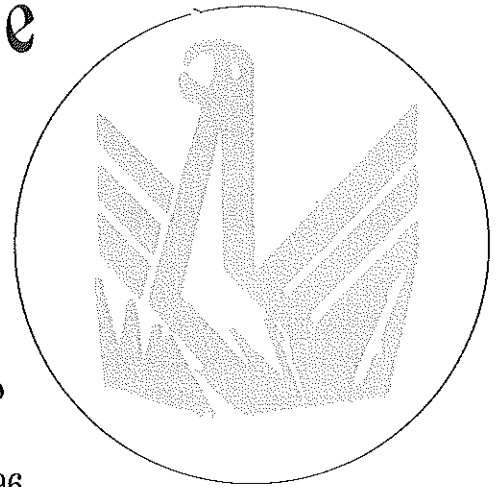

The D.H. Lawrence Society Of North America Newsletter



Vol. 25 Winter 1995-96

Oaxaca Today

by Michael Squires

To come to Oaxaca, Mexico, in 1995, some seventy years after Lawrence and Frieda left, is to encounter surprising changes. Oaxaca has become a busy city, the Lawrences' two residences have been remodeled, and the main market has moved. Yet the essence of Oaxaca persists everywhere.

When Lawrence and Frieda arrived in November 1924, Oaxaca, which by plane is just an hour south of Mexico City, had about 30,000 people—they were mostly, he thought, small Zapotec Indians. Today the city has at least 300,000; the Indians, though not a majority, are still highly visible. The shady zocalo, or main square, which the Lawrences prized, still exists, bustling with brass bands, school parades, jewelry vendors, blind beggars, and children batting balloons like long sausages high into the evening air. The area is charged with commotion and festivity.

West of the zocalo, the Hotel Francia, where Lawrence and Frieda stayed for a total of eighteen days (and Dorothy Brett for much longer), still stands in a crowded, noisy section of town. The hotel

manager, Sr. Jaime Perez Martinez, obligingly showed us the Lawrences' first room—No. 140, he believes—a small, airless space overlooking the now-covered interior patio; he then showed us the only large room that remains along the front of the hotel: it is perhaps the one to which the Lawrences moved after a day or two. Although it is spacious and immaculate, the furniture is not original, and the

hotel itself, charging 95 pesos for a double (\$17 a night), is now the choice of backpackers on a budget.

From the Francia, Lawrence and Frieda moved on November 19 to a large, unfurnished house thirteen blocks away. There, in three months, Lawrence hoped to finish the final version of *The Plumed Serpent* during the dry, hot days.

The house, number 43 on Avenida

(continued on page 2)

The Sixth International D. H. Lawrence Conference

The first Lawrence conference held under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee for International Lawrence Conferences (CCILC) will take place at Lawrence's alma mater, the University of Nottingham, July 11-16, 1996. As well as lectures, panels, short papers and other events, the conference will offer the opportunity to visit places associated with Lawrence in Eastwood, Nottingham, and the surrounding countryside.

Anyone interested in reading a short (20 minute) paper at the conference should send a title and 200-word synopsis to Peter Preston, the executive director, at the D. H. Lawrence Centre, University of Nottingham, Cherry Tree Buildings, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (Peter.Preston@nott.ac.uk; fax 0115-9513711). Synopses may be sent until January 31, 1996, when final programming will begin, but papers will continue to be considered until the final deadline, April 30.

President's Corner

by Ian McNiven

I hope to see many of you at the MLA convention in Chicago, where there will be three events of special interest to Lawrentians: "Reconsiderations of the Feminist Case Against Lawrence" featuring Sheila Contreras, Alan Williamson, Carol Siegel, and Monika Elbert on December 29 at 3:30 p.m.; the Society dinner, tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m. the same evening; and the business meeting of the DHLNSA on December 30 at noon. Those planning to attend the dinner should signal their intention and confirm the time and place with one of the society officers at the "Reconsiderations" session.

We have not been deluged with offers of assistance for the DHLNSA recruiting campaign. Anyone interested in participating as a regional representative of the Membership Committee should write to Larry Gamache at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario K1N6N5. If you have suggestions for attracting new members, but prefer not to be on the committee, please send in your ideas.

This autumn the DHLNSA assisted with the publicity for the U. S. premier of *Bad Language*, a play by Dusty Hughes. The producing director of the Vagabond Theatre Company solicited the support of the Society because of the interest of the play for Lawrence specialists: the drama revolves around the academic and sexual adventures of Bob Thomas, a Lawrence scholar at Cambridge. *Bad Language* was a muddle of a script, with a veritable sea of literary allusions from C. S. Lewis to James Joyce. Lawrence's contribution turned out to be the "She saw the stiffened bodies of the colliers" passage from the end of *The Rainbow* (Does Gerald Pollinger know?), presented as the subject for a formal "Supervision."

Bad Language was nominated for Best Comedy in the 1983 Olivier Awards. One wonders why, although the acting was good, the play never took flight. It was directed by Kent Paul and ran from October 4-22 at the Bos Theater on West 45th Street in Manhattan.



Oaxaca Today Continued . . .

Pino Suarez, is today No. 600, near El Llano Park around which traffic roars. After two attempts, we located the owner, Sr. Jose Alvarez Padilla, who has a trucking business and whose family has owned the house since the 1930s. He courteously showed us every room in the house, including the flat, concrete roof, where today the maid washes and irons.

In 1960, the house and patio garden that Lawrence and Frieda made their own was subdivided into three row houses, so that the garden, with its orange trees and hibiscus and roses, has largely disappeared. Although the house is much changed, Sr. Alvarez pointed out the original adobe walls (a foot thick to withstand frequent earthquakes), the lovely arch from the garden into the house, the original wood beam that runs end to end across the roof, the original large windows and, covering them at the street, the original iron grates that one finds on exterior windows all over the city. Today the house is the Mexican equivalent of an urban three-bedroom ranch with a *mu*y *pequeño* patio garden.

The big Saturday market, which Lawrence described so colorfully in "Mornings in Mexico" and where he and Frieda bought pans and serapes, has been moved a mile away. Now the Mercado de Abastos, it is a whirl of cacophonous activity, a kaleidoscope of smells, a symphony of motion, and a feast of odors, no less intriguing now than when Lawrence and Frieda visited.

Though much changed, Oaxaca is also much the same as it was in the winter of 1924-25. Wrote Lawrence on December 9, "I like it: it gives me something." Oaxaca will provide a most attractive site for the Lawrence conference tentatively planned for June 1998.

People in the News



After a decade of work, **Jane Jaffe Young** (Manhattan Community College, CUNY) has just finished her dissertation "D. H. Lawrence on Film: Aspects of Lawrence's Prose Style Reproduced Cinematically in Screen Adaptation of 'The Rocking-Horse Winner,' *Sons and Lovers* and *Women in Love*" for the NYU School of Education and will defend in November or December.

Judith Ruderman has become vice provost for academic services at Duke, while still adjunct associate professor in the English department.

James T. Boulton (Birmingham, UK) has been made a Senior Fellow of the British Academy. Earlier this decade he received honorary Doctors of Letters from the Universities of Durham and Nottingham.

Ginette Katz-Roy (Paris X-Nanterre) received a doctorate from her university in February and received a full professorship there in May.

Robert Langbaum presented a paper entitled "The Death of Sexuality in Lawrence, and Its Varying

Results" at the July Lawrence Conference in Paris.

Donald Gutierrez (Emeritus-Western New Mexico) has an essay in the Jan.-Feb. issue of *The Bloomsbury Review* (Denver) called "D. H. Lawrence and Industrialization" and another entitled "D. H. Lawrence and New Mexico" in the October issue of *New Frontiers of New Mexico*.

Liu Xu-ming (Xuzhou Teachers College) attended the NGO Forum of the World Conference on Women in Hairou, Beijing, making speeches and giving out materials she had written on women's issues. She was recently promoted to associate professor.

Carola Kaplan has an essay, "Primitivist Encounters of an Edwardian Kind: Totem, Taboo, and Blutbruderschaft in D. H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* in *Edwardian and Modernist Texts and Contexts: Revisioning British Writing of 1900-1920*, which she is editing with Anne B. Simpson to be published next fall by St. Martin's Press. She presented an earlier, shorter version of this essay at MLA in San Diego.

Nora Foster Stovel (Alberta, Canada) has been traveling. She gave a paper on "Stoning the Moon: Sex, Symbol and Myth in *The Rainbow* and *Women in Love*" at the Paris conference in July and a paper, "The Mysteries of Life and Labour: Management and Marriage in *Touch and Go* and *Women in Love*," at the Cambridge conference that same month. She has an article "Lawrencean Legacy: D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* and Margaret Lawrence's *The Stone Angel*" in *D. H. Lawrence and the Cosmic Adventure: Studies of His Ideas, His Works and Literary Relationships*, edited by Larry Gamache (Borealis).

Sandra Jobson (Lawrence Society of Australia) is currently doing research for a book on Lawrence's time in Western Australia in 1922 prior to his arrival in Sydney. With this research, she is working on an unpublished manuscript by Mollie Skinner, edited quite heavily by Lawrence, which Lawrence renamed "Eve in the Land of Nod."

“ Quoted ”

In an article about the American painter Thomas Eakins in *The New Yorker* for December 26, 1994-January 2, 1995 (double issue), Adam Gopnik, speaking of Eakins' photographs of nudes, says, "Something of the early wild-eyed D. H. Lawrence comes through, with sex and puritan self-righteousness equally mixed. They seem possessed by a kind of sanctimonious exhibitionism."



The Chronicle of Higher Education for August 11, 1995, reported on Russell C. Boggs, an associate professor of geology suspended from Eastern Washington University for allegedly collecting pornographic pictures of children from the Internet on his campus computer. His wife, Peggy-Lynn Boggs, claimed that he collected the images to help her in her research into erotic literature; she said that she was studying the writers D. H. Lawrence and Milan Kundera and needed the pictures to "identify with the characters."



Book News

Collaroy Basin, where Lawrence and Frieda had afternoon tea on May 28, 1922, is the subject of a book by Sandra Jobson Darroch called *Collaroy Basin: Sydney's Hidden Secret* (WPN Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 100, Miller Point 2000, Australia).

The latest CUP edition is *The Woman Who Rode Away and Other Stories*, which came out in September.

The Whitston Publishing Company (Box 958, Troy NY 12181) has published *Breaking Through to the Other Side: Essays on Realization in Modern Literature* by Donald Gutierrez. It contains three essays on Lawrence, covering selected fiction, a significant and long underrated poem, and Lawrence as economist.

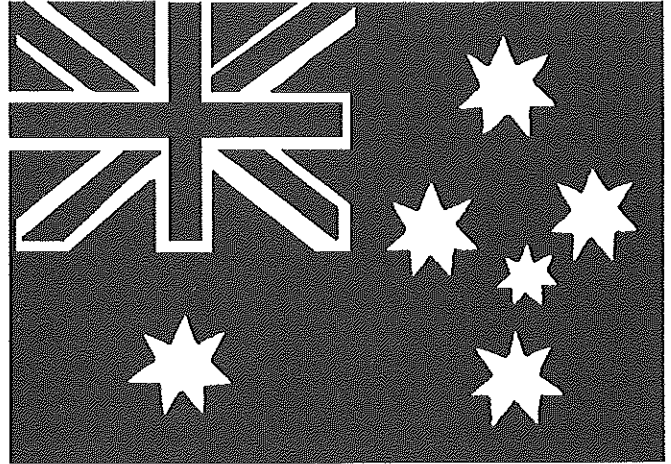
Dan Schwarz's *The Transformation of the English Novel: Studies in Hardy, Conrad, Joyce, Woolf, and Forster* has been published in a revised paperback edition by St. Martin's Press. It has two Lawrence chapters, "Speaking of Paul Morel: Voice, Unity, and Meaning in *Sons and Lovers*" and "Lawrence's Quest in *The Rainbow*," and Lawrence is frequently mentioned throughout.

Peter Preston and Nick Ceramella have edited a textbook for Italian universities, *D. H. Lawrence, "Sun" and Other Stories* (Loffredo Editore, Naples). The book consists of introduction, text analysis, a wide variety of suggested activities, and a cassette with a series of passages taken from the stories.

D. H. Lawrence: the Cosmic Adventure, edited by Lawrence Gamache with associate editor Phyllis Perrakis, has been delayed because of unavoidable production problems, but should be ready from Borealis Press by Christmas.

Lawrence in Australia

As a sign of the growing strength of the D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia, the annual seminar on Lawrence was upgraded to a conference



with twenty-three participants and was held in August in the New South Wales Writers' Centre at Rozelle. The principal topic was Australian reactions to Lawrence and his writings. Robert Darroch outlined the Society's short but lively history and sketched in some of the lukewarm and occasionally hostile reactions in Australia to *Kangaroo* in the seventy-three years since the Lawrences left the country. The Society President, Paul Eggert, widened out this theme. Sandra Jobson spoke on the history of the Save Wyewurk campaign, complete with a cartoon from the *Illawarra Mercury* purporting to show Sandra attacking the present owner, Michael Morath, with an umbrella because he was daring to mow the lawn on which Lawrence had once trod; Morath has regularly refused to allow visitors in the house, but he has not gone ahead with his original plan to Cape Cod the bungalow. Garry Shead, who designed the logo of the Society (Lawrence and a kangaroo) gave a slide show of his paintings, and the afternoon ended with a wide-ranging colloquy involving all participants.

Open neck cotton polo shirts in sizes S to XXL with the Society logo and the words "DHL Society of Australia" are available in white, black, red, blue, green, and yellow. The embroidered logo is a silvery gray. (D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia, Box 100, Millers Point, NSW 2000; wpn@mpx.com.au).

Oddities. . .

Last December, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas mounted a show called "Worldly Possessions," which included Gloria

Swanson's sunglasses from Sunset Boulevard, a cigarette lighter belonging to chain-smoking Carson McCullers, and the moccasins worn by Lawrence at Taos.

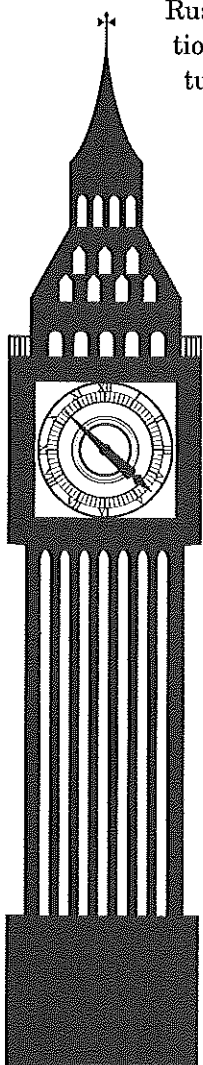
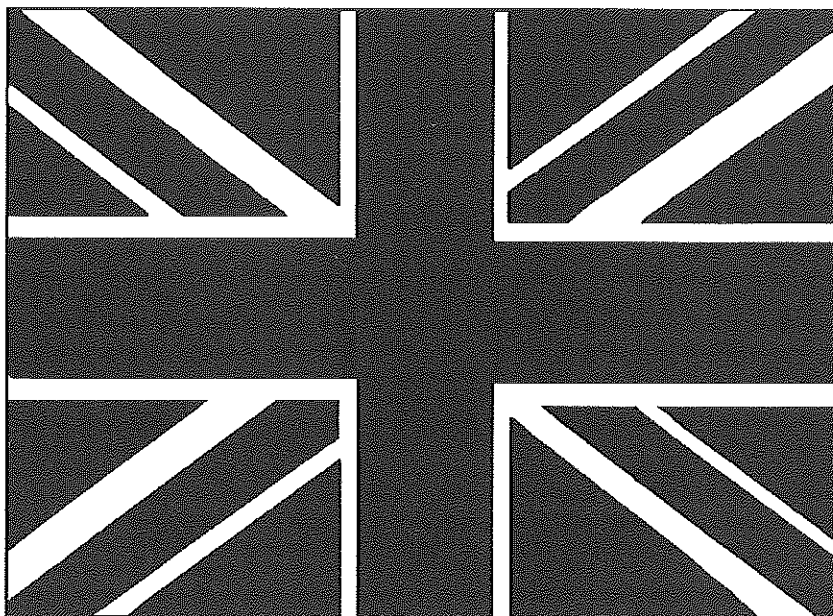
Lawrence in England

The University of Nottingham has decided to establish a Humanities Research Centre, which will eventually provide a physical location for groups like the D. H. Lawrence Centre, which exist as programs of events but have no where to keep their own libraries or offer accommodation to visiting scholars; Peter Preston will be deputy director of the new Centre.

The Lawrence Centre hosted a day conference in September on "Lawrence and the Russians," in conjunction with the Institute for Russian, Soviet and Central and East European Studies.

Mara Kalnins organized the 110th Anniversary International Research Symposium at the University of Cambridge in July.

The D. H. Lawrence Society has had an array of activities, as usual. In April, David Gerard, formerly city librarian, presented a number of tape recordings of interviews which he had had with a number of people who in the sixties remembered Lawrence personally. In May, Anthony Atkins talked about his research into the lives of the Chambers family who had emigrated to Canada. In June, Ruth Templeton gave a presentation on Jessie Chambers. The summer outing in July comprised a visit to Ilkeston, and in September, members of the Society went to Westminster Abbey for a short ceremony in Poets' Corner to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the placing of the plaque in memory of Lawrence; John Worthen gave the address, music was provided by Bethan Jones, and readings were given by other members. The season started in the fall with Catherine Greensmith's slides of Garry Shead's *Kangaroo* paintings. In October, Peter Preston read a paper by Michael Black of the CUP Editorial Board entitled "Getting the Cambridge Edition Started."

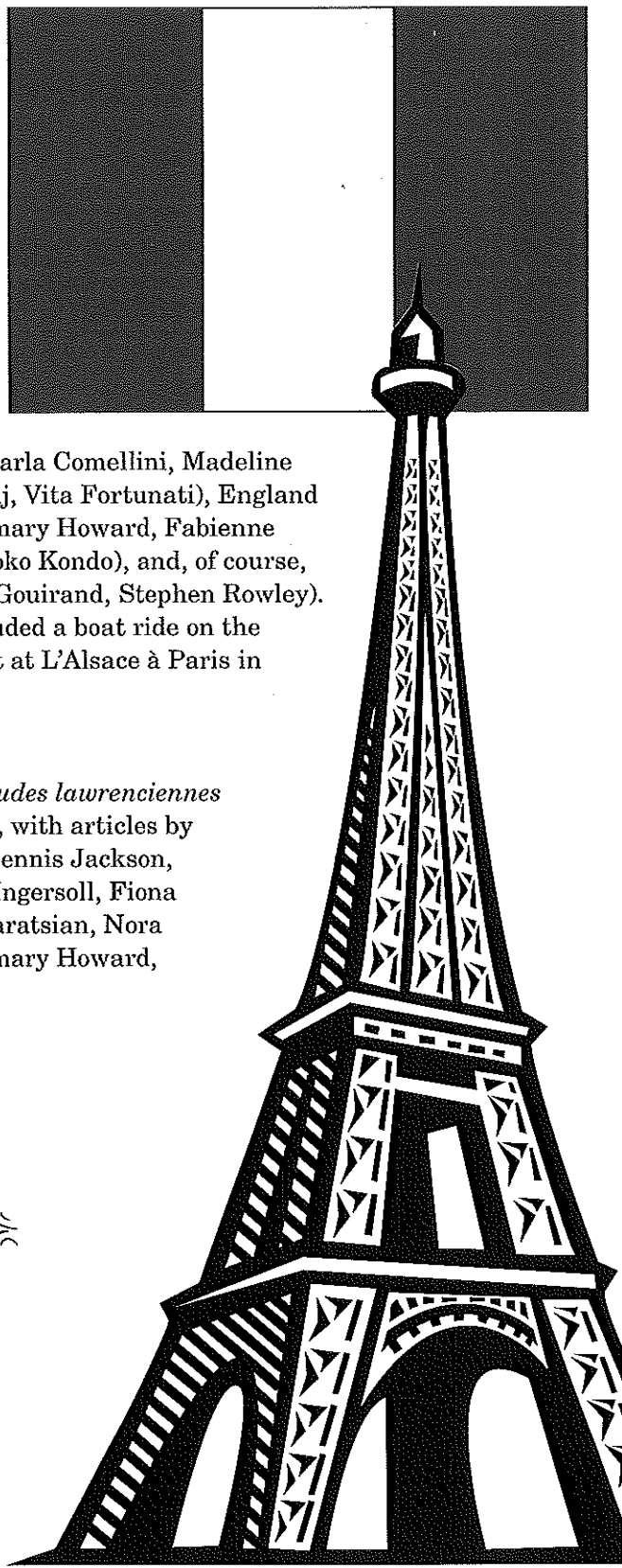


Lawrence in France

Ginette Roy's International D.

H. Lawrence Conference in Paris brought participants from Canada (Larry Gamache, Nora Foster Stovel), the U. S. (Barbara Miliaras), Italy (Nicoa Ceramella, Carla Comellini, Madeline Merlini, Rina Nicolaj, Vita Fortunati), England (Michael Bell, Rosemary Howard, Fabienne Bonnet), Japan (Kyoko Kondo), and, of course, France (Jacqueline Gouirand, Stephen Rowley). The conference included a boat ride on the Seine and a banquet at L'Alsace à Paris in the Latin Quarter.

Number 11 of *Etudes lawrenciennes* (1995) has come out, with articles by Barbara Miliaras, Dennis Jackson, John Raleigh, Earl Ingersoll, Fiona Becket, Christine Zaratsian, Nora Foster Stovel, Rosemary Howard, and André Maurois.



Miscellaneous Publications

The Parisian-American publisher, Carrefour Alysamps (Alysamps Press, 35 rue de l'Espérance, 75013 Paris) has issued in pamphlet form an essay by Christopher Pollnitz, "D. H. Lawrence and the 'Pensée.'" The essay looks into whether Lawrence's "pansies" should be read as satirical doggerel or as deriving from the high neo-classical culture of the French seventeenth century.

Renaissance and Modern Studies has put out a special "D. H. Lawrence 1885-1930 First Centenary" issue, with articles by John Worthen, David Lodge, Bridget Pugh, P. I. Crumpton, Mara Kalnins, Allan Rodway, James T. Boulton, and Anthony Rota. For information, contact the business manager, *Renaissance and Modern Studies*, Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

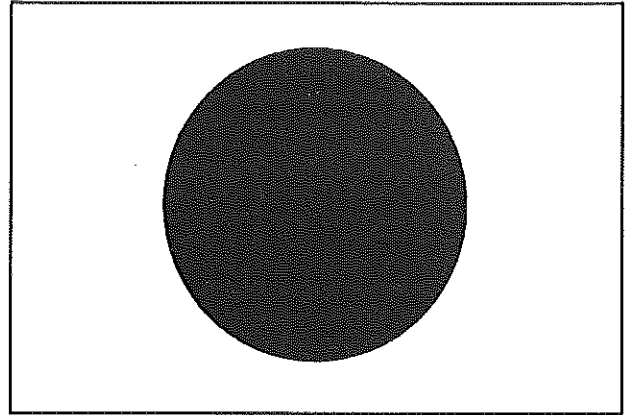
The Inaugural Lecture by John Worthen, "Cold Hearts and Coronets: Lawrence, the von Richthofens and the Weekleys," delivered at the University of Nottingham in October 1994, has been published as a pamphlet by the D. H. Lawrence Centre, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.



Lawrence in Japan

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Japanese D. H. Lawrence Society was held at Matsuyama University in June; eight members read their papers, and there was a public symposium and a special lecture by Yoshio Inoue on unresolved issues in *D. H. Lawrence: A Critical Biography*.

The Society also issued the fifth number of its journal, *D. H. Lawrence Kenkyu*, in March with articles by Koji Onda and Yoko Tashima, an annotated bibliography of translations and studies of Lawrence in Japan, and reviews of nine recent books on Lawrence.



Collector's Corner

Lavinia Meeks (120 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10128) has five volumes of *Adelphi*, 1931-32, for sale and some *D. H. Lawrence Reviews* from the 1970s.

Roy Spencer

Roy Spencer announces that he is available in 1996 to give his performances of Parts One and Two of the *First Edition of D. H. Lawrence*: "The Long Adolescence" and "Marriage and War."

He can be reached at 38 Cooper Close, Waterloo Road, London SE1 7QU (0171-633-9094).



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For Sale

Tregerthen at Zennor in Cornwall, where Lawrence and Frieda came to live in the spring of 1916 and from whence they were subsequently banished in 1917, is now for sale through Jackson-Stops & Staff (01392-214222) jointly with Miller & Co. (01872-74211) at L358,000. The property as it now exists is formed around a courtyard and was converted from barns some five years ago, a conversion praised highly by the National Trust.



*Right: The logo for the
D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia*

