
The D. H. Lawrence Society Of North America Newsletter



Volume 35, Fall 2006

Report from the President

Eleanor H. Green

We have ahead of us what promises to be an exciting international conference in Eastwood and Nottingham this August, now only a few months away. I look forward to seeing many of you there on Lawrence's own home turf. Besides the obvious benefits of sharing ideas and scholarship in the whole field of Lawrence studies and meeting new Lawrentian colleagues, this conference will give us as members of the DHLNSA an opportunity to meet and plan for the future.

By the time we meet in August 2007, we shall have elected a new president and a new president-elect, as well as members of the Executive Board. Virginia Hyde, as past-president, is supervising the election for these positions. Please return the ballot included in this newsletter to her. We hope that you will seriously consider running yourself for election in Fall 2007 (three Executive Board members, the Membership

Treasurer, and the Secretary will be selected).

I've also included a ballot to approve more proposed changes to the by-laws, as well as the new by-laws as they will read if all changes are approved. Adjustments in the manner of conducting elections have already been accepted unanimously by the membership. The most important other changes involve Article IV: Officers. The assigned duties will be adjusted as follows:

- The Editor-in-chief becomes the Newsletter Editor
- The Past-President will be in charge of elections each year
- The Program Chair will become an appointed position on an ad hoc basis as needed

The duties of the various officers have also been slightly modified to bring them up to date with current practice.

Given the very sparse attendance at the DHLNSA business meeting at MLA in recent years, I've not scheduled one at all for this year, proposing that we rely instead on e-mail, the newsletter and, if necessary, on a short meeting at the DHLNSA dinner. I believe that

offering three papers instead of two at both of our MLA panels may encourage a larger audience.

The most important item of business at any MLA business meeting has been the selection of topics for the two MLA panels at the MLA in December of the following year. Please be thinking of topics that you'd find of interest and send me your ideas. I'll be putting out an e-mail request for topic proposals in the next weeks and then ask for an informal vote by e-mail on these suggestions. Panel topics have to be submitted to the MLA office by early January.

At each international D. H. Lawrence conference it has been our custom to present the Harry T. Moore Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Encouragement of Lawrence Studies. Please review the list of previous honorees in the Directory and suggest one or two possible worthy recipients for 2007. It is also time to choose the recipient of the Biennial Award to a Newly Published Scholar in Lawrence Studies. We also need to select lecturers for our relatively newly established Mark Spilka Lecture Series. I encourage you to make recommendations

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for all these honors. I intend to ask past presidents of the Society and the current Executive Committee to act as unofficial selection committee once we have collected recommendations.

Many new members of the Society joined in 2005 as a result of attending the conference in Santa Fe. I very much hope that as many of you as possible will continue as members. Renewing your membership for 2007 will cost \$25 (U.S.), or \$10 for students and those who are now retired. The Society also offers a ten-year membership for \$150 (\$60 for retirees).

Being a member of the DHLSNA means that you will receive two issues of the newsletter a year, receive updates on important issues by e-mail, vote in elections, and stand for election as an Executive Committee member. You become part of a broad, diverse, and truly international organization that works to preserve buildings and land associated with Lawrence, encourages in every way the advancement of Lawrence studies and provides encouragement, support, and

information to Lawrence scholars around the world. Lawrentians in general are a lively and fun group of people, and many longstanding friendships and collaborations have resulted from membership in the DHLSNA.

Nancy Paxton is our new interim Newsletter Editor and is responsible for this current newsletter. Please send her your news, short articles of interest, and whatever Lawrentiana you may pick up in the media or elsewhere. Since Nancy's running unopposed for this position, it seems likely that she will become the permanent editor in January. It's been something of a nostalgic task packing up old newsletters (in an astonishing variety of formats!) dating back decades to send to Nancy. The editorship of the newsletter has been a staple in my life despite a number of moves and changes in my professional title. I'll miss putting it out, but I am pleased that it will be in good hands.

I hope to see you in England in August 2007, if not in Philadelphia in December.

From the Editor:

Since I have only recently joined the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America my face may be new to many of you, but I have long admired the writing of D. H. Lawrence and have taught his fiction and poetry for more than twenty-five years. As a professor in the English Department at Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, Arizona, I specialize in nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature, Women's Studies, and

feminist theory. I met some of you while working on *Outside Modernism: In Pursuit of the English Novel 1900-1930*, an essay collection I edited with Lynne Hapgood. If I am selected as the permanent editor of the *DHLSNA Newsletter*, I look forward to working with you to maintain the high quality of the newsletter, to reach out to new members, and to find more opportunities to share our appreciation for the prose and poetry of D. H. Lawrence.

D. H. Lawrence Sessions at the MLA in Philadelphia

Thursday, Dec. 28, at 12:00-1:15, "D. H. Lawrence and the Body," M. Elizabeth Sargent, presiding (Room 302, Marriott): Gregory Frank Tague, "Ursula's Stone and Connie's Body"; Daniel Darvay, "Written in Blood: Gothic Bodies in the Works of D. H. Lawrence"; Joyce Piell Wexler, "Why Isn't Lady Chatterley Beautiful?"

Saturday, Dec. 30, at 1:45-3:00 pm. "D. H. Lawrence and His Contemporaries," Eleanor Green, presiding (Independence Ballroom, Salon 1, Marriott): Earl G. Ingersoll, "D. H. Lawrence in Bloomsbury"; Mark A. Wollaeger, "D. H. Lawrence and British Modernism"; Marcia Epstein Allentuck, "D. H. Lawrence and Mark Gertler."

Don't miss the DHLSNA dinner: Friday, Dec. 29, 6:30, at McCormick and Schmicks, 1 South Broad Street, adjacent to the conference hotel.

BALLOT FOR ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION OF BY-LAW CHANGES

The following changes are recommended by the Executive Board for consideration by the membership of the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America. The original text of the by-laws appears in the Directory.

Article IV: Officers

Section 2 President

The President is the chief executive officer of the Society and presides at all meetings of the Society and the Executive Committee, serves as liaison to the Modern Language Association and other professional organizations, represents the Society to the public, and provides leadership for the Society in all of its activities. The President may, with the consent of the Executive Committee, appoint a Program Chair to oversee a specific activity of the Society.

Accept _____

Reject _____

Section 4 Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for collecting information and then publishing and distributing a newsletter to all members of the Society at least two times a year.

Accept _____

Reject _____

Section 5 Secretary

The Secretary keeps minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee, reports on the Society's panels at the Modern Language Association convention each year, and maintains an archive of the activities and decisions of the Executive Council and the membership.

Accept _____

Reject _____

Section 6 Membership Treasurer

The Membership Treasurer keeps an updated record of the Society's membership, maintains the financial and banking records of the Society, collects membership dues, issues checks on behalf of the Society, and provides a financial statement for the Executive Committee upon request. The Membership Treasurer also prepares and publishes a directory for the Society at least once every two years and provides updated mailing label data for the Newsletter Editor before each newsletter is published.

Accept _____

Reject _____

Lawrence at the MSA8 Conference Tulsa, OK.

Report from Holly Laird
and Geneva Gano

Since its inaugural meeting in 1999, the Modernist Studies Association's annual conference has offered D.H. Lawrence scholars an opportunity to share their research. Yet Lawrence's unstable status in the modernist canon has, over the years, nonetheless been reflected in the conference program. Some years, such as 2003, when the conference was held in Birmingham, U.K., Lawrence scholars have made a good showing; in other years, Lawrence is missing entirely.

At the 2006 conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, "MSA8: Out of the Archives," John Worthen, Professor Emeritus of D.H. Lawrence Studies at the University of Nottingham, was featured as one of the keynote speakers for the plenary roundtable, "Displaced Modernisms," which also included Thaddious Davis, Françoise Lionnet, and Donald Shaw. Worthen regaled about 300 of the conference attendees with a consideration of D.H. Lawrence's ouster from modernist studies—a phenomenon with antecedents during Lawrence's own career: if Lawrence wasn't being ousted from some place or position, he ousted himself. Worthen's talk stressed the experimental writing Lawrence undertook quite early in his career. Taking the suppressed short story "The New Eve and the Old Adam" (1913) as his exemplary text, a text archived at the University of Tulsa McFarlin Library's

Special Collections, Worthen showed how, though experimental, Lawrence's work does not mold to the paradigms we associate with modernist writing: it is not pure, impersonal, and explicitly self-conscious. Instead, it works against these tendencies. The challenge Lawrence's writing presents is clear, Worthen indicated, when we consider him in his social, aesthetic, and historical contexts. As part of the emerging classes in England, Lawrence challenged the middle-class mores of the publishing industry at that time, most obviously with his revolutionary evocation of human sexual desire and physical depictions of that desire in action. These challenges are perhaps less obvious in his depiction (in the case of this story) of a frictional urban relationship confined to an upper-story London flat. This does not make for high modernism as we currently understand it, Professor Worthen reaffirmed, but it is certainly important to modernist studies in comprising a "series of under threats."

George Johnson, Professor of English and Modern Languages at Thompson Rivers University, gave a talk entitled, "The 'New' Psychology and the 'New' Mysticism in May Sinclair and D.H. Lawrence," incorporating research for his recently published book, *Dynamic Psychology in Modernist British Fiction* (London: Palgrave, 2005). Focusing on *Fantasia of the Unconscious* (1922), Johnson showed how Lawrence distinguished between an "old" and "new" mysticism, the first comprising a "sham spirituality" that originates in the mind, and the

second a non-mental, non-ideal, dynamic process. Using passages from Sinclair's "The Helpmate" (1907) and Lawrence's *Women in Love* (1920), Johnson demonstrated how these texts connected to the philosophies of Johann Herbart and the studies of the Society for Psychical Research.

Finally, Geneva Gano, a Ph.D. student at UCLA, presented a talk excerpted from her dissertation on Willa Cather, Robinson Jeffers, Nathanael West, and D. H. Lawrence. Her presentation, "To know where I am": Stasis and Freedom in Lawrence's Southwest," considered Lawrence's concept of "place" in relation to his definition of himself as "modern quester whose worldwide wanderings were prompted by his sense of alienation and homelessness." Focusing on *St. Mawr*, Gano argued that all of the story's characters, "including the horse," wind up "in states of arrest, fixed and confined," yet "place itself," on the other hand, "assumes an active vitality." In her reverberating conclusion, Gano argued, "Lawrence's legacy to American regionalism, often thought of as a static and 'eminently predictable' genre, is his insistence that the region is a space of freedom and resistance that exists in opposition to the confining bounds of the modern nation."

While few among the many, the scholars of Lawrence at the MSA8 brought Lawrence's habits of resistance rebounding back out of the archives.

DHL Conference in England 16-21 Aug. 2006

We hope to see you at the Eleventh International D. H. Lawrence Conference, to be held this year in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. Conference organizers invite proposals for 20 minute papers on topics related to the theme "Return to Eastwood" as well as on new work related to any aspect of Lawrence's life and work, influence, and significance. Presentations on teaching Lawrence's works are also solicited. The deadline for proposals is 31 March 2007.

Confirmed speakers for the conference include Claire Colebrook, David Ellis, Blake Morrison, and Keith Sagar. John Worthen and Peter Preston will perform their critically acclaimed "Hymns in a Man's Life." Sessions will be held in Durban House and in Eastwood Hall, which delegates may recognize as a setting from Lawrence's *Mr. Noon*. Guest accommodations may be booked in Eastwood Hall and other locations.

Exclusive tours of Lawrence's birthplace and an exhibition of materials from the University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections, organized by Keith Cushman, are also planned. Special events will be held at the University of Nottingham's new D. H. Lawrence Pavilion. On Tuesday, 21 August delegates will be offered a bus tour of sites of interest to Lawrence scholars, including Cossall, Teversal Manor, and Mountain Cottage. For further details and registration, visit the conference website: www.dh-lawrence.org.uk/dh-lawrence-conference.html



News from Lawrence's Friends in Taos

from Hugh Witemeyer

"To preserve and foster the heritage of the works and lives of D. H. and Frieda Lawrence through lectures, exhibits, tours, and performances, and to support the preservation of the D. H. Lawrence Ranch in San Cristobal, New Mexico": this is the mission of the Friends of D. H. Lawrence, a nonprofit community organization based in Taos but open to people around the world.

In September, the Friends sponsored a one-day Lawrence Festival. The program opened with two films, "The Priest of Love" and "Women in Love." Students from Taos High School read poems by Lawrence and performed dances inspired by his work. Awards were presented for the best student poem written in response to a Lawrence text, the

best essay on the writer, and the best art work with a Lawrentian theme. Enthusiastic audiences attended the events. To top it off, the Mayor and Town Council proclaimed September 17-23 to be "D. H. Lawrence Week."

In October, the Friends participated in "The Festival of Trees," an annual fundraising event for charities and other non-profit organizations in the Taos community, by contributing a tree decorated with ornaments that evoked the creative spirit to which the Lawrences dedicated their lives. Sponsored trees were auctioned off on December 1. The proceeds for each tree benefit an organization designated by the sponsor. Information on the outcome of the auction will be available on the Friends' website.

The Friends of D. H. Lawrence website regularly carries information about membership, contributions, and future activities. Please visit the following address for news of Lawrence's Friends in Taos. www.friendsofdhlawrence.org.

You may also contact Arthur J. Bachrach, president of the Friends of D. H. Lawrence, at the following addresses:
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E-mail may be sent to dhlfriends@msn.com.

Book Notes:

Virginia Hyde and Earl Ingersoll are editing a volume of sixteen essays based on papers given at the 10th International D. H. Lawrence Conference in Santa Fe. The likely title of the collection is *D. H. Lawrence and the Frontiers*, and the "frontier" theme appears in a variety of forms in the essays. Virginia and Earl thank all those who submitted essays and state that they were of high quality, making the selection difficult.

Art Bachrach has just published *D. H. Lawrence in New Mexico: "The Time Is Different There."* Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006.

Peter Balbert has published two essays, "Courage at the Border-Line: Balder, Hemingway, and Lawrence's The Captain's Doll," in *Papers on Language and Literature*, 42.3 (Summer 2006): 227-63; and "Freud, Frazer, and Lawrence's Palimpsestic Novella: Dreams and the Heaviness of Male Destiny in *The Fox*," in *Studies in the Novel*, 38.2 (2006): 211-33.

Michael Bell, Keith Cushman, Takeo Iida, and Hiro Tateishi, ed. recently published *D.H.Lawrence: Literature, History, Culture* (Tokyo, Japan: KokushokankouKai Press, 2005), a collection of selected papers from the 2003 International DHL conference held in Kyoto, Japan. (ISBN:4-336-04730-8, at 3200 Yen plus tax.

John Worthen's newly edited text of Lawrence's 1913 story, "New Eve and Old Adam," will appear in the forthcoming *Selected Stories by D. H. Lawrence*, edited by Sue Wilson, for Penguin Books. This version incorporates his recent study of a manuscript held in the McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa, and the subject of his recent MSA8 presentation in Tulsa.

Congratulations to: Dr. Betsy Sargent, recipient of the 2005 Mactaggart Writing award, given semi-annually to outstanding faculty at the University of Alberta in support of projects incorporating non-academic writing styles and forms.

Return to;
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