

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

of the
T.S. ELIOT SOCIETY

featuring

THE 2006
T.S. ELIOT MEMORIAL LECTURE

by

WILLIAM BLISSETT



22-24 SEPTEMBER 2006
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

All sessions and events at St. Louis Woman's Club unless otherwise indicated.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

10:00-12:00 Board of Directors Meeting. Garden Room
Inn at the Park

10:00-12:00 Peer Seminars: St. Louis Woman's Club
4600 Lindell Blvd.

Seminar 1: Eliot and the London Scene, 1914-1939

Seminar Leader: Vincent Sherry, *Villanova University*

Participants:

Michael Cotsell, *University of Delaware*; Kevin Dettmar, *Southern Illinois University-Carbondale*; Firat Oruc, *Duke University*; Bill Rable, *St. Louis University*; Paul Robichaud, *Albertus Magnus College (New Haven)*; Patricia Smith, *Hofstra*; Leon Surette, *University of Western Ontario*.

Seminar 2: Eliot in the Theatre

Seminar Leader: Sarah Bay-Cheng, *SUNY-Buffalo*

Participants:

Debra Rae Cohen, *University of Arkansas*; Anthony Cuda, *Emory University*; Frances Dickey, *University of Missouri-Columbia*; Alissa Kazazian; Patrick Query, *Loyola University (Chicago)*; Evan Wright Rhodes, *University of Virginia*; Michael Webster, *Grand Valley State University*

Russell Elliott Murphy, *University of Arkansas-Little Rock*, Chair

Nancy K. Gish, *University of Southern Maine*
"Pierre Janet's *desagrégation* in 'Gerontion' and
The Waste Land"

Hee-jin Bae, *Sunkyunkwan University, Korea*
"Jungian Individuation in *The Family Reunion*"

Jewel Spears Brooker, *Eckerd College*
"Crime, Sex, and Blood in *The Elder Statesman*"

3:15-4:45 Conference Session II

Lee Oser, *College of the Holy Cross*, Chair

Hazel Atkins, *University of Ottawa*
"Ragged Rocks in Restless Waters: The Importance of
Place in the Poetry of T. S. Eliot"

Timothy Sutton, *University of Miami*
"T. S. Eliot: A Provincial Catholicism"

Keiji Notani, *Kobe University*
"T. S. Eliot's Idea of a Church: His Possible
Indebtedness to the Tractarians"

7:30 *Reception, Home of John Karel, Tower Grove Park*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:45-10:15 Conference Session III

David Chinitz, *Loyola University, Chicago*, Chair

Robert Miller, *Churchill Fellow, 2006*
"Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship and
T.S. Eliot Society [England]"

Cyrena N. Pondrom, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
"Constructing 'something upon which to rejoice':
The Performance of Gender in 'Ash Wednesday'"

David Ayers, *University of Kent*

"T. S. Eliot and Wyndham Lewis: Convergence
and Contrast"

Thomas Dilworth, *University of Windsor*

"T. S. Eliot and David Jones: Biographical
Intersections"

11:00-12:00 **Twenty-Seventh Annual T. S. Eliot Memorial Lecture**

William F. Blissett, *University of Toronto*

"*T.S. Eliot and David Jones: Rats, Romans, and Trees*"

12:30—2:15 Lunch

Presentation: "The Poetry of Provenance"

Joseph Baillargeon, *University of Washington*

2:30--4:00 Conference Session IV

Chair: William Harmon, *University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*

Leah Pate, *Arizona State University*

"The Curse of the Poet-Prophet in *The Waste
Land*"

Matthew Bolton, *New York University*

"Manchild in *The Waste Land*: Innocence,
Autism, and Eliot's Dickensian Narrator"

John Morgenstern, *Oxford University*

"Discerning the 'Other' in *Other Observations*:
T. S. Eliot as Cultural Anthropologist in 1910-
1911 Paris"

6:00-8:00 Dinner (*St. Louis Woman's Club*)

Presentation: "T.S. Eliot and the Parisian Art World of 1910-1911"

Nancy Hargrove, *Mississippi State University*

After Dinner Hospitality:

Home of Anthony and Melanie Fathman, 4967 Pershing Place.

Performances of scenes from Eliot's plays featuring members of the
Society, directed by Sarah Bay-Cheng

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m. Service

First Unitarian Church
5007 Waterman Boulevard

11:00-12:00 Concluding Session

Eliot Aloud: Readings of Eliot's works

David Huisman, *Grand Valley State University*, Chair

Awards Presentations

Benjamin G. Lockerd, President



Banquet Speaker Nancy D. Hargrove is Williams L. Giles Distinguished Professor in the English Department, Mississippi State University. She received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College, M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. She came to Mississippi State University in 1970. She is the author of two books, *Landscape as Symbol in the Poetry of T.S. Eliot* (1978) and *The Journey Toward Ariel: Sylvia Plath's Poetry of 1956-1959* (1994), as well as over forty essays in books and scholarly journals on the works of Eliot, Plath, Yeats, Williams, Faulkner, Welty, and Shakespeare. She has been the recipient of five Fulbright grants, including a Fellowship to France (1963-4), a Junior Lectureship to France (1976-7), Senior Lectureships to Belgium (1984-5) and Sweden (1992) and a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award to Austria (2005-6), and has received seven different teaching awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English, the MSU Outstanding Faculty Award, the Grisham Master Teacher Award, and the Mississippi Professor of the Year Award. She is currently writing a book on Eliot's 1910-1911 year in Paris, from which her banquet address is taken.

A Note on T. S. Eliot's Life

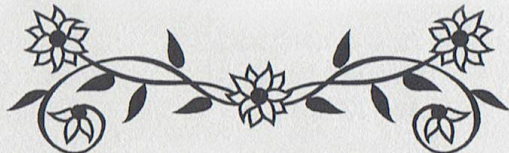
Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 26 September 1888, of a New England family distinguished for its contributions to the frontier city and its institutions. (His grandfather, William Greenleaf Eliot, founder of Washington University and the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, was commended by Charles Dickens.) Educated at Harvard University, he read philosophy at Merton College, Oxford, in 1914-15, and completed his Ph.D. thesis on F. H. Bradley while in London. He married Vivienne Haigh-Wood in 1914, and, having chosen a career in literature rather than in academic philosophy, he briefly taught grammar school, and lectured on French, English, and American literature in evening tutorial classes. He joined the Colonial and Foreign Department of Lloyds Bank in 1917, meanwhile writing criticism for various newspapers, journals, and little magazines. His first volume of poems, *Prufrock and Other Observations*, was published in 1917, and his first collection of criticism, *The Sacred Wood*, in 1920. In 1922, he published *The Waste Land* and founded a literary journal, *The Criterion*. In 1925, he joined the new publishing firm of Faber and Gwyer as poetry editor. He was received into the Church of England and became a British citizen in 1927. His play, *Murder in the Cathedral*, was performed in Canterbury in 1935. During World War II he was an air-raid warden in Kensington, an experience reflected in *Four Quartets*. In 1948 he was awarded the Order of Merit and the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1956, he married Valerie Fletcher. He died on 4 January 1965; his ashes are buried in St. Michael's Church, East Coker, Somerset, the village from which his ancestor, Andrew Eliot, had emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts, about 1669. He is deemed the most significant poet and critic of the twentieth century.

2006 MEMORIAL LECTURER

WILLIAM BLISSETT

William Blissett will deliver the Memorial Lecture at the Annual Meeting of the Society this year. Dr. Blissett is Professor Emeritus of English at University College, University of Toronto, where he taught from 1965 to 1987. He served as editor of the *University of Toronto Quarterly* from 1965 to 1976. He has written on an extremely wide range of literary topics, from Shakespeare, Spenser, and Jonson to Eliot and Jones. Professor Blissett has edited or co-edited several books, including *Reid MacCallum: Imitation and Design*; *Editing Illustrated Books*; and *A Celebration of Ben Jonson*. He was also a co-editor of *The Spenser Encyclopedia*. His book *The Long Conversation: A Memoir of David Jones* recounts his friendship with that poet and contains their correspondence. He has been the intellectual force behind a growing interest in the poetry of David Jones over the past few decades.

Dr. Blissett's first published essay on Eliot was "The Argument of T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*," *University of Toronto Quarterly* 15 (1946), 115-26. This essay was written shortly after the complete publication of the *Quartets*. His "*Wagner in The Waste Land*" was published in 1968. More recently, his article on "T. S. Eliot and Heraclitus" appeared in a collection edited by Jewel Spears Brooker, *T. S. Eliot and Our Turning World* (2001). He has several times addressed the Eliot Society at our sessions at the American Literature Association Conference and at Society meetings, including the London meeting of 2004.



The T. S. Eliot Society

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: John Karel, Treasurer, Tower Grove Park, 4256 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110.

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

Present Directors of the T.S. Eliot Society

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T.S. Eliot Memorial Lecturers 1980-2005

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Visit the Society's Website
www.luc.edu/eliot