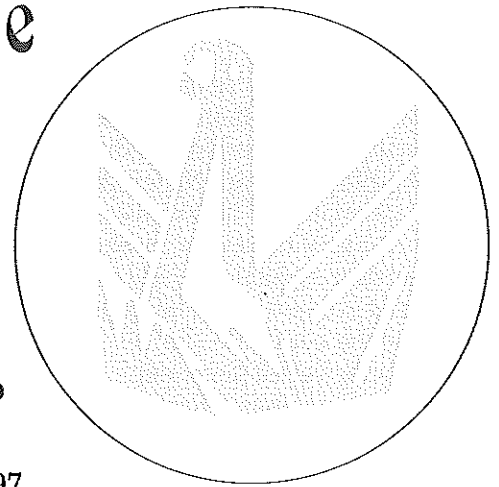

The D.H. Lawrence Society Of North America Newsletter



Vol. 26 Summer 1997

Report on the 1996 MLA Lawrence Sessions

by Elizabeth Fox

Sunday, December 29, was the big day for D. H. Lawrence events at the 1996 MLA in Washington, D.C. Washington enjoyed a warm spell during the conference, and so did MLA participants. In the morning, the open business meeting attracted about 20 persons. The President of the society, Ian McNiven, welcomed everyone and invited people to introduce themselves and their interests in Lawrence. Skillfully chaired by Ian, the meeting allowed for discussion of several items on the agenda.

Ian confirmed that the topic of next year's panel will be "The Problem of Lawrence in the Academy," with Jack Stewart as panel chair. The next international conference will be in July 1998 in Taos. (See additional information below).

Membership Secretary Elizabeth Sargent reported expenses last year of \$1030, mainly for the 1996 directory, and payments of \$2659, bringing the 1995 balance of \$2620 up to \$4249.

The D. H. Lawrence Review Book Review Editor Keith Cushman reported the recent history of the *Review*, including its impressive triple volume under new editor Chuck Rossman. The main concern now is rebuilding the subscription base after a hiatus. He urged us all to make sure that our libraries subscribe and that their copies are used frequently. (Borrow soon, borrow often!). Dennis Jackson is returning to write the lawrenciana column (send news to djackson@udel.edu), and Bill Harrison serves as bibliographer.

Unfortunately, Secretary Wayne Templeton's problems with his vision continue, but he is coping. We all wish him well. Acting Secretary Elizabeth Fox was voted Secretary for 1997-98. Her report included mention of the two-day conference last fall at Nottingham on "D. H. Lawrence and the Psychoanalytic," a special upcoming issue of the

Review on the topic, and the foundation of The D. H. Lawrence Society of Italy, with Antonella De Nicola as Director.

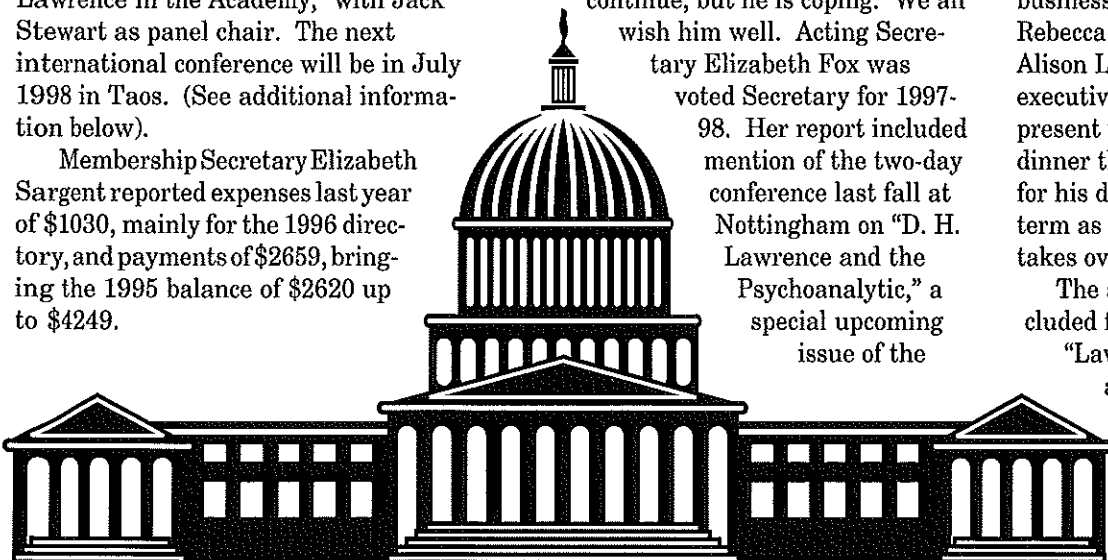
Eleanor Green continues as editor of the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America Newsletter. As providential reward for her efforts, Eleanor won the drawing for a book of Lawrence criticism that Ian contributed.

After discussion of several possibilities, "The Post-Colonial Lawrence" carried unanimously as the topic for the 1998 MLA session. Those present considered alternate uses of our two meeting times, such as two paper sessions or a paper session and a workshop, as well as the current open business meeting and paper session. Rebecca Carpenter, Virginia Hyde, and Alison Lewis were nominated to the executive board for two-year terms. All present were invited to the Society dinner that evening. We thanked Ian for his diligence and success during his term as president; Larry Gamache takes over in 1997.

The afternoon paper session included four talks on the subject of "Lawrence's Letters." Ian presided at the meeting.

In "Directness of Address in D. H. Lawrence's Letters," Karl Henzy of the University of Delaware

(continued on page 2)



1996 MLA Lawrence Sessions (*continued*) . . .

characterized the letters as having a unique verbal violence that may have been uncomfortable to receive but that makes compelling reading. Noting the paucity of description of the specifically literary qualities of the letters, Henzy pointed out their sophisticated use of language and evocation of an imaginative sense of the world. He also remarked on the varied tones and styles of the letters, from lyrical to caustic, abstractly symbolic to full of sensual detail. Lawrence expected to be addressed directly, and he minimized the inevitable hurt feelings, sometimes thereby losing friendships as well. The letters also give Lawrence's penetrating sense of himself, as when he calls himself "a piece of darkness pulsating in shocks."

Using Deleuze and Guattari's notion of a performative statement that creates an incorporeal transformation, Henzy argued that the letters perform unique acts of naming that do violence to consciousness while they render polite pretense impossible. With their directness, the letters penetrate beneath individual subjectivity to areas where selves dissolve and reform. This distinctive directness takes the letters beyond the realm of life and into that of literature.

Louis L. Martz of Yale spoke on "From *Quetzalcoatl* to *The Plumed Serpent* in Lawrence's Letters." He used the letters to show both the great differences between the two versions of the novel and the reasons behind them. In version one, Kate Leslie remains dominant, refusing to marry, to assume the role of goddess, or to stay in Mexico. In the final version, she submits to all these pressures, and Don Ramon assumes the dominant role. The first novel keeps the actual names of people and places Lawrence knew, with songs about *Quetzalcoatl* sung in a simple voice. The second version has elaborate rituals, the public distribution of hymns, and a developed religion arising not from the spirit of place but from the prophet-like Don Ramon.

Martz credits Lawrence's departure from Chapala with breaking its spell, for Lawrence changes the original names in a move toward a mythological, as opposed to actual region. A year after leaving Chapala, Lawrence moved to Oaxaca, a dusty city quite different from Chapala's lakeside setting and part of a different civilization. Both his hemmed-in feeling in Oaxaca and his declining health contributed to his "revulsion from [the] continent."

Remarking that one can only guess the effect of Lawrence's health on his writing, Martz surmised that the specter of early death led Lawrence to revise with a fuller version of a new religious consciousness that might replace the doomed European world. Thus, while *Quetzalcoatl* presents the rise of a new religion more as a parable for a revitalizing change in Kate's consciousness, the final scene of *The Plumed Serpent* places Kate in a more somber situation from which she cannot escape, and the second version is pervaded by a mood Martz calls wholly prophetic.

In "Boiling the Typewriter: The Heuristics of Audience in Lawrence's Letters and Writing to Learn," Elizabeth Sargent of Western Oregon State College contextualized Lawrence's letters within current research on letter writing that shows the potential power of real and ideal audiences. Sargent stressed the necessity to Lawrence of certain audiences to elicit specific kinds of thinking, attention, and language.

Sargent concluded that the letters show a tentative and exploratory nature, pointing out that the letters are more quotable and memorable than other writing, as Lawrence was under pressure to convey ideas to new and challenging audiences. Lawrence always expected a response from a correspondent with as independent and inextinguishable a voice as his own, and the relative safety of one reader suited him better than having only himself as audience, as in a journal. He takes into consideration both the real reader he writes to and an ideal audience he imagines. He needed certain audiences

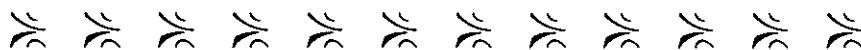
for certain thoughts, sometimes for the safety of distance or relative unfamiliarity, sometimes for sympathy, opposition, or a shared community of knowledge. He seemed unaware of posterity as an audience, but trusts the heuristics of letter-writing as he sought words to capture his thoughts for a few others and for his own gain.

In "Colorful Correspondence," Jack Stewart of the University of British Columbia illustrated the range of painterly styles in Lawrence's correspondence and his development from early to late. His bold and intuitive color-sense resembles Van Gogh's in the use of the complementaries blue and yellow, and Lawrence explicitly links his visions to "pictures in the Tate." Stewart found elements in Lawrence's vision not only of Van Gogh's tones, but also of Gauguin's harmonies, inducing the use of blue with gold, and Cezanne's geometrical compositions. He found blueness to be Lawrence's favorite color. The later letters show Lawrence modulating his language for a variety of readers, moving from the painterly to the historical, the visionary to the commonsensical, in a remarkable range of moods and circumstances.

In sometimes sharp contrast to the impatient and harsh comments about people, Lawrence's attention in the letters to the natural world remains vital and deeply appreciative. They provide moment-by-moment evidence of his painterly sensibility; his skillful treatment of space, or, detail, and pattern; and his range of expression.

In the third and final DHL event at MLA, roughly two dozen Lawrence scholars dined at I Matti, a popular and busy Italian restaurant not far from the Conference hotels. Seated upstairs at a long table and ordering individually, diners were able to catch up on news and to relax among old and recent acquaintances. We welcome those with new and long-standing interests in Lawrence to attend these annual dinners.

Join us in Toronto for the 1997 D. H. Lawrence events!



People in the News

Mark Spilka, who came to Israel at the beginning of the year to deliver a series of lectures, ended up seriously ill with an aneurysm and internal bleeding, requiring two operations in a three days and considerable time in intensive care. He is now home recuperating from what was a shocking experience. Miriam Mandel at the English Department at Tel Aviv University kept his friends and acquaintances in the United States updated on his condition.

James M. Phelps at the University of Zululand suffered a nasty fall over the Christmas holidays, breaking a leg and suffering much pain and loss of mobility. He is healing slowly.

Jill Franks presented a paper "Studies in Classic American Psychoanalysis: Lawrence's Uses of Freud and Jung in American Literary Criticism" at the conference in Nottingham on Lawrence and the Psychoanalytic.

Susan McGury successfully defending her doctoral dissertation on "Primitivism and Cultural Conversion" at Reading University (UK) and has recently returned from her second visit to Taos.

This year Commonwealth Publications in Canada will bring out a volume of **L. D. Clark's** short stories, *The Beginning of Dreams and Other Stories*, while LaVerne Harrell Clark's novel *Keepers of the Earth* will appear this summer from Cinco Puntos Press.

Gavriel Ben-Ephraim has just completed his full-length critical study *Ghostly Entanglements: Romances of Death in Literature and Psychoanalysis*, which included a chapter on *Sons and Lovers*. His essay "The Disappearing Drive: Rereading Literature and Psychoanalysis/Lawrence and Freud," appears in the volume *Rereading Texts/Rethinking Critical Presuppositions: Essays in Honor of H. M. Daleski*, published by Peter Lange.

Keith Cushman traveled in early March to Prague and Wroclaw, Poland, to give a series of lectures. His host at Charles University in Prague was Anna Grmelova, Head of the English Department and herself a Lawrence scholar.

Lester Marks of Ohio University will be coordinating a panel of four papers at the MMLA in Chicago on "D. H. Lawrence, Satirist: Revealing Eros Through Comedic Technique."

Judith Ruderman published "D. H. Lawrence and Women of the Third Age" in the *Journal of Aging and Identity*.

Charles Hobday is writing a book on English poets in Florence entitled *A Golden Ring*, which includes two chapters on Lawrence.

The spring issue of *Rassegna Europea di Letteratura Italiana* has **Carla Comellini's** "Recenti pubblicazioni italiane delle opere di D. H. Lawrence: *Sun e The Virgin and the Gypsy*." Carla also has an article, "D. H. Lawrence: The Writer and the Painter," in *Englishes* for Fall 1997.

Langdon Elsbree is enjoying retirement and writing two pieces for the MLA volume on teaching Lawrence's short stories and a longer essay on Lawrence and rites of passage.

Dennis Jackson took time off his biography of African-American journalist Chuck Stone to serve as respondent to three papers presented at the D. H. Lawrence Special Session, "New Readings," at SAMLA. He and Stone were keynote speakers at the College English Association in Baltimore, presenting a paper on "'Obscenity' and 'Pornography' and the Everlasting Enigmas They Engender," which focused largely on Lawrence.

In France, **Jacqueline Gouirand**, **R. Hoggart**, and **GINETTE ROY** are preparing a book in French on *The Myth of Lady Chatterley* to be published by Les Editions Autrement at the beginning of 1998.

Fiona Beckett is writing a book for Macmillan Press called *D. H. Lawrence: The Thinker as Poet*.

Lawrence on the Internet

Thanks to Chuck Rossman, the Society now has a very active discussion list through the University of Texas. The address to subscribe is: dhlawrence@mcfeeley.cc.utexas.edu

Another discussion list is managed by Helen Croom in Bristol. That address is rananim@rananim.prestal.co.uk

Diane Ward at the University of Buffalo has a home page with a link to her D. H. Lawrence site. There you will find biographical and bibliographical material, a link to several other sites, and an audio site on which one can hear Jeremy Irons reading "Snake" and William Shatner reading "Whales Weep Not." The address is: <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~dward/dhl.html>

Randall Albright has a core page and roughly 10 subpages: <http://world.std.com/~albright/L1.html>

Vance Maverick and Helen Croom have put together a poetry site on Lawrence: <http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~maverick/lawrence>

Many of these fine sites have numerous links to other sites and to lists. The library of the University of Nottingham is in the process of developing a database for its Lawrence collection (unfortunately not yet for the Lazarus collection), which will soon be available from the Web.



Book News

John Knapp has recently published a book through University Press of America called *Striking at the Joints: Contemporary Psychology and Literary Criticism*. Chapter 3 has a family systems therapy reading of *Sons and Lovers*.

Cambridge University Press in May will issue its *Selected Short Stories*, edited by Michael Lockwood, in paperback form.

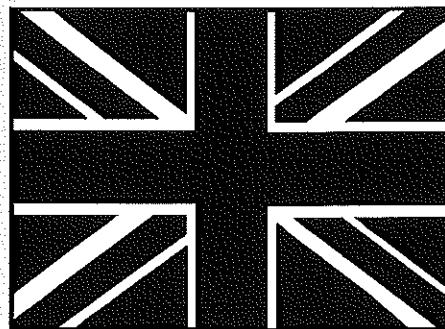
The Nightmare of History: The Fictions of Virginia Woolf and D. H. Lawrence, by Helen Wussow, has been accepted for publication by Associated University Presses.

Carla Comellini recently launched her book, *D. H. Lawrence: A Study on Mutual and Cross References and Interferences* at Feltinelli's International Bookshop in Bologna in March.

Geoff Dyer has written what *Sunday Times* reviewer Viola von Harrach describes as "an intriguing, magnet, genre-rattling" book. *Out of Sheer Rage: In the Shadow of D. H. Lawrence* (Little, Brown) depicts the quest of a contemporary writer for his own identity set against the backdrop of his responses to Lawrence's work. It documents a journey Dyer and his American companion Laura make to Lawrence sites, as told through the voice of a narrator, "Hombre." According to Harrach, "This quirky book uneasily straddles journalism, serious study, travelogue, fiction, yet it has a compelling inner charge."

Lawrence in Britain

The D. H. Lawrence Society continues to be very busy. Many of its activities from early 1996, inadvertently not included in the past newsletter, deserve mention, as for instance, Geoffrey Syer's lecture on "Lawrence and Ecology" in April and a talk by Michael Allen on the work of the Butterley Company, responsible for building the Erewash Canal. The July



outing was to Louis Burrow country, including her home and her grave. As part of the twentieth anniversary of the setting up of the Birthplace Museum, Peggy Needham talked about her memories of her uncle, while Rosemary Howard read from *Sons and Lovers*.



The Phoenix Project is a series of undertakings funded by a number of public bodies to regenerate Eastwood in view of the closing down of the local pits. Special emphasis is being laid on the restoration of the Durban House, previously the offices of the mine owners Barber and Walker, which figures prominently in *Sons and Lovers*. The Society heard a talk on this project as well as one on the history of Annesley, vividly described in *The White Peacock*.

In November the wife of Paul Hogarth presented slides of the paintings exhibited at Nottingham University last summer, while Marjorie Arnfield showed slides at a later meeting of her paintings of coal mining in Nottinghamshire. In February, Joan McCluskey, who had interviewed Kitty Burrows in her old age, spoke on Louise Burrows and her family.

James Boulton has agreed to become the new president of the Society, following the death of George Lazarus, donor of the Lazarus Collection of Lawrence manuscripts and first editions to the Nottingham University Library.

Conference in Taos

The dates July 13-17, 1998, have been selected now for the International D. H. Lawrence Conference in Taos, New Mexico. The annual Taos Pueblo Pow-Wow is scheduled for July 11 and 12, so the two events can be combined. Earl Ingersoll is in charge of the conference and has made arrangements with the Sagebrush Inn. Art Bachrach, owner of the Moby Dickens Bookstore in Taos, is the on-site director. The Phoenix Rising Society, which is co-sponsoring the conference, intends to include readings,

dramatic productions, and a film festival to complement the scholarly papers.

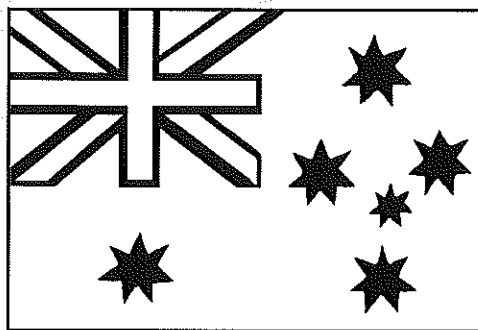
The related Mexican trip is still uncertain, as Michael Squires and Lynn Talbot are concerned about leading such a tour while looking after their young son. The Society is looking for someone else willing to lead the group.

Calls for papers will go out at a time closer to the conference.

This promises to be an important event for all persons interested in Lawrence. Set aside the dates on your calendar for next summer.

Lawrence in Australia

In August, members of the D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia traveled from Sydney to Thirroul on an air-conditioned, double-decker electric train that was quite a contrast to the cane seats in the open carriages described in *Kangaroo*. As they traveled south, extracts from the novel were read and compared with the views from the windows. At Thirroul, the travelers changed to a chartered bus that toiled up the Bulli Pass to the Loddon River, where they were met by rangers who took them on a walk to the Falls. At the Falls, the group took photos reenacting photographs of the Lawrences at the same falls with the Forresters and Marchbanks in 1922.



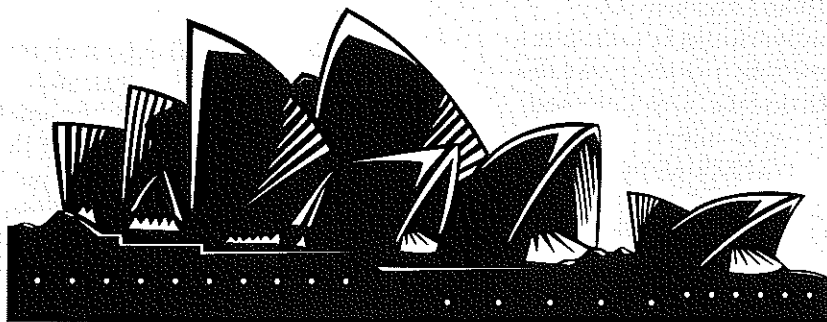
In October the Society held its second annual conference at the new south Wales Writers' Centre at Rozelle. John Lowe gave a paper on "Benjamin Cooley, A Factitious Composite," while Christopher Pollnitz unveiled a hitherto unidentified Lawrence item, the text of a version of his "Pansy" entitled "The Little Wowser," uncovered in the Ink Stephensen papers at the NSW State Library. A lively discussion followed on the meaning of the Australian epithet "wowser," which means approximately "boozier."

Robert Darroch in his paper, centering on an incident in *Kangaroo* in which Somers sends Cooley a little red wooden heart with a motto, Darroch maintaining that Lawrence in real life sent such a memento to the real leader of the secret army in New South Wales, Charles Rosenthal. Sandra Jobson, who is doing research on a book on Lawrence's time in Australia, revealed that Pussy Jenkins (who met the Lawrence on the ship to Ceylon) and her circle had a greater influence on Lawrence than previously recognized; she also maintained that Maudie Cohen, a houseguest of Mollie Skinner's, was the model for Victoria Callcott in the novel.

John Ruffles spoke on the Marchbanks, friends of the Lawrences in Australia (Bill Marchbank came from a village near Eastwood). Paul Eggert then talked on Lawrence's travel writing.

The Society's journal *Rananim* has abstracts of the papers with photos of the persons being discussed, of the Lawrences in Australia, and of Society members enjoying the excursion to Loddon Falls.

The Society hopes to host an international Lawrence conference in Sydney some time in the future.



Lawrence in the Media

Simone Lahbib, an actress on the very popular British drama series *London Bridge* played opposite Peter Tate in *Lady Chatterly* in a new stage adaptation of *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, directed by Clare Davidson, which opened in the Cockpit Theatre in Marylebone, London, in April.

The Australian company J. McElroy Holdings has bought motion picture rights for *Love Among the Haystacks*, while Mary Norman of New York has bought rights to *The Horse-Dealer's Daughter*.



Queries

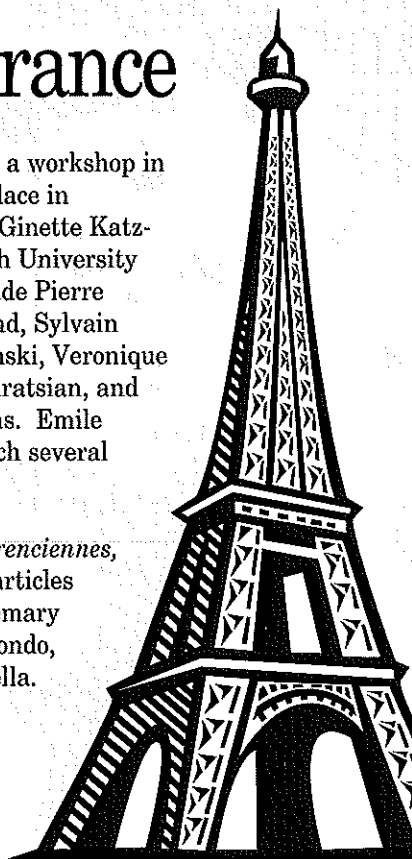
Robert Darroch (rob@cybersydney.com.au) asks if anyone knows where Lawrence derived some of his fictional character and place names, particularly those he used in *Kangaroo*, and also the surname Algernon Strange for the Augustus John-based character in *Women in Love*. While the switch Algernon for Augustus is a typical Lawrence transposition, the John/Strange shift is more baffling.

James Boulton is proceeding with VIII of the Cambridge edition of the Letters, which will contain a comprehensive index to the entire edition as well as those Lawrence letters which have surfaced too late for inclusion at the correct points in the chronological sequence. This is the final opportunity for the edition to publish every available letter by Lawrence. If anyone knows of any remaining letters, please let Jim know (James T. Boulton, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT).

Lawrence in France

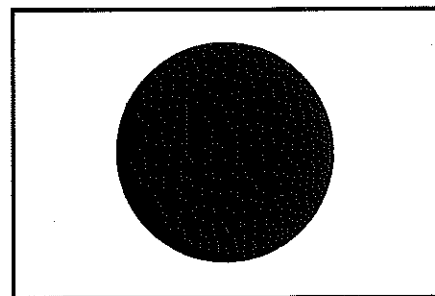
Lawrence scholars will gather for a workshop in May in Nice on "The Spirit of Place in Lawrence's Work" organized by Ginette Katz-Roy for the Association of French University Teachers of English. Participants include Pierre Vitoux, Ginette Roy, Jacqueline Gouirand, Sylvain Floch, Stephen Rowley, Philippe Romanski, Veronique Bleuzen, Brigitte Macadre, Christine Zaratsian, and Rosemary Howard, and Barbara Miliaras. Emile Delavenay will chair the workshop, which several scholars from Italy will also attend.

The most recent issue of *Etudes lawrenciennes*, "An Art of True Relatedness," includes articles by Ginette Katz-Roy, Michael Bell, Rosemary Howard, Stephen Rowley, Kyoko Kay Kondo, Nora Foster Stovel, and Nicola Cerramella.



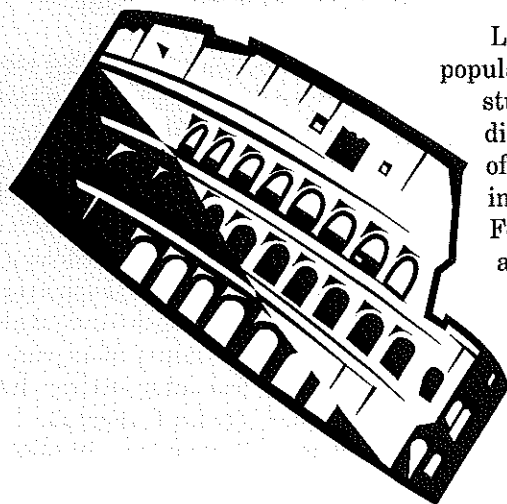
Lawrence in Japan

The 1996 issue of the *Japan D. H. Lawrence Studies* includes articles by Makoto Kinoshita, Makoto Goto, and Michiko Inoue as well as a number of book reviews.



Lawrence in Italy

The newest of all Lawrence societies has been formed: The D. H. Lawrence Society of Italy, established in September 1996. Antonella De Nicola gave an inaugural talk on Lawrence and the Ship of Death. Quarterly meetings on the 11th of the month are planned. Lectures by Rina Nicolaj, Nicola Cerramella, and Roy Boardman fill out the calendar for 1997. Persons interested in giving a talk to the society next year can send proposals by September 30 to Antonella De Nicola, Via Silvio Spaventa, 9, 80142 Naples (fax: 39/81/5534719).



Lawrence appears to be a popular topic for graduate students in Italy. Topics for dissertations at the University of Bologna, for instance, include Lawrence (and Forster) in Italy, Lawrence and film, Lawrence and the Etruscans, Lawrence and myth, and a psychoanalytical approach to Lawrence's short stories.

Corrections and Comments

The drawing of the Villa Igea at the Lago da Gardo that somewhat confusingly illustrated an article on Paul Hogarth's painting of what he believed to be the Villa Robermond in Venice, was done by Betsey Sargent's daughter Molly.

Garry Watson, who is coediting an MLA volume on Approaches to Teaching D. H. Lawrence, was left out of the note on this volume in the summer 1996 issue; in the correction in the last newsletter he was incorrectly renamed Waller.

Because of difficulty in communication between Ada, Ohio, and Lampeter, Wales, where the editor spent the fall quarter, some of the material that was sent in for publication in the last newsletter did not make it across the ocean. As much of this material as is still timely appears in this newsletter.

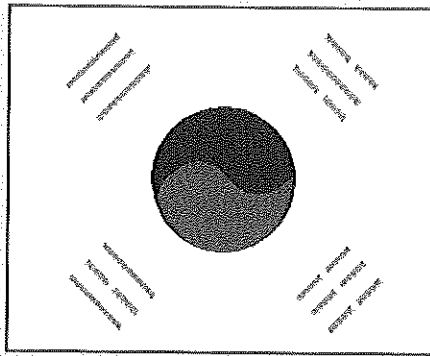
Lawrence in Korea

The D. H. Lawrence Society of Korea has recently published another issue of its stylish journal, *D. H.*

Lawrence Studies, with articles from the Nottingham Conference by Michael Bell, Chong-wha Chung, Dwight Eddins, Kyoko Kay Kondo, Young-oak Lee, Paik Nak-chung, and James M. Phelps.

Chong-wha Chung at Korea University is the president of the Society and the editor of the journal.

A seminar on Lawrence is being planned for this year in Seoul with eight or ten leading Lawrence scholars from the United Kingdom and the United States.



Necrology

Carl Barton died suddenly in March at the age of 54. He and his wife were editors of the Cambridge edition of *Sons and Lovers* and of the subsequent Penguin edition. He was also author and editor of numerous other publications associated with Lawrence: the memoirs of George Neville, and the catalog (*Young Bert*) of the Nottingham 1971 exhibition, as well as work on Lawrence's paintings. He discovered in 1969 two previously unknown short pieces of early journalism by Lawrence, one of which, "With the Guns," is a crucial early text. He was also one of the people who were responsible, at the very beginning, for the setting up of the Cambridge edition of Lawrence's writing; he served on the editorial board for many years. His work on the genealogy of the Lawrence family has been of great use to all Lawrence scholars.

Emily Hahn, longtime *New Yorker* writer, died in February at the age of 92. Her many books include *Lorenzo: D. H. Lawrence and the Women Who Loved Him*.

Higher Treggerthen, Zennor

John Mayes, Secretary of the D. H. Lawrence Society (Britain) who is retired and living in Cornwall, was shocked to discover a large green plastic tank placed against the front wall of what is now known as the Mermaid Cottage in Higher Treggerthen, the place where the Lawrences stayed from 1916 until banished in 1917. This tank not only badly defaces the aesthetics of the building, but, given the

problem of vandalism in the St. Ives area, poses a threat to the building; a few slashes from a knife to the tank would oil stain the granite frontage of the cottage irrevocably.

Lawrentians are urged to write to the Director of Planning and Economic development, Penwith District Council, St. Clare, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 3QW, to protest.



Saki Karavas' Will Clears Probate

According to the *Taos News*, the property of Saki Karavas, the former owner of La Fonda Hotel who died in 1996 at the age of 74, will be divided between Robert and

Jim Sahd and Tom McCarthy, friends of the deceased. This includes several paintings attributed to D. H. Lawrence dating from Lawrence's time in New Mexico.

Collectors' Corner

MacDonnell Rare Books (9307 Glenlake Drive, Austin, TX 78730) has the following books:

- Warren Robert's copy of *Kangaroo* (Selzer, 1923). \$85.
- Helen Corke's copy of *Last Poems* (Heinemann, 1935) with her book label and ink signature. \$250.
- First edition of *Letters to Thomas and Adale Seltzer* (Black Sparrow, 1976). \$45.
- First American edition of *The Lovely Lady* (Viking, 1933). From Helen Corke's library with her book label. \$200.
- Corke's copy of *Movements in European History*, with her book label and pencil note. \$300.
- Saul Bellow's copy of *Studies in Classic American Literature* (Selzer, 1923, first edition), with Bellow's pencil signature), \$150.
- Olive Moore's *Further Reflections on the Death of a Porcupine* (Blue Moon, 1932), which consists of musings on Lawrence's writings and position as an artist in English. One of 99 numbered copies, signed by the author. \$100.

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