

# T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Number 38

Summer 1999

Published by the T. S. Eliot Society (incorporated in the State of Missouri as a literary non-profit organization), 5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108

### FORWARD TO GLOUCESTER: A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The annual meeting in Gloucester will be an event unique in the life of the Society and the lives of its members. I hope that the location will enable many persons to attend who have not been able to travel to St. Louis. I already know that members from Italy, Korea, Canada, Sweden, and India plan to attend.

David Huisman has planned events that will enable us to make full, enjoyable, and productive use of our time in Gloucester. Please thank him in every way that you can—few persons have ever given as much to the Society as he has given in preparing for this meeting. He has had the cooperation of a number of persons in Gloucester, particularly David Ellis and David McArdle, to whom we shall want to express our gratitude. When he asked Jerry Weist and Dana Hawkes, owners of the Eliot family's former home in Gloucester, if members of the Society might stand in their yard and take pictures, those remarkably hospitable persons invited us to a reception, asking only that we share with them the pictures that we take!

That Helen Vendler will give the Memorial Lecture is a source of great pride and satisfaction to me personally; she and her work have enlightened and inspired me for more than twenty-five years. Distinguished and stimulating critics will join her on the program.

One of the three declared goals that I had for my term of office was to institutionalize the reading of Eliot's work aloud at our annual meetings. Please choose passages that we cannot hear often enough. Choose passages that we hear too seldom. Make us hear all of them anew.

So much that is good awaits us in Gloucester. Please come. Dare I ask you to fare forward? I think I shall.

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### 20TH MEMORIAL LECTURER: HELEN VENDLER

From Shakespeare's music to the blue guitar of Stevens, and from the mature poetry of Keats's youth to Clappitt's excited lines written in later life—the list barely touches the range of writing in the English language Helen Vendler has helped us read, enjoy, and contemplate. This remark is, I hope, more than merely a glib way of expressing the serious sense of gratitude many readers feel towards this year's Memorial Lecturer. The A. Kingsley Porter University Professor of English at Harvard will speak to a receptive and eager audience in Gloucester on the topic, "Historical Contexts: Available Discourses."—SB

### CONFERENCE UPDATE

As the Program of Events in this issue reveals, the Society will have a full schedule of activities in Gloucester. In addition to events detailed in previous issues, the following will be sponsored by the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library, with which the Society is cooperating, in its "T. S. Eliot and Gloucester: A Celebration of the Poet and a Place." A panel discussion with presentations by Society members, and an overview of Gloucester society, physical surroundings, and the art and culture of the city by Gloucester experts. Among the panelists will be Joseph Garland, author of *Eastern Point, Down to the Sea: The Fishing Schooners of Gloucester*, and *Lone Voyager*, a biography of legendary fisherman and solo transatlantic sailor Howard Blackburn; Prudence Fish, an expert on the architecture and urban geography of Gloucester at the turn of the century; and Andrew Gray, raconteur from Eastern Point, whose grandmother was a close acquaintance of Charlotte Eliot.

A reception at the Sawyer Free Library featuring an Eliot exhibit, including letters to his cousins, the Lamb sisters of Boston from a little-known collection at the Boston Athenaeum, as well as photographs, and other memorabilia.

"A Tribute to Eliot: Performance of Dance, Music, and the Spoken Word," celebrating Gloucester and the Eliot family's experience there, created by Nan Webber, director of Theater in the Pines, and Carl Thompson, of Dancers Courageous.

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### GETTING TO GLOUCESTER

Because there is no scheduled bus or limousine service from Logan Airport to Gloucester, conference organizers looked into the possibility of renting a van and providing such a service to members. But this appears to be unfeasible: the cost of renting a van large enough for our anticipated needs is prohibitive. Moreover, the tightest schedule the van could maintain would still result in significant delays, especially on Sunday afternoon at the end of the conference. Therefore, members flying to Boston are advised to rent cars and drive themselves to Gloucester and back. (Directions and maps will be mailed to drivers and others upon request.)

What we will do to help keep expenses down is to put members in touch with others with travel schedules similar to theirs so they may share expenses. To receive such assistance, convey the following information to Ben Lockerd, who will contact you when he finds someone with compatible arrival and departure times: 1) name; 2) phone number(s); 3) e-mail address; 4) airline and flight numbers (arriving and departing); 5)

scheduled arrival and departure dates and times. The sooner you apprise Ben of your plans, the sooner he can match you with other members. At the latest, your information should reach him by September 1 to leave time for coordination with other members and renting a car. (You may wish to reserve a car even before you are matched up; in case both have rented cars, one may cancel.)

To participate and request maps, contact Ben Lockerd at:  
857 Giddings SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
E-mail address: [lockerdb@gvsu.edu](mailto:lockerdb@gvsu.edu)  
Office phone: (616) 895-3575 Home phone: (616) 247-6916

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## A SPECIAL REQUEST

Mr. Jerry Weist and Ms. Dana Hawkes, new owners of "The Downs," the Eliots' house in Gloucester, are seeking copies of T. S. Eliot's works and related materials for their Eliot library. Members who have copies they may wish to sell can contact them at (978) 283-1419 in Gloucester, or at Mr. Weist's office at Southeby's in New York at (212) 606-7862, or write them at 18 Edgemoor Road, Gloucester, MA 01930. Alternatively, they may wish to bring copies to Gloucester in September.

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## DRY SALVAGES BOAT TOUR

"On a halcyon day," the conference will reach its climax on Sunday morning with a boat tour of Cape Ann and its seamark for Eliotists, the Dry Salvages. Capt. Paul, pilot of the *Privateer*, a whale watch boat with enclosed cabin, promises a 75% chance of navigable weather in late September. Members should prepare for both early morning breezes and later sun (sweater, hat, sunscreen), and bring camera and extra film. An on-board continental breakfast is included in the fare, and a galley offering light meals and beverages is available. In the event that a "sudden fury" forces cancellation, our options include an "Eliot Aloud" session (bring texts) at the Ocean View Inn, or a road trip to Rockport to see the Dry Salvages from shore. Note: Since the tour concludes after checkout time at the Inn, we will need to vacate our rooms before 8:30 a.m.; luggage storage will be available.

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## LITERARY GLOUCESTER AND CAPE ANN

Like the inhabitants of Eliot's poetical aviary, "Cape Ann," the writers who provided the best known parts of the Gloucester literary heritage were essentially migratory, the Cape's Eastern Point section having been their summer habitat. Most of that activity began around the mid-1800s when Cape Ann and environs became a vacation destination for Eastern city dwellers and, eventually, for families from the mid-west. The Eliots built their Cape Ann cottage in 1898.

Among the first of these writers was Elizabeth Stuart Phelps who in 1868 ensconced herself in a house on Eastern Point that she called "Old Maids' Paradise" (Melville, n.b.). Among her visitors, according to her autobiography, *Chapters From a Life* (Houghton Mifflin, 1896), were Oliver Wendell Holmes and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. From her home, she claimed, Longfellow viewed for the first time the surf breaking over Norman's Woe, the reef on Gloucester Harbor's western shore where in 1839 he wrecked the *Hesperus*.

In 1896, Kipling gathered material for *Captains Courageous* (Little Brown, 1897) while in residence at "Fairview," an East Gloucester inn not far from Miss Phelps's home which, coincidentally, she relinquished that same year. The Kiplings also lodged for a while in the northwestern district of the Cape called Annisquam (or sometimes "Squam" to the natives). More recently, Gloucester appeared prominently in Sebastian Junger's thrilling documentary account of *The Perfect Storm* (Norton, 1997), the 1991 "Storm of the Century."

The Cape's "true owners," the early settlers, farmers and fishermen, like the ubiquitous seagulls, were a tough lot. Their histories, from the days of the Pilgrims (the "Strangers" side of the Plymouth Colony), the Seventeenth-century immigrations, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 eras, to the busy shipyards and Grand Banks schooners of the Nineteenth century and the rum-running of the Twentieth, are quilted together in Melvin T. Copeland and Elliott C. Rogers' highly readable survey, *The Saga of Cape Ann* (Bond Wheelright, Freeport Maine, 1960). The region's self-sufficiency extended to both temporal and spiritual realms. Several bona-fide Eighteenth-century witches held forth in the Dogtown area north and inland from Gloucester town. More significant to the cause of religious freedom in the fledgling free colonies was the 1786 legal victory in the Massachusetts courts by the Universalists, whose North American missionary activity centered in Gloucester, over the system of taxation then administered by the Puritan parishes.

The religious, economic, social and natural systems of the Cape have been the subject of many written accounts, the preponderance of which were produced in the Nineteenth-century. One can but wonder how much of this lore and literature Eliot absorbed during the dozen or so summers he sojourned on Eastern Point. One suspects quite a lot.

Joseph C. Baillargeon

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**Congratulations:** Jewel Spears Brooker, past president of the Society, has received a grant from the Pew Foundation for 1999-2000. She will be the Stanley J. Kahrl Fellow in Literary Manuscripts at Harvard, and also the John Adams Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of London.

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*The list of the Society's members, usually printed in this issue, will appear in the Fall 1999 number.*

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE ALA MEETING

Linda Wyman

I'll confess it now: before I heard the papers in the Society's two ALA sessions in May, my mind was focused on the thirteen errors (surely enough to signal a virus) that had found their way into the Eliot section of the printed program—including five misspellings of Elisabeth Daümer's name—and on the placement of the two Eliot sessions at the very end of the four-day meeting and in rooms as far apart as it was possible for them to be and still be on the same floor.

But five strong, imaginative papers made me glad to be associated with the Society and grateful, as I frequently am, for keen insights and lucid expression that delivered me from fretting about administrative detail and sent me back to Eliot's works—to lectures, poems, essays, and plays.

I am heartened by the range of persons who represented the Society at ALA: two members who have made numerous contributions to the Society over the years, two who were attending their first Society function, two who received their Ph.D.'s this spring, one who is in graduate school, two who (like the Memorial Lecturer, Helen Vendler) didn't start out in literature, two who came to the United States from abroad, one who learned English as a second language.

The T. S. Eliot Society was admirably represented at the American Literature Association meeting, and for their contributions I would like to thank Elise Aasgaard, Elisabeth Daümer, Tony Moore, Pat Sloane, and Madeleine Vala.

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The lead article in the Summer 1999 issue of *Yeats Eliot Review* is by Society member Patricia Sloane: "Pun & Games: A New Approach to Five Early Poems by T. S. Eliot."

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New Odyssey Press, a division of Thomas Jefferson University Press, announces the 1999 winner of its **T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry**: David Keplinger, for *The Rose Inside*. The prize includes publication of the book plus a \$2,000 award. Poet Mary Oliver served as judge. Previous T. S. Eliot Prize winners include William Baer, for *The Unfortunates*, and Rhina P. Espaillat, for *Where Horizons Go*. In announcing the 1999 winner, New Odyssey Press makes "grateful acknowledgment. . . to Mrs. Valerie Eliot for her support."

To be considered for the 2000 award, manuscripts must be received by October 31, 1999. Persons interested in details of submission are invited to check the website at [www2.truman.edu/tjup](http://www2.truman.edu/tjup).

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*Time* magazine, which had previously (June 8, 1998) recognized T. S. Eliot as the most influential poet of the 20th century, quotes from Eliot to introduce its selection of 100 "heroes and icons" of the century. In *Time's* June 14, 1999, issue, Howard Chua-Eoan writes, "We need heroes to give meaning to time. Human existence, in the words of T. S. Eliot,

is made up of 'undisciplined squads of emotion,' and to articulate our 'general mess of imprecision of feeling' we turn to heroes and icons--the nearly sacred modules of humanity with which we parse and model our lives."

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Call for Papers: Members attending the Society's Gloucester session might be interested in a call for papers which comes from Jill B. Gidmark, guest editor of the *CEA Critic: Literature of the Sea*--essays devoted to the analysis of the sea as theme, symbol, or setting within any genre and period of literature, teaching the lit of the sea, works/authors traditionally associated with the sea, etc. Deadline March 15, 2000. E-mail: [gidma001@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:gidma001@maroon.tc.umn.edu). Gidmark's address: U of Minnesota, 140 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

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The secretary of the Society, Grover Smith, asks that members send him the names and addresses of prospective members of the Society so that he may write to them. His address is 215 W. Woodridge Drive, Durham, NC 27707.

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### FOR HELP WITH SOCIETY MATTERS

To submit papers for any reading session sponsored by the Society, or to make suggestions or inquiries regarding the annual meeting or other Society activities, please contact the president:

Linda Wyman  
621-6 Woodlander, Jefferson City, MO 65101  
(573) 681-5233 (office), (573) 634-5431 (home)  
FAX: (573) 681-5040; email: [wymanl@lincolnu.edu](mailto:wymanl@lincolnu.edu)

For all matters regarding the content of the *T.S. Eliot Society Newsletter*, please contact the vice-president and editor of the *Newsletter*:

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To pay dues, inquire about membership, report a change of address, or report failure to receive the *Newsletter*, please contact the treasurer:

William Charron  
709 S. Skinker, #401, St. Louis, MO 63105  
PH: (314) 863-6550;  
email: [CHARROWC@SLU.EDU](mailto:CHARROWC@SLU.EDU)

Persons having business with the secretary are advised to contact him directly:

Grover Smith  
2 Silver Maple Court, Durham, NC 27705  
(919) 493-4828

**The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the T. S. Eliot Society**  
**September 24-26, 1999 — Gloucester, Massachusetts**  
**T. S. Eliot and New England: Historical Contexts**

**Program of Events**

**Friday, September 24**

- 10:00 a.m. **Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Ocean View Inn (OVI), 171 Atlantic Road
- 2:00 p.m. **Registration**  
 Admiral's Board Room, OVI
- 2:30 p.m. **Welcome**  
 Linda Wyman, President
- Eliot Aloud Allowed--and Encouraged!**  
 Attendees are urged to bring their Eliot texts and to read aloud favorite passages
- Presentations**
- Joon-Soo Bong, *Yonsei University*  
 "Textual Variants of *The Waste Land*: 'Final Authorial Intention' and the Poetics of Impersonality"
- Richard Badenhausen, *Marshall University*  
 "'What You Get Married For?': Collaboration and Spousal Communication in Vivienne Eliot's 'Letters of the Moment'"
- Grover Smith, *Duke University, emeritus*  
 "Charnel and Carnal in 'Whispers of Immortality': The New England Flavor"
- 5:00 p.m. **Reception** at "The Downs,"  
 18 Edgemoor Road  
 Jerry Weist and Dana Hawkes, Hosts
- 6:30 p.m. **Dinner** (advance registration and payment required)  
 Ocean's Edge Restaurant, OVI
- 8:00 p.m. **Presentations**  
 Admiral's Board Room, OVI
- K. Narayan Chandran, *University of Hyderabad*  
 "The Hawthorne Aspect of *Coriolan* Poems"
- Stefano Maria Casella, *University of Verona*  
 "A Portrait of the Artist as a Bird-Watcher: 'Cape Ann'"
- Jewel Spears Brooker, *Eckerd College*  
 "Dancing in Fire: Love and Movement in Eliot's Poetry"
- 9:30 p.m. **Slide Presentation**  
 David Huisman, *Grand Valley State University*  
 "'If You Came This Way': Landscapes of the Heart in *Four Quartets*"

**Saturday, September 25**

- 8:15 a.m. *Board bus for a tour of Gloucester*
- 10:00 a.m. **Fitz Hugh Lane Gallery Tour**  
 Cape Ann Historical Museum  
 Judith McCulloch; Director  
 Free time: Maritime & Fisheries Galleries; "Stuart Davis in Gloucester" Exhibit
- 11:00 a.m. **20th Annual T. S. Eliot Memorial Lecture**  
 Folly Cove Auditorium, CAHM  
 Helen Vendler, *Harvard University*  
 "Historical Contexts: Available Discourses"
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch** on the Wharf (advance registration and payment required)  
 17 Rogers Street
- 2:30 p.m. **Panel: "Eliot's Gloucester"**  
*Sponsored by Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library*  
 Kyrouz Auditorium, City Hall  
 David Ellis, *Gloucester Lyceum*, Chair  
 Shyamal Bagchee, *University of Alberta*  
 Prudence Fish, *Gloucester Geography/Architecture Historian*  
 Joseph Garland, *Gloucester Historian*  
 Andrew Gray, *Eastern Point Raconteur*  
 Nancy Hargrove, *Mississippi State University*
- 4:00 p.m. **Reception and Eliot Exhibit**,  
 Sawyer Free Library  
 David McArdle, Host
- Bus to Ocean View Inn; dinner on your own
- 8:00 p.m. **A Tribute to Eliot: Performance of Dance, Music, and Spoken Word**  
*Sponsored by Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library*  
 Kyrouz Auditorium, City Hall  
 (Tickets at the door)

**Sunday, September 26**

- 8:30 a.m. Transportation to Seven Seas Wharf,  
 Rogers Street
- 9:00 a.m. Dry Salvages Boat Tour (advance registration and payment required; continental breakfast on board included)
- 12:00 Noon Transportation to OVI

# REGISTRATION FORM

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society

Ocean View Inn - 171 Atlantic Road  
Gloucester, Massachusetts

See instructions  
for obtaining maps and  
directions to Gloucester  
elsewhere in this issue.

### SEPTEMBER 24-26, 1999 (Friday-Sunday)

For room reservations at  
Ocean View Inn, Gloucester  
Call 1 - 800 - 315 - 7557 (by Sept. 1)  
Rooms: \$79.<sup>00</sup> + tax (Conf. rate)

Presentations at Ocean View Inn  
and other locations in Gloucester.  
See published schedule for details.  
**Note Friday 2:00 p.m. start.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you will have a car in Gloucester

#### Registration Fee

	Before Sept. 1	After Sept. 1
Individual	\$30. <sup>00</sup>	\$35. <sup>00</sup>
Household	\$35. <sup>00</sup>	\$40. <sup>00</sup>
Student/Retiree	\$10. <sup>00</sup>	\$15. <sup>00</sup>

#### Society Dues 2000

Student	\$ 15. <sup>00</sup> - 24. <sup>00</sup>
Regular	\$ 25. <sup>00</sup> - 49. <sup>00</sup>
Supporting	\$ 50. <sup>00</sup> - 99. <sup>00</sup>
Patron	\$100. <sup>00</sup> +

	<u># Persons</u>	<u>Amount</u>
> Registration Fee	_____	_____
> * Friday Dinner, Ocean View Inn ( <i>see below</i> ) (\$30. <sup>00</sup> each; payment required in advance of meeting)	_____	_____
> Saturday Lunch, 17 Rogers Street (\$14. <sup>00</sup> each; payment required in advance of meeting)	_____	_____
> Dry Salvages Boat Tour (\$17. <sup>00</sup> ; includes continental breakfast on board. <i>Refunded if weather prohibitive</i> )	_____	_____
> Society Dues for 2000	_____	_____
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

\* Indicate choice of entree (# for household)

\_\_\_\_\_ Boiled Lobster    \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon    \_\_\_\_\_ Boneless Sirloin    \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Breast    \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

*Note: Beverages other than tea/coffee are not included in dinner cost.*

Mail form & check (>T.S. Eliot Society) to:

William Charron, Treasurer  
T.S. Eliot Society  
709 S. Skinker Blvd. #401  
St. Louis, MO 63105