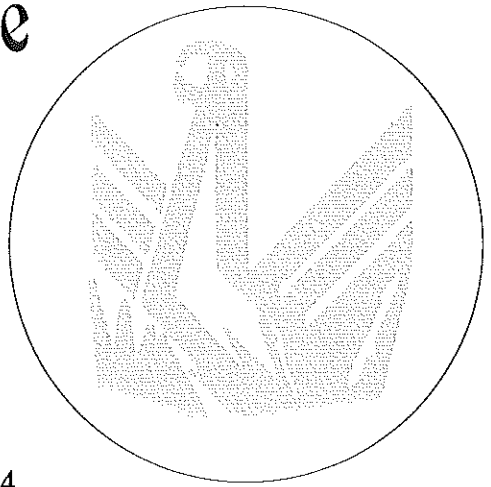

The D.H. Lawrence Society Of North America Newsletter

Vol. 24 Spring/Summer 1994



Secretary's Report

by Wayne Templeton

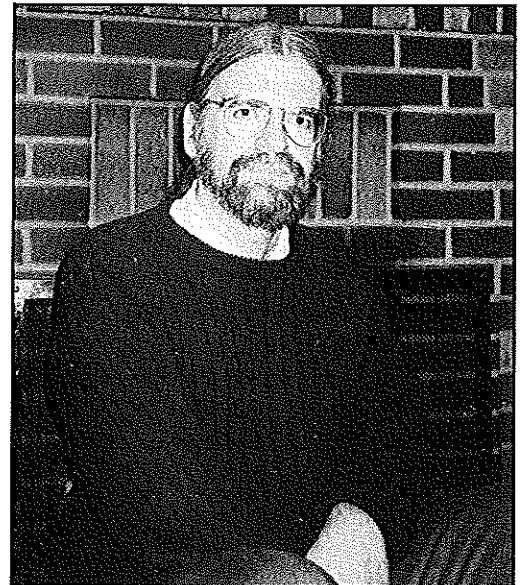
The first "business" conducted by members of the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America, other Lawrenceans, and friends at the 1993 MLA Convention in Toronto was the business of dining. This is perhaps as it should be. And this business included the task of finding Le Papillon, a restaurant which, like its namesake, proved a bit flighty. When Joan Peters had contacted the restaurant from Hawaii to make arrangements—a courageous act in itself—the address she had at hand, the address subsequently published in the MLA Convention Program, was an old one, some blocks from the restaurant's present location. And so it was that the always persevering Lawrenceans trudged beneath a full moon on a crisp Toronto evening in search of the elusive Papillon.

Once assembled, the group proved to be, as usual, a loquacious one, as friends greeted friends not seen since the Fifth International D. H. Lawrence conference in Ottawa the previous June, as old-timers welcomed newcomers, and as we heartily greeted our President, Lydia Blanchard, who unfortunately had been unable to attend the Ottawa Conference. The wine flowed, moder-

ately, and our waitress—the antithesis of the grump who had served us in new York the previous year—cheerfully took our orders and served us our essentially French-Canadian cuisine: lamb and crêpes, steaks frites, and wicked maple syrup pie. It was a spirited and warm evening, ending with promises to reassemble in San Diego in 1994.

At the magnificent Toronto Hilton two days later, on Thursday, December 30, the Society held its annual business meeting, President Lydia Blanchard presiding. Following a treasurer's report from Elizabeth Wallace, noting that as of June 24, 1993, we possessed a balance of \$2188.59, Lydia made several announcements. At the conference in Ottawa, a Federation of Lawrence Societies was formed in order to promote further communication among the various Lawrence societies now existing in the world and to assist in the organization of forthcoming international conferences.

The general plan is to hold one of these approximately every two years, and when feasible in a city where Lawrence once resided. With this in mind, following two conferences in



1995—in Paris and Cambridge—there will be one in Nottingham in 1996 and one in Oaxaca in 1998.

Nannette Norris noted, on the same subject, that at the 1994 Learned Societies Conference, to be held in Calgary this June, there will be a D. H. Lawrence session for which people were encouraged to submit papers or proposals. (Unfortunately this session was only tentative, and was subsequently rejected).

Lydia then announced that at the 1994 MLA Convention in San Diego, the H. T. Moore Award will be presented. The topic for the D. H. Lawrence at the 1994 Convention will be "Women in Love Reconsidered."

(continued from page 1)

At this point elections were held for executive positions: Earl Ingersoll, Larry Gamache, and Carol Siegel were elected, joining the present executive members Wayne Templeton and Margaret Storch.

Discussion then followed concerning a proposed change in the Constitution which would split the present position of Secretary-Treasurer into Secretary and Treasurer-Membership chair. This amendment will be voted on at the 1994 Convention; in the interim Wayne Templeton is Acting Secretary while Elizabeth Wallace continues as Treasurer. A revised dues structure, with a long overdue increase in membership dues to \$10 a year, was approved.

The Society then addressed the subject of membership itself, and, in particular, ways in which nonmembers could be encouraged to join. Suggestions included granting a two-year free membership to graduate students working on Lawrence and writing to members of the Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century English Literature Division of the MLA. A final topic of discussion was the possibility of awarding a travel grant to the graduate student submitting the best paper; this was approved in principle.

Later that afternoon, at the nearby Sheraton Hotel, the D. H. Lawrence session took place. This year the topic was "Lawrence and the Ideologies of Change," and the three papers, chosen by Joan Peters, were "Releasing the Dead Mother: Lawrence's Opposition to Nostalgia," by Carol Siegel, Washington State University; "Lawrence's Quest for a 'Natural' Law: Naturalizing the Rape of a Woman, Denaturalizing the Rape of the Land," by Ann ter Haar, University of California at Davis; and "W(h)o(al) Men in Love?: Homoeroticism and Homophobia in Lawrence's Fiction," by Elizabeth Fox, Boston University.

Carol Siegel's thesis was that while Lawrence was often ambivalent about issues such as women's rights or class conflict, his depiction of gender relations reveals the clear endorsement of an ideology of change that would not become popular for another half century. For example, his insistence that one's relation to one's mother need not always be relevant to identity formation anticipates the postmodernist argument that identity is continually informed by the flows of power within a culture, or is "quick," as Lawrence would say. A good example is Ursula,

whose mother simply ceases to be relevant to her once she embarks upon her own life.

Similarly seeing Lawrence as ahead of his times, Ann ter Haar began by noting that following the "nightmare" years of World War I, Lawrence attempted in many of his works of the twenties to uncover a "natural" law that he believed human law had repressed and supplanted. This process of naturalization, especially in the privileging of the laws and cultural practices of certain ethnic groups, achieves its most dubious expression in "The Woman Who Rode Away," in which rape is "naturalized." This was, however, an extremist position not characteristic of the process generally, a process which most positively anticipated the modern notion of an ecosystem.

Elizabeth Fox, after acknowledging the collaboration of her colleague, Lee Monk, in titling her paper, began with a reference to the foreword to *Women in Love*, in which Lawrence announces the introduction of an ideological concept he terms a "new passion." In the novel, Fox contended, this seems at first to lie in Ursula's subversion of conventional heterosexism, in a "marital plot" involving Birkin, but a new plot, featuring a male couple, Birkin and Gerald, soon emerges in tandem with the marital plot. However, as the latter develops—becomes more radical—the former moves to a much more conservative ideological position. By the conclusion of the novel Rupert's quest for male-male love is disabled by Gerald's death; thus in a strange balancing act the two originally radical plots have almost cancelled each other, leaving Ursula and Birkin in a decidedly conventional, constrained, heterosexual marriage.

Thus concluded another convention, almost literally, for our session was one of the last. Next year the schedule promises to be different—early for us, rather than late—and the prospect of a San Diego winter is sure to encourage perhaps even more members and visitors to attend our sessions. See you then.

Lawrence and the Non-Print Media

Monica Tidwell has renewed her option on the film rights to *St. Mawr* and is ready to work on it.

A new video on Lawrence entitled "Coming Through," starring Kenneth Branagh as Lawrence and Helen Mirren as Frieda, appeared on a Sydney, Australia, television channel recently.

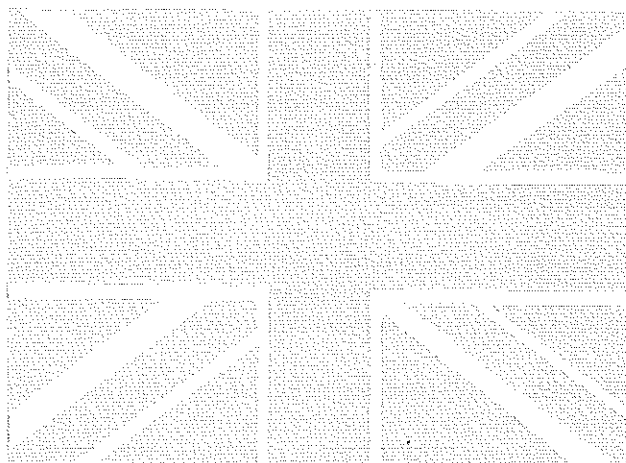
The Fallen Angel Theatre Company in Aberystwyth has produced a stage version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, which it has also taken on tour.

In December B.B.C. Radio 4 featured James Boulton and Elaine Feinstein in a discussion of the letter written by Lawrence to Ernest Weekley, most likely on May 7, 1912, that was cited in the Divorce Court the following year.

A film, "Lawrence of Eastwood," made by Mike Allen of the Amber Valley Video Club, is a short biography of Lawrence, containing shots of his birthplace and later homes in Eastwood.

Lawrence in England

The D. H. Lawrence Society is as active as ever. In November Ronald Storer, a former engineer with the Coal Board, talked on the history of the Brinsley Colliery headstocks. A headstock is the equipment above ground used for winding up and down the cages which transport men and materials. Lawrence's father began work in the Brinsley Colliery when he was 10 years old.



In January Susan Gilchrist, a graduate student at Nottingham, gave a talk on "D. H. Lawrence's Fates: Frieda Lawrence, Mabel Dodge Luhan and Dorothy Brett," part of a wider study of Lawrence's various friendships.

The D. H. Lawrence Centre at Nottingham University held a one-day conference on Lawrence and Politics in November with a morning lecture entitled "A Pint with D. H. Lawrence," given by Rick Tylance of Anglia Polytechnic University. It was illustrated with tapes from the B.B.C. Radio Ballad Collection and emphasized the systematic belittling by literary critics of the thirties of the cultural richness of Lawrence's working-class background and the debt Lawrence owed to the story-telling tradition that flourished within the culture of the mines.

In the afternoon, Anne Fernihough of Girton, Cambridge, spoke on "Lawrence and the Politics of Criticism, 1910-1930," situating Lawrence criticism of that time within the context of contemporary theories of criticism and modernism. Fernihough believes that Lawrence's ways of defining the terms of modernism were marginalized along with the contributions of the major women critics of the same period and for similar reasons, i.e. a reaction against the opening up of the political terrain to women and the working class.

The Centre held an evening meeting in February when Professor Seeber of the University of Stuttgart read a paper on German Expressionism with special reference to its influence on *The Rainbow* and *Women in Love*, arguing that Lawrence came under the influence of modern sociology through the Max Weber connection.

In March Mick Lovley presented a drama workshop featuring *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, and later in March the Society held its twentieth anniversary luncheon at the Saracen's Head, with John Worthen explaining the connection between Lawrence and this Southwell landmark and illustrating on his portable keyboard hymn tunes played by the Minster bells. Gerald Pollinger also addressed the gathering, and Eastwood resident Brenda Bronson gave an account of growing up in the shadow of the Lawrence family connection.

The Master of Arts degree course in D. H. Lawrence and the Modern Age at the University of Nottingham is now in place. It consists of four courses and a dissertation and takes one academic year to complete.

The D. H. Lawrence Collection in the University Library Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections now contains autograph manuscripts and typescripts providing examples of Lawrence's writing in all its aspects, as poet, novelist, dramatist, translator and literary critic. The Department receives visitors and enquiries from all parts of the world and is at present working to create an on-line database catalog to be accessible to researchers beyond Nottingham. The e-mail address is UAZDB@uk.ac.Nottingham.vme.

Efforts are under way to preserve the offices of Barber, Walker, and Company in Eastwood, the fine Victorian building where Lawrence went on Friday afternoons to collect the wages for his father's "stall."

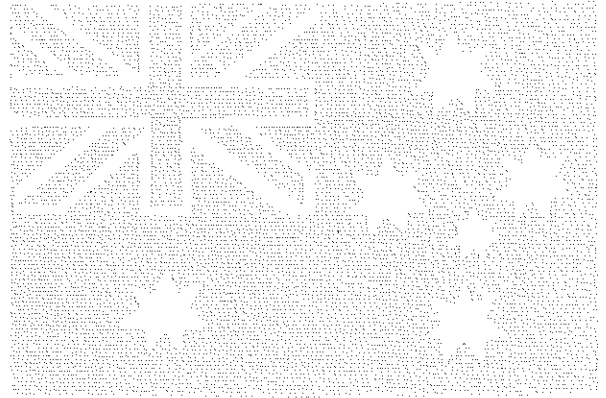


Lawrence in Australia

A series of paintings on the theme of D. H. Lawrence at Thirroul by Australian artist Gary Shead has been on display at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. At the end of the exhibition, two South Coast poets, Geoffrey Sykes and Greg O'Brien, held a reading of their poetry with additional reading from *Kangaroo* by actor Arthur Dignam.

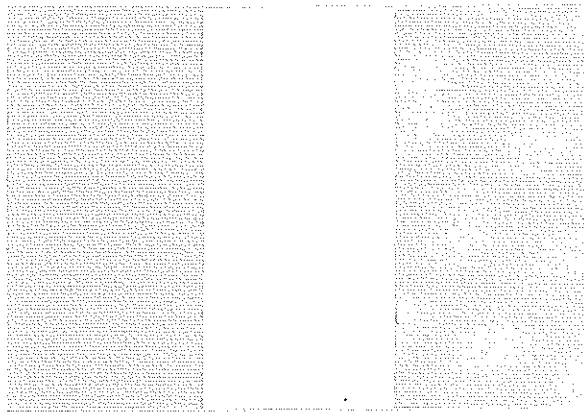
A plan to rezone for residential development the vacant land between McCauley's Beach and Wyewurk presents a new threat to the area surrounding Lawrence's residence in Thirroul.

The "Writer's Walk" that begins at the Sydney Opera House now includes a plaque to Lawrence with a quotation from a 1922 letter: "Australia has a marvellous sky and air and blue clarity and a hoary sort of land beneath it, like a Sleeping Princess on whom the dust of ages has settled. Wonder if she'll ever get up."



Lawrence in France

Number 9 of the *Etudes lawrenciennes* publishes half of the papers delivered, in English, at the international colloquium in March 1992. The theme of the conference was Lawrence and Europe. Number 10 will contain the rest of the papers.



Book News



Paul Poplawski has had published *Promptings of Desire: Creativity and the Religious Impulse in the Works of D. H. Lawrence* by Greenwood Press in London.

The Black Sparrow Press has put out a booklet of an essay by Lawrence entitled "*That Women Know Best*," the manuscript of which is now in the collections of the Bancroft Library at Berkeley. The article was originally published in the *Daily Chronicle* on November 29, 1928. The editor, Roy Spencer, has included a variorum version of the essay.

Spike Milligan, a British comedian, has just published a pastiche of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* according to Spike Milligan, which Gerald Pollinger finds dreadful, "an excuse for awful schoolboy jokes and an amount of pornographic and scatological references."

Crescent Moon & Joe's Press out of Kidderminster announces the publication of three books: *The Passion of D. H. Lawrence* by Jeremy Robinson (an analysis of love, art, sex, rebirth, religion and symbolism in Lawrence); *D. H. Lawrence: Infinite Sensual Violence* by M. K. Pace (a study of love, emotion, sexuality, and feminism in Lawrence); and *D. H. Lawrence: Selected Poems*, edited by Margaret Elvy.

The Villa Beau Soleil

By Jill Truefitt (from the Newsletter of the D. H. Lawrence Society)



It was on re-reading Frederick Carter's searching, poetical book *D. H. Lawrence and the Body Mystical* that the account of his visit to Lawrence in Bandol, Provence, jumped out of the page. I was shortly to fly down to Marseilles—only a few kilometres from Bandol—and here was an opportunity to find out whether the house by the sea that he described still existed.

Frederick Carter, by reason of his liaison with my widowed mother-in-law, was, in effect, one of our family. He would often talk of Lawrence, of their endless discussions, of the time when Lawrence stayed with him in Shropshire and of Frederick's own visit to Bandol in 1929.

Just as, in the book, Frederick minutely describes their walks in the Shropshire countryside, so does he give explicit detail of the location of the Villa Beau Soleil—almost as though he foresaw that I would be stirred to search for it. But more than sixty years had elapsed, and in that time Bandol must surely have changed.

So in June 1993, armed with an old photograph of the villa lent to me by Richard Clark, who is writing a biography of Frederick Carter (having just completed a study of his etchings), I set off from Marseilles to search it out—if it still existed.

Although still a charming resort,

it was indeed a greatly enlarged Bandol that I found, with hundreds of villas crowding the coast. Frederick had said that the villa was "at the extreme point of the that guarded the little bay of Bandol"—but which of the two arms of the bay? That question was answered when I discovered that the Hotel Splendide (one of Frederick's clues) was still there at the western end. However, I drew a blank at the hotel. They had never heard of D. H. Lawrence or the Villa Beau Soleil, and neither had the Syndicat d'Initiative—the Information Centre.

Somewhat daunted, I returned to Frederick's description: "protected from direct sea-winds by a little pine wood that grew on the very verge of the rocky shore. Walking out from the town toward it the road . . . , coming out beside the water a little way from Villa Beau Soleil, became a lane—a path—by the water's edge."

So I drove through the narrow, twisting streets to a lane which followed the edge of the shore and yes! there was the pine wood, the rocky shore and—its old nameplate still legible—the Villa Beau Soleil.

The quest had been exciting, the discovery was enthralling. Here was the very house, hardly changed, where Lawrence and Frederick had talked day after day and planned a joint book which, sadly, was never to materialise. Months later the desper-

ately ill Lawrence was moved to a nursing home in Vence, where he died.

As I gazed inquiringly at the house, thinking only of those two figures from the past, the owner strolled from the rear garden and I introduced myself, explaining the reason for my interest. He was immediately helpful, inviting me to photograph freely. He already knew of D. H. Lawrence's occupancy, and volunteered that he had had a letter from the Mayor of Bandol asking for permission to erect a plaque on the house commemorating Lawrence's stay. This would be done after completion of work that was then in progress—part of the house was indeed in scaffolding.

It is a prosaic little house, single storey and rather squat—not at all the romantic, airy, Mediterranean residence that its name had led me to imagine. An arched cornice surmounts the roof, distinctive but not, to my eye, attractive. Below it is a new canopy in some pink substance which blends uneasily with the light terra-cotta stucco. Stone steps lead up to a terrace, and there have been some alterations to enlarge the sea-facing windows and make a front door. Formerly the entrance was at the side, where the shabby old door is still in place. At the rear, the garden is charmingly shaded by fruit trees, laden in June with peaches and cherries.

The site of the house is superb. A steep cliff path leads directly from the entrance gates down to the shore and the blue Mediterranean. The pine-wood that Frederick described appears unchanged, but his field of narcissus alongside the villa that "shone and flashed even on the dullest of days" has been replaced by villas which have crept ever closer and closer.





People in the News

Carla Cornellini (University of Bologna, Italy) delivered a paper entitled "Utopian Quest in D. H. Lawrence's Last Works" at the International Conference of Utopian Studies in St. Louis in November.

Gavriel Ben-Ephraim (Tel Aviv University) has had a paper, "Sublimation Strange: Eros and Transcendence in Shelley, Rossetti, and Lawrence" accepted for publication in *Etudes lawrenciennes*. He will be presenting a paper, "The Play of Death in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* and *Sons and Lovers*" at the Rereading Texts/Rethinking Critical Presuppositions Conference in June at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which is honoring H. M. Daleski on the occasion of his retirement.

L.D. Clark and Virginia Hyde are co-editing *The Plumed Serpent* for Penguin Books.

Christopher Pollnitz (University of Newcastle) will be delivering a paper at the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University in Canberra on the dating of the recently discovered Lawrence poem "Death-Paeon of a Mother;" the poem was discovered in 1990 among some manuscripts acquired by the University of Nottingham.

Donna Miller (Corso di Laurea in Scienze Internazionali e Diplomatiche, Gorizia) has an article forthcoming in *Lingua e Stile* entitled "Lawrence Revisited—By Way of Bakhtin."

Peter Balbert (Trinity University) has the article "Scorched Ego, The Novel, and the Beast: Patterns of Fourth Dimensionality in *The Virgin and the Gipsy*" in the fall issue of *Papers on Language and Literature*.

Brenda Maddox is reported to be getting on well with her biography of Lawrence.

Rosie Jackson, who has been to see **Barbara Weekley Barr** in Italy, is working on an introduction to an illustrated edition of *Not I, But the Wind* for Pandora Press. **John Worthen** has been staying with Barbara Barr and is researching the von Richthofens for a new book.

Spender on Lawrence as Critic

Sir Stephen Spender in an interview with Peter Porter for "Kaleidoscope" on Radio 4 in February was discussing the academic critic. He said that critics might be the better for knowing less, like D. H. Lawrence on Walt Whitman. Lawrence knew next to nothing about Whitman, yet his criticism goes straight to the heart of the matter. "I wish I could be like that," Spender said.



Lawrence Going to the Dogs

Lawrence has recently been represented in Christopher Hawtree's *The Literary Companion to Dogs*, published by Sinclair-Stevenson. Duff Hart-Davis, in a review of the anthology, found Lawrence's contribution (whatever it is!) "acutely embarrassing."



Addendum to the Fall Issue

Once again, Laverne Clark was not credited for her appreciated contribution of photographs from the Ottawa conference. This time the caption had been included in the final proof (and a typo in the headline corrected), but it failed to appear in the printed copy.

In the Steps of Lawrence in Skye

By Rosemary Howard

Lawrence stayed at Newtonmore, Inverness-shire, in 1926 as the guest of the Misses Beveridge, artist friends whom he had met in Italy. On his return at the end of that holiday he was met at Nottingham Station by his young niece, Peggy King, now Peggy Needham, who from then on nursed an intense longing to visit Skye, a wish that finally came true in 1992. The year before, in August 1991, Peggy and I had got as far as Newtonmore on the trail of Uncle Bert, but there was no time to visit Sky on that occasion.

In Newtonmore, a long and handsome village on the main route between Perth and Inverness, Peggy and I had had little difficulty in identifying the stylish house in which Lawrence had spent two weeks in 1926, known at that time as Bailabhen and now as the Dower House. It is one of those fine Scottish stone houses with crowstep gables and an impressive drive. The elegant drawing room looks west over pine trees and distant hills. In the dining room is a fine Delft-tiled fireplace into which, we were told, one of the Misses Beveridges is reputed to have thrown a copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

We heard that the present owner of the house, Mrs. Frazer, was away from home, acting as tour operator for an upmarket Canadian tourist agency, and that she would in due course bring her party south from Inverness to have lunch at the Dower House with its interesting Lawrence connection. In the evening Peggy and I dined at the very hotel in Main Street that the Beveridge sisters patronised when, in their later years, they had given up ownership of Bailabhen, but still returned for their holidays.

We also learned that they had persuaded Lawrence to accompany them to church while he was in Newtonmore, the Presbyterian service no doubt reminding him of his early absorption in the Congregational Chapel at Eastwood. At the end of our holiday we too returned to Nottingham, but by road.

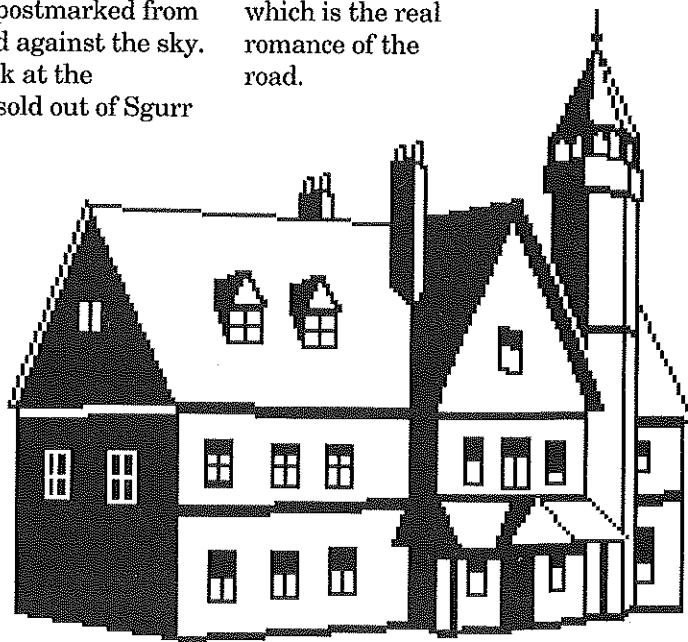
The following summer Peggy and I decided to complete the Lawrence trail. On Skye, we experienced the same kind of "blue" days Lawrence had described on his visit there. Sligachan with its menacing backcloth of the Cuillin peaks crouched beside a hump-back bridge, rowan berries shone out and the wild river sparkled in the sunshine. Sgurr nan Gillean, one of the postcard views sent off by Lawrence and postmarked from Sligachan, was jagged against the sky. But the reception desk at the Sligachan Hotel had sold out of Sgurr nan Gillean cards.

Sligachan Hotel has no records of visitors prior to 1936, though for many years previous to that it was known as the climbers' favourite inn. So we were unlucky in our attempt to prove conclusively that Lawrence had spent a night there in August 1926.

Peggy and I pulled on our boots and struggled over the wet and rocky tracks of the island, paths which have

been stamped by the boots of countless Skye climbers including, in all probability, those of Lawrence. Returning, Peggy and I exchanged our mountain gear for more elegant attire, ready to celebrate our mission accomplished. In the bar of the hotel we discovered a group of American tourists and with them Mrs. Frazer, owner of the Dower House, on her way to Newtonmore to entertain them!

The amazing thing about such coincidences on journeys is not so much that they occur, but that they are revealed. Thus our journey in the steps of Uncle Bert not only yielded a sense of achievement and more than a frisson of emotive contact with the past, but also provided the eternal magic of the unexpected, which is the real romance of the road.



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Conferences, Workshops, Tours

The D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia is holding a seminar on May 29 to commemorate the arrival of Lawrence and Frieda in Sydney on that weekend in 1922.

The Society is also sponsoring an "In the Footsteps of Lawrence" tour of Sri Lanka in late December-early January. Robert Darroch will be the Lawrence guide, taking visitors to all the Lawrence sites in Colombo, Kandy, and Nuwara Eliya. The tour includes a visit to Ardanasee, the recently rediscovered bungalow where Lawrence and Frieda stayed with the Brewsters in 1922, as well as other sights of the country.

Keith Sagar, Mara Kalnins, and Italian Lawrentians plan a symposium and summer school program to be held in Cambridge and Italy in July 1995.

The International Centre for Lawrence Studies in Nottingham will host a one-day conference on Lawrence's Letters, with James Boulton, Keith Sagar, and Dorothy Johnston (Keeper of Manuscripts at the Nottingham University Library). This will also be the occasion of the unveiling of a statue of Lawrence by Diana Thomson.

The MLA in San Diego will have a D. H. Lawrence session arranged around the topic of "*Women in Love* Reconsidered." The following papers are scheduled: Michael Squires (Virginia Polytechnic and State University), "Frieda Lawrence and the Development of *Women in Love*"; Carola M. Kaplan (California State University, Pomona), "Totem, Taboo, and Blutbruderschaft: Reconsidering the Meaning of the Primitive in *Women in Love*"; Margareite Hailey Rippey, "Oedipus Failed: Unsolved Riddles of Gender Positionality in *Women in Love*, Novel and Film." There will be also, of course, an annual Society dinner and a business meeting. Joan Peters is in charge of the program again this year.

The Sixth International D. H. Lawrence Conference in Nottingham, England, will be held in 1996. Watch for the call for papers in all the D. H. Lawrence journals and in the *PMLA*.

