

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

Special to the Bradenton Herald

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, April 11, 1965

Dr. and Mrs. Arnold J. Toynbee today are on their way back to London after a more than three-months stay on the New College campus here.

For some 20 of the students, the visit of Dr. Toynbee had a special significance. Prior to his arrival, they had studied the works of this great historian and during his stay they met regularly with him in lengthy discussions about far ranging topics affecting the course of mankind's existence. Next week, without Dr. Toynbee, they continue meeting, to mull over the notes they have made, the tape recordings of some of their sessions, to continue arguments about what he said and how they are to bring together its meanings with their own studies.

Many more than the 20 students will miss the Toynbees. They are the people who met the scholar and his wife and who were captivated by their warm friendliness and abundance of knowledge.

For Historian Toynbee, the stay at New College was an opportunity to visit a new campus, to meet with select students, and also to continue his prodigious schedule of work.

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page 2 Toynbee's farewell

His three months here included:

Seven major lectures to New College students and guests.

Appearances on campuses in South Carolina, Tennessee, Gainesville and Miami, Florida.

Weekly seminars with students.

"Bull Sessions" with students after each of his formal lectures.

Appearance with other world figures at the "Pacem in Terris" conference in New York to discuss ways to achieve world peace.

Broadcasts and telecasts on every major television and radio network at the time of the death of Sir Winston Churchill.

Special appearance on the Today Show on the NBC network.

Selected guest appearances, numerous dinners and social occasions.

Completion of the manuscript for a new book.

Aside from his public appearances and rigorous class and work schedule, Dr. Toynbee lived quietly with his wife in a home in the Uplands. They were often seen walking in the neighborhood and the sight of the historian crossing the campus from his home to College Hall was a familiar one.

Student recollections of Dr. Toynbee always will be of a man of great gentleness, unfailing kindness, simplicity in his approach to even great matters, and directness in his reply to even the most complex questions.

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They remember him standing for an hour and a half in the bright sun of a March morning to lecture to students and teachers from many of Florida's colleges and high schools, about the reasons for studying history and then patiently answering questions.

What are Toynbee's recollections about his visit here?

He was greatly impressed with the students he met on campus and this was always his first comment about his visit to Florida and the New College campus.

Interesting was his comment that life in Florida somehow seems to be "unreal." He explained that so many people now in Florida had formed their lives in different communities, had lived their working days elsewhere, and then had moved here attempting to begin another life, often a different way of living.

Had his stay on New College's campus been interesting?

"Yes, very," was Dr. Toynbee's enthusiastic reply.

He said that it was an unusual experience to teach at an institution so new and he feels that the college has a great future in liberal arts education.

Thursday the college officially bade the Toynbees farewell at a tea in their honor in College Hall. Students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Music Room and many of the college family found it difficult to move away from the historian after they had shaken his hand, reluctant to say goodbye to this British couple who had been such a part of their lives.