

Lawrentiana

Keith Cushman

“It is such a treat to hear a bit of news.”

—“A Modern Lover”

Necrology

Ross Parmenter, longtime music editor of the *New York Times*, died in New York City on 18 October 1999 at the age of 88. In 1984 Parmenter published *Lawrence in Oaxaca: A Quest for the Novelist in Mexico*. In the *DHLR* (18:1) Charles Rossman described this book as “the work of an amateur, in the ancient and noble sense of that word,” and praised the book “for its abundance of detail, for its vivid and sympathetic portrayal of a country that has struck both English and American writers as unfathomably alien, and even for its meandering concerns.”

Lawrence’s Dust-Jackets: Addendum

In my essay/commentary on Lawrence’s dust-jackets in the *DHLR* (Vol. 28:1-2) I failed to quote an appealing comment Lawrence made about Brett’s stylish dust-jacket design for the Knopf *Plumed Serpent*. On 4 May 1925 Lawrence wrote his American publisher Knopf: “Miss Brett has done a quite beautiful design for a jacket, of Mexicans in big hats: has some real Mexican quality in it. I hope you’ll like it and be able to use it” (*L* v 250). Thanks to Tina Ferris for calling this letter to my attention.

In fact I now believe that Brett is referring to a specific passage in the novel. In Chapter II Kate admits to Don Ramón that almost everything in Mexico oppresses her: “It *always* makes my heart sink. Like the eyes of the men in the big hats—I call them peons. Their eyes have no middle to them. Those big handsome men, under their big hats, they aren’t really there. They have no centre, no real *I*” (40). Look again at Brett’s dust-jacket, and you’ll see that it is a picture of Mexicans in “big hats” whose eyes “have no middle to



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them.”

New from Cambridge

The Cambridge University Press has published its edition of *The Plays*, edited by Hans-Wilhelm Schwarze and John Worthen. Including Introduction, Explanatory Notes, and Textual Apparatus, the book weighs in at over 900 pages and retails for \$175.

Those Were the Days

In a “Writers on Writing” essay in the *New York Times* of 11 October 1999, Saul Bellow remembers visiting small-town Midwestern libraries as a young man, where he “found that readers in Keokuk, Iowa, or Benton Harbor, Mich., were checking out Proust and Joyce and even Svevo and Andrei Biely. D.H. Lawrence was also a favorite.” Bellow remarks on his “persistent democratic desire to find evidence of high culture in the most unlikely places.”

Uh-Oh

In the summer of 1999 the National Portrait Gallery in London, which owns the fiery Jan Juta portrait of Lawrence, had no postcard of Lawrence for sale. Among the postcards available: Mark Gertler, Germaine Greer, Elton John, James Joyce (two images), John Maynard Keynes, Philip Larkin (two images), Vita Sackville-West, Virginia Woolf (four images).

Paul Hogarth: Traveling in the Footsteps of Lawrence

Paul Hogarth is a watercolorist who draws much of his subject matter from his extensive travels. His work is represented in such collections as the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Tate Gallery, the Library of Congress, and the Yale Centre of British Art. He was awarded the OBE in 1989. His published books include collaborations with Graham Greene, Robert Graves, and Lawrence Durrell. But his most extensive travel project, *Escape to the Sun*, expresses his devotion to his “first literary hero,” D.H. Lawrence.

Hogarth traveled around the world, following in Lawrence’s footsteps, between 1989 and 1994. *Escape to the Sun*, consisting of 76 watercolors and six lithographs, magnificently documents almost all the important Lawrence sites in eight countries. In recent years *Escape to the Sun* has been exhibited at the University of Nottingham, Hull University, and the Francis Kyle Gallery in London. Hogarth’s watercolor of Gsteig, Switzerland, appeared on the cover of *DHLR* 24:2.

Lawrence People

- **Eleanor Green** has become the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Presque Isle, ME 04769. She will continue to edit the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America newsletter. Her new e-mail address is greene@polaris.umpi.maine.edu.
- **Paul Poplawski** is completing the third edition of the Cambridge University Press *Bibliography of D. H. Lawrence*, which **Warren Roberts** left unfinished at his death. The book is provisionally scheduled for publication early in 2001.
- **Holly Laird**'s new book, *Woman Coauthors*, is being published by the University of Illinois Press in 2000. The book's diverse subjects include John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor, Somerville and Ross, H. D., Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris, and the Delany sisters.
- **Martin Kearney** has been promoted to full professor in the English Department at Southeastern Louisiana University.
- **Stephana Roussenova**, who teaches English at the University of Sofia in Bulgaria, spent the fall semester 1999 as a Fulbright professor at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC.
- **Lois Palken Rudnick** presented her slide lecture on "The House That Mabel (Dodge Luhan) Built: Modernism Comes to New Mexico" at the Inaugural Conference of the Modernist Studies Association at Penn State in October 1999.

Lawrence and Larkin

Throughout his lifetime the English poet Philip Larkin (1922-85) was an unlikely admirer of Lawrence. In his first year at Oxford Larkin wore red trousers (because of Mellors's recommendation in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*) and claimed to read Lawrence daily. When he took his first library job in Wellington, Shropshire, he looked forward to "introducing lots of Lawrence and Isherwood into the placid shelves." In 1947 he told a friend that Lawrence the poet is "so great that it is silly to start saying where he is wrong."

In 1980 Larkin opened the Young Bert exhibition in Nottingham commemorating the 50th anniversary of Lawrence's death. "No writer of this century aimed himself more at the world," Larkin observed; "no writer took it on more completely, its countries and continents, its peoples and philosophies, everything down to its smallest birds, beasts and flowers." Larkin purchased a souvenir tee-shirt on this occasion,

which he sometimes wore when he mowed his lawn in Hull.

Lawrence also put in a famous appearance in Larkin's "Annus Mirabilis," which commences:

Sexual intercourse began
 In nineteen sixty-three
 (Which was rather late for me)-
 Between the end of the *Chatterley* ban
 And the Beatles' first LP.

Annals of Commerce

In my essay on Lawrence's dust-jackets (*DHLR* 28:1-2) I mentioned a copy of *The Rainbow* in dust-jacket that had recently sold for over \$17,000. That "superb" copy (in a "barely rubbed and soiled" jacket) is now being offered by Lakin & Marley Rare Books (helicon@hooked.net) for \$25,000. That's the same copy that an American collector paid \$1000 for in about 1980. Get rid of your stocks and bonds, friends! Buy Lawrence first editions (insisting on fine copies in dust-jacket)!

Speaking of which:

Collectors' Corner

- Bauman Rare Books (1-800-992-2862) is offering a set of the two-volume *Collected Poems* (1928), signed one of 100—in dust-jackets. \$3,200
 Bauman also has a signed Secker *St. Mawr* in dust-jacket. \$2,200
 Bauman's copy of the Orioli *Lady Chatterley* with some "expert restoration to spine" sells for \$6,500.
- Lame Duck Books (LameDuckBk@aol.com) has an excellent copy of the 1 of 50, signed, leatherbound *Pansies*. \$7,500
- Heritage Book Shop (heritage@heritagebookshop.com) has a nice run of Lawrence first editions, all in dust-jacket, including the Nonesuch *Love Among the Haystacks* (\$300), the Kennerley *Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd* (\$400), and *Fire and Other Poems* (\$300).
- Robert Dagg Rare Books (daggbooks@worldnet.att.net) also has a nice run of reasonably priced first editions in dust-jacket, including the Seltzer *England, My England* (\$550), the Seltzer *Birds, Beasts and Flowers* (\$450), the Knopf *Mornings in Mexico* (\$150), the 1 of 500 privately printed, signed *Pansies* (\$750), and the Orioli *Apocalypse* (\$375). Yes, those are reasonable prices.

An Arresting Beginning

The first two sentences of Barbara Ann Schapiro's *D.H. Lawrence and the Paradoxes of Psychic Life* (SUNY Press, 1999; \$17.95 paper) read as follows: "I've always liked Lawrence. Yet as a woman, a Jew, and, particularly, a psychoanalytic critic, I epitomize what Lawrence often venomously attacked."

Lawrence Slept Here

The New Yorker for 23 & 30 August featured an ad for the Mabel Dodge Luhan House in Taos, "Historic Inn & Conference Center." "Escape from TV, phones, e-mail. Share the home that hosted D.H. Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ansel Adams, Paul Strand, Dennis Hopper." 1-800-846-2235.

Social Notes from All Over

On 11 September 1999 Jim and Judy Cowan hosted Judith Ruderman, Keith Cushman, and Deborah Bell at a dinner honoring Lawrence's birthday (#114). The cuisine was Southwestern American, featuring Marcela Rossman's recipe for chicken enchiladas.

Setting the Record Straight

The summer 1999 number of the *D.H. Lawrence Society of North America Newsletter* reported that Antonella de Nicola wrote a thesis on Lawrence during a year's residence at the University of Paris-X. This information is rather misleading since the university did not accept Mrs. De Nicola's thesis. Furthermore, the small Lawrence conference that took place in Naples in April 1998 was organized by Professor Adriana Corrado of the Istituto Suor Orsola Benincasa and not by the D.H. Lawrence Society of Italy.