In 1943, F. X. Shea entered the Jesuits at Shadowbrook, the former home of Andrew Carnegie that had become the novitiate for the Jesuits of the New England region. In March 1956, he was studying theology at Weston, Massachusetts, and preparing for ordination when fire destroyed Shadowbrook, killing four members of the community. Shea wrote this account of the fire in the following months. Subsequently, he received a doctorate in English literature from the University of Minnesota and taught at St. George’s College in Jamaica and at Boston College. He was executive vice president of Boston College and president of Saint Scholastica College in Duluth. In 1974, he left the priesthood and the Jesuits, married Susan Gussenhoven, and became chancellor of Antioch College in Ohio. He died in 1977. He is also co-author of *The Role of Theology in the University* (1967).