Ford Hall Forum program, March, 1936-1937 Season

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SEASON 1936-1937
EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 7:45

March 7
Prof. HARRY A. OVERSTREET
"Bringing the Yankee Up To Date"
CONCERT—HARRY DICKSON, Violinist
REGINALD BOARDMAN, Accompanist

March 14
LANGSTON HUGHES
"A Poet's Campaign Against Racial Prejudice and Intolerance"
(Mr. Langston Hughes will include readings from his own poetry)
CONCERT—ANN MATHEA, Norwegian Soprano
HOWARD SLAYMAN, Accompanist

March 17
YOUTH FORUM
Prof. JEROME DAVIS
"Education and Social Progress"

Wednesday

March 21
Dr. HELGO W. CULEMANN
Count RAOUL de ROUSSY de SALES
Debate:
"In Its Challenge to Other Political Creeds, Does German National Socialism Endanger the Security of the World?"
CONCERT—DOROTHY RICHARDSON, Contralto
DORIS DANDRIDGE, Accompanist

March 28
Senor SALVADOR de MADARIAGA
"Outline of a Sensible Constitution for a Sensible People"
CONCERT—FORUM STRING QUARTETTE
SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 7
“Bringing the Yankee Up To Date”

PROFESSOR HARRY A. OVERSTREET, a member and friend of the Ford Hall Forum, on this evening makes his annual visit to us. This Professor of the College of the City of New York always delights our audience with his informal manner, and he always creates a special subject for us that gives us something to think about. Can you think of anything more intriguing than the subject he has selected for this evening?

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 14
“A Poet’s Campaign Against Racial Prejudice and Intolerance”

LANGSTON HUGHES, who is to speak and read to us this evening, uses poetry, a natural expression of the Negro, as a weapon in his campaign against racial prejudice and intolerance. One of the outstanding writers in the country, his own life is an example of racial prejudice and of success in spite of it.

Born in Joplin, Mo., he had lived, before his twelfth year, in Mexico, Topeka, Colorado Springs, Charleston, Indiana City, Kansas City and Buffalo. Later he went to Chicago, finally graduating from high school in Cleveland. After four years in Cleveland, he joined his father in Mexico. Later he entered Columbia University. Finding the environment there distasteful, he quit school and went to work for a truck-farmer in Staten Island; then he partially satisfied a craving to go to sea by signing up with a ship anchored in the Hudson. His life has continued rich in adventure.


SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 21
“In Its Challenge to Other Political Creeds, Does German National Socialism Endanger the Security of the World?”

DR. HELGO W. CULEMANN came to this country a few years ago at the invitation of Howard University, the great Negro College at Washington, as Assistant Research Professor. He then went to Amherst where he taught for two years.

While at Heidelberg, he thought of himself as culturally a communist and politically a Democrat. He has been as much surprised as his family and friends to find himself a National Socialist, defending National Socialism. He has given intense study to the problems that exist in Nazi Germany and will, in this debate, explain the acceptance of the National Socialist program by the German people.

To deny his thesis and to prove that German National Socialism does endanger the security of the world, we present COUNT RAOUL DE ROUSSY DE SALES. He is a special correspondent in the United States for “Paris-Soir” and “Paris-Midi”, two important newspapers in France. He has first-hand knowledge of the currents of thought that agitate the Nazis today and of their exponents. He has observed closely and has participated in the evolution of the social structure that has taken place in France since 1914 and is still going on. De Sales has but recently returned from France where he has been in personal contact with the leaders of the various movements and is familiar with the underlying motives of their supporters.

The Ford Hall Forum believes that the cause of civilization can best be served at this juncture by an understanding of the real forces at work in both France and Germany. Both lecturers speak English very well and they will answer questions.

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 28
“Outline of a Sensible Constitution for a Sensible People”

SEÑOR SALVADOR DE MADARIAGA, distinguished internationalist and an important literary figure, formerly Spanish Ambassador to America and France, recently resigned as Spain’s permanent delegate to the League of Nations.

Señor de Madariaga contends that, “While Europe is a powder magazine and international tensions have never been higher than they are now, nevertheless powerful and responsible statesmen recognize the tremendous danger that a war would be for Europe.”

This is his main reason for hoping that war can be averted, and Señor de Madariaga substantiates it with the following statement, “Never in the history of diplomacy has there been such plain speaking and such plain delaying; never have statesmen indulged in such strong accusations of one another without precipitating war, or even breaking of diplomatic relations.”

At the present two sorts of ideals are offered the world—the Communist ideal and the nationalistic or Fascist ideal—which stir emotions and arouse loyalties, de Madariaga observes; but the free countries which are neither Communist or Fascist have no such ideal. The newly organized World Foundation, of which he is chairman, is trying to present them with the ideal of “peace based on liberty,” he declares.

“We are very keen on the idea that what we call world patriotism is the natural fulfillment of national patriotism,” he says. “We do not admit the possibility of any one nation being healthy unless the world is healthy. For instance, we believe that if China was a happy, prosperous country the wealth of the United States would probably be trebled. We believe that race war is war . . . and that class war is war; and, therefore, we do not think that you can build peace on either race war or class war.”

Señor de Madariaga recalls that Mussolini called eternal peace a “myth”, and says that if the world wants to make peace a myth it will do so. And he quotes from Hamlet, “There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so.” In expressing the aims of the World Foundation, Señor de Madariaga says, “We put our faith in the idea that there is nothing in the way of organizing life that the will of man, guided by the mind of man, cannot do. If the will and mind of man are set on getting peace in the world then we will have peace.”
FORD · HALL · FORUM
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Incorporated October 1, 1928
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EDNAH BLANCHARD, Sec'y, Ford Hall Folks

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Speakers for the Season 1936-1937

Oct. 18 ERNST TOLLER—"Are You Responsible for Your Times?"
25 S. MILES BOUTON and JOHN SPIVAK—"Does the Constitution Function for the People?"
Nov. 1 SCOTT NEARING—"Spain and the Fate of Europe."
8 OUR TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN IDEAL, JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS.
15 NORMAN THOMAS—"The Roosevelt Program as a Socialist Sees It."
18 YOUTH FORUM—"Youth Asks of the New Administration—Peace, Security, Freedom, Progress."
22 HERBERT AGAR—"The Need for Conservatism in Government."
JOHN T. FLYNN—"What’s the Matter With Us Now?"
29 EMIL LUDWIG—"The Present Political Situation and Prospects of War in Europe."
Dec. 6 Hon. CONSTANTINE A. OUAMANSKY—"The New Russian Constitution."
13 LORD MARLEY—"Germany Creates a New Problem."
16 (Wednesday) YOUTH FORUM—CORSIL LAMONT—"Socialism: A Way of Life."
20 DR. ALFRED ADLER—"Failures in Social Life, Work and Love."
27 Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO—"The Working Class Struggle for Freedom."
Jan. 3 General SMEDLEY D. BUTLER—"Crime and Politics."
10 Sir ARTHUR WILLERT—"Europe-1937."
17 DOROTHEA BRANDE—"Wake Up and Live!"
20 (Wednesday) YOUTH FORUM—JAMES WATERMAN WISE—"The Fascist World Offensive: Can We Stop it?"
24 Abbe ERNEST DIMNET—"Is France Going Communist?"
31 GERHART SEGER—"Nazi Propaganda in the United States."
Feb. 7 JENNIE LEE—"The European Bargain Table."
14 LOUIS FISCHER—"The Social Struggle in Spain."
17 (Wednesday) YOUTH FORUM—MAX LERNER—"Labor’s Road to Power."
28 Baronesse SHIDZUE ISHIMOTO—"Internationalism and Nationalism in Japan."
Mar. 7 Prof. HARRY A. OVERSTREET—"Bringing the Yankee Up To Date."
7 Ford Hall Folks Business Meeting in Kingsley Hall, 4:30 P.M.*
SYMPOSIUM: "How Will the President’s Supreme Court Proposal Affect the People?"
14 LANGSTON HUGHES—"A Poet’s Campaign Against Racial Prejudice and Intolerance."
17 (Wednesday) YOUTH FORUM—JEROME DAVIS—"Education and Social Progress."
21 Dr. HELGO W. CULEMANN and Count RAOUL de ROUSSY de SALES—"In Its Challenge to Other Political Creeds, Does German National Socialism Endanger the Security of the World?"
28 SALVADOR de MADARIAGA—"Outline of a Sensible Constitution for a Sensible People."
Apr. 4 JOHN HAYNES HOLMES.
11 Prof. HAROLD J. LASKI.
18 Dr. ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN—"Should Teachers Discuss Controversial Subjects?"
* This Meeting open to Members only and their Guests.

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