

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 87TH CONVOCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

April 8-9, 1954

Two major addresses, one by Mark Van Doren and the other by Theodore Christian Blegen (Dean, Graduate School, University of Minnesota).

**Van Doren**

The major theme of Van Doren's talk relates to the title of his talk "The Future Significance of Liberal Arts." The major point is that the liberal arts are the arts of using the mind. "All of us have a mind. We probably all have the same mind; we have the human mind. That is probably what the doctrine of "equality" means. I have never understood in what sense all men are created equal if it is not meant that all men have minds, that they can talk to each other, argue with one another, read the same papers and the same books, and ask one another directions on roads...all of us have the human mind, which is very much the same if all of us -- I happen to believe this -- very, very much the same. One most of us do not seem to know it." (page 248)

"To know yourself is to know yourself as a person, and all persons are all finally one." (page 249)

**Blegen**

Blegen's talk, which is entitled "Some Problems in Liberal Arts," the role of the liberal arts and practitioners of humanities have themselves be "guilty of intransigence, reluctant to cross the bridges to public understanding of their values and relevance to millions who will never read their monographs." (page 254)

It is Blegen's contention "that there are not a few signs that America is beginning to see that specialization and liberal education are not incompatible." He quotes from Gilbert Murray that seems to focus on the concerns of Blegen, "a society without history cannot understand what it is doing; and history without scholarship cannot understand itself." (page 258)