

THE D.H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NEWSLETTER



Volume 35, Summer 2002

Secretary's Report

by Elizabeth Fox

The 2001 MLA in New Orleans provided not only more warmth and a more colorful locale than most meetings but also the first presentation of the Newly Published Scholar's Award to Charles Burack for his publication of three articles on DHL. The panel's limited scheduled time prevented us from dedicating more time to the winner and his publications, but the panel afforded a greater audience than the Business Meeting. Let word of Chuck's contributions travel far and wide!

Held in the early evening of December 27th, the 2001 panel proved especially exciting, perhaps because its subject, "The Sacred and Profane," touched on Lawrence's deepest concerns. In the first paper, "Sex Isn't Everything (But it Can Be Anything)," Joyce Wexler placed Lawrence's writing about sex within the modernist context by arguing, "[t]he conviction that the essence of life cannot be separated from its physical manifestation is the sacred core of modernism." In Lawrence's works, sex is neither a religion nor the most sacred act. Instead, Lawrence uses sex as a cipher that depends on emotional context for its meaning. Describing sex enables him to reject the biblical binary of profane body

and sacred soul. Wexler cited instances from *The Rainbow* in which sex functions variously as a "holy 'transfiguration' for Lydia and Tom," "suffocating fusion" and "sensuality violent and extreme as death" for Anna and Will, "battle" between Will and the girl in Nottingham, and "bond of 'dark corruption' between Winifred Inger and Tom Brangwen." For Lawrence, sex, at best, symbolizes a sacred fusion of the empirical and non-empirical, a modernist merging of the sacred and the profane such as Paul Delaney finds in James Joyce. Wexler stressed Lawrence and modernism's "search for secular alternatives to religious versions of non-empirical experience"; she argued that Lawrence discredits attempts to expand consciousness through sex because of its finitude. His fiction suggests the sacredness of uniting body and soul and the profanity of separating them into the purely spiritual or purely physical. While physicality is neither sacred nor profane, spirituality alone becomes abstract and worse than profane because it denies life.

In his talk, "The Haunted Cosmos: Lawrence's Malevolent Sacred," Doug Barrett probed Lawrence's understanding and transformation of "alienated energy." In *Violence and the Sacred*, René Girard

includes sexuality and violence in this kind of energy; Girard also analyzes ways that sacrificial rituals control and release the pressure these energies accumulate as humans project and invoke them as a malevolent cosmos. Citing Lawrence's declaration that life "consists in a connection with all things in the universe" and that we must constantly revive our connection, Barrett pointed to similarities between the libido split in Freud's Oedipus Complex, which separates a "male" psyche and a "female" cosmos, and the denial of world and body that Lawrence condemned. To correct this split, Barrett argued, Lawrence's writing seeks out the mysterious cosmic malevolence in order to transform it.

Using instances such as Alvina Houghton's "wild, terrible happiness" in *The Lost Girl*, nature's malevolent attack on Lou Witt in *St. Mawr*, and confrontations with cosmologized poison in *Mornings in Mexico*, Barrett traced Lawrence's gropings toward the recognition of this beautiful yet dangerous cosmic force as a projection of the maternal principle—a recognition attained in the poems "Mountain Lion" and "Spirits Summoned West." Lawrence's task then becomes the undoing of cosmically-pro-

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People in the News

CHRISTINE ZARATSIAN had an article on the cosmic vision in *Women in Love* in Ginette Roy's volume of essays on the novel and an article on Lawrence and Italy that will appear in a book edited by Jean Viviès and published by the Presses Universitaires de Provence. In February she gave a lecture on dance in *Women in Love* for CAPES and Agrégation students at the University of Aix-Marseilles I.

CORNELIA RATT will present a paper on "The Shock of Modernity in British and German Literature" in May at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This paper will explore the ways in which the traumatic impact of modernity, especially the social changes culminating in and following the First World War, shaped British and German Modernist writing. She will be analyzing texts by Lawrence, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Virginia Woolf, using the current trauma theories of Cathy Caruth and Geoffrey Hartman.

JOHN WORTHEN will be giving Penguin Books his new one-volume biography of Lawrence at the end of June. The first draft is finished, and the second is in progress.

GARY ADELMAN's book, *Reclaiming D. H. Lawrence: Contemporary Writers Speak Out*, will be published this summer by Bucknell University Press.

LANGDON ELSBREE is giving a paper called "Virginia Woolf and Habits of the Heart" at the annual meeting of the Virginia Woolf Society. The paper concerns the exploration of ritual made by Woolf, Lawrence, and Joyce as possible ways of bridging the deep generational divides opened up by Modernism and by World War I.

In England, **HOWARD J. BOOTH** is working on a book entitled *D. H. Lawrence in Context*. The aim is to look at Lawrence in relationship to the wider social, political, and cultural trends of his time. He became convinced this was a worthwhile undertaking after discovering that no one

in a class on *Sons and Lovers* had any sense of what a coal mine looked like or understood the earlier significance of the British coal industry. He has an article "One should never have a home': *Women in Love* and Space" in Ginette Katz-Roy's volume of essays and one entitled "D. H. Lawrence and Male Homosexual Desire" in the *Review of English Studies* (vol. 53, no. 209).

CHONG-WHA CHUNG says the collection of essays on Lawrence that he edited with Michael Bell, Earl Ingersoll, and Nak-chung Paik is still available for sale (\$10). Contact him at cwchung35@hotmail.com.

ROY SPENCER gave his first Lawrence one-man show "The Long Adolescence" at the Ondaatje Theatre in the National Portrait Gallery in London last October.

JORGETTE MAUZERALL, who presented at the Lawrence MLA session in New Orleans, has been promoted to Associate Professor at Fort Valley State University. ■



Book News

The latest biography on Lawrence, *Living at the Edge: A Biography of D. H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthoven*, by Michael Squires and Lynn K. Talbot (University of Wisconsin Press) comes to Lawrence through Frieda and examines ways in which Lawrence's life and art intersect. This 500-page book includes 40 black-and-

white photographs, some of them previously unpublished.

Greenwood Press has put out two collections of essays on Lawrence. The first, entitled *The Critical Response to D. H. Lawrence*, edited by Jan Pilditch appears in the Critical Responses in Arts and Letters series (# 38) and includes reviews and essays on Lawrence's work, an introductory overview of critical response, and a selected bibliography. The second, *Writing the Body in*

D. H. Lawrence: Essays on Language, Representation, and Sexuality in the series Contributions to the Study of World Literature (#103), considers some of the social, cultural, and ideological contexts of Lawrence's writings of the body and closely engages his texts from a range of pertinent theoretical positions. It is edited by Paul Poplawski.

Cornelia Schulze has had her dissertation published by C. Winter of Heidelberg. It is entitled *The Battle of the Sexes in D.*

H. Lawrence's Prose, Poetry, and Paintings and includes a chapter on the famous Australian painter Garry Shead, who dedicated a series of over 40 paintings to Kangaroo.

Jill Franks' translation of Stefania Michelucci's book, *Space and Place in the Works of D. H. Lawrence* was published this spring by McFarland (www.mcfarlandpub.com). It examines Lawrence's works from the perspective of new theories about space and location, or place and community. ■



jected malevolence by means of accepting, structuring, and re-integrating Oedipal desire. This process begins to occur in the story "Glad Ghosts," where Luke Lathkill's acknowledgement of his mother as source of life dispels her malevolent spiritual power and absolves the indifferent cosmos from its role as a projection screen for alienated energies. Barrett cited Rexroth's view of Lawrence as a sort of "second Augustine" who reverses his precursor by reconnecting psyche with cosmos so as to outmode Augustine's Oedipalized sacrality and its social consequences.

In "D.H. Lawrence's *The Escaped Cock*; Where the Sacred Meets the Profane," Jorgette Mauzerall considered what she termed "Lawrence's boldest attempt to transcend the ancient schism, to reconcile spirit and flesh, the sacred and profane." Extrapolating from a discussion of the novella (also called *The Man Who Died*) to terrorism, she connected this schism with the divide between body and spirit on which many fundamentalisms are based. Mauzerall presented the novella as a natural next step and coda to *Lady Chatterley*, which attempts to raise the profane to the level of the sacred: the novella retells the creation story lowered to the bodily level. Meshing paganism with a transformed Christianity that accepts the body in the flesh, Lawrence

turns to female religion, the goddess worship of "Isis in Search" of Osiris and reverses traditional male/female dichotomies. Anxiety about the idea of Christ's embodiment touches on the body's connection to the female principle, echoing the other papers' concerns with the maternal. Mauzerall argued that desire for the apocalypse reveals ambivalence and even hatred of life (gendered female) that fuels a fantasy of male transcendence of the body. She cited Dorothy Dinnerstein's idea in *The Mermaid and the Minotaur* of abolishing "a special category of person available to absorb our split-off feelings of love and anger toward the flesh—if man could no longer rely on woman to absorb them and woman could no longer rely on man to embody for all of us a humanness spuriously free and clear of the aura of instability and contradiction." The novella contains the writer's wish to reject transcendence and embrace the "terrifying" body. Mauzerall suggested that we sanctify the body so that "new heaven and earth" would not remain as distant as they seemed late in 2001.

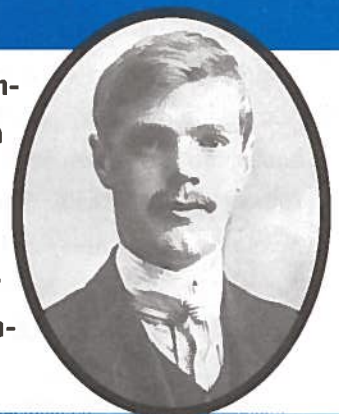
The annual Lawrence dinner occurred at a restaurant suggested by Louisiana resident Brenda Bryant, who with her husband had first suggested hosting us in their home. "N'awlens" food, friends, and ease made many of us want to return soon.

Society President Jack Stewart convened the Business Meeting on the morning of Dec. 29. Fewer than a dozen people were present at the start of the meeting; we hope that all interested Lawrentians who are able will attend these meetings in the future. Minutes of the 2000 MLA Meeting and the June 2001 International Conference in Naples were approved. Jack reported that Virginia Hyde and Tina Ferris prepared and directed a document for the National Register of Historic Places to protect the Kiowa Ranch. Hugh Witemeyer of the University of New Mexico, which inherited the ranch from Frieda, answered questions. We thank all three for their many efforts to insure the safety of the Lawrence property. Jack announced Virginia's webpage for the Society: www.wsu.edu/~hydev/dhl/dhlsna.htm. We also heard about Chuck Burack's article, "Mortifying the Reader in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*," and Treasurer Lou Grieff reported that the 2001 directory is in preparation.

The Ninth International Conference will occur in Kyoto in early July of 2003, thanks to active Lawrentians in Japan. Last but not least, mark your calendars for the 2002 MLA in New York; the topic is "Lawrence as Ecologist." ■

Call for Papers

Jean-Paul Pichardie and Philippe Romanski are soliciting proposals for four forthcoming titles in the series on D. H. Lawrence Revisited by the University of Rouen in France. These volumes will focus on (1) Lawrence's letters (deadline June 30, 2002); (2) *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (deadline Dec. 30, 2003); (3) editing, revising, and rewriting (deadline June 30, 2004); and (4) *The Plumed Serpent* (deadline June 30, 2005). Please send a short abstract and CV to the editors: Jean-PaulPichardie@wanadoo.fr and PhilippeRomanski@univ-rouen.fr. ■



The Ninth International D.H. Lawrence Conference

The next international D. H. Lawrence conference, focused on "D. H. Lawrence in Cultures and History," will be held from June 30-July 4 at the hotel Kyoto Garden Place, in Kyoto, Japan (www.hotel-gp-kyoto.com; kyotogp@ma.newweb.ne.jp).

The conference is supported by the D. H. Lawrence Society of Japan, the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America, and the D. H. Lawrence Society (United Kingdom), with the cooperation of the D. H. Lawrence

Research Centre at the University of Nottingham.

The deadline for paper proposals is December 20, 2002. Proposals should include a title and a 150-300-word summary of a possible 20-minute presentation, as well as a brief biography of the presenter. These are to be sent to Professor Hiro Tateishi, The Ninth DHL Conference Office, c/o Kokushokankoukai, 1-13-15 Shimura, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 174-0056, Japan. E-mail: lawrence@kokusho.co.jp. Fax: +81-

3-5970-7427. Telephone: +81-3-5970-7421.

Registration fees will be approximately 40,000 Japanese yen for five days or 25,000 yen for two days. Accommodation with breakfast will be available at a discount rate for conference participants at the Kyoto Garden Palace in front of the Gosho or the Kyoto Imperial Palace, the setting for *The Tale of Genji*. More information will be forthcoming. ■

Lawrence on the Web www.lawrenceontheweb.com

THE D. H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA now has its own website, thanks to Virginia Hyde and Jack Stewart (www.wsu.edu/~hydev/dhl/dhlsna.htm). Some pages are still under construction, but it contains much useful information about the Society.

KEITH SAGAR has a new website (www.keithsagar.co.uk) from which his latest book, *Literature and the Crime Against Nature* can be downloaded. This book includes a chapter on Lawrence.

KENNETH BRANAGH reciting "Violets" in dialect is available at web.ukonline.co.uk/ranim/larence/violets.html. According to Virginia Hyde, this recitation comes from a short video entitled *Coming Through* (1995) about Lawrence's romance with Frieda, which in turn comes from a television film of 1985.

TINA FERRIS has identified a number of sites with Lawrence material:

A PAINTING BY JUDITH PARKER called "Windows by D. H. Lawrence," which shows a close up of Mabel's adobe bathroom with its brightly decorated windows (www.gallery299.com/artists/show_media.html?media_id=192)

A PHOTO OF THE LAWRENCE CABIN FRONT DOOR as part of a collection of interesting front doors from around the world (www.cottagesoft.com/~cynthia/doors/doors.htm)

THE COVER OF THE AVON EDITION of *The Virgin and the Gypsy* as representative of pulp era artwork (ohiovet.com/paperback/avon/98.jpg) ■

The Mark Spilka Fund

The D. H. Lawrence Society of North America has instituted a Mark Spilka Lectureship, in memory of Mark Spilka, author of *The Love Ethic of D. H. Lawrence* (1955) and *Renewing the Normative Lawrence: A Personal Progress* (1992), together with numerous other books and articles. In addition,

Mark was long-term editor of *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*.

Mark was a genial and distinguished colleague and a popular contributor to Lawrence conferences. The Lectureship will invite distinguished scholars in the field of Lawrence studies and/or modern literature to address international

Lawrence conferences. It may also fund research projects leading to lectures.

Please honor our friend and colleague Mark Spilka—and do the D. H. Lawrence Society a service—by contributing to the Fund. Send what you can afford to Louis K. Greiff, Secretary-Treasurer, 10 Hill Street, Alfred, NY 14802. ■



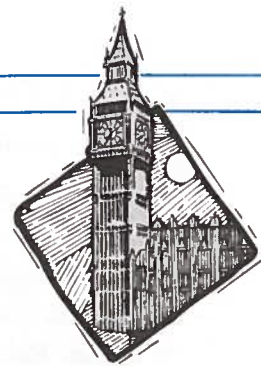
LAWRENCE *in England*

The new building on the site of the old sports pavilion at the University of Nottingham housing the D. H. Lawrence Centre opened with introductory lectures on the Nottingham Lawrence collection, now either the largest or second largest in the world. [When the newsletter editor was a graduate student at Nottingham in the early 70s, the Lawrence collection was contained in a single glass cabinet in the library! There were few signs of Lawrence at the University or in Eastwood at that time, as Lawrence was still generally out of favor in the region and rarely mentioned.] Rosemary Howard reports that the architecture of the new building is charming and very colorful and that it has a restaurant and a small theater as well as an octagonal room with displays of Lawrentiana.

The D. H. Lawrence Society is active. Tom Haggon gave a talk on Old Sneinton, where Lawrence's father and mother were married, and an explanation of a composite map of Greasley Parish. Peter Preston talked about his current research on references to Lawrence in modern novels, while

John Worthen discussed the new Penguin biography he is about to complete. Keith Sagar gave an overview of his intimate connection with Lawrentiana of all kinds. Society members also attended a lecture at the new Pavilion on the University of Nottingham's Lawrence collection.

The D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre in Eastwood has a handsome brochure that unfolds into a poster that features an unusual portrait of Lawrence by E. De Brett from 1925. To obtain this brochure or, for a small fee, an unfolded copy of the poster, write to the Centre at Mansfield Road, Eastwood, Nottingham NG16 3DZ. Fax: 01773 713 509. The Centre has also prepared a traveling exhibit entitled Lawrence in Contemporary Society and solicits notices of any references to Lawrence in films, in contemporary literature, in ads, or on billboards. ■



LAWRENCE *in France*

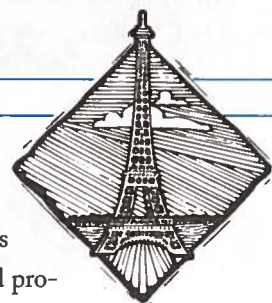
Betsy Fox reports that Ginette Katz-Roy hosted a splendid conference at the University de Paris X-Nanterre on January 11-12, 2002 on *Women in Love*, resulting in a double volume of the journal she edits, *Etudes lawrenciennes*: "Women in Love: New Readings" (vol. 26/27). To mention only three of fourteen talks, Michael Bell discussed Lawrence as a modernist "in spite of himself," Margaret Storch spoke on gender relations and visual art, and Peter Preston meditated on speech and silence in the novel. Ginette opened the conference and John Worthen provided closing commentary. Participants expressed both pleasure at the numbers of students who attended (roughly 150 on Friday and perhaps half that on Saturday, when a test occurred simultaneously) and admiration for the students' attentiveness and knowledge. Ginette provided wonderful lunches for participants and arranged a memorable restaurant dinner, as well as entertaining speakers most graciously at her home.

A second Lawrence conference was organized by André Topia at the Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris III, also in January, and a Lawrence workshop will take place in May at the SAES (Association of Higher Education Teachers) conference in Metz on the theme "Correct/Incorrect." Ginette is organizing

a two-day workshop in January at the University of Paris X-Nanterre, centering on Lawrence the writer as critic and Lawrence the poet. Send proposals for papers to her at roy@u-paris10.fr).

One reason for the renewed interest in Lawrence in France at present is that *Women in Love* is on the syllabus for two competitive teacher exams, the CAPES and the Agrégation. Several publications on this novel have recently appeared:

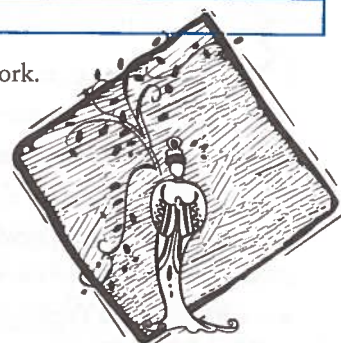
- Floc'h, Sylvain, *"Women in Love": Le crépuscule des déesses*, by Editions du Temps of Paris (in French)
- Gallix, François, ed. *"Women in Love" de D. H. Lawrence*, by Ellipses of Paris (8 papers in English, 12 in French)
- Katz-Roy, Ginette, ed., *Lectures d'une oeuvre: "Women in Love" de D. H. Lawrence*, by Editions du Temps (9 papers in English, 6 in French)
- Katz-Roy, Ginette, *Synthèse sur "Women in Love"*, by Editions du Temps (in French)
- Pichardie, Jean-Paul, and Philippe Romanski, eds. *A Black and White Kaleidoscope Tossed at Random: Essays on D. H. Lawrence's "Women in Love"*, by the Université de Rouen ■



LAWRENCE *in Korea*

Chong-wha Chung has translated *Movements in European History* into Korean, a project that took four years to complete. The work has now been published by Minum Sa as a volume of 450 pages with lots of illustrations and a handsome format. His translation is based on the

Oxford University Press version of the work. He has introduced the translation with a long essay on the book's history and contents and Lawrence's view of history and man ■



Lawrentians at the Table - Photographs from MLA in New Orleans

Call for Donors—The Weston Gallery

The D. H. Lawrence Pavilion at the University of Nottingham is home to the Weston Gallery, a highly specified gallery used to present a program of archival exhibitions and currently displaying Lawrence items from the University's own holdings in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections. The Gallery has featured a public exhibition of the Lawrence material bequeathed to the University by George Lazarus and an exhibit on Lawrence's development as

a writer during his student days in Nottingham.

The University is seeking donor for individual exhibition cases within the Weston Gallery. In return for donor support of these cases, the University is able to offer naming opportunities for individuals, companies, or their nominees.

The temperature and humidity-controlled exhibition cases needed by the Weston Gallery are as follows:

- Desk style, £8,000 (3 needed)
- Center column case, £25,000 (gallery showpiece)
- Tall unit, £3,000
- Desk style, £3500 (reconditioned case)

For further information, please contact Andrew Wright at the Development Office, University of Nottingham. Telephone: 0115 951 3664. Fax: 0115 951 3691. E-mail: andrew.wright@nottingham.ac.uk. ■



Lawrence in the Media

On Howard's recent movie version of the life of the Nobel laureate John Nash, the popular *A Beautiful Mind*, features an Englishman named Charles Herman, supposedly Nash's grad school roommate and a close friend. Herman, who has an important role in the movie, later becomes an English professor specializing in D. H. Lawrence and as a

grad student makes several references to his chosen author. In Sylvia Nasar's original biography of Nash, from which the movie version was taken, the Lawrence connection apparently doesn't appear, however. One wonders what in particular about Lawrence attracted the screenwriters in recreating this character for the movie! ■



Photographs by Greta Stewart

Collectors' Corner

Simon Finch Rare Books has received the D. H. Lawrence collection of John Martin, publisher of the Black Sparrow Press. Martin took four decades to put this collection together and adhered to the strictest standards of condition, upgrading whenever a better copy came along. The collection is extensive, and the catalog includes historical background on each book as well as a detailed description. In addition to first editions, it contains manuscripts and autograph material, as well as personal association copies, photographs, and an original Lawrence painting. Contact Natalie Galustian:

natalie@simonfinch.com. Fax: 44 207 243 2134.

Bernard Shapero Rare Books has Lawrence items currently in stock, including first editions of *Sons and Lovers*, *The Escaped Cock*, and *The Virgin and the Gypsy*. Also available are Ada Lawrence and Stuart Gelder's *Young Lorenzo* and a first edition of Lawrence's *Last Poems*. Contact Ilka R. Rauch: ilka@shapero.com. Fax: 020 7229 7860.

John Wilson Manuscripts has an autograph poem entitled "Eden," an earlier version of "Elysium." It can be viewed at: manuscripts.co.uk/stock/6251.htm. ■

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: green@umpi.maine.edu

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