

# T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY

## NEWS & NOTES

Number 2

Summer 1987

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### THE 1987 MEETING

The eighth annual meeting of the T. S. Eliot Society will take place in St. Louis on September 26-27, 1987. This year the Society has two co-sponsors: the Missouri Historical Society for the Saturday events, scheduled in the Jefferson Memorial Building, Forest Park; and the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis for the Sunday events, to be held at the church, 5007 Waterman Boulevard. Following is the complete list of arrangements.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BUILDING

- 10:00 a.m. — RECEPTION AND WELCOME  
Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker, President of the T. S. Eliot Society  
Mr. Raymond F. Pisney, Executive Director of the Missouri Historical Society  
Exhibit: "The William Greenleaf Eliot Family in St. Louis," Organized by the Missouri Historical Society
- 11:00 a.m. — MEMORIAL LECTURE — Emerson Auditorium  
"Rhapsody on a Windy Night" by T. S. Eliot — John Warren Owen  
"Memory" — Lyrics arranged by Trevor Nunn from T. S. Eliot  
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber  
John Warren Owen Choral
- EIGHTH ANNUAL T. S. ELIOT MEMORIAL LECTURE  
Dr. James Olney, Voorhies Professor of English at LSU and Editor of the *Southern Review* —  
"MEMORY AND IMAGINATION IN T. S. ELIOT'S RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PAST"  
"Choose Something Like a Star" — Lyrics by Robert Frost  
Music by Randall Thompson  
John Warren Owen Chorale
- 1:00 p.m. — Box Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. — Dr. Russell Murphy, Editor of *Yeats Eliot Review* —  
"The *Yeats Eliot Review*: History and Prospects"  
Dr. Allen Koppenhaver, Wittenberg University —  
Slide show: "Special Places in T. S. Eliot's World"
- 6:00 p.m. — Cocktail Party and Buffet, Simon Hall, Washington University

- 8:30 p.m. — *The Cocktail Party*, by T. S. Eliot —  
Emerson Auditorium  
Magic Circle Ensemble, Director William Randall Beard

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

- 10:00 a.m. — Dr. Grover Smith — "T. S. Eliot and the Responsible Reader"
- 11:00 a.m. — The Rev. Earl K. Holt III — "We Shall Not Cease from Exploration"
- 12:00 m. — Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — *The Cocktail Party*: A Conversation — Dr. Ann Brady of Gustavus Adolphus College, Organizer  
Dr. E. P. Bollier, Tulane University  
Dr. Judith Johnston, Rider College  
Mr. William Randall Beard, Director of *The Cocktail Party*
- 3:00 p.m. — Board Meeting, T. S. Eliot Society

The main event as always will be the Eliot Memorial Lecture. This year it will be read by James Olney of Louisiana State University, editor of the *Southern Review* and widely known writer on literature. Dr. Olney, who comes from the Middle West, has been associated with various universities and in the 1960s held a two-year appointment under the terms of a Fulbright Lectureship in the Republic of Liberia. That opportunity led to critical publication in the broad area of African literature, publication that has been conditioned by his research explorations of the imaginative role of autobiography. His studies of writers' self-projections in their works brought him to a comparative psychological examination of W. B. Yeats and C. G. Jung. His key book is *Metaphors of Self: The Meaning of Autobiography*, published by the Princeton University Press in 1972. He has been awarded most of the major fellowships available in his field of study. The topic of the 1987 Memorial Lecture, "Memory and Imagination in T. S. Eliot's Reconstruction of the Past," combines historical, psychological, and autobiographical modes for an original approach to Eliot.

The 1987 meeting includes presentations by Dr. Allen Koppenhaver, by Dr. Russell Murphy, editor of the *Yeats Eliot Review*, by Dr. Grover Smith, and by Mr. Earl K. Holt III. Dr. Koppenhaver's takes the form of a slide show which will reveal to members of the Society not simply an impressive set of Eliot "landscapes," that is biographical and local scenes as depicted in photographs, but a quantity of material completely new to us illustrating Eliot's poetry.

The question hung in the balance whether the Society would be able to bring Mr. William Randall Beard and the Magic Circle

Ensemble from Minneapolis in order to produce Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*. Now it is certain that we shall have the play, and because the Magic Circle Ensemble know their business thoroughly and have earned superb reviews for previous stage productions, we can count on a good theatre experience Saturday evening. And on Sunday afternoon Mr. Beard and a group of our members who are knowledgeable students of the theatre - Dr. Ann Brady, Dr. Philip Bollier, and Dr. Judith Johnston - will form a critical circle, perhaps magical also, to discuss for us the play, its reputation in and out of the theatre, and the problems and pleasures of presenting it.

Because *The Cocktail Party* costs a respectable sum to put on, it is necessary this year to charge a registration fee for the meeting. The Eliot Memorial Lecture is of course open to the public; but members are asked to pay \$25.00 and to pre-register on the form enclosed with this issue of *News & Notes*. The form, with a check augmented to cover meal items ticked off, should be mailed to Dr. Nancy D. Hargrove, the secretary of the Society, at her address as shown. Please do not send your pre-registration check to the treasurer at his St. Louis address. Members will appreciate the fact that the Society is receiving subsidies this year from the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council. Next year, if larger grants are obtained for the Centenary meeting, it may be possible to dispense with any registration fee. As it is, this year's subvention has enabled us to keep the fee down. The Society owes gratitude for funding without which *The Cocktail Party* could not be produced at the Jefferson Memorial Building on Eliot's 99th birthday.

News of our Eliot Centenary meeting in 1988 will have to wait for future numbers of *News & Notes*, which will come this fall and in the spring and summer of next year. Till those, suffice it to say that if all goes well the occasion will be stupendous.

## SOCIETY PEOPLE

Earl K. Holt III, guest editorialist this summer for the magazine *World: Journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association* (July-August 1987), very suitably took the opportunity of talking about T. S. Eliot. Mr. Holt said that the whole life of this one-time Unitarian who became an Anglican convert, ending up as a "cultural superstar," could be seen as "a religious search" - which is the way Eliot saw "the human dilemma of our age." Mr. Holt asked his readers to "join with the international company who will be recognizing the 1988 Eliot centennial year with publications, conferences, productions of plays, poetry readings, and other celebrations of this man so profoundly connected to our heritage."

Charles Guenther, St. Louis poet and translator and member of our Board, won the 1987 Missouri Writers' Guild award for a major work - the organization's top prize - for his book *The Hippopotamus: Selected Translations 1945-1985* (BkMk Press, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1986). The award, presented in April, was one of three made to Mr. Guenther at the Guild's annual spring conference; he won a first prize for a published column and a third prize for a newspaper article on Jack Conroy, Missouri novelist.

When the Muni Opera, St. Louis's famous outdoor summer theatre in Forest Park, put on Eliot's "Cats," some of the suburban papers ran a little article mentioning Mr. Kommyu, Mr. Holt, and the T. S. Eliot Society. This is a good portent.

Members present at last year's Postal Service ceremony, when the Eliot commemorative stamp was inaugurated, will remember Bob Johnson's artistically designed envelopes. They were sold for the use of collectors in obtaining first-day cancellations of the new stamp. Mr. Johnson has undertaken to prepare a new Eliot cachet for our 1987 meeting. It will be available there at a modest cost. Anyone wishing cancellations should bring stamps to affix. Probably many of us saved some of the Eliot stamps and will be glad of a 1987 souvenir in this form. You must

of course remember to address your envelopes and to mail them so that they will be postmarked in St. Louis on September 26! They are suitable for notes home, gifts to stamp collectors junior and otherwise, and finally mementos to keep (like a lavender spray) in your copy of *Four Quartets*. We expect that there will also be a special Eliot envelope for the Centenary if enough people are interested.

## ELIOT PROGRAM COMING ON TELEVISION

Early next year, probably in February, an hour-length television program on Eliot's life and work will be aired by PBS channels across the country. We are hoping to screen it privately at our September 1988 meeting. The program, produced by the New York Center for Visual History, is one in a fourteen-part series entitled "Voices & Visions." After a series opener in January on the reading of poetry, thirteen selected American poets will be treated week by week - Frost, Pound, Langston Hughes, Whitman, Crane, Williams, Dickinson, Moore, Eliot, Stevens, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, and Plath.

The Eliot unit, with background filming in St. Louis, in New England, and in Paris and London, includes dramatizations and will feature readings from Eliot's poems and discussions by authorities on the poet or his cultural milieu. The program is produced by Sasha Alpert. Lawrence Pitkethly, executive producer of the series and director of the Center, has conducted interviews with Frank Kermode, Peter Ackroyd, William Alfred, John Chiari, Grover Smith, and Stephen Spender, which will be woven with archival and scenic material in an evaluative introduction to Eliot. The series is produced for the South Carolina ETV Network, which distributed the highly praised program "The World of James Joyce." It is funded in major part by Annenberg/CPB Project and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"Voices & Visions," one of the most ambitious educational series made for public television in the United States in recent years, will be available to the public on film and videotape and in cassette form, either in entirety or by individual units. It is being offered as "a complete college television course" on modern American Poetry and is intended primarily for college, community-education, and library rental or acquisition. Companion publications - *Modern American Poets: Their Voices and Visions*, containing all the poems read or discussed, and a critical compilation *Voices & Visions: The Poet in America* - are already in print from Random House. For information on the purchase of the Eliot program and others, write to Annenberg/CPB Collection, 1111 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. A *Study Guide* and instructor's manual will be obtainable in connection with the licensing of the series to educational institutions.

## ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues for 1988 are payable January 1. Members who first joined the Society subsequent to September 26, 1986, and have not paid their 1987 dues are considered to be in good standing until the 1987 meeting; but they should bring their membership up to date as soon as possible.

Members are requested to add optional gifts to their minimal \$15.00 annual dues. Contributors of \$100 or more are listed as Patron Members; of \$50-\$99, as Sustaining Members; of \$25-\$49, as Supporting Members. The Society employs no paid personnel. All contributions go to support Society activities and defray unavoidable overhead.

Dues and contributions should be sent to:

Rev. Earl K. Holt III, Treasurer, T. S. Eliot Society  
5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108

## MEMBERS OF THE T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY

This list has been compiled as of August 1, 1987. The following are members in good standing according to the treasurer's records.

### Patron Members

Jewel Spears Brooker, St. Petersburg, FL  
Earl K. Holt III, St. Louis, MO  
Elizabeth Konnyu, St. Louis, MO  
Ernest L. Konnyu, House of Representatives, Washington, DC  
Leslie Konnyu, St. Louis, MO  
Jane LeMoine, Indialantic, FL  
John W. Owen, St. Louis, MO  
Dulcie Barbara Smith, Durham, NC  
Grover Smith, Durham, NC

### Sustaining or Supporting Members

Marilyn R. Chandler, Berkeley, CA  
Dianne R. Costanzo, Chicago, IL  
Julian Fäzer, Detroit, MI  
Anthony Fathman, St. Louis, MO  
Melanie Fathman, St. Louis, MO  
Harvey Gross, Stony Brook, NY  
J. Heizer, St. Louis, MO  
Russell Kirk, Mecosta, MI  
Allen J. Koppenhaver, Springfield, OH  
Louis Martz, New Haven, CT  
James Olney, Baton Rouge, LA  
Edith Piozek, Los Angeles, CA  
Isabel Piozek, Los Angeles, CA  
Monica L. Roach, St. Louis, MO  
Robert Clive Roach, St. Louis, MO  
Ronald Schuchard, Atlanta, GA  
Harold W. Shipton, St. Louis, MO  
Carol H. Smith, Princeton, NJ  
Marjorie Stelmach, St. Louis, MO  
Victor Strandberg, Durham, NC  
Otto R. Tomsich, St. Louis, MO

### Regular or Institutional Members

R. Dallas Albritton, Tampa, FL  
Robert W. Ayers, Washington, DC  
Shyamal Bagchee, Edmonton, Alberta  
Anne C. Bolgan, London, Ontario  
Philip Bollier, New Orleans, LA  
George Bornstein, Ann Arbor, MI  
Ann P. Brady, St. Peter, MN  
Marvin A. Brooker, Gainesville, FL  
Robert Crawford, Glasgow, Scotland  
Lois A. Cuddy, Kingston, RI  
Vinnie-Marie D'Ambrosio, Brooklyn, NY  
Robert F. Fleissner, Springfield, OH  
Douglas R. Fowler, Tallahassee, FL  
Armin Paul Frank, Goettingen, West Germany  
Jeanne Franklin, St. Louis, MO  
Lewis Freed, West Lafayette, IN  
Francis Gall, Paris, France  
Lyndall Gordon, Oxford, England  
Charles Guenther, St. Louis, MO  
Richard M. Halford, St. Louis, MO  
Marilyn Hall, St. Louis, MO  
R. F. Hall, Grahamstown, South Africa  
Nancy D. Hargrove, Starkville, MS  
William Harmon, Chapel Hill, NC  
Bruce M. Hayman, Oak Park, IL  
Sr. Marcella M. Holloway, St. Louis, MO  
Eda Houwink, St. Louis, MO  
Bob Johnson, Lodi, CA  
Judith L. Johnston, Highland Park, NJ  
Kei Kasahara, Yokohama, Japan  
William E. Kinnison, Columbus, OH  
Robert Langbaum, Charlottesville, VA  
James Longenbach, Rochester, NY  
Rex McGuinn, Barrington, RI  
Peter J. Michel, St. Louis, MO  
Louis G. Miller, St. Louis, MO  
Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO  
A. J. Montesi, St. Louis, MO  
Alice K. Murphy, St. Louis, MO  
Thomas R. Nevin, Painesville, OH  
Mary C. Newander, St. Louis, MO  
Laura Niesen de Abruña, Ithaca, NY

# BALLOT

Jeffrey M. Perl, New York, NY  
 Eupha W. Richie, St. Louis, MO  
 John J. Soldo, Brooklyn, NY  
 Erik B. Stocker, St. Louis, MO  
 Stanley Sultan, Boston, MA  
 Louis Szathmary, Chicago, IL  
 Maxim Tabory, Goldsboro, NC  
 Leonard Unger, St. Paul, MN  
 Charles Warren, Cambridge, MA  
 Betty C. White, St. Louis, MO  
 Lois White Wilcox, Manchester, MO  
 David B. Wilkie, Houston, TX  
 Rosemary Wilkinson, Burlingame, CA  
 Mary Ann Wimsatt, San Marcos, TX  
 George T. Wright, Minneapolis, MN  
 Glenn P. Wright, Charleston, IL  
 Linda Wyman, Jefferson City, MO

**Honorary Members**

Cleanth Brooks, New Haven, CT  
 Valerie Eliot, London, England  
 Donald Gallup, New Haven, CT  
 Andrew Osze, Vero Beach, FL

**RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS:  
 A CARD OF THANKS**

Dr. Brooker on behalf of the Board of Directors and officers of the T. S. Eliot Society wishes to thank the following retiring members of the Board for their service and to express hope for their continued support of the Society.

Sr. Marcella Holloway, CSJ  
 Ms. Marlene Miller  
 Ms. Eupha Richie  
 Mr. Robert Clive Roach  
 Ms. Marjorie Stelmach  
 Mr. Otto Tomsich

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS  
 TO BE ELECTED**

Under the By-Laws of incorporation adopted for the Society last year, the Board of Directors shall consist of six (currently five) officers, the founder Mr. Leslie Konnyu as a life member, and other members to a total of twelve. With the retirement of six members who served prior to incorporation and before reduction of the size of the Board, and who have now completed their terms, the Board membership stands at nine, as follows:

Jewel Spears Brooker, *Chair*  
 Grover Smith  
 Earl K. Holt III  
 Nancy D. Hargrove  
 Allen J. Koppenhaver  
 Leslie Konnyu  
 Charles Guenther  
 John Warren Owen  
 Margit Vincenz

It being necessary for the Society's members to elect from their number a total of three new Board members in accordance with the By-Laws, Dr. Brooker acting as supervisor of elections has nominated the following to staggered terms:

ANN P. BRADY. Dr. Brady is professor at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. She is the author of *Lyricism in the Poetry of T. S. Eliot* (1978). (Term ending 1989)

MELANIE FATHMAN. Mrs. Fathman, who lives in St. Louis, is an historian of art and architecture. (Term ending 1988)

PETER J. MICHEL. Mr. Michel is chief curator of the Division of Library and Archives at the Missouri Historical Society. (Term ending 1989)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: If your name appears on the membership list printed in this issue, you may vote by detaching the ballot below, marking and signing it, and mailing it to:

Dr. Nancy D. Hargrove, Secretary, T. S. Eliot Society  
 115 Grand Ridge Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Ballots must be mailed so as to reach the secretary before September 1, 1987. It is suggested that they be accompanied by your pre-registration form for the 1987 meeting.

**MEMBER'S BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 OF THE T. S. ELIOT SOCIETY**

You may vote for three.

ANN P. BRADY  
 (Term ending 1989)

Approve

Disapprove

Abstain

MELANIE FATHMAN  
 (Term ending 1988)

Approve

Disapprove

Abstain

PETER J. MICHEL  
 (Term ending 1989)

Approve

Disapprove

Abstain

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 1987

Mail to Dr. Nancy D. Hargrove, Secretary, 115 Grand Ridge Drive, Starkville, MS.