

**Southwestern in Focus**  
**ENGLISH PROFESSOR**  
**MUCH PUBLISHED**

EPT Sundial 7/21/68

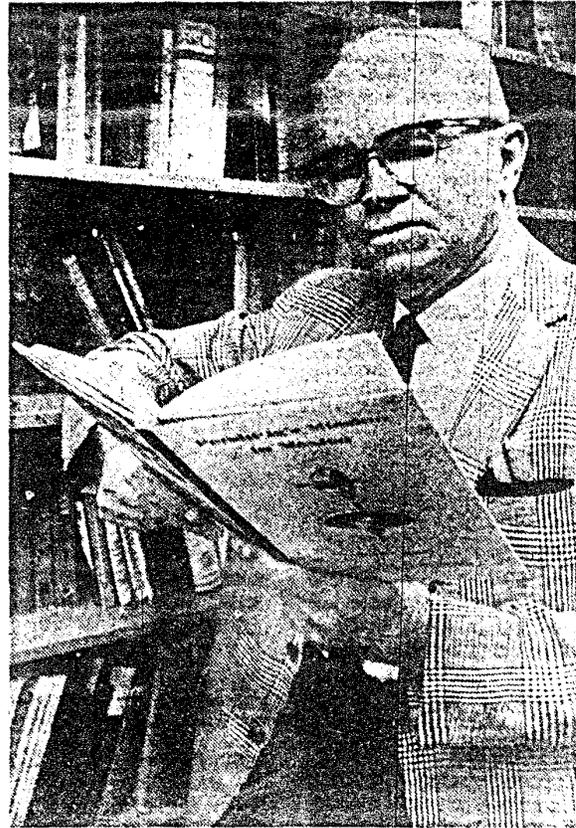
That Dr. Haldeen Braddy, English professor at U.T. El Paso, has an essay in the newly published Oxford University Press volume "Companion to Chaucer Studies" is not unusual. Dr. Braddy is easily the most productive writer-scholar at the University and Chaucer is one of his principal areas of study. What is unusual about the Oxford volume—and certainly indicative of Braddy's esteem in scholarly ranks—is that six other contributors to the Chaucer Companion used Braddy as a reference in their own chapters. This seemingly small point represents an unusual distinction for a scholar, Chaucerian or otherwise and such a distinction is not easily nor quickly obtained.

Braddy is a native of Fairlie, Tex., and is 60 years old. Never one to waste time in any endeavor at the age of 20 he received his B.A. degree at East Texas State College in Commerce. At 21 he received his M.A. from the University of Texas and at the age of 26 was awarded his Ph.D. at New York University. By the time he arrived at Texas Western College in 1946 he had already accumulated teaching experience at New York, East Texas, Sul Ross, Texas Christian, Texas Tech, the University of Kansas, Tulane, and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. Just before his arrival at TWC, he served as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Force 1942-43.

At Texas Western and U.T. El Paso, Braddy has been a professor of various types: associate, full, visiting (to the University of New Mexico in 1949), and research. He has also been a member of the University's graduate faculty since 1964 and has found time to write a dozen books and compiled a bibliog-

raphy of Braddiana that now measures eight typewritten, letter-size pages. That in itself—in bulk alone—is an enviable accomplishment but a glance at the range and depth of the professor's interests and expertise is almost baffling.

**DR. HALDEEN BRADDY**



**APPEARS NOW**

Take for example, the Braddy writings that have appeared this month alone. The esteemed Kennikat Press of Port Washington, N.Y., has issued simultaneously two of Braddy's early books: "Glorious Incense," a study of Edgar Allen Poe, and "Chaucer and the French Poet Graunson." Both are updated works with fresh introductory material. Now Chaucer was born around the year 1340 and Poe in 1809. The only similarity between the two is that both were literary men.

Such contrasts are abundant throughout Braddy's writings. There are literary studies

of Bierce, Poe, Mark Twain, Gertrude Stein, Shakespeare and Chaucer; works on art, folklore, education, history and language, as well as published poetry and fiction. Braddy is a long recognized expert on Pancho Villa (his biography of the Mexican bandit, "Cock O' the Walk" is to be reprinted soon), Gen. John J. Pershing's 1916 punitive expedition into Mexico, and in contrast, Shakespeare. In addition, the Encyclopedia Americana and World Book Encyclopedia depend on the U.T. El Paso professor for their entries on Villa and Poe.

Although Braddy grits his teeth at the thought of it, he is what is commonly called "cherubic" in appearance; a short, husky, round-faced Irishman with a prize-fighter's nose and thinning gray hair. He is a fast, fascinating talker with a bottomless well of information, literary allusions, anecdotes, jokes, pithy sayings, and snatches or foreign phrases. Once an inveterate smoker and a man with a knowledgeable hoisting arm, the professor today is a weight-watching non-smoker and non-drinker (not even coffee) with a still unplumbed reservoir of nervous energy. To talk to him at any length one must almost walkaround the Liberal Arts Building with him, of across campus, or watch him pace his office mentally tussling with a half-dozen other matters while he talks with you.

"I think of myself as a scholar Research and scholarly work has been my first love of my life," he says. "Time is the commodity I am finding increasingly valuable. For instance: I have a standing offer to write a book about King Alfred, the Father of England, who lived from 849-910 A.D. This would be a book that would require studying Alfred's writings in manuscript in England. So far, time has prevented me from getting a start on it."

## BACK TO "BILL"

Although his Chaucerian studies have occupied his time in recent months, Braddy says he is "itching" to get back to Shakespeare." One example of the respect he has gained as Shakespearean scholar was the laudatory review of his book "Hamlet's Wounded Name" (Texas Western Press, 1964) in the prestigious Shakespeare Quarterly. The slim, handsomely printed book received similar treatment in journals and newspapers to both England and Scotland (where Shakespeare is taken not only seriously but almost as a way of life.)

Braddy, now in his 22nd year at U.T. El Paso, will teach his well-known seminar in Shakespeare (English 3560) again in the spring term of 1969 and his Chaucer seminar on Wednesday nights this fall.

Braddy refers to himself as an Irishman and "would-be wit," and a "self-styled blarney or bologna professor of English," and superficially one would think him somewhat less than totally serious about his labors in hoeing the esoteric gardens of Chaucer and Shakespeare. Recently, in inscribing a copy of his Oxford Chaucer essay to Dr. Milton! Leech. U.T. El Paso vice president, the author wrote on the fly leaf: "Milton, don't stay awake too late at night reading these thrilling chapters."

But in truth, Braddy does take his scholarship seriously just as any man takes his love for anything seriously. That Braddy is able, unlike some scholars, to inject a little blarney into his otherwise serious efforts, is characteristic of the man.

Dr. Braddy and his wife of 31 years, Virginia, reside at 2109 Arizona.

Braddy, Dr. Haldeen 2

### Southwestern In Focus

## English Professor Muc

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**Chaucer Authority Turns To Poe  
HISTORIAN-AUTHOR-SCHOLAR  
WINS NEW HONORS**

By Dale Walker  
EPT 4/22/73

While attending a recent meeting of the Modern Language Association, Dr. Haldeen Braddy, acknowledged world authority on Geoffrey Chaucer and Edgar Allan Poe, and author of 14 books on a variety of heavy-weight literary and historical subjects, was sized up by a New York cab-driver.

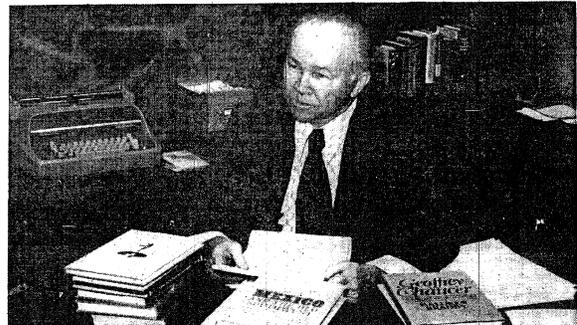
New York cabbies, as everybody knows, have strange Sherlockian deductive powers and can spot a stockbroker, a visiting fireman, a politician or somebody's mother-in-law from Dubuque, Iowa, just by glancing a couple of times in the rear view mirror.

In Braddy's case, the cabbie picked him for a boxer. It was Braddy's distinguished broken nose that gave him away: As the University of Texas at El Paso professor said, "It wasn't all that bad a guess but he did have the wrong sport. I broke my nose in a baseball game something like 50 years ago."

But whatever his physical features belie, Braddy's name has long been associated with literary and historical scholarship and on Thursday, the coming together of several events attest to the renown and respect the 65-year-old teacher-author-Irishman has accumulated. The activities are as follows:

1. At 8.p.m. Thursday in The Theater of the campus Union Building, Dr. Braddy will deliver a public lecture on "Edgar Allan Poe: His Life and Loves." The lecture fulfills a requirement of the U.T. El Paso Faculty Research Awards Committee which unanimously selected Braddy for its Award for 1972-73, "the highest distinction the faculty can bestow on one of its own."

2. At a reception following his lecture, Dr. Braddy will be presented with the first copy of his newest book, "Three-Dimensional Poe," published by the university's Texas Western Press. Dr. Braddy will autograph copies of his new Poe book along with copies of the new edition of his "Pershing's Mission to Mexico," at the reception following his lecture.



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3. As a gift of appreciation for his service to the university and his publications by Texas Western Press ("Hamlet's Wounded Name," "Pancho Villa at Columbus," "Pershing's Mission to Mexico," and "Three-Dimensional Poe"), the professor will be presented, by Dr. E.H. Antone, director-editor of the press, with a bust of Edgar Allan Poe.

**CHAUCER AUTHORITY STUDIES  
POE**

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Studies,”—Braddy’s interest in Poe (1809-1849) has been almost as sustaining.

“I began seriously studying Poe in the early 1940s,” Braddy said, “and was led to an interest in him after writing my master’s thesis, on another great, American writer, though a much-lesser one compared with Poe, Ambrooe Bierce. By the time I was ready to write about Poe, I had studied at all the great libraries containing Poe materials: the Koester Collection at U.T. Austin, the Beinecke Collection at Yale, the New York Public Library, the University of Chicago Library, and others. I am happy to say that after all these years, our own U.T. El Paso Library has established a very fine Poe collection.”

Braddy’s first Poe, book was published in 1953 and titled “Glorious Incense, the Fulfillment of Edgar Allan Poe.” Re-issued in a new edition by Kennikat Press in New York in 1968, “Incense” was the first Poe study to deal exclusively with the American author-poet’s international reputation. Looking back on the book, Braddy said, “We Americans, have always been a bit, ashamed of our belated respect for Poe. My book proved his international fame and I like to think it contributed to our re-evaluation of the man and his work. Poe is widely acknowledged today as the foremost writer in American literature.”

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### **POE’S ADDICTIONS**

On the subject of Poe’s “addictions,” the professor says Poe inherited his alcoholism from his father, David Poe Jr., who disappeared and died, presumably from drink. “I think it can be established,” Braddy said, “that Poe has to be diagnosed as the victim of progressive alcoholism.”

The professor’s new book, “Three-Dimensional Poe,” concentrates on “The Raven” author’s three-sided contribution to American literature: as poet, story-teller and essayist. Additional chapters in the book deal with Poe’s biography and important research and scholarship on the author since 1940.

“Odd as it may sound: Braddy said, “teaching and research are one and the same, not simply close relatives. All my Poe students in my recent graduate seminars contributed their part to this book, so beautifully set forth by Dr. Antone, himself, my former student. Jane Ferguson, another of my fine students, gave me my title ‘Three-Dimensional Poe.’ To me, there is absolutely no thrill comparable to writing a long poem or a unified study unless it is to help students publish their own works.

“Teachers have to be measured by the students they produce,” Braddy continued,

“and if I have had success, it is because I have had great students, both men and women, especially and at my favorite school, U.T. El Paso.”

As to the content of his new book and the new information on Poe it contains, Braddy said: “I am not interested in moralizing on Poe or dealing with well-known data and self-evident truths. I am devoted to the search for new information—I have a passion for the undiscovered, the as yet unknown. This generally makes a man a fool, a poet or a madman. But it also makes for genuine scholarship.”

“Three-Dimensional Poe” is dedicated to Dr. Carl Hertzog, master book designer-typographer for Texas Western Press, Braddy’s dedication reads: “To Carl Hertzog: a lover of the true, a creator of the beautiful.” In his Acknowledgements in the book, Braddy also singles out Dr. Antone, editor-director of the Press, in these words: “Dr. E.H. Antone read the manuscript with care and closeness; his aid went beyond the bounds of editorial duty in adding improvements to the final draft,”

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Braddy’s prolific writings reflect many interests within two main categories: literary and historical research. His publications include 14 books on such subjects as Poe, Chaucer, Pancho Villa, Pershing, “Mexico and the Old Southwest” and Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” His shorter works have been published in a wider range of periodicals—both scholarly and popular—than any other writer in West Texas.

### **MANY PUBLISHED POEMS**

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The professor’s current interests reflect the same variety and productivity: he has recently completed a full-length biography and literary study of King Alfred the Great (849-899 A.D.), the “Father of England”; has plans for a new interpretation of Chaucer’s long poem, “Troilus and Cressida;” a book on the American newspaperman, short story writer, critic and Poe disciple, Ambrose Bierce, and continued Poe studies.

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In selecting Braddy for the Faculty Research Award for 1972-73, a U.T. El Paso select committee headed by Dr. Judith Goggin, chairman of the Department of Psychology, announced “The committee met in the fall of 1972 and considered candidates submitted by the faculty. It was the unanimous judgment of the committee, that Haldeen Braddy, professor of English, should be honored by this award for 1972-73.”

# Chaucer Authority Turns To Poe Historian-Author-Scholar Wins New Honors

By DALE WALKER

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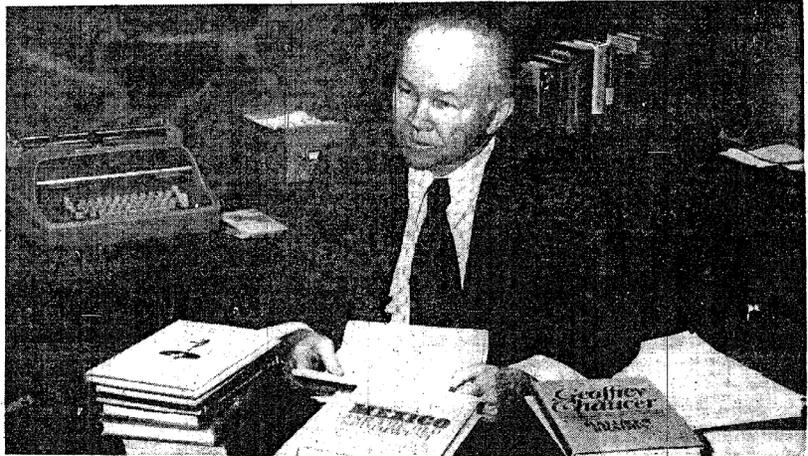
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COVER PHOTO: Two outstanding southwestern partners in writing and publishing are shown on this week's Sundial cover. Carl Hertzog, master designer of books, and Haldeen Braddy, author, whose work has been published by Hertzog's Texas Western Press, discuss a sculpture of Edgar Allan Poe which will be presented to Braddy on Thursday at the University of Texas at El Paso. (Color photo by Jerry Littman, Times staff photographer)

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The Times Sunday Magazine—3

## **TWC PROFESSOR WRITES BOOK IN DEFENSE OF HAMLET**

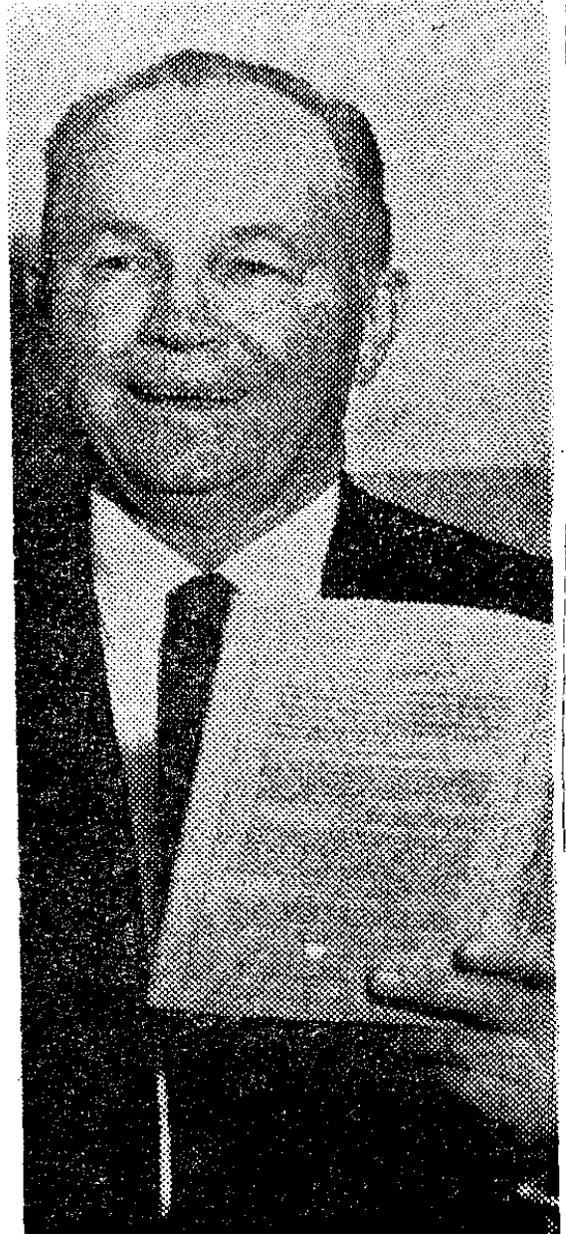
By Art Leibson

Probably no fictional character in all literature has been the subject of as much scholarly analysis as Shakespeare's Hamlet. He has been gone over by psychiatrists, psychologists and others looking for hidden motives and Freudian subtleties. Usually the Prince of Denmark has come off poorly.

Now, marking the 400th year of Shakespeare's birth, El Paso's Haldeen Braddy, research professor of English at Texas Western College, has rushed strongly to the defense of the Dane in "Hamlet's Wounded Name," published by the Texas Western College Press. Bearing the title page ornaments from the first Shakespearean folio of 1623, the book shows the usual fine designing hand of Carl Hertzog.

Braddy, who has written extensively on Shakespeare through the years, has taught English since 1929. He has been most active in the field of folklore, studying and writing extensively on the Southwest. He has dedicated his latest monograph (82 pages including references) to another who had done much to perpetuate the folk history of the Southwest, Dr. Charles Leland Sonnichsen, dean of the TWC graduate school.

Braddy sees Hamlet as a crafty schemer in plotting revenge on his uncle. Critics of the character have insisted he should have slain his uncle as soon as the ghost of Hamlet's father appeared to disclose the foul murder, instead of waiting to devise his little theater production, but Braddy insists that is in keeping with his character and the Danish temperament.



**DR. HALDEEN BRADDY**

A writer such as Dame Rebecca West has been among those who have launched attacks on the fictional prince, saying "He is an egotist and annuls his natural affections so that he, achieves no valid relationship: he is a disobedient son to his father, he defiles his mother, he is a querulous and fugitive lover, he is not a husband and not a father, and he treats Horatio as a listening ear rather than as a friend." And, Dame West says, Hamlet is an exceptionally callous murderer.

Another Shakespearean scholar, Hardin Craig, has said of the new book: "Dr. Braddy brings a wealth of knowledge to the problem as it has figured in our own times. One cannot help being grateful for his repudiation of faddists, Freudians, and existentialists. He sees them fairly and shows no contempt for the growing number of studies of lust and sexual perversion. This author merely presents their points of view and passes reasonable judgment on them, He makes no parade of conservatism, but is certainly an honest thinker."

The TWC veteran has spread his literary interests over a wide range, including Chaucer, Edgar Allan Poe (one of his special favorites) Pancho Villa, and now as public defender of the Dane. And there is none of the scholarly aloofness to his thesis. In down to earth language he hits at the criticism of HamJet in the hope that he can present the character in a more loveable aspect to future Shakespearians.

In 1919 a scholar of the day jeered at Hamlet as being guilty of the "sin of inaction" in delaying so long the revenge on Claudius, and that has set a pattern for others who have found him to be not only a procrastinator but also a coward with an Oedipus complex, ill in all a weak sister.

Not at all, says Braddy, He was an Elizabethan man of melancholy, forced to overcome a number of obstacles and a natural antipathy to violence before he could carry out his design. In his writing, Braddy underlines the cleverness with which Shakespeare plotted his dramas, including having Hamlet's father die—according to the story put out by the queen—from the bite of a serpent, accounting for the appearance of the body and raising few if any doubts of the cause of death.

"Hamlet the Dane is no conscienceless; bloodthirsty fury," Braddy says. "An excess of retributory zeal drives him to abandon his native ingenuity and trickery for his antagonist's specialty, brute force . . . The hero's tragic flaw, recourse to violence, reduces him at this juncture to Claudius's level."

So be it with Hamlet. May his fictional bones rest easier now that Dr. Braddy has become his champion, one who has no trouble at all defending Hamlet's cavalier treatment of Ophelia, "the time-honored method of a man with a faithless maid." And is it more than human nature to make Claudius sweat at length before he gets his quietus?

Dr. Braddy came to TWC from the University of Southern California in 1946. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from New York University, where he had been a faculty member for seven years. Further indicating his versatility, and variety of interests, in 1961 he wrote a study of Latin-American juvenile gangs on the Border, "Pachucos," in which he also indexed the gang's argot.

His report was published in the Southern Folklore quarterly.

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# TWC Professor Writes Book In Defense Of Hamlet

By ART LEIBSON

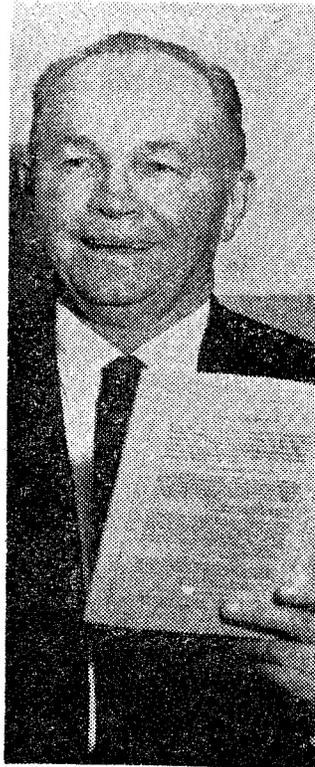
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DR. HALDEEN BRADDY



ment.

A writer such as Dame Rebecca West has been among those who have launched attacks on the fictional prince, saying "He is an egotist and annuls his natural affections so that he achieves no valid relationship: he is a disobedient son to his father, he defiles his mother, he is a querulous and fugitive lover, he is not a husband and not a father, and he treats Horatio as a listening ear rather than as a friend." And, Dame West says, Hamlet is an exceptionally callous murderer.

Another Shakespearean scholar, Hardin Craig, has said of the new book: "Dr. Braddy brings a wealth of knowledge to the problem as it has figured in our own times. One cannot help being grateful for his repudiation of faddists, Freudians, and existentialists. He sees them fairly and shows no contempt for the growing number of studies of lust and sexual perversion. This author merely presents their points of view and passes reasonable judgment on them. He makes no parade of conservatism, but is certainly an honest thinker."

The TWC veteran has spread his literary interests over a wide range, including Chaucer, Edgar Allan Poe (one of his special favorites) Pancho Villa, and now as public defender of the Dane. And there is none of the scholarly aloofness to his thesis. In down to earth language he hits at the criticism of Hamlet in the hope that he can present the character in a more loveable aspect to future Shakespeareans.

In 1919 a scholar of the day jeered at Hamlet as being guilty of the "sin of inaction" in delaying so long the revenge on Claudius, and that has set a pattern for others who have found him to be not only a procrastinator but also a coward with an Oedipus complex, all in all a weak sister.

Not at all, says Braddy. He



was an Elizabethan man of melancholy, forced to overcome a number of obstacles and a natural antipathy to violence before he could carry out his design. In his writing, Braddy underlines the cleverness with which Shakespeare plotted his dramas, including having Hamlet's father die — according to the story put out by the queen — from the bite of a serpent, accounting for the appearance of the body and raising few if any doubts of the cause of death.

"Hamlet the Dane is no conscienceless; bloodthirsty fury," Braddy says. "An excess of retributory zeal drives him to abandon his native ingenuity and trickery for his antagonist's specialty, brute force . . . The hero's tragic flaw, recourse to violence, reduces him at this juncture to Claudius's level."

So be it with Hamlet. May his fictional bones rest easier now that Dr. Braddy has become his champion, one who has no trouble at all defending Hamlet's cavalier treatment of Ophelia, "the time-honored method of a man with a faithless maid." And is it more than human nature to make Claudius sweat at length before he gets his quietus?

Dr. Braddy came to TWC from the University of Southern California in 1946. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from New York University, where he had been a faculty member for seven years. Further indicating his versatility, and variety of interests, in 1961 he wrote a study of Latin-American juvenile gangs on the Border, "Pachucos," in which he also indexed the gang's argot.

His report was published in the Southern Folklore quarterly.