



The Lawrence Durrell Society

HERALD

NUMBER 12

31 JULY 1990

EDITOR & PRODUCER: Susan S. MacNiven

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Gregory Dickson
Lawrence W. Markert

BRITISH CORRESPONDENT: Peter Baldwin

Produced at The State University of New York Maritime College

All material c. The Lawrence Durrell Society Herald, 1990.

ON MIRACLE GROUND VI SUPPLEMENT

IAN S. MacNIVEN

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Lawrence Durrell Society, well into its tenth year, has an enviable record: six conferences international in scope, two sets of Proceedings published and several others in progress, a newsletter that incorporates an annotated bibliography. A new venture is being planned for 1992: for the first time the Society will hold On Miracle Ground outside the United States, almost certainly in Avignon. These are only the official activities of the Society: equally important--and proclaimed in our By-Laws as a raison d'être--is the promotion of Durrell studies and publications. Papers presented at Durrell conferences have appeared in books edited by Alan Warren Friedman and by past-President Frank Kersnowski, in such journals as Deus Loci, Modern Fiction Studies, Studies in the Novel, and Twentieth Century Literature, and in several volumes scheduled for publication, including Michael Begnal's On Miracle Ground, due out this October. This list of accomplishments has owed much to the officers who have just stepped down: Frank Kersnowski,

President of the Society for a record three years, Vice-President Jennifer Leonard, and Jim Nichols, Secretary/Treasurer 1980-84 and 1988-90. I thank them--as should we all--and pledge with confidence that the new management, Vice-President Lyn Goldman, Secretary/Treasurer Anna Lillios, and I will do our best to continue on the path that they have so ably followed. Let me stress, however, that this is and should be a participating society: please write or phone me or the other officers with your suggestions, complaints, offers of assistance. There is much to be done!

As I return to the presidency--I had served in the office from March 1983 to April 1984 following the resignation of the incumbent--I see a few main objectives. Paramount among these is to promote European participation in Durrell scholarship through a conference held across the Atlantic. A continuing goal is to achieve wider acceptance for Durrell in United States and Canadian academic circles, and one means toward this end would be to obtain "allied association" status with the Modern Language Association of America. The MLA has rejected us in the past partly because the Society does not have enough members who are also members of the

MLA: and indeed, for this reason and for the strength of the Society, my third goal is to increase our paid-up membership. You can help: join if you are not now a member; recruit your colleagues; give a Society membership for Christmas or Chanukah!

So much for the future. My first pleasure as incoming president is to celebrate the success of On Miracle Ground VI, hosted by Jim Nichols at Georgia Southern College 19 to 22 April. The conference began on a Thursday evening with the reminiscences of Dr. Jean Fanchette, friend of Lawrence Durrell since 1958, founder of Two Cities magazine, poet, publisher, psychoanalyst, whose incisive comments from the audience on succeeding days enlivened the discussions. It ended the following Sunday with a magnificent champagne brunch set out by Betsy Nichols on the lawn of her lakeside home. As we sat or stood, sipping the champagne, eating the wonderful fruit compote, the good ham and sliced beef and dark bread and sweet rolls, watching the ducks file down to the water, we mused in pleased and dazed contentment over the events of the past few days.

It was indeed a splendid conference. Thirty-six participants listed on the program spoke, exhorted, argued; others who came to listen were drawn into the discussions. Notable among the latter was François Bucher, Professor of Art History at Florida State University and founding President of the Nautilus Foundation near Tallahassee, who delivered an impromptu address on his relationship with Durrell at the banquet on Saturday evening. We were all stimulated by the new faces, often with brilliant insights to offer: Anne Zahlan on Ruskin and Mountolive, Elizabeth Mangan on the Sufis, Marie-Christine Veldeman from Liege (Belgium) on narrative technique in Monsieur, Ann Gibaldi on entropy in the Quintet, Harold K. St. Clair on "Space-Time-Relativity," Angela Cecere from Bari (Italy) on Durrell's "polygonal" structure, Joan Maack-Pinkney on "The Strindberg Connection." Don Langford, who had attended OMG V in 1988, made his first presentation (on Groddeck and Rank) this year. Roger Bowen, unavoidably absent from Durrell conferences since 1982, read his "Orientalism and Empire" paper, a study enriched by his travels in the Far East. Friday evening we watched Patricia Pace's sensitively-staged production of Durrell's Acte, performed in the

garb of modern dance against projections in Gothic letters proclaiming "The Storyteller Tends His Vines," "Mummy: Homage to Freud," "A Conspiracy," and so on. Shelley Cox in her analysis of Durrell's unfinished and unpublished novel, "Village of the Turtle-doves," revealed perhaps the most exciting new material. Ed Hungerford's slide-illustrated talk, "Durrell in Spirit and Place," gave us many fine images of Durrell's Mediterranean. Throughout the conference we were able to enjoy a professionally-mounted exhibition of twelve of Durrell's paintings, loaned by Morris Library at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and by various private collectors. And there were unplanned cameo performances: for instance Harry Stoneback, guitar in hand, by the pool at the Holiday Inn until 3 AM, assisted by Lyn Goldman, Mike Cartwright, Bill Godshalk, Greg Dickson, Gibaldi, and others in a (largely vain) attempt to remember all the words to anything Stoney wanted to play.

This is not a complete account, nor have I named all the valuable contributions. I have deliberately featured newcomers to the Durrell conferences--which does not mean that the many repeaters were not among the very best participants: they were! Fred Sanders at Georgia Southern College is editing a Proceedings; we hope that before too long you will be able to judge for yourselves. A star performer turned out to be Georgia Southern itself: hospitality, friendliness, organization, logistics, superb meeting rooms--everything possible was done for our comfort and convenience. To the many involved at the college--and they really are too many to mention individually--our deepest appreciation and thanks.

JENNIFER LEONARD

FROM THE OUTGOING VICE-PRESIDENT

Let me extend my congratulations to our new officers, President Ian MacNiven, Vice-President Lyn Goldman, and Secretary/Treasurer Anna Lillios, an able group, indeed. The Durrell Society is fortunate to have such accomplished leadership.

Our recent visit to Statesboro, Georgia, for the occasion of On Miracle Ground VI gave us

a posse firing papers and repartee which assures us that Durrell scholarship flourishes. I look forward to our next meeting, in Avignon, truly a territory of miracle ground.

Grace Gordon

ANNA LILLIOS

Eugene Hollahan
English Department
Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Joan W. Maack-Pinkney

No sooner had I unpacked from my visit to Statesboro than four large boxes of LD Society archives appeared on my doorstep. Since then, I have installed them in my office and am now ready for business.

Elizabeth Mangan

At the OMG VI conference, the Society received \$266 from new memberships and the sale of past Proceedings. The LDS account now stands at \$1,222.74.

Jeremy Robinson

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership form. For renewals, please fill out the form and send a check (payable to the Lawrence Durrell Society) to me (Dept. of English, University of Central Florida, P.O. Box 25000, Orlando, Florida 32816). If you are already a paid-up member, please pass the form on to a friend who you suspect has Durrellian leanings.

Harold K. St. Clair

I am happy to report that there are eleven new names on the Society membership roll. We welcome the following:

Anne Zahlan and David Radavich

Khani Begum

Angela Cecere

VIRGINIA KIRBY-SMITH CARRUTHERS

ACTE IN STATESBORO

Ann Gibaldi
Department of English
Greenlaw Building
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill
North Carolina 27599-3520

Judiciously abridged and imaginatively directed by Patricia Pace of Georgia Southern College's Performance/Works company, Lawrence Durrell's Acte proved its stageworthiness in a single performance on the second evening of On Miracle Ground VI.

Faced with the problems presented by a small budget and a concert hall stage ill-

equipped for drama, Pace designed a production which made optimal use of her resources. Simple black cubes provided the simply-costumed actors with a variety of playing levels on the uncurtained open stage. Through the choreographic device of freezing on the periphery actors not engaged in the current scene, the potential awkwardness of multiple entrances and exits was avoided and an even pace maintained.

In the absence of representational sets and period costumes, the director provided both visual interest and thematic focus through scene titles of her own devising projected in handsome black letter type on a striking red background onto a screen above the stage. These included "The Storyteller Tends His Vines," "A Gamble," "Blind Justice," "Swordplay," "A Dream of Unity," "A Conspiracy," "Mummy: Homage to Freud," "False Idols," "The Artisan God," "Actors Embrace," "The Artist Becomes a Critic."

The members of the company, including Ashley Doak in the title role, exhibited a commendable level of competence. Rohan Quince as a highly kinetic Nero and Josh Braun as a quietly clever Petronius were particularly notable for their ability to give body to the considerable humor in Durrell's play.

SOCIETY NOTICES

Officers, Board & Standing-Committee Members

In accordance with our By-Laws and the election held at the meeting of 22 April, the following will serve the Society until the 1992 elections:

President:	Ian S. MacNiven
Vice-President:	Lyn Goldman
Secretary/Treasurer:	Anna Lillios
Executive Board:	Michael Cartwright Frank Kersnowski Nancy Lewis Ian S. MacNiven James R. Nichols Carol Peirce
Publications Board:	Michael H. Begnal Paige Matthey Bynum Michael Cartwright Lawrence W. Markert

Carol Peirce
Julius R. Raper

Conference Committee: James R. Nichols

Archivist: Susan S. MacNiven

Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal

Editor: Ian S. MacNiven
Associate Editors: James R. Nichols
Carol Peirce

Herald Editor: Susan S. MacNiven
Assistant Editors: Gregory Dickson
Lawrence W. Markert

British Correspondent: Peter Baldwin

The HERALD

The newsletter is scheduled for the 15th of October and March, and unscheduled numbers appear occasionally. Please send news, comments, suggestions to Susan MacNiven at

). The deadline
for material for the fall newsletter is 1
October.

SUSAN S. MACNIVEN

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY

OR CONCERNING LAWRENCE DURRELL

* A paperback Antrobus Complete with drawings by Marc was issued by Faber and Faber in 1989 at £3.99.

* Alexandrie d'Egypte (Paris: Editions Eric Koehler, 1989. 71 pages. FF125.00) is a selection of writings by Lawrence Durrell: "Alexandria," LD's preface (translated into French by Anne Wade Minkowski) to Michael Haag's editions of E.M. Forster's Alexandria: A History and a Guide; "Entretien avec Lawrence Durrell," from Marc Alyn's Le grand suppositoire; "Trois lettres de Lawrence Durrell à Henry Miller," written in 1944, from the Buchet/Chastel edition of Lawrence Durrell-Henry Miller: A Private Correspondence ed. by George Wickes; and "Les lieux du Quatuor d'Alexandrie." The last section, the longest, is accompanied by excellent color photographs of Alexandria by

Rodolphe Hammadi. There is also a preface, "Alexandrie, Capitale de la Mémoire," by Olivier Poivre d'Arvor. This is a charming little book, very beautifully produced.

* Herald 5 listed but did not give bibliographical data for Julian More's Views from a French Farmhouse with photos by Carey More, which refers to LD and includes short quotations from Monsieur, Livia, and The Plant-Magic Man. Holt, Rinehart and Winston (N.Y.) published this 144-page book in 1985 at \$16.95. It is a delightful book with wonderful photos, mostly in color. I just bought a copy from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, Connecticut 06031-5000) for \$4.95 (there is a \$3.00 post charge for each order, but ERH has a good selection at low prices so one usually buys more than one book at a time).

* Frank Kersnowski published an interview with LD, "Lawrence Durrell at Le Dôme," in Key West Review 1.2 (Fall 1988): 33-41. Kersnowski met LD in 1984, and this piece focuses on their conversations at this time.

* * * * *

* LDS member Jeremy Robinson published Love, Culture & Poetry: A Study of Lawrence Durrell (Kidderminster: Crescent Moon, 1990). This 20-page study deals mainly with The Revolt of Aphrodite; it is available for £3.00 (& £2.00 for overseas mail) from Robinson (make checks payable to him) at 4 Priory Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6NW, England.

* Robin Rook's Lawrence Durrell's Double Concerto: The Alexandria Quartet and The Avignon Quintet Reappraised (Birmingham, England: The Delos Press, 1990. 15 pp.) appears in two editions: an ordinary edition at £2.50 and a signed one at £15.00. Order these from Peter Baldwin, 11 School Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ET, England; include 50p for postage, £1.00 for overseas postage. There is a £3.00 conversion charge for non-Sterling payments. At present copies of the ordinary edition are available to Canadian and U.S. members at \$4.50, postpaid, from S. MacNiven, 14 Magnolia Place, Silver Beach Gardens, Bronx, N.Y. 10465.

* More reviews of The Durrell-Miller Letters, 1935-80:

John Haegert reviews Norman Page's E.M. Forster and the Letters in Modern Fiction Studies 35.4 (Winter 1989): 808-810; he calls the latter "one of the most moving documents of its kind to appear in many years."

The Spring 1990 (pp. 134-135) Prairie Schooner review observes that each writer "believes in opening the novel to all areas of human experience, but Miller wants to open the content and language of fiction, Durrell the forms of fiction."

There is a 5-line mention of the paperback edition in the Glasgow Herald of 16 December 1989, which labels it a "two-man intellectual admiration, if not masturbation, society."

David Holloway, in "Paperbacks in Brief" in the Sunday Telegraph (London) of 25 February 1990, comments: "Some may find the mutual admiration society sickening, but embedded here are Durrell's memoirs, sadly never written in any other form."

In "Pedigree Chums," New Statesman & Society 2 March 1990: 33-34, Robert Carver reviews Charles Doyle's Richard Aldington: A Biography along with the Letters (paperback ed.). About LD, Carver states: "Currently unfashionable and seriously underrated both as poet and novelist, Durrell emerges as one of the great literary letter writers from abroad, on a par with Byron." Carver ends the review with: "Their [Durrell's and Miller's] generosity, magnanimity and joie de vivre stand as a reproach to so much of the meanness and petty spite that passes for literary life today."

* Joseph A. Boone's "Mappings of Male Desire in Durrell's Alexandria Quartet" appeared in South Atlantic Quarterly 88.1 (Winter 1989): 73-106. Referring to the Quartet, Boone writes that "Durrell's critical stock . . . couldn't be lower today; his blend of existential soul-searching and lush romanticism stands at a far remove from current postmodern critical sensibilities." However, Boone believes the Quartet is redeemable for today's critics: "If we employ some of the insights that have marked literary criticism--particularly narrative and gender theory--since Durrell's eclipse, we will find a text very much worth our attention, not so much for its successes as for the way it insistently dramatizes the sexual politics of the colonial narrative, especially as filtered through the eyes of its desiring male--and ostensibly heterosexual--narrator, Darley, a

blocked writer and confused sexual subject for whom issues of erotic perception, masculine subjectivity, and narrative authority are inextricably linked."

* The Statesboro Herald of 19 April 1990 outlined the events of the Sixth International LD Conference, "the first of its kind at Southern," on pages 1 & 3 ("English Writer Lawrence Durrell's Works to Be Discussed at Southern" by Jay Jones).

* Stephen Spender's Journals 1939-1983, edited by John Goldsmith (Faber and Faber, 1985), mentions LD on one page in connection with the August 1960 Edinburgh Festival.

* The Collected Letters of Dylan Thomas, edited by Paul Ferris and published by J.M. Dent & Sons (London) in 1985, contains six of Thomas's letters to LD and various mentions of LD.

* Nancy Lewis sent the following from Victoria, Australia: "A rather disparaging reference to Durrell turned up in A Sense of Place in the New Literatures in English, ed. Peggy Nightingale. Brisbane: U. of Queensland Press, 1986. He is referred to as a 'phase one' writer about place, meaning the travel writer about 'exotica.' A 'phase two' writer writes about place as a colonial--e.g. Olive Schreiner or Miles Franklin. Phases three and four go on to national identity and multiculturalism respectively. . . . A bit of a simplification--does one have to be a 'native' or a permanent resident, a true immigrant, to write authentically about place?" The article referring to LD is the volume's title essay by Stephen Gray.

* "Rhodes: The Crusader Legacy" by Robert D. Kaplan (International Herald Tribune 11 August 1989: Travel section, 7 & 9) is a slightly condensed version of Kaplan's "A Greek Island of Space and Light," mentioned in Herald 11.

* Anais 8 (1990) contains three articles that mention LD: Hoshang Merchant's "Out of and Into the Labyrinth: Approaching the Aesthetics of Anais Nin" (pp. 51-59); Hugo Manning's "The Wider Purpose of Henry Miller: Literature as Experience and Revelation" (pp. 99-106); and Gunther Stuhlmann's "What Emil Knew: Henry

Miller Writes to His Best Friend in America" (pp. 107-114).

* In "Alfred Perlès," the obituary by John Calder in The Independent of 31 January 1990, there are references to LD.

* In "The English Death: Alistair Miller on the Lack of Life in Our National Passions" (The Spectator 10 March 1990: 18-19), LD and The Black Book are mentioned.

* David Kaufman in "The Semi-Fictional Solution," a review of four fictional biographies in The Nation 18 June 1990: 862-865, compares Jay Parini's The Last Station, which focuses on Tolstoy's last year of life, to the Quartet: "Not unlike Ford Madox Ford's The Good Soldier or Lawrence Durrell's The Alexandria Quartet . . . , The Last Station employs a fugue of various viewpoints and shifting voices to derive a sense of the infuriating contradictions that described Tolstoy in 1910."

* In his new book of poems, Anthologie personelle (Arles: Actes Sud, 1989), Frédéric-Jacques Temple dedicates two works to LD: "Justine" (p. 28) and "Caravane" (pp. 107-108).

WATCH FOR THESE FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS!

* On Miracle Ground: Essays on the Fiction of Lawrence Durrell, edited by Michael H. Begnal. Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Bucknell University Press, October 1990. \$35.00.

* Caesar's Vast Ghost: Aspects of Provence by Lawrence Durrell, with photographs by Harry Peccinotti. London: Faber and Faber, November 1990. £17.50.

*****To those who contributed information for this column--Anne Perlès Barret, Michael Begnal, Michael Cartwright, Peter Christensen, Penelope Durrell Hope, Peggy Fox, Frank Kersnowski, Lee Lemon, Nancy Lewis, Anthea Morton-Saner, James Nichols, Jeremy Robinson, Bernard Stone--many thanks.