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## Profiles

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### William Yandell Elliott

**Born:** May 12, 1896, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Died:** Jan. 9, 1979, Haywood, Virginia.

**Family:** William Yandell Elliott was the third by that name in a line of “Tennessee Templars,” closely associated with the Masonic founders of the post-Civil War Ku Klux Klan. His grandfather (1827-93) was a Reconstruction-era “radical” Republican legislator who was reported to have provoked deadly racial violence. This “provocateur” charge against the first William Yandell Elliott is supported by the fact that, although ostensibly an anti-slavery Republican, he served under the Masonic command of Ku Klux Klan founding member James Daniel Richardson, who, as a Congressman in 1898, led the campaign for the construction of a memorial to Klan founder Albert Pike in the nation’s capital.

Throughout his life, Elliott operated in concert with an extended network of Nashville-centered cousins and friends descended from this same circle of Ku Klux Klan founders, which formed, variously, the “Fugitive” poets and the “Nashville Agrarians.” (See Stanley Ezrol, “Seduced From Victory: How the Lost Corpse Subverts the American Intellectual Tradition,” *EIR*, Aug. 3, 2001, for a full account of the ideas and activities of the Nashville Agrarians.)

**Education:** Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, B.A., 1917; M.A., 1920; Balliol College, Oxford University, London, England (Rhodes Scholar), Ph.D., 1923.

**Career:** Elliott’s entire career was dedicated to establishing a new “dark age” of globally extended medieval feudalism, built on the ruined remains of the United States and any nation which strove to establish itself on any approximation of American principles. From the Freemasonic elite of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Elliott went on to play a major role in shaping the Cold War predecessor to today’s “clash of civilizations” strategic policy from the period preceding World War II through at least the Johnson Administration. Despite his occasional colorful utterances of loyalty to the United States, he insisted throughout that the real enemy in the Cold War was not communism, but American-style “nationalism.”

Beyond his role in strategic policy, he was an FBI informant, and promoted “anti-communist” education in the public schools. In the 1930s, he pointed out that “left-wing socialists” were among the first to recognize the danger of communism, and later, in the 1950s and ’60s, he collaborated with leading socialists, including Sidney Hook and James Burnham, in the “anti-communist” crusade.

He served as an adviser to at least five Presidential admin-

istrations, was mentor to at least five National Security Advisers, the patron of two Secretaries of State, and educator of dozens of officials, including Parliamentary representatives, administrators, and heads of state from countries on every inhabited continent.

Throughout his career, he coordinated operations between his hometown crowd—the “Tennessee Templar” heirs of the Ku Klux Klan—and the Cecil Rhodes’ “Round Table” movement with which he became associated during his Rhodes Scholarship studies at Britain’s Balliol College at Oxford University. His speeches, published work, and private correspondence emphasize that he viewed his life’s work as extending the “Round Table” movement worldwide. His direction of the Harvard Summer School, including Henry Kissinger’s International Seminar, and the International Seminar alumni associations which it spawned around the world, were all directed to this purpose. The affinity between the Round Tablers and the Fugitives is indicated by the fact that Fugitive John Crowe Ransom (the grand-nephew of Ku Klux Klan founder, James R. Crowe) preceded Elliott as a Rhodes Scholar, Fugitive, and “Templar”; Bill Frierson accompanied him; and Fugitive Robert Penn Warren succeeded him.

Both movements insisted that the mass of people naturally ought to live under the fixed rules of an oligarchy directed by their “betters.” Both movements hated the American Intellectual Tradition idea that all men and women ought to participate, through the institution of the sovereign nation-state, in the perpetual improvement of human capability over nature—and over stupidity.

Although it is often claimed that Elliott rejected his Agrarian brethren’s yearning for the “Lost Cause” of the Confederacy, he reported publicly, in 1956, at the age of 62, when he was at the height of his Harvard career and an adviser to the National Security Council, that he thought brother Donald Davidson’s “Lee in the Mountains” was one of the finest pieces of Fugitive poetry. There, Davidson conjures up not only the spirit of Robert E. Lee, biding his time till the day of the great reconquest, but God Almighty, “Brooding within the certitude of time, to bring this lost forsaken valor . . . to flower among the hills to which we cleave, to fruit upon the mountains whither we flee, never forsaking, never denying His children and His children’s children forever.”

Also, in 1956, Elliott expressed his gratitude to Fugitive “guru” Sidney Mtron Hirsch, whom he described as a “mystic philosopher,” for teaching him that all of the great thinkers of history were special people with mystical powers, the “Epic Exemplars,” who passed on knowledge from generation to generation through the occult meanings of words in their writings. While many thought he was a fat-headed, loud-mouthed pest, it would appear that Elliott viewed himself, and was accepted by some, as at least some sort of messenger to earth of these “Exemplars.” A basic theme in his work is that it’s necessary to develop myths (which is what he means when he speaks of true religion or spirituality) to control people.



William Elliott     Harold Stone     John With     Sidney Harsh  
 Alfred Scott     Sir Nevins     Robert Ross, FORSYTH     Donald Davidson  
 Alvin Tarr     John Green Stanton     Donald Davidson

This photograph of the assembled fugitives was made during the occasion some hours before the morning and afternoon sessions of Friday, May 3, which were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. With, on Belle Meade Boulevard.

  
**FUGITIVES' REUNION**  
*Conversations at Vanderbilt*  
 May 3-5, 1956

Edited by ROB ROY FURDY

Introduction by LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR.

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*William Yandell Elliott, a modern Mephistopheles, represented both the feudalist, pro-Confederate "Fugitive" poets, and their ideological brethren of the British Round Tables.*

His son and collaborator, Ward, for instance, eulogized him as "a true Eleatic, a man who could overarch time and place and deepen and enrich whatever time and place he might occupy." He compared his mission to that of the Round Table of Arthurian legend (see "A Round Table for the Republic" below). In pursuit of this epic mission, Elliott was quite willing, as we shall see, to plunge all of humanity into a nuclear holocaust and dark age.

The Round Table movement, to which Elliott was recruited by his Oxford tutor, later Master of Balliol, A.D. Lindsay, and others, consisted of semi-secret Masonic or Masonic-like cells dedicated to smashing all nations and replacing them with a revamped British Empire. It was founded by Lindsay's Oxford predecessors, John Ruskin and T.H. Green, and continued, most notably, by Cecil Rhodes and Lord Alfred Milner, managing director of the mammoth colonial mining cartel Rio Tinto Zinc. Ruskin was the founder of the "pre-Raphaelite" cultural movement, which viewed the Italian Golden Renaissance as the worst disaster of modern history, and strove to restore pre-Renaissance feudalism. They were obsessed with Britain's loss of its major North American colonies, and determined to reorganize the British Empire into the collection of quasi-autonomous units now known as the "Commonwealth," both to avoid pressure for further colonial independence, and to lure the United States back into the fold.

Elliott's four-decade campaign to scrap the U.S. Constitution, based on invidious comparisons to Great Britain and its Canadian colony, is pure Round Table, as is the Royal Institute of International Affairs, headquartered at Chatham

House, with which Elliott and his "kindergarten" have coordinated their efforts. Elliott's Round Table contemporaries included a fellow Lindsay protégé, top British historian and intelligence director of Chatham House, Arnold Toynbee; Lord Lothian of the notoriously pro-Nazi "Cliveden Set"; Lord Leconsfield, later director of Britain's Tavistock Institute psychological warfare center; and media magnate William Waldorf Astor. The whole intertwined complex of elite "British-American-Canadian" foreign policy think-tanks, councils, and conferences, including the New York Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, the Bilderberg Conferences, the Ditchley Foundation, the Aspen Institute, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and dozens of other think-tanks, were founded and operate under the influence of the Round Tables.

Elliott's tutor Lindsay was a Fabian socialist, and a top activist in the Workers' Educational Association and the Christian Social movement, both outgrowths of the Round Tables' "Settlement House" movement, which involved middle and upper class "intellectuals" going slumming to maintain lower-class solidarity with their schemes. In her biography of Lindsay, his daughter, Lady Drusilla Scott, characterized him with these statements from his Oxford associates, which (especially when you realize that Lady Drusilla thought these comments were quite flattering) give a sense of the duplicitous Fabian Round Tabler mentality:

"I have never been able to distinguish in my own mind between Lindsay and Oliver Cromwell. . . . Each of them had a sense of being one of the elect."



*The Elliott “kindergarten” includes such Nashville Agrarians as Robert Penn Warren (left) and John Crowe Ransom; all three were also British Rhodes Scholars.*

“By nature [he is] a lotos-eater [sic], a reactionary, and a believer in aristocracy, who has deluded himself and his friends into regarding him as an idealist, a radical, and a collectivist.”

From 1947 through 1950, after having been dubbed “Lord Lindsay of Birker” as a result of the British Labour Party’s 1946 election victory, Lindsay chaired the Academic Council of the Wilton Park center for “re-educating” Germans to virtually incorporate that nation as a dominion of the Commonwealth. Wilton Park had been founded by Sir Kenneth Strong, Director General of Political Intelligence of the British Foreign Office, later a director of the multinational financial giant, Eagle Star Insurance Co. Its student body, totalling 8,000 in its first decade, were mostly German POWs being re-educated to the Round Table cult. Lecturers included Lord and Lady Astor, Bertrand Russell, and Arnold Toynbee, and it was directed by Heinz Koeppler, head of the Foreign Office’s Psychological Warfare Division. Leaders of all major German political parties, and other notables including Ralf Dahrendorf, longtime head of the London School of Economics, were Wilton Park graduates.

Elliott’s other recorded associates at Oxford include the mystic poets William Butler Yeats (the estranged lodge brother of the 20th Century’s top Satanist, Aleister Crowley) and “White Goddess” cultist Robert Graves. In his official capacity as “editor in absentia” of the *Fugitive*, he used these contacts to promote his “Templar” friends as an international literary phenomenon.

Returned with his Ph.D. from Oxford, Elliott used his base on the Harvard University Government faculty (1925-63) to establish the now familiar pattern of the private university and think-tank functionary, with connections to the highest level of high finance (Elliott’s personal contacts included the Rockefeller brothers, Paul Mellon, W. Averell Harriman, and the Richardson Foundation), serving, at the same time, as a high-level government policy adviser and official. This follows the Round Table insistence that government should be run by the “great interests,” not elected “amateurs.” His

associates and protégés, who developed this pattern to the point of dangerous absurdity, include National Security Advisers McGeorge Bundy, Walt Rostow, Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Richard Allen; Secretaries of State Kissinger and Dean Rusk; and foreign and domestic policy officials Samuel Huntington, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Paul Nitze, and Robert Bowie.

His government work promoted the Round Table “dark age” agenda, both through the internal reorganization of the government, and the development of strategic policies in support of the “New British Empire.” By the end of the 1930s, and increasingly through the 1950s and ’60s, he operated at the highest level of those strategic, quasi-military, quasi-intelligence *coup*-ist institutions, including the Foreign Policy Research Institute and the National Strategy Information Center, which have been dangerously successful in placing Round Table operatives in leading positions within the U.S. and other governments. He was a frequent lecturer at all sorts of strategic policy and “anti-communist” events, including at U.S. War Colleges and military academies, at least up through the late 1960s.

**Positions Held:**

- The President’s Committee on Administrative Management (1936).
- Business Advisory Council, under Averell Harriman (1937).
- War Production Board (and predecessor agencies) (1940).
- House Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning (1945).
- Staff director of both the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Select Committee on Foreign Aid, headed by Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts (1947). (State Department Official Charles P. Kindleberger, who had to deal with Elliott in this period, reported that “he was a big blowhard. He really just wanted to be busy. You know that he gave a course at Harvard which was called Elliott in war, Elliott in peace, Elliott in the hearts of his countrymen” (transcript from the Harry S Truman Library oral history archive).
- Office of Defense Mobilization (1951).
- Policy Planning Board of the National Security Council (1953). (He reported to the 1956 Vanderbilt University Fugitives reunion, that while in this position, he wrote a poem about atomic war. It has never been published.)
- Adviser to Secretary of State Dean Rusk (the former head of the Rockefeller Foundation, whom Elliott had recommended for the post) (1963).

His private academic and think-tank service, beyond his government faculty position, included:

- Director of the Harvard Summer School (1949-60). From this position, he arranged to place his leading protégé, Kissinger, as head of the International Seminar, and editor of its magazine, *Confluence*, for which he arranged Rockefeller, Ford, and Richardson Foundation financing. The Summer School and Seminar, as specified by its charter, brought “per-

sons between the ages of 26 and 45 who are on the verge of reaching positions of leadership in their own countries,” including parliamentarians, academics, and others, from around the world, in order to shape postwar strategic, educational, and cultural policy. Elliott has stressed that the regional and national associations of International Seminar alumni, including, for instance, the annual European reunions at the Rockefeller family complex, in Bellagio, Italy, were extensions of the Round Tables. Its method of operation paralleled that of Lord Lindsay’s Wilton Park, except that it selected out and indoctrinated potential leaders from around the world, not just German POWs.

Along with Eastern Establishment types, Round Tablers, and W.B. Yeats’ protégé Frank O’Connor, Elliott’s Fugitive-Agrarian brethren, notably Allen Tate, John Crowe Ransom, and Andrew Nelson Lytle (the admiring biographer of the Ku Klux Klan’s first Imperial Wizard) were prominently associated with Elliott and Kissinger on the advisory board of *Confluence*, and the faculty.

**Present Associations:** Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI); Foreign Service Educational Foundation, which spawned Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced and International Studies; American University; Woodrow Wilson Foundation Committee on American Education and Communism; Council on Foreign Relations; National Strategy Information Center; American Bar Association Committee on Education About Communism; League-to-Save-Carthage.

**Publications:**

- *The Pragmatic Revolt in Politics* (1928). Based on his Balliol doctoral dissertation, this is a tortured “proof” of the central idea in Elliott’s method, which, in private communication, he liked to refer to as “Futilitarianism breeds Brutalitarianism.”

Briefly, he ignores Platonic, Leibnizian scientific advances but says modern science is “pragmatism” (the amoral philosophy that says what has “cash value” is true, or, as is said now, “If it works for you . . .”). States based on this “Futilitarianism,” he says, invite a totalitarian (fascist or communist) “Brutalitarian” reaction. Having eliminated the Platonic idea of a cognitive principle knowable to human beings, he insists that the only defense against this syndrome is to manufacture myths to promote Fundamentalist spiritualism. He seems not to notice that the “Futilitarian” and “Brutalitarian” philosophies he claims to oppose, are themselves based on irrational myths, as is the terror which is called “clash of civilizations.” Bliethely, he promotes his solution: Spread the Round Table and revive the British Empire.

- *The New British Empire* (1932). Here, Elliott promotes the core Round Table idea, calling the post-World War I British Empire “possibly the greatest modern political organism,” especially the way its “permanent official[s]” dominate the elected government, as the model for building a new global order. This, and his other “Constitutional Reform” work,

draw on the ideas presented by Lord Lindsay in locations including his lecture “The State and Society” (1916), and *The Modern Democratic State* (1943).

- *The Need for Constitutional Reform* (1935). This is Elliott’s major Round Table proposal for a Constitutional Convention to re-organize the United States on the British Empire model. Here, he claims this is the only way to prevent the United States from going fascist or communist.

The key idea is to replace the states with autonomous “regional commonwealths.” Each of these commonwealths, and the central government, is to be run by a permanent bureaucracy, rather than by the elected officials (which he derides as “amateur administration”). Economic policy is to be run by a “National Council” composed of “the great economic interests of the country . . . bankers, . . . labor, . . . etc.” (in other words, the nobility). The proposal was identified as one of the “Pillars of Agrarianism,” in a series of Agrarian tracts between 1935 and 1938.

- “The Modern State, Karl Marx, and Mr. Laski,” *Southern Review* (Fall 1935). Here, Elliott claims, among other things, that “nationalism” is the cause of war, and calls for the creation of “nobler myths” in order “to reshape order from chaos, as the Holy Roman Empire did.”

- “If America Goes Fascist,” *American Mercury* (June 1938). “The crisis of the American Constitution,” an address at the College of William and Mary in Virginia summarizes his argument for mercy killing of the Constitution.

- *The City of Man: A Declaration of World Democracy* (1940). This is a joint declaration, in the tradition of H.G. Wells’ *Open Conspiracy*, by a committee, coordinated by Robert Maynard Hutchins, and including Elliott on its executive board, consisting of Nashville Agrarians, agents of Bertrand Russell and H.G. Wells, Frankfurt School allies, and others. It urges the United States to enter the war for the purpose of establishing a single world empire under a “democratic aristocracy,” culturally controlled through a single religion—the religion of democracy—to which all other church, family, educational, and neighborhood associations would have to subordinate themselves, and defended by a single military/law enforcement apparatus, for the chief aim of safeguarding the “treasure of English culture.”

- “A Time for War,” *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Autumn 1941).

- *The British Commonwealth at War* (1943). Elliott helped edit this collection of essays at the urging of British Intelligence’s John Wheeler-Bennett, to build support for America’s defense of the British Empire. One of the contributors, Sir Eric Roll, was to become a director of S.G. Warburg and the Bank of England.

- “A Time for Peace?” *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Spring 1946).

- *Western Political Heritage* (1949), co-edited with Neil A. McDonald. This is Elliott’s Harvard textbook, which became, for years, the core of Harvard undergraduate education



Lord Bertrand Russell was the founder, along with H.G. Wells, of the anti-industrial, One Worldist movement, of which Elliott became the most influential U.S. spokesman.

in history and culture. It was compiled with the assistance of Carl J. Friedrich, Samuel H. Beer, Brian A. McGrath, S.J., Henry A. Kissinger, and others.

Elliott's own essay in the collection, "Can We Organize a Free World, Under Law?" is a revision of his 1946 *Virginia Quarterly Review* article. In it, he uses the newly discovered threat of nuclear war to argue for the immediate forced establishment of the "New British Empire," demanded by the *City of Man* committee, even at the cost of human civilization. He described the clash with "communism," in ways now used by his protégés to support the need for global war against Islam:

"It is not simply the clash of open as against closed systems. It is in the very nature of the spiritual value which each represents. Christian morality, after all, puts an ultimate value on the individual which is incompatible with the 'transitional' stage of communist dictatorship."

After explaining that the threat of "communism" is really the Round Tablers' old bugaboo, the threat of "nationalism"—especially American, Russian, and Chinese—he insists that the United States must accept "the full implication of a surrender of our own sovereignty to whatever degree is necessary to get a sufficient strength mobilized in Western

Europe and elsewhere to deter aggression. It means accepting . . . world control of atomic energy with no reservations whatsoever. . . . If we cannot force Russia to join us under a world system . . . we may have to choose the path of armed strength, lead where it may."

He is equally clear on where it may lead: "If humanity is bent on extinction by the tens of millions in all the main centers of population, conceivably the Dark Ages might descend once more and the insects might have their innings at trying to develop a higher form of life. . . . What is really in question is how a future world order is going to be created that will succeed nationalism."

He concludes by invoking his mystic "Epic Exemplar" demi-gods: "The rest of the world is an open arena for this tremendous conflict for the human soul. The challenge must produce once more for us a truly epic leadership and an epic response by our democratic world if it is to be met."

- *Mobilization Planning and the National Security, 1950-60, Problems and Issues* (1950).
- *United States Foreign Policy: Its Organization and Control* (1952), report of a study group sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the National Planning Association, chaired by Elliott.
- *The Political Economy of American Foreign Policy; Its Concepts, Strategy, and Limits* (1955); report of a study group sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the National Planning Association, chaired by Elliott.
- *Television's Impact on American Culture* (1956).
- "A Round Table for the Republic" (1968). This essay

was included as an appendix to the 1968 edition of his doctoral dissertation, *The Pragmatic Revolt in Politics*. In this year, marking the end of his academic career and the beginning of Kissinger's career as czar of American foreign policy, Elliott reiterated his continuing commitment to a "Round Table for the Republic," which he had consistently promoted since at least as far back as 1956. This "Round Table," he wrote, should select "those people who best represent the best principles." He added, "We must find funds which our thousands of foundations could amply provide, privately, and ways to supply them with a staff of young men who would themselves be potential members of this highly honoured and motivated group. They would be particularly fit for the honor if, after being tried out and given missions to perform, they really succeeded . . . with honor and dignity, with self-effacing service and heroic willingness to undertake missions no matter how dangerous or difficult. This is what the Round Table of the Arthurian legend suggests. . . . I would hope the Round Tables could be spread on an international base by a parent Round Table for Freedom. . . . We had the makings of something like this on a lower-level model in the well-chosen representation of the Harvard International Summer Seminars set up during the ten years which I ran the Summer School, and with Henry Kissinger as the prime guide for it through most of his life."