

# THE D.H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NEWSLETTER



Volume 31, Summer 2000

## Secretary's Report:

### MLA 1999 in Chicago

by Elizabeth Fox

Chicago's weather was seasonal but not snowy, so no Lawrentians spent New Year's Eve stranded because of weather. Instead, we convened for a business meeting, a panel of papers, and a dinner at one of the city's famous restaurants. The business meeting occurred first, on the afternoon of December 28 at 5:15 PM. Society President Earl Ingersoll presided. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Harry T. Moore Award to Dennis Jackson for his many contributions to Lawrence studies. Dennis edited the *D.H. Lawrence Review* for years; Keith Cushman's original (and beautifully sung) lyrics immortalized Dennis's talents, personal warmth and quirks. Attendees and others gathered for dinner afterwards at the nearby and notable Berghoff's restaurant, scene of earlier Lawrence convivialities and an enjoyable, affordable dinner.

Our panel on the subject of "The Postcolonial Lawrence" occurred on Thursday morning, December 30; Carol Roberta Siegel of Washington State University, Vancouver, presided. Joyce Wexler of Loyola University, Chicago, presented the first paper, entitled "From Myth to Magical Realism: D.H. Lawrence and Gabriel Garcia Marquez." It began with an epigraph connecting midlife with "novels of the supernatural" to connect Lawrence's and Marquez's departures from realism. Noting the criticism of Modernism for failing to respect differences of those seen as "other," Wexler argued that Lawrence's fiction confronted and explored the difficulties of interpersonal bonds in politically significant ways.

Citing Emmanuel Levinas's concept of ethical transcendence, Wexler demonstrated that Lawrence's use of symbolism to disrupt realist surfaces could focus on sexual relationships or physical

violence as transgressive topics that suggested psychic meanings. In contrast, more contemporary magical realists must resort to "non-empirical events" to generate the multiple meanings that Modernists achieved. Modernism and magical realism share beliefs in the vitality of things and the inseparability of the physical and the vital essences. Both also use traditional narratives independent of the beliefs associated with them. For instance, in *The Rainbow* Tom Brangwen borrows Biblical language to speak of two souls as an Angel but bypasses religious doctrine. In *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Marquez refers to the mind-body continuum in the magician Melquiades's statement that his magnet makes the souls of things.

More particularly, both Lawrence's mythic novel and Marquez's novel of magical realism employ incest to indicate failures to recognize others' full subjectivity. While the authors

present different degrees of incest, both raise crucial questions about the serious consequences of failures of recognition. Lawrence presents Tom Brangwen's marriage to the foreign Lydia Lensky as the novel's most ideal relationship, in contrast to ones between cousins or uncle and niece. Marquez uses the narcissism and destructive results of incest to suggest the apocalyptic consequences of failure to acknowledge the full humanity of others. Lawrence's use of symbolism foreshadowed magical realism's attention to subjects beyond empirical knowing; his use of incest demonstrates his sometimes under-appreciated attention to the need for individuals to acknowledge the difficulties and necessities inherent in recognizing those other than oneself. Instead of evidencing Lawrence's fascism, sexism, and primitivizing tendencies, the "extremity" in his fiction reveals his unconventional and supra-realistic tendencies.

Khani Begum, of Bowling Green State University, delivered a paper titled, "D.H. Lawrence as Postcolonial Visionary? Rescription of Race and Gender in *Kangaroo* and *The Plumed Serpent*." Referring to Luce Irigaray in her analysis, Begum argued that Lawrence's critique of colonial power, race, and gender in the two novels and in *Quetzalcoatl* proved ambivalent, instead of

comprehensive and coherent. She cited Somer's fear of difference in the night sky, moon, and stars in *Kangaroo* and the privileging of Native American Indians and women for essentialism in *The Plumed Serpent*. Health problems prevented Ms. Begum from providing an abstract or copy of her paper for a more extensive writeup.

Theresa Thompson of Valdosta State University delivered the third paper, titled "Transgressing Libidinal Frontiers: Colonizing Practice in Lawrence's *Birds, Beasts, and Flowers*." Carol Siegel read the paper because of Ms. Thompson's inability to attend. Thompson's paper built on the fact that Lawrence's works transgress libidinal territories to argue that through metonymy and analogy, his poetry creates new signifying chains that enable institutional consequences. Referring to travel narratives including Freud and to current cultural theory about travel, tourism and tourists, she argues that in *Birds, Bees, and Flowers*, Lawrence moves beyond literary tourism to colonization of the female libido.

Even natives cannot see the whole of the female libido, and Lawrence is at best an immigrant into the territory, so his poems provide Lawrence's own borders and fantasies, but not an indigenous vision. Thompson used Stephen

Greenblatt's work on metonymic representation of wholes from fragments through appropriation and Kristeva's argument about naming as the power to direct institutional practice as well as a recent legal case named "domestic violence" in Georgia to discuss logico-linguistic synthesis. Thompson called Lawrence's revelations "colonizing" not only because they use metonymy but also because his analogies imprint his familiar male experiences onto unfamiliar female ones.

While Lawrence attempted to achieve what Sandra Gilbert termed "anti-ironic attention" and to move out of tourism into the position of an immigrant, Thompson reads the "Fruits" poems as inevitably ironic because they carry names different from natives' names and therefore trigger different signifying chains. Such renovation, she argued, requires first the perception of a gap or fissure between his understanding and a border of female sexuality that his poetic mapping then transgresses. Finally, Lawrence's mapping reveals connections to a heterosexist patriarchy.

Discussion proved lively, even fruitful, focusing at first on Thompson's mention of the poems "Peach" and "Figs."

Join us in Washington, D. C. for the 2000 MLA! ■



# President's Report *Earl Ingersoll*



**A**rt Bachrach, Our Man in Taos, reports that he accompanied Richard Archuleta and Al Lujan to the Ranch recently to explore the feasibility of restoring the buffalo painting done by Richard's uncle Trinidad Archuleta. Richard Archuleta thinks the painting can be restored. Art reminds us that Trinidad and his wife Rufina worked for the Lawrences until Frieda and Rufina had difficulties getting along.

A delegation of the University of Mexico Board of Regents had planned to visit the Ranch, but according to Hugh Witemeyer the visit has been cancelled for this month at least.

Keith Cushman and I have been at work on a collection of essays growing out of papers presented at the Taos conference. A half-dozen presses have indicated an interest in the manuscript, and we are cautiously optimistic that a book will be the outcome of our labors. My book, *D. H. Lawrence, Desire, and Narrative*, has reached the copy-editing stage at the University Press of Florida and should appear in Spring 2001. ■

## People in the News

**LOUIS WRIGHT** has an article coming out in *Dance Chronicle* (2000) entitled "Touring Russia with Isadora: Maurice Magnus's Account," based on the extant chapters of Magnus's unpublished *Memoirs of Golden Russia*.



**JAMES BOULTON** delivered a lecture at the University of Birmingham (U. K.) entitled "D. H. Lawrence: Man of Learning." He has ceased to be Director of the Institute of Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences, but has agreed to do three years as Deputy Director.



**HARRIET COOPER** gave a paper at the University of Kent in Canterbury last July on "Ford's War Prose: Techniques of Impressionism, Imagism, and the Cinema."

**HOWARD BOOTH** is moving from a lectureship at Birkbeck College, University of London, to the University of Manchester. He has an article on Lawrence in the recently published *Modernism and Empire* from Manchester University Press (St. Martins in the United States), which he co-edited with Nigel Rigby. He is currently writing *D. H. Lawrence in Context* of Oxford University Press's Authors in Context series.



**KEITH CUSHMAN** delivered a paper on D. H. Lawrence's poems for Carla Comellini's classes at the University of Trieste.



**ART BACHRACH** is teaching an informal course this summer at Southern Methodist University in Taos on D. H. Lawrence in Taos. He

is presently completing a manuscript on this topic.



**PETER PRESTON** gave his Paris talk "I Am in a Novel" at the D. H. Lawrence Centre at the University of Nottingham this spring.



**JIM PHELPS** of the University of Zululand will be in the United States on a Fulbright award, which he won in an international competition. The grant is an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend an intensive six-week academic seminar in New York City that aims to provide a deeper understanding of American life and institutions past and present. The goal is to strengthen curricula and improve the quality of teaching about the United States in universities

*(continued on pg. 4)*

abroad. The title of the seminar is "The United States Through Literature: Content and Method in American Studies." While in the States, Jim will be visiting Keith Cushman and Judith Ruderman to discuss a research interest of his on Lawrence and Mark Twain. Jim has also written a review of the third volume of the Cambridge biography of Lawrence, *Dying Game: 1922-1930* by David Ellis, which will be published in the *English Academy Review* (2000).

GARY ADELMAN has an article in this June's *Triquarterly* about what Lawrence means to today's readers. It showcases the comments of practicing novelists as taken from correspondence he has had with them.

In the current issue of *Rananim*, the newsletter of the D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia, is a short article by PAM STADDEN on "D. H. Lawrence as Marriage Counsellor and Women's Ally," one by ARCH DALEY on "Third Age Lawrence

Studies" (new ways of studying Lawrence and his works), and the much longer. "Nothing to Sniff At—The "Secret Army" Plot of Kangaroo," in which ROBERT DARROCH defends the "Darroch Thesis" that maintains Lawrence's secret army of conspirators in the novel was based on a similar secret army in Australia at the time. ROB DOUGLASS also reminisces in this issue on his meeting with Frieda's son, Monty Weekley.

Peggy Needham is now 91. ■

## Necrology

Shirley Mott Graef, one of the most enthusiastic of all non-academic Lawrencians, died recently. She made many pilgrimages to Lawrence sites, including Eastwood and the Kiowa Ranch and was an engaging figure at the Lawrence conference in Taos. Her design graced the cover of the *D. H. Lawrence Review* of 1992, a fine view of the plains from the Lawrence shrine at the ranch. Even her car had Lawrencian connec-

tions: its California licence plate read "DHL UK." Her warmth and commitment to Lawrence will make her greatly missed.

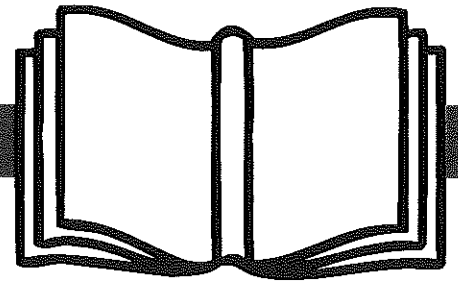
John Douglas Pringle, a strong Lawrence supporter, also recently died. He was the former editor of the Sydney *Morning Herald* and his celebrated 1950s book, *Australian Accent* had an entire chapter devoted to *Kangaroo*, stirring interest in Lawrence within Australia. ■

## Letter to the Editor

In response to Ginette Roy's letter in the previous newsletter, Antonella de Nicola has written to explain that she in fact had only a most tangential relationship to the D. H. Lawrence conference in Naples in April 1998 and that she had never claimed any responsibility for organizing the conference. Nor did she ever state that she had received a doctorate from the University of Paris X; the thesis she completed there was for a one-year post-graduate course at the University. The D. H. Lawrence Society, of which she is the director, exists to promote Lawrence studies in Italy in all ways possible. ■



## Book News



**T**he publisher CUEN in Naples has recently issued a book entitled *D. H. Lawrence: Arte e Mito* (Art and Myth). Edited by Antonella

Piazza, it contains articles in Italian and English by Piazza, Carla Comellini, Adriana Corrado, Simonetta de Filippis, Antonella de Nicola, Vita Fortunati, Jacqueline Guirand, Isabella Neri, Anna Maria Palombi, Stephen Rowley, and Ginette Roy.

*The Selected Letters of D. H. Lawrence*, edited by James Boulton, has come out in paperback and will appear in a French translation (Gallimard) before the end of the year.

**Gerald Doherty has had his book**, *Theorizing Lawrence: Nine Meditations on Tropological Themes*, published by Peter Lang. He uses a variety of structuralist and poststructuralist critical methodologies to illuminate some of Lawrence's major works, with the main approach being tropological, that is, the works are explored in terms of their rhetorical tropes (most often metaphor and metonymy). ■

### Call for Papers

**The Eighth International D. H. Lawrence Conference** will occur June 12-16 at the Istituto Universitario Orientale in Naples. Its theme is "D. H. Lawrence and Literary Genres."

Anyone interested in reading a short, 20-minute paper at the conference should send a title and 150-word synopsis to Nick Caramella, the executive director of the conference. This should be done as soon as possible, at the latest by November 30 in order to be included in a preliminary publicity leaflet. Final programming will begin February 28, 2001. His address is Institute of Modern Languages, Department of Political Sciences, University of Rome "La Sapienza", P. le Aldo Moro 00181, Rome (fax: 0039-6-21702582; e-mail: nickceramel@hotmail.com)

The conference chair is Simonetta de Filippis of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Piazza San Giovanni Maggiore 30, 00134 Naples (fax: 0039-081-5517770). ■

### Kiowa Ranch

Discussions are ongoing with the University of New Mexico concerning the status of the D. H. Lawrence ranch outside Taos. Nothing yet has been decided. The Taos Pueblo has responded to requests to restore the Trinidad art work at the Ranch. Some of the money left over from the 1998 Taos conference has been dedicated to the Trinidad project. ■

### The Missing Red Fox Found

The Autumn 1999 newsletter of the D. H. Lawrence Society includes an article by Stefania Michelucci on her successful attempt to track down and locate the red fox sculpture that once adorned the Lawrence shrine in Taos. Purportedly sculpted by Angelo Ravagli, who took it back with him to Italy when he returned there after Frieda's death, it was actually created by Gladys Caldwell Fisher of Taos. Stefania was eventually able to locate the fox in Angelo Ravagli's memorial chapel in the cemetery at Spotorno. ■

*Omission* - In the previous newsletter Earl Ingersoll was omitted as one of the four editors of the last issue of *D. H. Lawrence Studies*, while he actually did a great deal of the work on that publication. (Copies of the journal, by the way, are still available).

# LAWRENCE *in England*

The D. H. Lawrence Society last summer made an outing to the Ruddington Frame-Knitters' Museum and Folk Museum. The original idea to establish a stocking-knitters' museum came from David Chambers. To welcome in the Millenium, the Society met in early December at the Eastwood Library, with members reading from Lawrence's work and enjoying a festive buffet. The Society opened events for 2000 with a lecture on "Lawrence and Childhood" by Ron Faulks, its new secretary. Rosemarie Howard collaborated with Monica Nash on a program on "Philip Heseltine/Peter Warlock and D. H. Lawrence," which featured some of Warlock's music. In March, Andrew Cooper spoke on "Screen Lover?: Lawrence, Film, and Television." Jonathan Long the following month gave a talk on "D. H. Lawrence and Nakedness." The Society's summer outing will be to Eastwood Hall, which is now a confer-

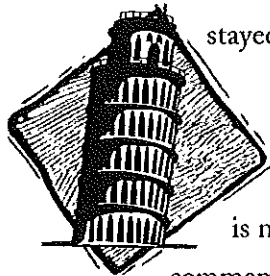
ence center. The Society is planning a commemorative service in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, for September 9, on the fifteen anniversary of the laying of the Lawrence plaque.

A celebration of the completion of the D. H. Lawrence Heritage project took place last September in Eastwood, with music, balloons, Lawrence banners, and the establishment of a set of plaques with quotations from Lawrence's writing about the locality and its people. The Durban House Heritage Centre was the venue for a reception and buffet.

Last summer, the D. H. Lawrence Centre at the University of Nottingham conducted another Work in Progress session with papers by Carl Krockel, Magda Vaughna, Moira Robinson, Valeria Faravelli, Rachael Holmes, Fabienne Bonnet, Philip Shelton, and Andrew Harrison. At the end of the afternoon session, Peter

# LAWRENCE *in Italy*

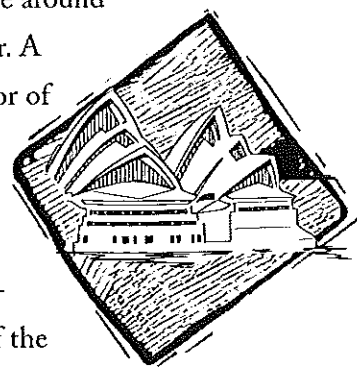
Taormina now sports a Via David Herbert Lawrence at the very end of the Via Fontana Vecchio, the street on which the Lawrences lived while in Sicily. The outside wall of the house in which they stayed now also has a plaque.



Likewise, the street leading down from the bishop's castle in Sportono is now named Via D. H. Lawrence. The Villa Bernarda, where the Lawrences stayed in that town, is now the Hotel Chateau on this street, and it has a plaque commemorating their stay placed in its outside wall. Both plaque and street name resulted from a conference on Lawrence at Spotorno in 1986. The plaque reads (in translation), "The forever young Mediterranean, the shining moon and the village lights restored peace to the restless heart of D. H. Lawrence, who lived here with Frieda in the winter of 1925-1926, Sportono Town Council, 27 September 1986." (Thanks to Stefania Michelucci's article in the Autumn 1999 D. H. Lawrence Society newsletter for this information). ■

# LAWRENCE *in Australia*

The D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia is facing declining membership, but still continues to be active. It sponsored in November a cruise around Sidney Harbor. A plaque in honor of Lawrence has now been erected in Thirroul in remembrance of the Lawrences' stay in that part of the country. ■



Preston and John Worthen summed up the day's significant themes and pointed out that the seven volumes of letters published by CUP are now taken for granted in Lawrence scholarship.

At Madingley Hall at the Centre for Continuing Education of the University of Cambridge, Mara Kalnis conducted a weekend conference in March on "High Modernism—1922: *Aaron's Rod, Ulysses, and The Wasteland*."

The Hags Farm Preservation Society held its annual walk last September, led by Clive Leivers, whose forebears lived at the Hags and in Underwood. A meeting of the Society at Durban House in October had Bob Coats speak of his friend and colleague at Nottingham University, David Chambers.

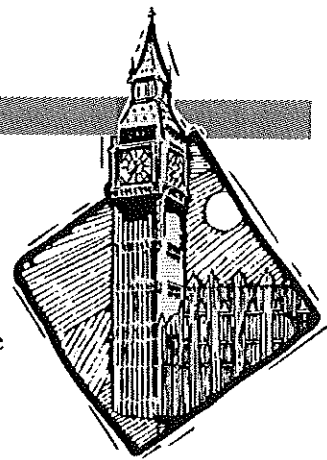
The Broxtowe Borough Council D. H. Lawrence Heritage Forum took place in February at Durban House, with Gerald Pollinger back in attendance after an illness.

He stated that there are over six hundred books by Lawrence or about him in print at the present time. Joan Wildgust, the Broxtowe Tourist and Heritage Officer, has announced her retirement.

Threats of opencast mining at Shortwood Farm, Cossall, have for the time receded. There is no promise, however, that the land will be secure from violation in the future.

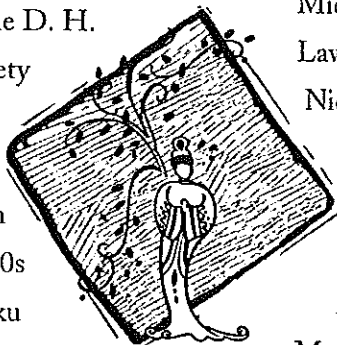
A foulard, or scarf, designed by Lawrence and given by Marco Ravagli to Gerald Pollinger will be displayed at the D. H. Lawrence Centre.

The owners of Lawrence's cottage in Zennor will rent out the cottage during the summer season. Write Mr. and Mrs. Cattran, Tegerthen, Zennor, St. Ives, Cornwall TR26 3BP. ■



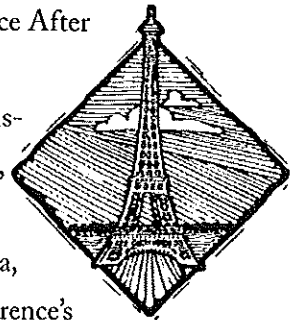
## LAWRENCE in Japan

The ninth volume of the *Japan D. H. Lawrence Studies* (1999), published by the D. H. Lawrence Society of Japan, has articles by Ikuko Itoda (on Lawrence's 1920s works) and Gaku Iwai (on the Brangwens and the construction of the towns in *The Rainbow*). ■



## LAWRENCE in France

Number 21 of *Etudes Lawrenciennes* ("Lawrence After Strange Gods") has articles by Pierre Vitoux (Lawrence and Eliot), Garry Watson (Lawrence's "this-worldly" religion), Harry Woolf (Lawrence's dualism), Michael Hollington (Cézanne and the cosmos in Lawrence's last writings), Bethan Jones, Nicole Tartera, Nick Ceramella, Christine Zaratsian (aspects of Lawrence's religious thought), and Sheila Lahiri Choudhury (*The Lost Girl* as a parody of the Fall). The journal is available from Publidix, 200 avenue de la République, 92001 Naterre Cedex, France (fax: 33.140.97.56.98).

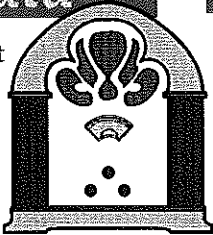


A one-day D. H. Lawrence conference was held at Paris X University in March, particularly for the benefit of pre-doctoral students. Papers were presented by Sandra Gilbert, David Ellis, Helen Baron, Jacqueline Gouirand, Christine Zaratsian, Stephen Rowley, Brigitte Macadré, Bethan Jones, and Joseph Urbas. The meeting was followed by a banquet at the Procope, the oldest coffee-house in Paris (founded 1686). ■

# LAWRENCE

## in the Media

The BBC, Radio 4, put on a performance of *Daughters of the Vicar*, dramatized by Jane Beeson and directed by Peter Leslie Wild.



Radio 3 broadcast a two-hour dramatization of *Kangaroo* by David Britton as its Sunday Play on the seventieth anniversary of Lawrence's death. ■

# LAWRENCE

## on the Web

Owing to the merger between Onelist and Egroups, all list addresses have changed. Messages should be sent to [dhlawrence-announce@egroups.com](mailto:dhlawrence-announce@egroups.com). Other addresses are as follows:

*Post message:* [dhlawrence-announce@egroups.com](mailto:dhlawrence-announce@egroups.com)

*Subscribe:* [dhlawrence-announce-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:dhlawrence-announce-subscribe@egroups.com)

*Unsubscribe:* [dhlawrence-announce-unsubscribe@egroups.com](mailto:dhlawrence-announce-unsubscribe@egroups.com)

*List Owner:* [dhlawrence-announce-owner@egroups.com](mailto:dhlawrence-announce-owner@egroups.com). ■

*Apology from the Editor* - This issue of the newsletter is horrendously late! Late in the spring, I helped with the duties of the other dean at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, who had to have surgery. When she subsequently resigned, I moved from being Dean of Arts and Sciences to become Dean of Faculty, double the job that I had had before. I'm just emerging from the end-of-year chaos. I hope by the fall issue to have things better under control.

## THE D.H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Membership is US\$10 a year with the option of a ten-year membership for US\$60. Make checks payable to the Society and forward to Louis Greiff, Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Division of English, Alfred University, Alfred, NY 14802. The newsletter appears twice a year. Send information to be included to Eleanor H. Green, editor, University of Maine at Presque Isle, Presque Isle, ME 04769. *Email:* [greenep@polaris.umpi.maine.edu](mailto:greenep@polaris.umpi.maine.edu)

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