
The D. H. Lawrence Society Of North America Newsletter

Volume 36, Spring 2007



From our President Betsy Fox

Greetings to you all, fellow Lawrentians. It may seem little more than sleight-of-name that puts me in the position of addressing you today. Another Betsy, Elizabeth Sargent, was formally nominated and became President-Elect of the Society in 2006, but she had to withdraw. I hope we will see and hear her often. I will do my best to convince you that one Betsy can, with help, prove almost comparable to another.

Let me begin by acknowledging all the work that your previous President Eleanor Green has done, and continues to do, for Lawrence studies by recounting her most recent accomplishments. By dint of her efforts, the Society passed new By-laws which detail the duties and responsibilities of the officers and Executive Committee members. They specify that the President serve as liaison to the Modern Language Association and other professional organizations, represent the

Society to the public, and provide leadership.

Eleanor's work on the By-Laws comes on top of her able guidance, her thoughtful written and spoken addresses to us, and her hospitable presence at Lawrence conferences and MLA meetings. Such leadership makes all the more valuable the new stipulation that the Past President will solicit nominations, conduct elections, and assist the Executive Committee.

The new By-Laws clarify the Secretary's duties in handling the minutes and reporting on the Society's panels at MLA; the Secretary is also charged with maintaining an archive. We are fortunate that Julie Newmark continues in this position.

As Membership Treasurer, Lou Greiff keeps the Society in the black and in possession of the valuable Directories he publishes every two years. A new By-Law specifies that the Membership Treasurer provide a financial statement upon request of the Executive Committee and provide

mailing label data for the Newsletter. We are grateful for Lou's fine work.

Nancy Paxton has been elected as the Newsletter Editor; she will solicit and collect information in order to publish the newsletter at least twice yearly. The new By-Laws re-focus the editor's responsibilities on the newsletter.

Finally, I am happy to welcome Jill Franks as President-Elect. We will work with the Executive Committee to keep the Society informed and active.

We especially want to bring in new and younger members. I know I preach to the choir in suggesting that you encourage the interest of students, young faculty, and independent scholars; I go further to ask for ideas about "growing" the Society. If you can give gifts of membership, please do.

I look forward to getting to know you and your concerns.

Betsy (Elizabeth) Fox,
President of DHLNSA

Newsletter of the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America, vol. 36, Spring 2007

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Regular: \$25.00 per year

**From the Editor
Nancy L. Paxton**

Shortly after I began to collect information for the Fall 2006 DHLSNA Newsletter, a friend told me a provocative story about her first experience reading a D. H. Lawrence novel. She explained that she grew up in Philadelphia and first read *Lady Chatterley's Lover* when she was around fourteen. She described with still defiant delight how she smuggled her grandmother's copy of the novel home with her, hiding it under her shirt, and said she could not stop reading until she had finished it. She said the novel changed her life, her understanding of sexuality,

and her sense of her power as a woman. As she told the story, I silently calculated this handsome woman's age and realized that she probably read the novel when it was still banned in the United States. I wondered whether she read an expurgated copy or a contraband copy of the novel. I speculated about how her grandmother may have obtained her copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and what she might have said about it.

I wondered, too, how many other stories like hers there must be, and what these stories reveal about the power of Lawrence's writing as well as its place in the history of the often futile efforts to censor serious literature in the United States and elsewhere. It is too late to recover the grandmother's side of this story, but it is not too late to gather other stories like it, stories about reading Lawrence's novels when they were banned.

I echo Betsy Fox in encouraging you to find new ways to expand our membership. If the DHLSNA is to survive and flourish, we need to invite people like my friend as well as our colleagues and students to join us and share their stories.

In the coming months, I invite you to send me brief reflections about your first experience of reading Lawrence's fiction or poetry. Did you read his writing when it was legally banned or otherwise restricted, or more recently, and what difference that made to you?

Finally, I want to thank the English Department and the College of Arts and Letters at Northern Arizona University

for their encouragement and support in producing this newsletter.

DHLSNA elects New Officers

The mail-in ballots have been counted. The newly elected officers are listed in the facing column. We also congratulate the new members of the Executive Committee:

Carl Behm, Towson University

Bruce Clarke, Texas Tech University

Langsdon Elsbree, Claremont McKenna College

Gregory Tague, St. Francis College

Hugh Witemeyer, University of New Mexico

Special Thanks to Eleanor Green

Let me speak for us all in sincerely and heartily thanking Eleanor Green for her dedication to and hard work for the Society; she served for years as Newsletter Editor before becoming President-Elect and President. She has moved to even greater responsibilities as Editor of the *D.H. Lawrence Review*. Look for her at the Eleventh International D. H. Lawrence Conference at Eastwood in August, and send her your articles.

Betsy (Elizabeth) Fox,
President of DHLSNA

DHL Conference in England 16-21 Aug. 2007

We hope to see many of our members at the upcoming "D. H. Lawrence: Return to Eastwood" conference. The confirmed speakers include Claire Colebrook, David Ellis, Sandra Gilbert, Blake Morrison, Christopher Pollnitz, Keith Sagar, John Worthen, and Peter Preston. For details and updates about other speakers on the program, please see the conference website.

Conference participants will be offered an exclusive tour of Lawrence's birthplace. They are also invited to special exhibits at the University of Nottingham's D. H. Lawrence Pavilion, including a display of materials drawn from the University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections, curated by Keith Cushman.

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, registration, and bookings for accommodations, visit the conference website: www.dh-lawrence.org.uk

Phoenix Rising: The D. H. Lawrence Review

Eleanor Green has taken up the editorship of the *D. H. Lawrence Review* and expects to have Vol. 31.3 and Vol. 32 out this year. She encourages Lawrence scholars to submit their articles for Vol 33.



Lawrence at the MLA 2006

By Eleanor Green

The DHLSNA presented its usual two panels at the MLA in Philadelphia this past December. "D. H. Lawrence and the Body," began with Gregory Tague, Associate Professor of English at St. Francis College, speaking on "Ursula's Stone and Connie's Body." He drew on Bakhtin and Merleau-Ponty to explore how Ursula in *The Rainbow* and Connie in *Lady Chatterley's Lover* became symbolic types for Lawrence, connected with aspects of the natural world and belonging to both the temporal and that which lies beyond.

Daniel Darvay, currently a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, spoke on "Electric Blood: Gothic Bodies in *Women in Love*," linking Lawrence's fascination with electricity to the reconstruction of the physical body in romantic Gothic fiction. Lawrence's interest in electricity and in Gothic vampirism provided him the

means to represent inhuman psychic forces in human nature. The third panelist, Joyce Wexler, Professor of English at Loyola University in Chicago, addressed the question, "Why Isn't Lady Chatterley Beautiful?" She argued that Lawrence's depiction of Connie's ordinary appearance provided him with a means of separating sexual attractiveness from physical beauty. Connie did not fit the New Woman ideals in her appearance any more than she met them in other areas, but, as Connie and Mellors mature, they both become beautiful to each other in ways that transcend physical attractiveness.

The second panel, "D. H. Lawrence and His Contemporaries," featured only two papers since the third speaker was unable to attend. Earl Ingersoll of SUNY at Brockport in his paper, "D. H. Lawrence in Bloomsbury: E. M. Forster," described a friendship that continued from 1915 to Lawrence's death, despite Lawrence's fierce attacks on Bloomsbury and homoeroticism. He noted that both writers exhibited homosexual tendencies as young men, and he argued that the bathing scene in *The White Peacock* may have had its origin in *A Room with a View*. Mark Wollaeger of Vanderbilt University in "D. H. Lawrence and British Modernism" demonstrated that Lawrence was both part of Modernism and outside of it. His fascination with modern technology, illustrated in part by his comical love-hate relationship with the typewriter that Amy Lowell had given him, puts him outside mainstream Modernism. Modernism's separation of art from life was,

of course, anathema to Lawrence, and he shared Walter Lippman's criticism of the pseudo-environment of contemporary media, in which film and photographs shape our perceptions of reality rather than us experiencing the world directly. But Lawrence was also attracted to art objects that express the darkness in Gerald that Rupert so deeply desires, and after Gerald's death, he converts his body into a type of art object.

The DHLSNA dinner at McCormick and Schmicks, while small, was, as always, lively and fun, with good food and stimulating conversation.

The DHLSNA will sponsor two panels at the MLA in Chicago in December 2007; one on Lawrence and Film, and the other on Fascism, Eugenics, and D. L. Lawrence.

Call for Nominations for New Officers

The DHLSNA will hold elections in fall 2007 for the offices of Membership Treasurer, Secretary, and three Executive Committee members.

Lou Greiff, who has done amazing work in maintaining the membership roll, putting out a Directory, and keeping track of the Society's finances, now wishes to step down. Please give some thought to becoming part of the DHLSNA leadership by putting yourself forward to fill this essential position. Or, if you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please let me know. We will also be electing the Secretary, a position now filled by Julie Newmark.

In addition, three members of the Executive Committee elected earlier this year will be on the ballot again in the fall in order to bring the election cycle back into order according to the new by-laws. These are Bruce Clarke, Langsdon Elsbree, and Gregory Tague. I encourage other nominations or self-nominations. As a number of members have requested, we will include short biographical summaries with the ballot.

Send nominations to Eleanor Green, Past-President, at ElenGre7@aol.com.

Become a Friend of D. H. Lawrence

By Hugh Wittemeyer

The Friends of D. H. Lawrence is a not-for-profit educational and cultural organization dedicated to preserving and fostering the rich heritage of creativity left by D. H. and Frieda Lawrence, including the preservation and renovation of the D. H. Lawrence Ranch north of Taos, New Mexico. You are cordially invited to become a member of the Friends and a sponsor of its activities.

Annual memberships are available in the following categories: Student, \$10; Individual, \$20; and Family, \$30. Members will receive a semi-annual newsletter, invitations to meetings and special events, and discounts on some admissions and merchandise. In addition, sponsors will be acknowledged at the following levels: Phoenix Gold, \$1000; Phoenix Silver, \$500; and Phoenix Bronze, \$250. Please send your contribution, along with your name and

address, to Friends of D. H. Lawrence, P. O. Box 796, Taos, NM 87571, USA. Or visit the Friends' website for other payment options and gifts, www.friendsofdhlawrence.org.

The Friends are planning a picnic visit to the Lawrence Ranch on Sunday, May 19, 2007. For further information on this event or on memberships, e-mail dhlfriends@msn.com.

News from France

On 29-31 March, 2007, the University of Paris X (Nanterre) hosted the International D. H. Lawrence Conference: Singular or Plural? Ginette Roy reported that the conference attracted 30 speakers from twelve different countries, including Lawrence scholars not only from France, the U.K., and the U. S., but also from as far away as Russia, Japan, Slovenia, and Belarus. By all accounts the conference was a great success. For details about the work of the Research Center of the University of Paris, see <http://anglais.u-paris10.fr>.

French Film Wins Awards

Pascale Ferran's film, "Lady Chatterley," based on the second version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was crowned best picture at the French Cesar Awards. It also won Best Actress for Marina Hands, Best Cinematography, Best Adaptation, and Best Costumes. Pascale Ferran's film was also awarded the prestigious Louis-Delluc Prize, granted to the best French film of the year

In Memoriam

Joseph Bruce Stovel died suddenly on January 20, 2007. He will be much missed and deeply mourned by his loving wife of forty-two years Nora Foster Stovel, his son Grant Foster Stovel, his daughter Laura Elizabeth Stovel and their families. Bruce was well known to many of the members of the DHLSNA who mourn his passing and extend their sympathy to Nora and her family. For a more detailed account of his distinguished career, see www.jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol27no1/stovel_memoriam.html.

We also sadly note the passing of another of our members, **John L. Grover**, an independent scholar based in New York City, who died this past year.

Book Notes: New Scholarship on Lawrence

Lynn Cline, *Literary Pilgrims: The Santa Fe and Taos Writers' Colonies, 1917-1950* (Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2007), includes discussions of Lawrence, Mabel Dodge Luhan, Mary Austin, and others.

Jill Franks' recent book, *Islands and the Modernists: The Allure of Isolation in Art, Literature and Science* (Jefferson: McFarland & Company, 2006), includes a chapter that considers Lawrence's fascination with the idea of Utopian community, and the largely-failed attempts to create Rananim with Bertrand Russell, John Middleton Murray, Katherine Mansfield, Dorothy Brett, and, of course, Frieda.

Laura Frost in "The Romance of the Cliché: E. M. Hull, D. H. Lawrence, and Interwar Erotic Fiction," in Douglas Mao and Rebecca Walkowitz, eds. *Bad Modernisms* (Durham: Duke U P, 2007), reconsiders Lawrence's famous comments about Rudolph Valentino in relation to Hull's *The Shiek* and other popular romances of the period.

Carl Krockel has just published *D. H. Lawrence and Germany: The Politics of Influence* (Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi, 2007).

Christa Jansohn and Dieter Mehl, eds. *The Reception of D. H. Lawrence in Europe* (London: Continuum, 2007), includes contributions from sixteen European scholars.

Eunyoung Oh, *D. H. Lawrence's Border Crossing: Colonialism in his Travel Writings and 'Leadership' Novels* (New York: Routledge, 2007), reassesses Lawrence's *The Lost Girl*, *Aaron's Rod*, *Kangaroo*, *The Plumed Serpent*, and other texts in the context of travel writing by Lawrence and other writers.

Deborah Raschke in *Modernism, Metaphysics, and Sexuality* (Selinsgrove, Pa.: Susquehanna U P, 2006), explores how modernism rethinks both truth and gender. She considers works by Conrad, Forster, Lawrence, and Woolf, drawing on Luce Irigaray's critique of Western metaphysics.

Patricia Rae, ed. *Modernism and Mourning*, (Cranbury, N.J.: Bucknell UP, 2007), includes Marlene A. Briggs' "D. H. Lawrence, Collective Mourning, and the Cultural Reconstruction after World War I," as well as essays on Woolf, H.D., Elizabeth Bowen, and other modernists, some of whom repudiated Freud's injunction for mourners to work through their grief.

David Seelow is author of the entry on D. H. Lawrence for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*, ed. David Kasten, 5 vols. (London: Oxford U P, 2006).

Youngjoo Son, *Here and Now: the Politics of Social Space in D. H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf* (London: Routledge, 2006), includes discussions of Lawrence's *Kangaroo*, *The Virgin and the Gipsy*, Lawrence's essays on psychoanalysis, and selected poetry.

Francois du Sorbier has just published a translation of *The Lost Girl: La fille perdue* (Paris: Fayard, 2007).

We also note the publication of *Etudes Lawrenciennes*, no. 34, "Modernity and the Sacred," and *Etudes Lawrenciennes* no. 35, "D.H.Lawrence and the Bible." Orders and subscriptions may be sent to: - PUBLIDIX - publidix@u-paris10.fr



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News from our Members:

LaVerne Harrell Clark and L. D. Clark have been honored recently at a reading and recognition ceremony at Texas State University in San Marcos. The event was held in the Southwestern Writers Collection at the Main Library to recognize the life-time accomplishments of both authors, and included a reading from L. D.'s upcoming *Pilgrim's Progress Redux and Other Stories*. They announced their plans to establish a university endowment to fund a literary prize and a writer-in-residence program in their names. For details, see L.D.'s and LaVerne's websites, www.ldclark.net and www.artisticnetwork.net/artist/349.

News from Australia

We are happy to recognize the arrival of the Nov. 2006 edition (vol. 14, no. 1) of *Ranamin: The Journal of the D. H. L. Lawrence Society of Australia*. This attractive publication includes Peter Coleman's moving summary of his career-long engagement with D. H. Lawrence's novels and his personal observations about the history of the suppression of Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in Australia. The volume also includes stimulating essays by Marylyn Valentine on links between *Kangaroo* and Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and by Sandra Jobson on parallels between the experimental practices of Dada artists and Lawrence's composition of *Kangaroo*. It also features another chapter in the spirited exchange between Joseph Davis, who reports new evidence about Jacob Carlos Jones who traveled on the *Osterley* with the Lawrences on the first leg of his journey to Australia, and Robert Darroch, who responds by asking for more information about the original for Jaz, the character in *Kangaroo* that he considers to be the key figure in determining Lawrence's understanding and representation of Australian politics in this novel.