mulcahy's cause snowballs as he invents more lies, and as more intellectuals join the battle against the forces of reaction.

Mary McCarthy, as a novelist, is, of course, entitled to poetic license in creating a fictional situation which is remote from reality. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

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