

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

of the

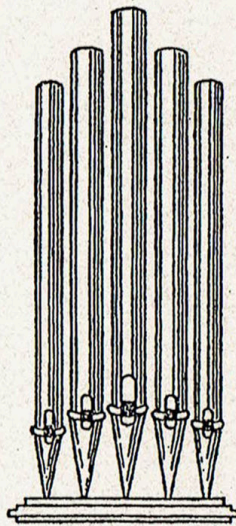
T.S. ELIOT SOCIETY

featuring

**THE 2003
T.S. ELIOT MEMORIAL LECTURE**

by

LEON SURETTE



**26-28 SEPTEMBER 2003
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

A Note on T.S. Eliot's Life

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 26, 1888, of a family distinguished for its contributions to the city and its institutions. In later years, Eliot often spoke appreciatively of St. Louis. Returning in 1953, he expressed his gratitude before an audience at Washington University, founded a century earlier by his grandfather William Greenleaf Eliot, as was the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. In a booklet commemorating this occasion, the poet acknowledged that "St. Louis affected me more deeply than any other environment." This influence is evident in his poetry from *Prufrock* through *The Dry Salvages*. Eliot died in London, England, his adopted country, on January 4, 1965. A 1948 Nobel Laureate, he is deemed the most significant poet of the 20th century.

T.S. Eliot Memorial Lecturers 1980-2003

Sr. Marcella Holloway
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Charles Guenther
Rev. Earl K. Holt III
Jewel Spears Brooker
Ronald Schuchard
Grover Smith
James Olney

A.D. Moody
Leonard Unger
Shyamal Bagchee
Cleo McNelly Kearns
Denis Donoghue
Christopher Ricks
William Harmon
Louis Menand

Marianne Thormälen
James Longenbach
Charles Altieri
Helen Vendler
Carl Phillips
Geoffrey Hill
Marjorie Perloff
Leon Surette

Present Directors of the T.S. Eliot Society

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The T.S. Eliot Society is an international organization of scholars and others interested in the mind and work of Eliot. It was founded in 1980 by the Hungarian-American man of letters, Leslie L. Konnyu, for the purpose of providing fellowship and enrichment of understanding, and as a focus for commemorating Eliot in the city of his birth, St. Louis. Its annual program includes a Memorial Lecture by a critic or scholar.

The Society, incorporated in Missouri as a non-profit organization, is supported by the annual dues of its members. For information concerning membership, address: William Charron, Treasurer, 709 S. Skinker, #401, St. Louis, MO 63105.

The T.S. Eliot Society is in correspondence with the author societies participating in ALA (The American Literature Association).

Acknowledgements

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