



The Lawrence Durrell Society

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MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION SUPPLEMENT

NEWS OF LAWRENCE DURRELL

Lawrence Durrell has finished the fifth volume of what is becoming known as the Avignon Quintet. Quinx, or The Ripper's Tale is scheduled to appear in the U. K. (Faber and Faber) in May, and in the U. S. (Viking) in the fall. Durrell claims this novel will prove to be his last.

For the 18 November 1984 Telegraph Sunday Magazine (London), Durrell wrote "Lamas in a French Forest," an article about the Château de Plaige near Dijon. Plaige was purchased in 1974 to be a center for some of the Buddhist holy men who had fled Tibet in 1950 when the Chinese invaded. Lawrence Durrell is the head of a committee that has been raising funds to build a temple at Plaige; the new structure will be an exact copy of the Temple of Samyé, the first Buddhist temple to be built in Tibet during the eighth century. Durrell has been heard to say that he would like to move to Plaige. Is he about to retire to a lamasery?

During the fall Lawrence Durrell, Alfred Perlès, and David Gascoyne had a reunion in Paris. There Durrell also saluted the appearance of the French translation of his Constance (Gallimard), the third Quincunx novel, and the publication of a book about himself, Vladimir Volkoff's Lawrence le Magnifique: Essai sur Lawrence Durrell et le roman relativiste (Julliard/L'Age d'Homme).

THE LAWRENCE DURRELL SOCIETY

The beginnings of the Lawrence Durrell Society date back to September 1977 when the first number of Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Newsletter, edited by James A. Erigham and Ian S. MacNiven, appeared. Quarterly issues of Deus Loci, a series of MLA Special Sessions on Durrell and his circle (one in 1978 and two in 1980), and a conference devoted to Durrell in April 1980 attracted others interested in Durrell and led to the formal establishment of the Society on 29 December 1980 in Houston, Texas, by unanimous vote of the twelve people present.

An MLA Special Session on figures related to Durrell was organized by Society members in 1981. Two additional Durrell conferences in April 1982 and April 1984 have been sponsored by the Society since its formal inception. With Volume 5, Number 1 (September 1981), Deus Loci changed its status from newsletter to quarterly; and in May 1984 the Society began The Lawrence Durrell Society Herald, which functions as a newsletter of the activities of the Society and its members. In the four years since the Society has been established, its membership has grown from 12 to 58. The current officers are James R. Nichols, President; Nancy Lewis, Vice-President; Gregory Dickson, Secretary/Treasurer.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 1985 MLA CONVENTION

Carol Marshall Peirce is proposing a Special Session on Lawrence Durrell's recently completed Avignon Quintet (Monsieur, Livia, Constance, Sebastian, Quinx) for the MLA Convention of 1985. If you would like to take part in deliberations on the Quincunx, send a proposal to Professor Peirce at the Department of English, University of Baltimore, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 by 15 March 1985.

ON MIRACLE GROUND III

Twenty-nine speakers from Australia, Canada, and the U. S. discussed many aspects of Lawrence Durrell's creative life at the Third International Lawrence Durrell Conference, which met 13-14 April 1984 at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio. A unique production of Durrell's An Irish Faustus was staged by the Muskingum College Theatre. Except for Faustus, the characters were portrayed by oversized two-dimensional puppets--a highly successful method. The second evening the speakers and audience enjoyed a convivial banquet, and on the morning of the 15th a champagne breakfast and Society meeting completed the weekend of Durrellian activities.

ON MIRACLE GROUND IV

We invite participation in OMG IV: The Fourth International Lawrence Durrell Conference, a two-day meeting to be held during April 1986 at Pennsylvania State University. This is a particularly exciting time to be discussing Durrell, since he has just completed what he claims will be his last major work. Possible topic areas for papers, panel discussions, and lectures include anything dealing with the Quincunx (The Avignon Quintet): language, style, themes, symbolism, structure, influence studies, and comparisons; the Quincunx and The Alexandria Quartet: developmental studies and comparisons; Durrell and Western Culture; Durrell and Eastern Religions; Durrell, the Templars, the Cathars, the Gnostics; comparisons between Durrell and Modernist or contemporary writers; Durrell and the Invert in Fiction; Research on Durrell: The Graduate Student Perspective (participation limited to scholars who have not yet received the Ph.D.). We are looking for suggestions: anyone wishing to propose a topic or wishing to chair a session should send in a proposal. All communications should be addressed to Michael H. Begnal, Department of English, Pennsylvania State University, 117 Burrowes Building, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802. Those received and accepted by 30 January will be included in the Call for Papers currently in preparation. Potential participants are encouraged to submit proposals through the end of 1985.

JOIN THE LAWRENCE DURRELL SOCIETY

Membership in the Lawrence Durrell Society at \$7.50 per year entitles you to four issues of Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Quarterly and two numbers (plus occasional supplementary issues) of the LDS Herald. It also puts you in touch with a group of people who are interested and active in Durrell and Durrell-related studies and who enjoy this vocation or avocation. We are a friendly Society, and our gatherings at MLA Special Sessions and Durrell conferences are socially as well as intellectually stimulating. Join us!

MAIL TO: Gregory Dickson,

I want to join the Society. Enclosed is my check (made out to the Lawrence Durrell Society) for the \$7.50 annual dues.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

Put me on the Lawrence Durrell Society mailing list for information about future Society activities.

Send me information regarding On Miracle Ground IV: The Fourth International Lawrence Durrell Conference, which will take place Spring 1986 at Pennsylvania State University.

Name & Phone Number _____

Address _____