

plete indifference to its bohemian past. "It will not matter to them in the least," I wrote,

if out of the dust and grime  
Impossible beauty flamed and flowered,  
once upon a time.

If a boy and a girl for a year and a day  
laughed bravely at despair,  
No one will know in Christopher Street,  
and certainly none will care.

Well, why should they care? Those lovers of today and tomorrow, bohemian or bourgeois, ought to be much too deeply occupied with their own love affairs to be thinking about some old love affair back in the pre-atomic past. To all such lovers, present and future, I benevolently offer the good wishes expressed in my Christopher Street ballad —

And so may all dear lovers that are starved  
for love's delight

Find rest and peace, and food and fire,  
and a kind bed at night.

And low rents — may they find those, too. But when will they? And how can American literature flourish without low rents?

Young people still go to the Village, and, it is said, find it a romantic and enchanting place. It is picturesque; even the phoniness is picturesque, to them. What is there about Greenwich Village, anyway? What has it got that the home town hasn't got?

In Greenwich Village it is all right for people to be interested in the kinds of poetry and art and music that they like, and they can say out loud what they really think, even about foreign policy. And it seems to be a place where improbable and delightful things can happen — for which I firmly decline to take the consequences. It is their Greenwich Village, not mine, and their responsibility entirely.

## PHRASE ORIGINS—22

**SOWING DRAGON'S TEETH:** *Cadmus, one of the heroes of Greek mythology, once slew a terrible dragon that was sacred to Mars. Minerva, whom Cadmus worshipped, advised him to sow the dragon's teeth in the earth. No sooner had he done this than spears and helmets began to rise from the ground, followed by a harvest of warriors. These soldiers began fighting among themselves, and all except five of them were killed. All of Cadmus' followers had been killed in the fight against the dragon, but the five remaining warriors helped him to build the city of Thebes. To sow the dragon's teeth means to sow the seeds of war.*

MORRIS ROSENBLUM

# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

BY WENZELL BROWN

GEORGIA was conceived as a paradise. No state in the union started life with the pronouncements of such high ideals. British interests may have thought of the colony as a buffer against French and Spanish military might assembled to the south, but to General James Edward Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia, the new land was to be a Utopia unparalleled in history.

Oglethorpe's first demand upon assuming the governorship of the colony in 1733 was that it should be a land completely free of slavery. Beyond this he ruled that there should be no absolute ownership of land, that intoxicating beverages and lawyers should be barred from entrance and that each settler should be carefully screened for character, education and reasons for wishing to enter the new colony.

The men who first arrived in Georgia were a highly reputable lot: Scotch Highlanders who came to fight the Spaniards, Lutherans from Salzburg who sought to avoid religious persecution, Moravians, Swiss, Welsh

and Piedmontese, all carefully weeded out by the British trustees of Georgia before being permitted to sail to the new land. Although many British debtors were included among the colonists, they were "of reputable families and of liberal or at least easy education; some undone in law suits, some by accidents in commerce, and some by suretyship."

But violence interfered with the Utopian plans almost from the beginning. By 1739, the colony had already become embroiled in a bloody conflict with the Spanish which was known as the War of Jenkins' Ear. This was followed by the French and Indian Wars in 1754, the internecine strife between Tories and rebels during the Revolution, the War of 1812, the endless Indian fighting and the final catastrophe of the Civil War, wherein Georgia seceded from the Union in 1861 and was not re-admitted until 1870. The bitter struggles that took place on Georgian soil dealt harshly with the Georgian soul. The ideals which instigated the founding of the colony were forgotten in

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WENZELL BROWN is an author and world-traveler who was formerly professor of English in one of China's largest universities. His newest book, a history of the political, economic and cultural development of Georgia, will be published early next year. This article is the fourth in a series of profiles of the states of the Federal Union.

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