

THE D.H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NEWSLETTER



Volume 33, Summer 2001

Secretary's Report:

MLA 2000 Conference in Washington, D.C.

by Elizabeth Fox

THE FIRST OF THREE D. H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY EVENTS occurred on December 28, in the panel on "D. H. Lawrence: the Sacred and Profane." James Keeley (Columbia U.), spoke on "The Telepathic 'Mass-Spirit': Psychological Research and Social Evolution in D. H. Lawrence's *Kangaroo*." Keeley presented Lawrence's use of telepathy, or extra-sensory communication, as the most fascinating idea in the novel. Telepathy (or "mass-spirit") distinguishes the masses from both the ruling class, who communicate only by direct speech, and from the purposeless mob. Lawrence identifies the "vertebral" communication of animals in the masses, in individuals composing the masses, and in their leaders. All transmit vibrations of power and sympathy that bind society. Telepathy also enables the masses to receive God's "creative urges" and to evolve through revolution.

A relatively new concept in Lawrence's time and a key element in his idea of social evolution, telepathy was absent from *Psychoanalysis and the*

Unconscious and Fantasia of the Unconscious. The term arose in London's Society for Psychical Research, or SPR, founded for scientific investigation of humans' survival of bodily death. Although Lawrence's work does not refer directly to the SPR, Keeley found evidence of Lawrence's knowledge of the SPR's work in the "The Lonely Lady," "Glad Ghosts," and "The Border Line." The first two stories burlesque communication with the dead; the third treats it seriously. Keeley argued that events in the last story seem "essentially indistinguishable" from case studies in the SPR's publication and that such detailed knowledge of the SPR's work should change current views of the telepathic social evolution in *Kangaroo*. First, considered in light of Lawrence's evolutionary vision, the uncertain conclusion stays true to Somers's refusal of both fascism and communism. Second, Lawrence's knowledge of the SPR informs his later work in general.

In "Recuperating Paganism: Lawrence's *Apocalypse*," Mary Bryden (U. of Reading, England) focused on

the author's attraction to and criticism of the *Book of Apocalypse*. Lawrence's distaste in early chapters of *Apocalypse* for the colliers' use of Revelation to represent their future apotheosis reveals a prophetic vision scornful of forcible egalitarianism. Bryden read Lawrence's work as restoring the ambiguity of the prophetic element of the Book of Apocalypse and applying it to the present. Bryden cited Gilles Deleuze's admiration for Lawrence's work in exposing the pagan substratum that the Book of Revelation merely perverts instead of eliminating. In his writings, Lawrence seeks a lost but vital connection with the natural and astronomical landscape. His comments on Revelation 11 exemplify this effort. Comparing Lawrence to Nietzsche, Bryden argued for the immanence and present redressing of wrongs rather than a future-oriented vision that relies upon eternal life. A hectic schedule prevented Dr Bryden from providing a full text, which would have allowed presentation of more details of her talk.

continued on page 3

People in the News

Art Bachrach of the Moby Dickens Bookshop in Tucson is teaching an informal course, "D. H. Lawrence in Taos," at the Fort Burgwin Campus of Southern Methodist University in Taos this June.



Gregory Tague of St. Francis College (NY) has two articles published. One is "Levels of Participatory Experience in D. H. Lawrence's Italy Books," which appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of *RE:AL: The Journal of Liberal Arts*. The other is entitled "Self-Recovery in D. H. Lawrence: Schopenhauer, Estrangement, and the Sublime" and can be found in the current issue of *Readerly/Writerly Texts: Essays on Literature*.



Ginette Roy traveled to England and gave a lecture on "Fashion in Women in Love" to the D. H. Lawrence Society in Eastwood this April.

L. D. Clark's online novel, *The Life and Opinions of Marcus Aurelius Wherefore*, is now available. For a description of the book and an excerpt, go to www.1stbooks.com. It can be downloaded on Adobe Acrobat Reader or a like machine for \$6.95. Paperback and hardback versions are also available. One of the minor characters in the novel is a D. H. Lawrence scholar.



John Worthen gave a talk at the Lawrence film festival at the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham this April.



College English published an article in March by **Garry Watson and Elizabeth Sargent** entitled "D. H. Lawrence and the Dialogical Principle: 'The Strange Reality of Otherness.'"



Roy Spencer is presenting his one-man show *The Long Adolescence* at the Orange

Tree Theatre, Richmond, England.

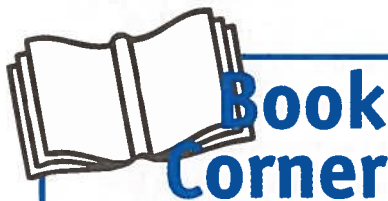
Gary Adelman has an article in the recent double issue of *Triquarterly* (Winter, Spring/Summer 2000) called "The Man Who Rode Away: What Lawrence Means to Today's Readers." A special feature of the article is the use it makes of letters written to him by forty-four practicing novelists about Lawrence's importance to them.



Peter Preston was on study leave last semester and visited North Carolina, where he lectured on Lawrence in Greensboro as the guest of **Keith Cushman**. While there, he also visited **Jim Cowan** in Chapel Hill, where **Judith Ruderman** joined them for dinner.



Wayne Burns, Professor Emeritus of the University of Washington is currently writing a book on Thomas Hardy's fiction that promises to be of interest to all Lawrentians. ■



Particularly welcome for all who attempt to use Lawrence in the classroom is the appearance of the Modern Language Association's *Approaches to Teaching the Works of D. H. Lawrence*, edited by Elizabeth Sargent and Garry Watson. It contains essays by over 30 contributors. The book is divided first into a section on materials that may be used in teaching Lawrence's works and then essays on various approaches to the literature itself. Division headings are: "Words of Encouragement and Caution," "Major Issues in Teaching

Lawrence and Otherness," "Course Context Sketches." and an index of Lawrence's works.

The third edition of the *D. H. Lawrence Bibliography*, edited by Warren Roberts and Paul Poplawski, is being published by Cambridge University Press.

Charles Ferrall's *Modernist Writing and Reactionary Politics*, also from Cambridge UP, links the appeal of fascism for five modernist writers, including Lawrence, to their concern about the status of art in an increasingly industrialized society.

Southern Illinois University Press has recently issued *D. H. Lawrence: Fifty Years on Film* by Louis Greiff. It discusses the ten feature films appearing between

1949 and 1999 that were inspired by Lawrence's life and works. These films are examined as adaptations, as cultural or historical documents, and as independent works of art.

Another book from Cambridge UP called *D. H. Lawrence and the Bible*, by T.R. Wright, discusses the Bible as being for Lawrence both inspiration and parodic target.

In his book *Literary Lives: Biography and the Search for Understanding* (Routledge), David Ellis discusses four categories of approaches by biographers to their subjects. One of these, the medical, is the source for biographers linking Lawrence's violent fights with Frieda to his chronic tuberculo-

sis. However, since his rages appeared early in his life, Lawrence's irritability becomes a device for driving the diagnosis of the tuberculosis further into the past. Ellis includes his own biography of Lawrence in his general discussion.

Paul Poplawski's book *Writing the Body in D. H. Lawrence: Essays on Language, Representation, and Sexuality* (Greenwood Press) has essays by Garry Watson, Stefania Michelucci, Helen Baron, Andrew Harrison, Izabel Brandão, Kyoko Kay Kondo, See-young Park, Paul Poplawski, M. Elizabeth Sargent, Carol Siegel, Jay Gertzman, Katie Gramich, and Maria Aline Ferreira. ■



JACK STEWART (U. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER), current DHLSNA President, spoke on "Lawrence's Ontological Vision in *Etruscan Places*, *The Escaped Cock*, and *Apocalypse*." As the title suggests, the paper explored Lawrence's vision of possibilities for Being in the "delicate sensitiveness" of Etruscan art. The dance and movement depicted in mural art made Lawrence think not of art but "of life itself," Stewart said, quoting *Sketches of Etruscan Places*. Dance can be an "ontological attunement" that permits integration of bodily experience (*ontos*) with understanding (*logos*). Lawrence's curve of return to the Etruscans retrieves their art's wholeness of Being and prophetically publishes it to reshape the hypertrophied willfulness of contemporary culture. Citing this Etruscan "mode of attunement," Stewart linked Lawrence's vitalism with Polyani's claim that existence is an aim in itself for all living beings and the miraculous conjunction of the biological and spiritual in consciousness.

In *The Escaped Cock*, the "energies of the phenomenal world" triumph over death forces just as literal and figurative touch, or sense of connection, opposes the anti-erotic and thanatotic experience of fragmentation and separation from the cosmos. In *Apocalypse*, Lawrence's prophetic vision urges a connection with

"the cosmos, with sun and earth, with mankind and nation and family." Such connection requires thinking with the body, not the disembodied mind, and growing from the unconscious in the thinking of Being. According to Stewart, wholeness of Being is key to Lawrence's ontology, with an organic and vital thinking a way of wholly attending. Lawrence's prophetic and artistic vision mixes human and nature, spirit and matter, and art and life, integrating self with cosmic life. *Apocalypse* concludes by celebrating aliveness instead of a millennial future; Lawrence attempts to overcome technologically-induced alienation and recover the lost vitality of ancient cultures with a vision of transformative and cosmically connected Being.

OVERCOMING THE UNUSUALLY WINDY COLD WEATHER, a large number of Lawrentians gathered for the annual Society dinner at a local Italian restaurant to enjoy food, wine, and good company. Those attending came from around the globe, making the dinner a key occasion for catching up with friends' news. Join us next year at the New Orleans Society dinner!

CURRENT DHLSNA PRESIDENT JACK STEWART kindly recorded the minutes for the Meeting since my airline encouraged me to fly home before a

blizzard and I did. Outgoing Society President Earl Ingersoll spoke of the Eighth International Conference in Naples this June. The Ninth International Conference is planned for Japan in 2003, possibly in early August, in either Kyoto or Tokyo. Hugh Witemeyer (U. New Mexico), reported on the Society's goals to protect the Kiowa Ranch and to register it on the National Register of Historic Properties. Treasurer Lou Greiff reported the current balance and also the imminent completion of the DHLSNA 2000 Directory, which should have arrived by now. Lou suggested annual updates to the directory because many listings change that often. The topic for MLA 2001, in New Orleans, is "Lawrence: The Sacred and Profane," with "Lawrence as Ecologist" approved for 2002. Members are reminded to encourage submission of entries for the Newly Published Scholar Award to Larry Gamache (U. of Ottawa).

Elections included Virginia Hyde, President Elect; Elizabeth Fox, Program Chair for 2001-2002; and Hugh Witemeyer, Executive Committee. We thank Earl Ingersoll for his many efforts, all done ably and considerately, as President for the past two years. Join us in New Orleans for jazz, oysters, beignets, and – oh yes – more Lawrence! ■

Necrology

On March 7, Mark Spilka, one of the giants of Lawrence scholarship, died after several years of poor health. Despite his problems, Mark was at the conference in Taos and retained to the end his intense interest in everything Lawrentian. He will be greatly missed. In the next newsletter, we will print a full obituary celebrating his accomplishments and relating the many honors he received. If you would like to add your comments to this tribute, please forward them to me. ■

Lawrence on E-Bay

Lawrence would probably be quite amazed to know that photographs of himself and others were recently auctioned off on E-Bay as a portion of Brett's collection; these included several photos of Brett, Katherine Mansfield, Mabel, Tony Luhan, Lawrence, Frieda and Ravagli, as well as one of Ottoline and company sunbathing in the nude. The photos sold for various prices, the highest going for close to \$500. ■

LAWRENCE *in England*

The D. H. Lawrence Society had professional actors reading from "The Daughter-in-Law" in September. October found Valeria Faravelli giving a paper on "Constructing Lawrence." In December, the Society accompanied Ruth Hall's exhibition in Eastwood Library of "The Flowers in *Sons and Lovers*" with appropriate readings during its annual Christmas party. Magda Vaughan, a graduate student, talked on "Soldiers in the Work of Lawrence" in January, and in February the Society's secretary, Ron Faulks, gave the second of his talks on "Mr. Lawrence's Children." In March a number of Society members went to the D. H. Lawrence Centre to hear Keith Sagar lecture on the influence of Whitman on Lawrence and read poems and critical prose. Roy Burton also led a poetry reading evening in March. Ginette Roy gave an April talk on "Fashion in *Women in Love*," illustrated with slides from *Vogue*. The Society's *D. H. Lawrence Journal*, edited by Bethan Jones, came out in September.

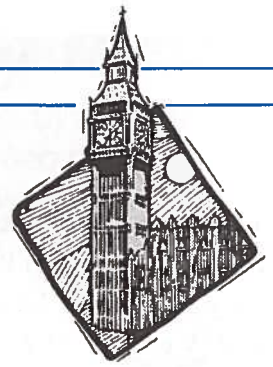
The D. H. Lawrence Center has been relaunched as the D. H. Lawrence Research Centre, with John Worthen and Peter Preston as directors. A research group now exists at the Centre, consisting mostly of graduate students. Seven persons are now working on an M.Phil, or a Ph.D. in Lawrence, in addition to an annual group of students pursuing an MA in Lawrence Studies. Visiting scholars from China, Japan, and Korea added to the group this year. The Centre's annual Work in Progress day will take place in June.

The Broadway Cinema in Nottingham presented this April a series of films in a series entitled "D. H. Lawrence: A Coal Miner's Son." Films that were shown were: Anthony Pelissier's 1949 "The Rocking Horse Winner," Claude Whatham's 1966 "The White Stocking," Claude Whatham's 1983 "The Captain's Doll," Stuart Burge's 1988 *The Rainbow*, Martyn Friend's 1985 "The Daughter-in Law," Jack Cardiff's 1960 *Sons and Lovers*, Ken

Russell's 1993 *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, Colin Gregg's 1981 *The Trespasser*, Piers Haggard's 1968 *The Princess*, Jill Freeman's 1985 "D. H. Lawrence—The South Bank Show" (a documentary presented by Anthony Burgess), Valerie Hanson's 1975 "Fanny and Annie," and Simon Langton's 1976 "The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd." A full Saturday morning of sessions led by Lawrence scholars took place during this festival.

The Durban House produced an exhibit related to "the wakes"—the fair that traveled through Eastwood when Lawrence was a boy.

At the end of May the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham will be hosting a fund-raising dinner for the Lawrence Pavilion, now nearly completed at the University. ■



LAWRENCE *in Korea*

Paik Nak-chung has edited a new edition of his earlier translation of *Daughters of the Vicar* (Changbi Publishers, Seoul). This includes the Korean version of "Odour of Chrysanthemums," "Daughters of the Vicar," "The Prussian Officer," and "You Touched Me." The first edition of this translation came out in 1991 and went through four printings. The new version corrects errors in the previous one and has a different format and design. ■

Query

Bruce Steele at bsteale@bigpond.net.au is trying to locate United States reviews of *Psychoanalysis and the Unconscious* around June 1921, those that Lawrence referred to in an unpublished foreword to *Fantasia of the Unconscious*. Bruce has tracked down most of these, but would like help with the following reviews in:

- *Pittsburg Despatch*
- *The [St. Louis] Star*
- *San Francisco Bulletin*
- A Philadelphia newspaper, perhaps the *Public Ledger*
- A Washington, DC, paper (not the *Washington Post*).

The review title is "Further than Freud Has Dared."

- Place unknown. Title: "Arguing with a Mystic." ■



LAWRENCE *in France*

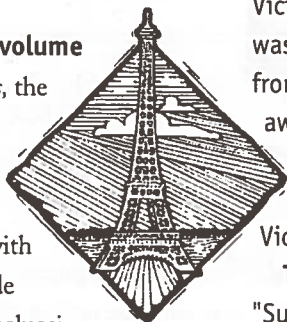
The D. H. Lawrence Research Group of the University of Paris X held a one-day conference in March on the theme of "Violence in D. H. Lawrence's Work."

The twenty-third volume of *Études lawrenciennes*, the third and last on the theme of "Lawrence After Strange Gods," came out this winter with articles by Simonetta de Filippis, Stefania Michelucci, Jacqueline Gourirand, Stephen Rowley, Carla Comellini, Keith Cushman, Louis Greiff, Peter Preston, and Adrienne Gavin. The website for this publication is mapage.noos.fr/etlaw. Copies may be ordered through Publidix (oybkudux@paris10.fr).

New translations of Lawrence's writing into French have appeared recently. Vitoux has a new version of *Women in Love*, entitled *Amantes* (Editions Autrement 2000) and a selection of Lawrence's letters, *Lettres choisies*, based on James Boulton's collection and translated by André Topia (Gallimard 2001). ■

Correction

In the description of Joan Craddock and her Lawrence eggs in the last newsletter, we printed the e-mail address of the Elliots, her contact persons with only one "L." The correct address is elliott.john.r@talk21.com. The Elliots run the Old Surgery Guest House in Eastwood, and Eileen Elliot is also the manager for the Sons and Lovers Cottage. ■



New in Eastwood

Two new exhibits are now open in Eastwood, sponsored by the Durban House Heritage Centre. The first is a restored communal wash house used by Mrs. Lawrence during the time that the family lived at 8A Victoria Street. Fully interactive, this wash room includes original pieces from a wash house just two streets away and gives a full understanding to the visitor of the hardest working day of the week for the Victorian house wife.

The second exhibit, called "Sunday Best," is an interactive fam-

ily room inspired by the day the Lawrence family had its portrait photograph taken. It includes Lawrence's photographic memoirs, period newspapers and ladies' journals, and clothing appropriate to the time. Children can put together jigsaw puzzles that show Lawrence as a small boy with his pet rabbit and Lawrence as a young man. Visitors may have their picture taken and then watch as the machine time travels their face back to the turn of the century and places them in a row of miners or perhaps even in the Lawrence family portrait. ■

Collectors' Corner

A first edition (1921) of the Selzer Sea and Sardinia, preceding the English first edition, is available in bright, tight copy with scarce dust jacket for \$1500 from William Reese Company (coreese@reeseeco.com). ■



Scenes from the MLA Dinner, December 2000
pictured above and below





At the MLA Dinner, December 2000

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: greene@polaris.umpi.maine.edu

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

University of Maine at Presque Isle
181 Main Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769-2888

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Presque Isle, ME
04769
Permit No. 75