

# LAWRENTIANA

**Keith Cushman**

“It is such a treat to hear a bit of news. . . .”  
— “A Modern Lover”

## **A Job Well-Done**

- Hearty thanks to Dennis Jackson, who wrote “Lawrentiana” for fifteen years beginning with the spring number of 1984. Readers will miss Dennis’s verve, cleverness, and legendary nose for news.

## **Lawrence in France**

- Ginette Katz-Roy of the Université Paris X-Nanterre organized an international Lawrence conference that took place from 30 June through 3 July 1999 with over thirty participants. The conference theme was “D.H. Lawrence After Strange Gods.” The participants included David Ellis, Nick Ceramella, Barbara Miliaras, Mark Spilka, Jill Franks, Sheila Lahiri Choudhury, Barnard Turner, Stefania Michelucci, Simonetta de Filippis, Paul Poplawski, Carla Comellini, Maria Aline Ferreira, Kyoko Kay Kondo, and See-Young Park.

- The latest issue of *Études Lawrenciennes* (Number 18) is devoted to essays about *Studies in Classic American Literature*. The contributors include Stephen Rowley, Sylvie Bauer, Nathalie Caron, and Adrian Harding.

## **Lawrence in Britain**

- On 10 February the D.H. Lawrence Society of Eastwood celebrated Marga-

ret Needham's 90th birthday with some of her favorite songs and readings and a party.



- John Worthen writes that the "Cossall Open-cast mining project has—for the moment at least—been stopped. There was an enquiry; and then an appeal; and then an appeal to the High Court. And—for the moment—the landscape of *The Rainbow* seen by Ursula and Skrebensky as they walk along the canal has been saved from having a pit 300 feet deep and a mile long dug just 200 yards away."



- The annual D.H. Lawrence Centre Work in Progress day took place at Nottingham University on 19 June. Graduate students gathered from all over the country to make informal twenty-minute presentations.



- John and Eileen Elliott of Eastwood are offering "specialised and uniquely personal guided tours of the places the author loved and wrote about, staying in a lovely Georgian house only three hundred yards from the birthplace of this world famous enigmatic writer, poet and painter." A full-day tour for two people is available for £95. Telephone or Fax from outside the UK: 1773 712132.

### **Lawrence at MLA**

- The topic at MLA in Chicago at the end of December 1999 is "The Post-Colonial Lawrence." The topic for 2000 is "Lawrence and the Millennium: The Prophetic Vision." Carol Siegel is the Program Chair.

### **A New Lawrence Poem**

- In November 1998 Christie's auctioned a copy of *Love Poems and Others* with a previously unknown Lawrence poem entitled "Eden" scrawled on the fly-leaf. The book, which turned up in Calcutta, belonged to Bata Krishna Singha, an admirer of Lawrence's work who served as an engineer with the British Army during World War I. On the page opposite the poem Lawrence has also written "To the Soldiers and Sailors who were made blind." "Eden" forms the basis for the later poem entitled "Elysium."

### **Lawrence in the *New York Times***

- Catherine C. Robbins published a feature story in the *Times* of 6 August 1998 entitled "Preserving the Ranch Where D.H. Lawrence Lived," focusing on the

controversy surrounding the future of the ranch. The story appeared a month after the international conference at Taos. John Worthen, Rosemary Howard, Larry Gamache, and Lois Palken Rudnick are all quoted, and the story is accompanied by a photo of several doughy Lawrentians (including Hugh Witemeyer) visiting the shrine.

Hats off to Tina Ferris and Virginia Hyde for all their hard work and perseverance in the effort to add the Lawrence Ranch to the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Lawrence in the *Longman Anthology of British Literature***

- The new Longman Anthology of British Literature (1999) includes a generous sampling of Lawrence: "Piano," "Song of a Man Who Has Come Through," "Tortoise Shout," "Snake," "Bavarian Gentians," "The Fox," "Surgery for the Novel—or a Bomb," and a selection from *Etruscan Places*. Kevin Dettmar and Jennifer Wicke were in charge of the 20th-century section of the anthology.

### **Lawrence on the Web**

- Project Bartleby, a digital library run by Steven van Leeuwen of Columbia University, has archived all the poems of *Amores* and *New Poems*. That's at [www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/index.html).

### **Lawrence Among the Top 100**

- In July 1998 the editorial board of the Modern Library announced its (much-criticized) list of the top 100 English-language novels of the 20th century. *Ulysses* came in at #1—with *Sons and Lovers* at #9, *The Rainbow* at #48, and *Women in Love* at #49. A counter-list drawn up by students in the Radcliffe Publishing Course last summer had *The Great Gatsby* at #1, Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* at #43 (!), *Lady Chatterley's Lover* at #48, *Sons and Lovers* at #64, and *Women in Love* at #75. (At the least this student list seems to suggest that Lawrence continues to be taught.) Lawrence did not make the more recent list of the top 100 20th-century works of English-language non-fiction. (I'd vote for *Etruscan Places*.)

### **Lawrence for Sale**

- In autumn 1998 Bonham's in London auctioned four DHL watercolor landscapes that he had given to his landlord and landlady, John and Marie Jones, in 1908-09 when he boarded with them in Croydon. Their daughter Hilda Mary (originally the "baby running barefoot"), who had inherited the watercolors, died in

1997 at the age of 89. *Harvesting Scene* sold for about \$2,200, and presumably the other three went for about the same price.



- R.A. Gekoski, Pied Bull Yard, 15a Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP, recently offered the following for sale:

*Look! We Have Come Through!* (Chatto & Windus), spine sunned, spine label browned and chipped, inscribed to Kot £2,500

*Birds, Beasts and Flowers* (Secker) in torn, frayed, and faded dust-wrapper, inscribed to Frederick Carter £1,750

*Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Orioli)—a very good copy with the remnants of the dust-wrapper laid-in £4,500

### Lawrence People

- Michael Squires and Lynn K. Talbot are completing a biography of Lawrence and Frieda.

- Martin Green is completing a biography of Otto Gross.

- Stefania Michelucci has published *L'orizzonte mobile: Spazio e luoghi nella narrativa di D.H. Lawrence* (*Mobile Horizons: Space and Places in the Fiction of D.H. Lawrence*).

- Earl Ingersoll, who is completing a book entitled *Lawrence, Lacan, and Narration*, recently became chair of the English Department at SUNY College at Brockport. He and Keith Cushman are assembling a collection of essays derived from the Taos conference to be entitled *D.H. Lawrence: New Worlds*.

- Jacqueline Gouirand-Rousselon has published a biography entitled *Frieda von Richthofen, muse de D.H. Lawrence*.

- Carla Comellini has moved to the University of Trieste, where she has been promoted to Associate Professor.

- Jim Cowan has retired from teaching at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In May his wife Judy hosted a dinner that included their four children, two of their children's spouses, their twin grandchildren, and Weldon and Barbara Thornton, Howard and Jean Harper, Judith Ruderman, and Keith Cushman.

- Dennis Jackson has been on leave all year after receiving a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete research on his biography of Chuck Stone, the African-American journalist.

- Wayne C. Booth, Professor Emeritus of the University of Chicago, gave the annual Harry T. Moore Memorial Lecture at Southern Illinois University on 20 April. Booth's topic was "Are You Religious? The Overlapping Rhetorics of Science and Religion."

### New on Your Library Shelves

- *The First "Women in Love."* A new volume in the Cambridge Edition, edited by John Worthen and Lindeth Vasey. Lawrence submitted this version of the novel for publication in November 1916.

- Two new Penguins in the Twentieth-Century Classics series (with CUP texts) are now available: *Sketches of Etruscan Places* (edited with introduction and notes by Simonetta de Filippis) and *Sea and Sardinia* (edited by Mara Kalnins with introduction and notes by Jill Franks).

- *D.H. Lawrence in Italy and England*, edited by George Donaldson and Mara Kalnins. Twelve essays that derive originally from the 1995 International Research Symposium at Cambridge. St. Martin's Press.

- *The Reception of D.H. Lawrence Around the World*, edited by Takeo Iida. The contributors include Peter Preston (England), Ginette Katz-Roy (France), Simonetta de Filippis (Italy), Christa Jansohn and Dieter Mehl (Germany), Fiona Becket (Poland), Anja Viinikka (Finland), Keith Cushman (USA), Arnold Odio (Mexico), John Nause (Canada), Paul Eggert (Australia), Takeo Iida (Japan), Jungmai Kim (Korea), Xianzhi Liu (China), Sheila Lahiri Choudhury (India). Available from Kyushu University Press.

- *The Vital Art of D.H. Lawrence* by Jack Stewart. Relates Lawrence's novels to styles of modern painting. Available from Southern Illinois University Press.

- *Bookleggers and Smuthounds* by Jay A. Gertzman. A study of the erotic literature trade between the world wars, including the trade in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Available from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

- *Jessie Chambers - D.H. Lawrence's 'Princess': A Biography* by Bridget Dunseith. From the Acknowledgments: "Finally, I wish to thank Harry T. Moore and his kind whose shabby treatment of Jessie Chambers ensured the conception of this work."

- *On the Trail of the Phoenix: An Adventure and a Meditation* by Sheila Taylor. The author retraces Lawrence and Frieda's 1912 journey over the Alps to Italy, sharing her observations of her own experiences and theirs. "So there are infinite possibilities, some at least leading towards a new elitism of a less materialistic persuasion, for which it may be high time."

- Editorial Renacimiento in Sevilla, Spain, has published *Poemas*, José Moreno Carrascal's new translation of some four dozen of Lawrence's best-known poems. The translator provides an extensive introduction and notes on individual poems. The book also features a prologue by Felipe Benítez Reyes.

- Forthcoming autumn 1999 in the Cambridge Edition: the *Plays*, edited by Hans-Wilhelm Schwarze and John Worthen.

**DHL & Co.**

- *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents*, edited by Vassiliki Kolocotroni, Jane Goldman, and Olga Taxidou, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1998, devotes six of its 600+ pages to selections from Lawrence in its section devoted to Modernists on the Modern. The book prints Lawrence's letter to A.D. McLeod of 2 June 1914 (criticizing Marinetti and asserting that "the only re-sourcing of art, revivifying it, is to make it more the joint work of man and woman"); a substantial excerpt from the "old stable ego of the character" letter to Edward Garnett of 5 June 1914; and the Preface to the American edition of *New Poems* ("Poetry of the Present").

- *The Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature* (Columbia University Press, 1998) includes the "Prologue to *Women in Love*" (which it misdates 1921). The editor, Byrne R.S. Fone, remarks of the England of Housman, Forster, Wilfrid Owen, Lawrence, and Auden that "Homosexuality was the secret that everyone knew, everyone alluded to, and in which it sometimes seemed everyone discreetly participated. . . ."

- The Lehigh University Press has published *Created in Our Image: The Miniature Body of the Doll as Subject and Object* by Kitti Carriker. She discusses "The Captain's Doll," along with *Frankenstein* and works by E.T.A. Hoffmann, Yeats, Katherine Mansfield, and Edna O'Brien.

**"Snake": I—An Unrecorded Book Printing**

- "Snake" is included in *The Mercury Book: Second Series* (1927), selections from Volumes III and IV of the *London Mercury*. The poem had already appeared in the *Dial* (July 1921); *Georgian Poetry* 1920-1922; *A Miscellany of Poetry*, 1920-1923, and of course *Birds, Beasts and Flowers* (1923).

**"Snake": II + *Pansies***

- Marianne Moore was the editor of the *Dial* who accepted and published "Snake." On 8 July 1921 she wrote Robert McAlmon that "D.H. Lawrence has a magnificent poem on a snake in the July *Dial* and I hear that he has one on a mosquito in the July *Bookman*. I envy you the pleasure of meeting such people." Moore quotes thirty lines from the poem in this letter. Later that month she wrote Bryher that "D.H. Lawrence's 'Snake' in the June (*sic*) *Dial* has made me happy for a year." These and other complimentary remarks about Lawrence can be found in *The Selected Letters of Marianne Moore* (1997). This volume also includes two 1929 letters to Lawrence, mostly about *Pansies*: "One can hardly express the enjoyment given by poems in this book, as feeling and as form of expression, and that we should have

for *The Dial* what we have selected, is an eager delight. I admit, there are lines in the book, that are the outcome of certain hurts, and I am not saying that in every case the lines themselves leave no shadow of hurt; one asks for the high beauty that you conceive, inviolateness from reprisal. But taken as a whole, there is an infection of beauty.”

### **Incidental Intelligence**

- The Executive Vice-President of Ford Trucks is named Paul Morel. (You never know how a person is going to turn out.)



- *The New Yorker* for 16 November 1998 features a full-page cartoon spread by Roz Chast entitled “Children’s Dream Bedtime Routine.” The routine includes watching pro wrestling from 11 to 11:30 pm, playing video games from 12:30 to 1, getting into bed from 1 to 1:30, reading hour from 1:30 to 2:30, water break from 2:30 to 3, lights out at 4:30. During reading hour the wide-eyed girl is pictured reading *Lady Chatterly’s Lover* (of course misspelled).

### **Necrology**

- The English actor Oliver Reed died suddenly on 2 May 1999 while filming a movie in Malta. He was 61. He is best remembered for playing Gerald Crich—swarthily but strikingly—in the 1969 Ken Russell film adaptation of *Women in Love*.

### **Call for Information**

- If you have news about Lawrence-related publications, exhibitions, performances, conferences, special seminars, or any other items that would interest “Lawrentiana” readers, please send it to Keith Cushman, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro 27402—or e-mail to <keith\_cushman@uncg.edu>.