

T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 28

Spring 1996

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

Eliot-Pound Society Formed in China

Professor Lu Wen bin reports the establishment of the T. S. Eliot-Pound Society in Dalian, China, in October 1995. Professor Lu Wen bin was elected president.

Forty-four scholars from all parts of China attended the meeting. A total of 14 presentations dealt with Eliot's poems, plays, and criticism.

Members of the newly formed society have decided to "put both T. S. Eliot's and Pound's works into Chinese and to write a series of books to introduce their works and literary theory to . . . Chinese readers."

President Lu Wen bin has expressed his society's need for "the help and support" of the T. S. Eliot Society. Readers of *T. S. Eliot Society Newsletter* who would like to express their interest in, and support of, the Chinese society--and perhaps even to send books--may wish to make note of the following address:

Prof. Lu Wen bin
Mail Box 559
Liaoning Normal University
Dalian, China 116029

Eliot Society Sponsors ALA Session

The T. S. Eliot Society sponsored a session at the American Literature Association meeting held in San Diego on May 30 through June 2. The session was organized and chaired by Sanford Schwartz, president of the Society.

Papers were given by Benjamin Lockerd (Grand Valley State University), "Eliot's Aristotle: 'In my telos is my beginning'"; Patricia Sloan (City University of New York), "Pun and Games: A New Approach to Five Early Poems by T. S. Eliot"; and Ethan Lewis (University of Illinois at Springfield), "Prelude and Meditation: How We Read *Four Quartets*."

-----●●●●●-----
An entry for the T. S. Eliot Society will appear in the latest edition of the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, the standard reference guide to associations, societies, and other nonprofit organizations.

Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the T. S. Eliot Society
St. Louis, September 27-29, 1996
Memorial Lecturer: Marianne Thormählen,
University of Lund (Sweden)

Charlotte Eliot and *Ash-Wednesday's*
Lady of Silences

Abstract of a paper presented at the
1995 annual meeting of the Society

Biographers of T. S. Eliot have tended to portray Charlotte Eliot as a frustrated artist who redirected her thwarted literary ambitions into stifling concern for her youngest and gifted son. Even when well-intentioned, such portrayals have worked to obscure this mother's actual accomplishments, both as a religious poet and as a social reformer, while casting a predominantly negative light on her unceasing involvement in her son's poetic and personal life. I challenge this biographical view by suggesting that Charlotte Eliot's literary and social ambitions (which found support in specifically Victorian notions of maternal authority) nurtured in her son the conviction that women held an authoritative and influential position with regard to language and culture.

In addition, I explore how this conviction may have energized Eliot's effort in *Ash-Wednesday* to symbolize the mother as the "author" of the speaker's transformation and resurrection into a new self. The poem achieves this symbolization by combining, in the figure of the Lady of Silences, allusions to both the Blessed Virgin and such pagan fertility goddesses as Isis, who mournfully sacrifices and then ecstatically reassembles and resurrects her spouse (who is, as well, her son and brother). In her dual aspect of Mary and Isis, Eliot's Lady of Silences recuperates for Mary her ancient power as both destroyer and bestower of life. For even as the three white leopards, ambiguously associated with the Lady, represent the forces of dissolution and regression, the very death effected by them of the speaker as a unified, cognizant self makes possible his resurrection into a new self and thus his spiritual and artistic growth.

Bringing to bear recent psychoanalytic efforts to rearticulate the role of maternal subjectivity in compelling the infant's individuation, I argue that the symbolization in *Ash-Wednesday* of the mother as author points to the poem's muted dramatization of a mother-centered narrative of conversion, which, from a psychoanalytic point of view, is also a narrative of coming into language and identity. This mother-centered narrative originates in the inaugural poem of *Ash-Wednesday*, "Salutation"--which recaptures the speaker's shattering encounter with maternal autonomy or difference--and culminates in section VI with the speaker's prayer to the matriarchal trinity of "Blessed sister, holy Mother, spirit of the fountain, spirit of the sea," which concludes in the speaker's plea: "Suffer me not to be separated / And let my cry come unto Thee." Echoing the infant's spontaneous cry in the adult's plea for reconnection and communion with the mother, this concluding prayer contradicts the poem's dominant narrative of conversion, invoked in allusions to St. John's negative mysticism, and counterpoints it with an alternative narrative, in which the mother herself, endowed with divine authority, guides the speaker's individuation and conversion.

Elisabeth Däumer
Eastern Michigan University

T.S. Eliot Bibliography: 1995

Books/Monographs

- Asher, Kenneth. *T.S. Eliot and Ideology*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995.
- Cooper, John Xiros. *T.S. Eliot and the Ideology of Four Quartets*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995.
- Dawson, J.L. *A Concordance to the Complete Poems and Plays of T.S. Eliot*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1995.
- Emig, Rainer. "From Metaphor to Metonymy: T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)." *Modernism in Poetry: Motivation, Structures and Limits*. London: Longman, 1995. 61-87.
- Gregory, Elizabeth. *Quotation and Modern Poetry: Imaginary Gardens With Real Toads*. Houston: Rice UP, 1995.
- Harwood, John. *Eliot to Derrida: the Poverty of Interpretation*. Houndmills [England]: Macmillan, 1995.
- Julius, Anthony. *T.S. Eliot, Anti-Semitism and the Literary Form*. New York: Cambridge UP, 1995.
- Morrison, Paul. *The Poetics of Fascism: Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Paul de Man*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995.
- Phillips, Caroline. *Religious Quest in the Poetry of T.S. Eliot*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1995.
- Tratner, Michael. *Modernism and Mass Politics: Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Yeats*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1995.
- Wolosky, Shira. *Language Mysticism: the Negative Way of Language in Eliot, Beckett, and Celan*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1995.

Articles

- Birnbaum, Milton. "The Aging Process: A Literary Perspective." *World and I* 10.3 (Mar. 1995): 426-439.
- Botum, J. "What T. S. Eliot Almost Believed." *First Things* 55 (Aug./Sept. 1995): 25-30.
- Bradshaw, David. "Eleven Reviews by T. S. Eliot, Hitherto Unnoted, from *Times Literary Supplement: A Conspectus*." *Notes and Queries* 42 (June 1995): 42.
- . "Lonely Royalists: T.S. Eliot and Sir Robert Filmer." *Review of English Studies* 46.183 (1995): 375-80.
- Chinitz, David. "T.S. Eliot and the Cultural Divide." *PMLA* 110.2 (1995): 236-48.
- Dale, Alzina Stone. "Some Ideas on a Christian Core Curriculum from the Writings of G.K. Chesterton, T. S. Eliot, and Dorothy L. Sayers." *Permanent Things*. Grant Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995. 253-69.
- Davies, Alistair. "Deconstructing the High Modernist Lyric." *British Poetry, 1900-1950: Aspects of Tradition*. Ed. Gary Day and Brian Docherty. New York: St. Martin's, 1995. 94-108.
- DuPlessis, Rachel Blau. "'HOO, HOO, HOO': Some Episodes in the Construction of Modern Whiteness." *American Literature* 67.4 (Dec 1995): 667-700.
- Goeglein, Timothy. "Poetic Injustice." *National Review* 47.10 (1995): 64-5.

- Hargrove, Nancy D. and Paul Grootkerk. "The Waste Land as a Surrealist Poem." *Comparatist: Journal of the Southern Comparative Literature Association* 19 (1995): 4-19.
- Hayman, Bruce. "How old is Prufrock? Does he want to get married?" *College Language Association Journal* 38 (Sept. 1994): 59-68.
- Howard, Thomas T. "Perplexity in the Edgeware Road: *Four Quartets* Revisited Yet Again." *Permanent Things* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995. 164-75.
- Loucks, James F. "Eliot's *Ash-Wednesday*, I." *ANQ* 8.2 (Spring 1995): 27-31.
- . "Eliot's *Burbank with a Baedeker: Bleistein with a Cigar*." *ANQ* 8.1 (Winter 1995): 22-27.
- McCormack, Mary. "The Women of Robinson Jeffers and T.S. Eliot: Mythical Parallels in 'Give Your Heart to the Hawks' and *The Family Reunion*." *Robinson Jeffers and a Galaxy of Writers: Essays in Honor of William H. Nolte*. Ed. William B. Thesing. Columbia: U of South Carolina P, 1995.
- Montgomery, Marion. "T. S. Eliot Circa 1930: The Recovery of the Permanent Things." *Modern Age* 37 (Spring 1995): 214-225.
- Palatella, John. "But If It Ends the Start Is Begun: Spring and All, Americanism, and the Postwar Apocalypse." *William Carlos Williams Review* 21.1 (Spring 1995): 1-21.
- ~ Partenheimer, David. "Methane Emissions." *The McNeese Review* 34 (1995-96): 1-12. [Comparison of *The Waste Land* and "Desolation Row."]
- Peirce, Carol. "A Fellowship in Time: Durrell, Eliot, and the Quest for the Holy Grail." *Lawrence Durrell: Comprehending the Whole*. Eds. Juluis Rowan Raper, Melody L. Encore, and Matthey Paige Bynum. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 1995. 70-81.
- Piette, Adam. "Eliot's Breakdown and Dr. Vittoz." *English Language Notes* 33 (Sept. 1995): 35-9.
- Roeffaers, Hugo. "Through the Unkown, Remembered Gate." *Sense and Transcendence: Essays in Honour of Herman Servotte*. Eds. Ortwin de Graef, Vik Doyen, Erik Hertog, Roger Janssens, Guido Latre, and Hewdig Schwall. Louvain: Leuven UP, 1995. 49-57. [Discussion of mysticism in English literature involving Eliot and *Four Quartets*.]
- Satpathy, Sumanyu. "An Allusion to Stevenson in *The Waste Land*." *Papers of Language and Literature* 31.3 (Summer 1995): 286-290.
- . "Eliot and J. W. N. Sullivan." *Notes and Queries* 42 (June 1995): 216.
- Singh, Sukbir. "Shakespeare's 'Dolphin' in Eliot's Drawing Room: *The Waste Land*, II, Line 96." *English Language Notes* 33.2 (Dec 1995): 59-62.
- ~ Smidt, Kristian. "T.S. Eliot's Criticism of Modern Prose Fiction." *English Studies* 76.1 (1995): 64-81.
- Smith, Ron. "The Southern Poet is Pursued By Eliot." *Southern Review* 31 (Winter 1995): 60-2.
- Verbeeck, Ludo. "Vision or Voice? A Study in Counterpoint." Trans. Ortwin de Graef. *Sense and Transcendence: Essays in Honour of Herman Servotte*. Eds. Ortwin de Graef, Vik Doyen, Erik Hertog, Roger Janssens, Guido Latre, and Hewdig Schwall. Louvain: Leuven UP, 1995. 49-57. [Comparison of *Four Quartets* by Eliot and "Die Sonette an Orpheus" by Rainer Maria Rilke.]
- Wanlass, Susan. "An Easy Commerce': Specific Similarities Between the Writings of T. S. Eliot and F. Scott Fitzgerald." *English Language Notes* 32 (March 1995): 58-69.

Reviews

- Basney, Lionel. Rev. of *Learning to Be Modern; Pound, Eliot, and the American University*, by Gail McDonald. *Sewanee Review* 103 (Winter 1995): xvii-xix.
- Biskind, Peter. "Viv a Little." *Premiere* 8.7 (Mar. 1995): 80-82.
- Calhoun, John. Rev. of *Tom and Viv*. "Tom and Viv (work of P. De Gaye)." *TCI* 29 (March 1995): 38-9.
- Crawford, Robert. Rev. of *T. S. Eliot and American Philosophy; The Harvard Years* by Manju Jain. *Modern Language Review* 90 (Jan. 1995): 163-4.
- Fleissner, Robert F. Rev. of *Mastery and Escape; T. S. Eliot and the Dialectic of Modernism*, by Jewel Spears Brooker. *American Literature* 67.3 (Sept. 1995): 598-9.
- Kojecky, Roger. Rev. of *Mastery and Escape; T. S. Eliot and the Dialectic of Modernism*, by Jewel Spears Brooker. *Times Literary Supplement* 4795 (24 Feb. 1995): 24.
- < Lee, R. J. Rev. of *English & American -- T. S. Eliot and Ideology* by Kenneth Asher. *Choice* 33.4 (Dec. 1995): 613.
- * Nourie, A. R. Rev. of *English & American -- T. S. Eliot and Ideology*, by Kenneth Asher. *Choice* 32.9 (May 1995): 1453.
- Pratt, William. Rev. of *T. S. Eliot's Ariel Poems: The Poetics of Recovery*, by John H. Timmerman. *American Literature* 67.3 (Sep. 1995): 599-600.
- < Pritchard, William H. "A Mind So Fine." Rev. of "The Varieties of Metaphysical Poetry: the Clark Lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1926 and the Turnbull Lectures at the John Hopkins University, 1933," by T. S. Eliot. *American Scholar* 64.3 (1995): 452-56.
- ~ Rev. of *Sources for the Poetry of T. S. Eliot*, by Anthony Hands. *Times Literary Supplement*. 27 Jan. 1995: 33.
- Torrens, James. Rev. of *Mastery and Escape; T.S. Eliot and the Dialectic of Modernism*, by Jewel Spears Brooker. *America* 172 (1995): 29.
- Whitworth, Michael. Rev. of *T. S. Eliot at the Turn of the Century*, ed. M. Thormählen. *Notes and Queries* 42.3 (Sep. 1995): 408-9.

Recording

Walker, George. "The Hollow Men," by T.S. Eliot.
Chamber Music. Albany Records, 1995.

Software

Paul, Christiane. "Unreal City." Diskette. Watertown, MA:
Eastgate, 1995.

Theses

Perryman, John Hugom. *Necessarily in Succession:
Hawthorne, James and Eliot's Expatriate Aesthetic*.
Thesis. U of Texas at Dallas, 1995.
Plato, Laura L. *The Quest of the Holy Grail*. M.A. thesis.
Scripps College, 1995. [Incorporates *The Waste Land*
into discussion of the Holy Grail.]

David Partenheimer
Truman State University,
assisted by Amanda Koster



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:

Sanford Schwartz, Department of English
22 Burrowes Building, University Park, PA 16802
(814) 863-3069; FAX: (814) 863-7285

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

Linda Wyman
621-6 Woodlander, Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 681-5233 (office), (573) 634-5431 (home)
FAX: (573) 681-5209

- 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
(314) 863-6550

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

Mildred M. Boaz
603 Radliff Rd., Bloomington, IL 61701
(212) 424-6256; FAX: (217) 424-3993

Eliot Society Members to Figure Prominently in London Conference

Jewel Spears Brooker, past president of the T. S. Eliot Society, has organized and will direct an Eliot conference in London on July 25-28. The title of the conference is "Time Past and Time Future: An International Symposium on T. S. Eliot and Our Turning World."

Although the conference is unrelated to the T. S. Eliot Society, ten of the 15 papers to be presented at the conference will be given by Society members, all by invitation. Among those participating are Richard Badenhansen, Brooker, William Charron, Lee Oser, Christopher Ricks, and Ronald Schuchard, all from the United States, and William F. Blissett (Canada), Maria Teresa Gilbert-Maceda (Spain), Tatsuo Murata (Japan), and Marianne Thormählen (Sweden).

Information on registration and housing is available from Anna Brooke by FAX at 011-44-171-580-7352.



Watch Summer Issue for Details of Annual Meeting

Program details for the seventeenth annual meeting, to be held in St. Louis on September 27-29, will be revealed by President Sanford Schwartz in the summer issue of the *Newsletter*, which members may expect to receive in August.

Full registration information will also be provided by Treasurer William Charron in the summer issue.



Books Sought for TSE "Reading Wall"

Eliot Society member Donna Charron reports that the Midtown Arts Center is establishing a T. S. Eliot reading wall in its St. Louis Authors' Library at 3207 Washington Avenue, just blocks from Eliot's boyhood home.

Persons who have extra copies of critical studies on Eliot or of major Eliot sources are asked to consider donating them to the Midtown Arts Center, which is able to supply a tax credit for donations.