

Yesterday's News

From the pages of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* and *Harvard Magazine*

1924 The *Bulletin's* editors report themselves glad "to record that John Harvard has at last come into his own"—the University authorities have moved his statue from the Delta next to Memorial Hall (a post "of doubtful prominence"), to the west side of University Hall.

1929 The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has set French and German on a par with Latin by accepting an advanced entrance examination in either modern language toward College admission.

1934 The editors note that the residential Houses do not yet have distinguishing academic or social characteristics, yet all but Kirkland have acquired new names among, and for, their undergraduates: "Gold Coasters" (Adams); "Pioneers" (Dunster); "Elephants" (Eliot); "Rabbits" (Leverett); "Bell Boys" (Lowell); "the Puritans" (Winthrop).

1944 An unofficial victory garden of radishes has sprouted amid the new grass in the area immediately in front of John Harvard's statue.

1949 The Faculty of Arts and Sciences agrees to a three-year trial for a

junior-year-abroad program for concentrators in Romance and Germanic languages and literatures.

1954 Harvard alumnae attending Commencement receive red ribbon badges to distinguish them from women guests. Harvard Alumni Association president John Cowles '21 notes that "More than 1,800 women now hold Harvard degrees...I am happy [to be president] during the year when it finally recognized the fact that women are people, even at Harvard."

1959 The Business School—"the last bastion" among graduate schools—agrees to admit qualified women as degree candidates, starting in the fall.

1969 A committee of four faculty members and two students recommends unanimously that at the end of a two-year phasing-out period, the ROTC program at Harvard be terminated.

1979 The first generation of Core Curriculum courses is announced: the 55 new offerings in six fields have passed unusually strict faculty guidelines on content, and at least 20 proposals have been turned down.

moderate demands from tour companies. For its efforts and support, the "Universidad de Harvard" is recognized as the Museo's cosponsor of the exhibition.

Having met Aldunate—and perhaps inspired by the historic vision of Incan unity—Reifenberg then drew him into a different kind of collaboration, with great contemporary import. Since Chile seized its northern desert territories in an 1879 war, cutting off Bolivia's access to the Pacific, the two countries have not had diplomatic relations, and coexist, barely, in a complicated threesome with Peru (which also lost land). Aldunate's own archaeological research focuses in that disputed area, so he seemed a natural participant in a Reifenberg-mediated conversation among Bolivian, Chilean, and Peruvian diplomats, journalists, and military and cultural leaders. Two sessions in Cambridge with Harvard negotiation experts revealed vast differences in perceptions. "For me, it was important to hear the Peruvian and Bolivian feelings about Chile," Aldunate says. Another participant describes the deep cultural changes that must precede any institutional progress toward better relations—and yet a conversation that had not existed before has now begun.

Is it too much of a stretch to draw lessons from Incan unity and communications among diverse pre-Columbian peoples for modern international relations? Perhaps not: at the end of the first meeting, each participant received a modern "khipu," with three strings and three knots, meant to symbolize the three twenty-first-century nations, their common heritage, and the potential for new kinds of ties today. Many of the Bolivian and Peruvian discussants traveled more than 1,000 miles to attend the exhibition opening.

As for the exhibition itself, Urton says the connection to the Santiago museum and its staff "really gave another dimension to my work"—a rare opportunity for a scholar "to share what you've devoted your life's work to." Optimists may read this specific collaboration as a symbol for the value of crossing boundaries around the world in pursuit of the research and teaching in Harvard's future.

—John S. Rosenberg

