

Literature Professor Ronald Berman named chairman of National Endowment for the Humanities by Nixon, confirmed by Senate

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Dr. Ronald S. Berman, Professor of Literature at the University of California, San Diego, has been confirmed by the United States Senate as the new chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Berman, a respected scholar whose writings range from Shakespeare to the sixties, was nominated for the post by President Nixon last month.

He will succeed Barnaby C. Keeney, a historian, in the \$40,000-a-year job. The chairmanship has actually been empty for some time with Keeney's deputy, Wallace B. Edgerton, a philosopher, serving as acting chairman.

Berman, a 41-year-old New Yorker, received his bachelor's degree from Harvard and his master's and doctoral degrees at Yale. He came to UCSD in 1965 from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he served as associate professor and as associate editor of the now defunct Kenyon Review. Prior to his position with Kenyon College, he served as an instructor and as an assistant professor at Columbia University in New York.

Berman, described as a "distinguished scholar with a good publication record," has produced books on Shakespeare, the seventeenth century poet Henry King, and the intellectual life of America today. Four more books are to be published soon on subjects ranging from an analysis of American social thought to restoration drama.

His book, "America in the Sixties," published three years ago, has been described by Russell Fraser, chairman of the English department at the University of Michigan, as "a real work of scholarship" and a fascinating and "very personal view of that crazy decade."

The National Endowment for the Humanities is the single agency in the Federal Government that dispenses grants of federal funds to schools throughout the country for humanities. It is the humanities counterpart to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Science Foundation.

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