

T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY

NEWS & NOTES

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ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING: FIRST CALL FOR SEPTEMBER PAPERS

The fourteenth annual meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society begins on Friday September 24 and continues through Sunday September 26. Once again most of the activities will take place at the Drury Inn at Union Station in St. Louis (314-231-3900). At this time the Board is issuing a first call for papers, the proposals for which should be sent by June 1 to Vinni Marie D'Ambrosio, 11 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003. Papers should not have been published previously and should take no more than 20 minutes to read. The Board also welcomes recommendations for the Memorial Lecturer, for session topics, and for other activities at the annual meeting.

The September 1992 meeting featured Denis Donoghue's Memorial Lecture, "The American T.S. Eliot"; a ragtime performance including "The Shakespearean Rag"—the 1912 hit immortalized in *The Waste Land*—and Trebor Jay Tichenor's "The T.S. Eliot Society Rag," a work commissioned by the Society; an excursion to the Cohokia Mounds, the site of the largest population center in North America a thousand years ago; David Huisman's slide presentation of places associated with *Four Quartets*; and papers by various members of the Society—Grover Smith, "The Provenance of the Rattling Bones in *The Waste Land* (lines 185-6);" Mark Jeffrey, "Parallel Syntax: Samuel Johnson's Prose and T.S. Eliot's"; Benjamin G. Lockerd, Jr., "Protozoic Slime: Eliot's Attack on Darwinism"; Lee Oser, "Ethics and the Construction of Value in *The Waste Land*"; and Nancy Hargrove, "*The Waste Land* as a Surrealist Poem." The Conference also included an Open Forum of Society Members on Friday evening, a reception at the home of Anthony and Melanie Fathman on Saturday evening, and Rev. Earl K. Holt III's annual address at the First Unitarian Church on Sunday morning.

Further information about the 1993 annual meeting will appear in the spring and summer issues of *News and Notes*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PHELAN ELECTED HISTORIAN; TWO POSITIONS VACANT

At the annual Board meeting in September Virginia Phelan was elected Historian of the Society. Dr. Phelan, who teaches at Princeton University, is the author of *Two Ways of Life and Death: Alcestis and The Cocktail Party* (1990) and other pieces on Eliot. She has been an active participant in the Society and was a member of the Board at the time of her election as Historian. According to Society by-laws, the responsibilities of the Historian are to preserve all documents related to Society activities, to arrange for photography on all official occasions, and to write or

up-date the history of the Society for publication on special occasions.

As a result of Virginia Phelan's election as Historian and the lamented death of E. Philip Bollier, there are now two vacancies on the Board of Directors. The terms for both positions will begin on June 1, 1993 and last for three years. Nominations should be sent to Grover Smith, Supervisor of Elections, 215 W. Woodridge Dr., Durham, NC 27707, and arrive no later than April 2, 1993. It requires nominations from at least five members of the Society for an individual to appear on the ballot, which will appear in the spring issue of *News and Notes*.

The Board of Directors currently consists of the following members:

Vinni Marie D'Ambrosio, *President and Chair*
Sanford Schwartz, *Vice-President*
Linda Wyman, *Treasurer*
Mildred M. Boaz, *Secretary*
Virginia Phelan, *Historian*
Grover Smith, *Supervisor of Elections*
Earl K. Holt III (permanent)
Melanie P. Fathman (to 12/94)
Ann P. Brady (to 6/95)
Lois Cuddy (to 6/95)

SOCIETY PEOPLE

Earlier this year the Society mourned the deaths of two of its members: William Arrowsmith, of Boston University, who was writing a book on Eliot at the time of his death; and Leslie Konnyu, author, editor, and translator, who founded the T.S. Eliot Society in 1981. We must now sadly report the death of two other members of the society: E. Philip Bollier and Mignon Hoover Eliot.

Mr. Bollier, a professor of English at Tulane University, was an active member of the Society and had just been elected to its Board at the time of his death. He will be remembered by Society members for his gracious presence at its gatherings and for a series of major articles on Eliot, a list of which will appear in a subsequent issue of *News and Notes*.

Mignon Eliot, who died soon after her 93rd birthday, worked for many years as a Research Assistant, editor, and translator at the Child Research Center at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She was the widow of Theodore Sessinghaus Eliot (d. 1976), who was a cousin, once removed, of T.S. Eliot.

T.S. ELIOT SOCIETY SESSION AT ALA CONFERENCE

The T.S. Eliot Society will participate in the annual conference of the American Literature Association, which will take place at the Stouffer Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore on May 28-30, 1993. The ALA is a coalition of approximately thirty-five American author societies and has been sponsoring a conference annually since 1990. The Eliot session will be chaired by Vinni Marie D'Ambrosio, and includes the following presentations: John Zubizarreta (Columbia College, SC), "T.S. Eliot and Gabriela Mistral: The Language of Desire and Death in *The Waste Land* and *Desolacion*"; Benjamin G. Lockerd, Jr. (Grand Valley State University), "Fractured Atoms: Eliot's Critique of Atomism in *Gerontion*"; and Grover Smith (Duke University), "Trivia and Transformation: Three Notes on Eliot's Poetic Art."

Members of the T.S. Eliot Society are automatically members of ALA and are entitled to attend its conferences. The registration fee this year is \$35 (\$10 for retired persons, independent scholars, and graduate students), and should be sent to ALA, c/o Alfred Bendixen, Executive Director, California State University, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032. For reservations (\$70 single, \$80 double) call the Stouffer Harborplace Hotel (410-547-1200) in Baltimore. Conference sessions will begin on Friday May 28 at 9 a.m., and closing festivities will take place in early evening on Sunday May 30.

DISSERTATIONS ON ELIOT

The following is a list of doctoral theses devoted partially or entirely to Eliot for the year 1989. The list was produced through a computerized search; any omissions are unintentional. A list of 1991 dissertations was published in the Spring 1992 issue of *News & Notes*, and a 1990 list appeared in the Summer 1992 issue. Dissertations published in other recent years, along with any additions to the 1989-91 lists, will appear in subsequent numbers of the newsletter.

Richard Joseph Badenhausen, Jr., *The Double Voices of T. S. Eliot: Divisions in Dramatic Theory and Practice* (U. of Michigan, 1989) DAI 50/08A, p. 2492.

Gordon Burns Cooper, *Mysterious Music: Rhythm in Free Verse* (U. of Texas at Austin, 1989) DAI 50/12A, p. 3945.

Elizabeth D. Daumer, *A Literary Mother and a Literary Son: Charlotte Eliot and T. S. Eliot* (Indiana U., 1989) DAI 50/07A, p. 2061.

Samir Dayal, *T. S. Eliot's Theory of Negative Subjectivity* (U. of Wisconsin at Madison, 1989) DAI 50/09A, p. 2905.

Gregory Thomas Dime, *The Difference Between "Strong Lines" and "Metaphysical" Poetry* (Columbia U., 1989) DAI 50/10A, p. 3234.

Elizabeth Lee Gregory, *Quotation and Modern American Poetry: Eliot, Williams and Moore* (Yale U., 1989) DAI 50/12A, p. 3951.

Colleen Ruth Lamos, *Going Astray: Gender as Errancy in Modern Literature* (U. of Pennsylvania, 1989) DAI 51/05A, p. 1608.

Juan Enrique Leon, *A Literary History of Eugenic Terror in England and America* (Harvard U., 1989) DAI 50/12A, p. 3962.

Randy Malamud, *The Language of Modernism* (Columbia U., 1989) DAI 50/10A, p. 3237.

Elizabeth Muther, *Polemics and 'Vers Libre': T. S. Eliot's Radical Stylistics* (Berkeley, 1989) DAI 51/05A, p. 1614.

Laura Ruth Severin, *The Significance of Gender: Male Patterns of Understanding in T. S. Eliot's Work* (Indiana U., 1989) DAI 50/12A, p. 395

POSSUMFEST '92 'TWIXT ERNEST AND GAME OR THE ANNUAL MEETING, AS ORIGINALLY TOLD TO GINNY OF MONMOUTH (NJ), SOCIETY CHRONICLER, & AUGMENTED BY VARIOUS HANDS

The gathering at Drury Inn was none too dreary, as pilgrims to the yearly Possumfest found that author societies need not be dry as dust. It started Friday evening with Grover Smith prickling eager ears with rattling bones from *The Waste Land* (lines 185-6), and Mark Jeffreys ascending to the periodic elegance of Samuel Johnson, thus fashioning a foundation for the high-spirited assembly which ensued. The uplifted membership then dispersed into the St. Louis night [whence Monmouth's chronicle lapses into silence].

On Saturday morning, the Society found itself plumbing the depths and scaling the heights, as Benjamin Lockerd recounted Possum's descent into the primal ooze, while Lee Oser traced his rebound upward to the trembling point where trousered ape turns into troubled spirit. Then Larry Melton took the stage, and in roaring cadences brought forth a ragtime trio that delighted crowds with various and sundry tunes from "The Shakespearian Rag" (1912) to T.J. Tichenor's "T.S. Eliot Society Rag" (1992), which there found its world premiere. The morning's merriment was then brought to full flower by the acuity and wit of Mr. Denis Donoghue, whose words found much favor among the enraptured guests.

On Saturday afternoon, some visitants made their way to ancient shrines at Cohokia, while others marveled before Tiffany windows at the St. Louis Public Library. Nearing twilight the throng assembled at First Unitarian Church to witness David Huisman's pilgrimage through the lands of *Four Quartets*. Transported by this vision the group proceeded to a wondrous feast at the estate of Melanie and Tony Fathman, where many marvels occurred and Ann Brady was elected person-most-likely-to-direct-the-bouncing-ball for the Society songfest.

Sunday morning proved no mere hangover, as Rev. Earl Holt III awaked the congregation to its inmost heritage, which proved a useful thing when Nancy Hargrove, likening *The Waste Land* to surrealist paintings of the time, depicted graphically what happens if that heritage is lost. This final sobering note recalled the rattling bones of Friday night, and the membership, knowing that the Possumfest had come full circle, took hearty leave of one another and went their separate ways, united in cheerful memory and hope of future fests.

... And what you thought you came for
Is only a shell, a husk of meaning
From which the purpose breaks only when it is fulfilled
If at all. Either you had no purpose
Or the purpose is beyond the end you figured
And is altered in fulfillment.

FATHMAN BENEFACTORS

At its annual meeting in September, the T.S. Eliot Society received a gift of \$5000 from Dr. Anthony and Melanie Fathman, longtime Society members and hosts of its annual banquet, to launch an endowment that would support Society functions and other activities related to Eliot's legacy. The Board of Directors will be considering uses for the new endowment, and strategies for building upon it.

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS ON ELIOT

The following is a list of books and monographs devoted partially or entirely to Eliot for the year 1989. The list was produced through a computerized search; any omissions are unintentional. Lists of monographs published in other recent years, along with any additions to the 1989 list, will appear in subsequent issues of *News & Notes*.

Keith Alldritt. *Modernism in the Second World War: The Later Poetry of Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Basil Bunting, and Hugh MacDiarmid*. New York: Peter D. Lang.

Vinnie Marie D'Ambrosio. *Eliot Possessed: T. S. Eliot and Fitzgerald's Rubaiyat*. New York: New York UP.

Jewel Spears Brooker. *Reading The Waste Land: Modernism and the Limits of Interpretation*. Amherst, Massachusetts: U. of Massachusetts Press.

David B. Dickens. *Negative Spring: Crisis Imagery in the Works of Brentano, Lenau, Rilke, and T. S. Eliot*. New York: Peter D. Lang.

James Goldwasser. *T. S. Eliot*. Glenn Horowitz Bookseller.

Mohammad Hanief. *The Theory and Practice of Criticism in T. S. Eliot*. Calcutta, India: Writer's Workshop.

Akhileshwar Jha. *The Poetry of T. S. Eliot: An X-Ray of the Modern World*. Delhi: Chanakya Publications.

George Kazacoff. *Dangerous Theatre. The Federal Theatre Project as a Forum for New Plays*. New York: Peter D. Lang.

Glenda Leeming. *Poetic Drama*. Houndsmills: Macmillan.

Dominic Manganiello. *T. S. Eliot and Dante*. Houndsmills: Macmillan.

Mohamed Mansouri. *T. S. Eliot and the Raid on the Inarticulate*. Publications de la Faculté des Lettres de Manoub.

Sudhakar Marathe. *T. S. Eliot's Shakespeare Criticism: A Perfect Form of Development*. Delhi: B. R. Publications.

John T. Mayer. *T. S. Eliot's Silent Voice*. New York: Oxford UP.

Gareth Reeves. *T. S. Eliot: A Virgilian Poet*. Houndsmills: Macmillan.

Eric Sigg. *The American T. S. Eliot: A Study of the Early Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Parwati Singh. *Character and Symbol in the Plays of T. S. Eliot*. Delhi: Capital Publishing House.

Erik Michael Svarny. *"The Men of 1914": T. S. Eliot and Early Modernism*. Open University Press.

T. Takacs. *T. S. Eliot and the Language of Poetry*. Publication of Akademiai Kiado, Hungary.

S. K. Tikoo. *The Mystery in the Plays of T. S. Eliot*. New York: Advent Books.

MEMBERS OF THE T.S. ELIOT SOCIETY, 1993

In this list of current members of the Society, an asterisk indicates that dues for 1993 have been paid. If no asterisk appears before your name, please send a check to Linda Wyman, Treasurer, 613-5 Woodlander, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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ON DUES

The date for payment of 1993 dues was November 1, 1992. Please look at the list of Society members on page 3 of this issue and note whether your 1993 dues have been paid. If no asterisk appears before your name, kindly send a check, or any queries concerning dues, to Linda Wyman, Treasurer, 613-5 Woodlander, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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