NANCY LEWIS

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings, Durrellians!

Amazing—but here we are into the autumn of the academic year that will contain On Miracle Ground V. Nineteen eighty, the year of OMG I, does not seem so long ago until, perhaps, we look at the expansion of Durrell studies since then. Nineteen eighty-eight promises to be an exciting spring for all of us.

Having taught an eight-week term in summer, I have had to adopt as my own the armchair voyager's motto, "Much have I traveled in the realms of gold." Thus, I have been up the Nile "with" Amelia Edwards—not at all a travel companion like Durrell, but nonetheless most interesting. An Englishwoman from Gloucestershire (Westbury-upon-Trym, to be precise), she made a trip up the Nile during the winter of 1873-74 and, upon her return home, began writing the book and collecting the sketches she had done. In 1877, she published A Thousand Miles Up the Nile. The book was recommended to me by a friend in Bristol as "wonderful but hard to find." Back here, on a whim, I tried my university library—and there the book was, duly donated years ago when someone was cleaning out an attic.

Amelia Edwards is a woman to cheer the heart of anyone who boasts a Mediterranean spirit, for her trip to Egypt came about as a response to endless drizzle in northern France. She and a companion (both women of some means but certainly not of great wealth) were on a September sketching holiday when, worn down by the weather, they impulsively decided to push on to the sun—Algiers, Malta, or Cairo. Somehow, Cairo carried the day, and they sailed from Brindisi to Alexandria late in the autumn of 1873.

Her prose does not have the glories of Durrell's, but she is clearly very observant in the "English" way and not afraid to ask questions. Thus, discussions range from the habits of scarabs to the incidence of ophthalmia to the Muslim beliefs of the boat's crew to the bifurcation of palms. Happily, she avoids both extremes of the obnoxious traveler, Victorian or otherwise: she is neither judgmental about how "backward" the natives are nor patronizing over how "quaint" they are.

On the trip she resumed sketching; the seventy-plus illustrations are of wood engravings copied from her original drawings—of village scenes, of temple details, of palms rising from the river banks. She also learned how to read Egyptian hieroglyphs and continued that study back in England while she was writing the book. A Thousand Miles Up the Nile was a good trip.
FRANK KERSNOWSKI

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Not having yet received letters about your summer travels, complete with hints and warnings to be passed on, I have decided to send recipes. But let me hear about your travels and any comments you may have about noted landmarks, such as Le Dome, being closed for repairs. Life seems dull without such news.

In November of 1987, I read a paper on the Irish writer John Montague at a symposium on the Irish short story at the University of Angers in France. Through the kindness of one of my favorite authors, I visited Lawrence Durrell in Sommières for a few days after I left Angers. The first evening in Sommières, Durrell invited me to dinner and served what I now call Chicken Curry in the Manner of Lawrence Durrell, generally shortened to Larry's Chicken. The recipe he gave me, I pass on--with a few emendations and suggestions.

Start with a cut-up fryer or whatever collection of chicken parts pleases you; dust the chicken on both sides with curry powder and ginger. Place it in an overproof pan with halved and peeled onions and a few whole peppers (banana, jalapeno, etc.), and lay a few slices of uncooked bacon on top of the chicken. Roast the hell out of it.

Emendations: If cholesterol is a word you use frequently, you may wish to eliminate the skin of the chicken and/or the bacon. Some moisture will help: spray with PAM or turn once during cooking. Roast the chicken at 450 degrees uncovered for 40 minutes or until the juice runs clear when the chicken is pricked with a fork. Use grated fresh ginger. Make your own curry powder: in a blender place two dried red chilies, one teaspoon fenugreek, one teaspoon cardamom, one teaspoon coriander, two tablespoons turmeric; turn to a fine powder.

Suggestions: Serve the chicken with rice pilau (spelling varies), vegetable baghí (spelling varies), and cucumber raita.

Rice pilau: Rinse one cup rice until the water runs quite clear and put into a pot with an equal amount of water and 1/2 teaspoon turmeric. Boil until the water is almost completely absorbed and small holes appear on the top of rice (I call these plocks). Stir in 1/2 cup frozen peas and 1/4 cup raisins. Finish cooking. Total cooking time is about 20 minutes or one martini if you measure time that way.

Vegetable baghí: Into a frying pan put about three tablespoons oil. When hot, add two cloves minced garlic and one teaspoon brown or black mustard seeds. Cover the pan because the seeds will pop. When they stop popping, add two cups broccoli flowers and stems (the latter peeled and sliced). Coat with the oil mixture and add a scant 1/4 cup water. Cook until done but crisp (about ten minutes).

Cucumber raita: Into one cup yogurt stir 1/3 cup sliced cucumber. Serve in small bowls to accompany the meal.

Variation on the chicken curry: Sauté the chicken on both sides in three tablespoons oil until golden. Add one large can peeled tomatoes previously chopped in a blender. Cook for 30 minutes. When done, add one pound fresh spinach that has been rinsed and had its stems removed; blend it into the chicken and sauce, and cook until the spinach is just limp. DO NOT LET IT TURN INTO A SUDDEN GREEN LUMP!

This meal should be served with what most people would consider an excessive amount of Côtes du Rhône. Don't be coerced into serving a light white wine. This dish can handle the red.

Indian cooking invites novelty and invention, both of which are as essential to my cooking as excessive amounts of red wine. So use your own judgment with regard to times and quantities. Turmeric is a necessity, however, and cannot be left out. The same is true of dried chilies and, I think, fenugreek. Stores that sell healthy foods for people with compromised diets will probably carry fenugreek.

GREGORY DICKSON

SECRETARY/TEASURER'S REPORT

For this issue I offer a column chock-full of strong apologies and weak excuses. For starters, this issue of the Herald is late because one of the editors, who is also the Secretary/Treasurer, didn't get his column to Susan McNiven on time.* I have also been tardy with my Society record-keeping and correspondence with you, the members. For all of the above I offer sincere apologies, and to prevent such occurrences in the future, I offer the following suggestions: the next Secretary/Treasurer of the Society shall not, while serving his or her term:

a) live in the Rocky Mountains in the winter in a town with only one highway in and out,

b) have his or her house broken into and
all Society records (including those on computer
disk) strewn about or destroyed,
c) get a divorce,
d) change jobs, and
  e) move to California in a Jeep with room
     for only two boxes of clothes, two boxes of
     books, and a computer.

For committing all of the above crimes, I
apologize again; I'm surprised someone didn't
start a recall movement. I thank you all for
your patience and for the absence of nasty
letters in my mailbox.

Most of us are about six months behind in our
dues, but that's because, again, the
Secretary/Treasurer wasn't doing his duty: I
have not sent you expiration notices, nor have I
even given you gentle hints. If you know that
your dues ran out in August of 1987, then send
your check to me at... If you are not
sure of your membership's expiration date,
either write to me at the above address or
contact me at the convention at Southern
Illinois University, where I hope to see you
all.

We have four new members whom I am happy to
welcome to the Society:

Margrit Fritschi

Mary Ann Larkin

Princess Laura M. Perry

David Wilkinson

*Society Notices*

**President Resigns**

On 8 December, Nancy Lewis resigned as
President of the Society because she will be
abroad again for an extended period. She was
offered and accepted a position as an exchange
professor at the University of Lund, Sweden, for
the spring of 1988. Since this prevented her
from attending the Society meeting in San
Francisco and will keep her from being with us
at OMG V and providing further help with the
conference planning, Nancy felt Frank Kersnowski
should assume the presidency.

**LDS Meeting at the MLA**

Durrellians at the Modern Language
Association Convention in San Francisco in
December were few in number. The 28 December
Society meeting was attended by Paige Matthey
Bynum, who plans to participate in OMG V and is
interested in becoming a Society member; David
Koch from Southern Illinois University; new
Society President, Frank Kersnowski; and Susan &
Ian MacNiven and Jim Nichols. The forthcoming
Durrell conference was the main topic of
discussion, after which we repaired to a Chinese
restaurant for some serious eating. Peter
Christensen and Ed Hungerford were also in town,
and the MacNivens were able to visit with them.

On the MLA program I noticed one Durrell
paper, "The Polymorphous Perverse and Foreign
Others in Lawrence Durrell" by Joseph Allen
Boone, scheduled for the special session
entitled "The Politics of Narrative in the
Contemporary Novel." Since the session met at
the time of the LDS meeting, none of us--except
perhaps Peter--heard this paper.

**OMG V**

On Miracle Ground V: The Fifth International
Lawrence Durrell Conference will be held at
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale 14-17
April 1988. For background there will be a
major exhibit from the Lawrence Durrell Archive
that resides at SIUC. On Thursday evening (time
not definite yet, but probably from 7 to 9),
there will be a reception in Special
Collections, which is on the second floor of
Morris Library, to give the conference
participants an opportunity to examine the
Durrell material. For Friday evening, a
dramatic reading of passages from Sappho is
planned. The Society cocktail hour and banquet
will be held on Saturday night at the Giant City
Lodge. On Sunday morning, we will have the
traditional champagne breakfast and farewell.
And, yes, there will be serious literary
discussion! The topics include but are not
limited to Durrell from alchemical, decon-
structionist, Eastern, feminist, modernist, and
post-modernist perspectives; comparisons of
Durrell with other major writers; and genre
studies. We are delighted to report that there
has been a record response to the Call for
Papers for OMG V. Some forty-six people have
sent in proposals or papers or offered to act as
moderators. The last weekend in January, LDS
Executive Board members Ian MacNiven, Jim
Nichols, and Carol Pelrice met with Richard
Peterson, the Conference Coordinator at SIUC,
and his planning board: Khani Begum, Shelley
Cox, Alan Cohn, David Koch, and Marie
Malinauskas; and they arranged a tentative
program. Friday and Saturday we will devote
most of the daylight hours to dissecting the
Durrell oeuvre, seriously or humorously, via
papers, panels, and open discussions. The
Society business meeting is scheduled for
Friday's lunch break.

The conference fee is $25.00 ($10.00 for
graduate and undergraduate students), and there
is a $15.00 charge for the optional but highly
recommended Saturday night banquet. A block of
rooms is being held through 1 April at the
Holiday Inn (800 Main Street, Carbondale,
Illinois 62901; tel. 618-529-1100) at the
special rate of $35.00 single, $41.00 double.
Reservations are up to the individual, but be
sure to register for the "Lawrence Durrell
Conference" block of rooms.

Carbondale is easily accessible by train
(AMTRAK), but the nearest regularly-serviced
airport is in Marion, 20 miles distant. SIUC
will provide a shuttle service between Carbon-
dale and the Marion airport, but you will have
to indicate your need to be met on the
registration form, available on application
from:
Lawrence Durrell Conference
Division of Continuing Education
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-6705
(Phone: )

A word on travel via St. Louis. If you are
coming by air, you will save a lot of money
(abut $100 per person, depending on the size of
the car and the number of people in your party)
by flying to Lambert-St. Louis International
Airport and then renting a car for the 2-1/2
hour drive (about 120 miles) to Carbondale.

Hertz quoted us $15.95 per day for a sub-
compact, with a mileage allowance of 100 miles
per day; Alamo $19.95 per day, unlimited
mileage. Easiest route from the airport:

--Interstate 70 West to
--Interstate 270 South,
which becomes Interstate 255;
--cross the Mississippi onto U.S. 50, & in a few
miles bear
--right onto (Illinois) State Hwy 3 for about 75
miles;
--left onto State Hwy 149 into Murphysboro,
where you
--continue onto State Hwy 13 into Carbondale.

If you have any further questions about the
conference, please call the coordinator, Richard
F. Peterson (618-453-5321).

Society Elections
Elections for officers will be conducted at
the Society meeting at OMG V. The Executive
Board has chosen the Nominations Committee: Lee
Lemon (Dept. of English, 224 Andrews Hall,
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
68588; ), Wayne Markert ( ), and Susan Vander Clooster ( );

It is their responsibility to
present a full slate of candidates at the
meeting: at least one candidate for each office.
However, the Nominations Committee will also
accept nominations by members at large during
the meeting.

Anybody who would like to serve as an officer of
the Society should contact a member of the
Nominations Committee. Likewise, anyone wishing
to propose a name or names for specific offices
--president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer
--should send nominations to Lee, Wayne, or
Susan or give them their recommendations before
the Society meeting.

Membership Dues
Dues remain:
$ 7.50 for a one-year single membership
$15.00 for a two-year single membership
$10.00 for a one-year double membership
$20.00 for a two-year double membership
Checks should be made out to The Lawrence
Durrell Society and sent to Greg Dickson at

Membership entitles you to participate in our
annual meetings and biennial conferences and to
receive the Herald, Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal, and various notices. If your membership has expired, please renew it.

HERALD Numbers 9 and 10

Once again the editor apologizes for the lateness of the newsletter; perhaps a Reform will occur in 1988! The Herald should appear regularly the 15th of each October and March.

Contributions to the newsletter have been disappointingly few. We know(expect/suspect that many Society members have been publishing, travelling, discovering old or new Durrell publications or criticisms, and doing a variety of other exciting things. Please tell us about your projects and adventures. Your news, comments, criticisms--any information from you--is most welcome. Send it to Susan MacNiven at 14 Magnolia Place, Silver Beach Gardens, Bronx, New York 10465 (or phone at 212-792-2726). We give special thanks to those who did send material for this number of the newsletter.

PETER BALDWIN

THE VIEW FROM PUDDING ISLAND:
BOX KNOCKS ETERNAL IMAGES

I have the greatest misgivings about the soundness of converting an established literary classic into a film, whether it be for the cinema or for the small screen. Cynically, it can be seen as an attempt by the producer to cash in on the fame of the book; more generously, we can view it as an attempt to add another dimension to the written word by imaginative direction. The kernel of the difficulty lies in the conflict between the reader's imagined version and the director's realization. Our imagination is stimulated when we read a novel, and we create mental images of the story unfolding before our eyes on the written page. However, it is these very mental images which are destroyed by film, and, unless the director can substitute another dimension in the course of his presentation of the film, the work simply becomes an inferior pictogram of the original, drifting toward pastiche. Moreover, the film then serves to destroy the images which the reader had conjured up as he read the book.

Each of us will have created an image of Darley, Justine, Balthazar, Mountolive, and Clea while reading The Alexandria Quartet. However, after we have seen Cukor's film Justine, it is a struggle to reread the novel without having the faces of Michael York, Anouk Aimée, and Dirk Bogarde popping up over the horizons of our imaginations. To every work of art is added another dimension: the viewer's perceptions. This dimension must be cherished and cared for; failure to do so threatens this dimension by the supplanting of the mental image, which the reader has created for himself as part of his experience of a work of art, with the film image.

What Gerald Durrell's My Family and Other Animals loses in this context by transmission to the T.V. screen in the current BBC production has not been compensated for by any additional insights which a skillful interpretation might have achieved. Indeed the whole production seems to be a pale simulacrum of the original, which must rank as the favourite childhood book of many of us. The BBC has recently started this ten-part serialisation of the story, and the general consensus of those whom I have asked is disappointment. There is none of the sense of cultural transformation which is communicated in the original, nor do we share Gerald's joy for creatures viewed at first hand by a boy in a juvenile paradise. Rather we are treated to the episodic encounters of the lad with some of the characters and fauna of the island. The brief wildlife footage does not transmit Gerald's enthusiasm and wonder over his discoveries. I do not wish to suggest that some weighty artistic approach was called for, but surely in a story where location is all-important the "spirit of place" deserves better homage than this. Lawrence Durrell sums it up so well in the oft-quoted lines from Prospero's Cell: "Somewhere between Calabria and Corfu the blue really begins. ... You enter Greece as one might enter a dark crystal; the form of things becomes irregular, refracted. ... Other countries may offer you discoveries in manners or lore or landscape; Greece offers you something harder--the discovery of yourself."

For all that, my seven-year-old son, who has not read the book, describes the T.V. adaptation as a "brill programme," so it does not go without accolade; and I can commend the casting. For followers of this journal, Anthony Calf as Larry certainly looks the part, if you can forgive the extra six inches of height he has achieved. Darren Redmayne as Gerald is quite delightful, although the trophy goes to Hannah Gordon as the mother. She is eminently credible as the bond holding the family together; and she
is able to view with benign impartiality the members' squabbles.

To coincide with the T.V. production, Grafton has republished My Family and Other Animals. This is a lovely sound book, set in my own favourite typeface, the elegant Bembo, with silk headbands on the binding. This edition is illustrated threefold. Gerald has provided cartoons of some of the incidents from the book. They are as interesting as the watercolours of the flora and fauna are unnecessary—perhaps the latter will appeal more to my seven-year-old than they do to me. Of most interest to the Durrellians are the photos of the family taken at the time they lived in Corfu. They interest without being intrusive. Of the three that feature Lawrence, the one of him with other members of the family on the veranda of the Daffodil-Yellow Villa is the most fascinating. Larry is seen in a self-assured pose balancing on the veranda railing next to the beautiful Nancy. The book retails at £14.95, but it is well worth it.

There are other publications on the stocks, although we will have to be patient until their appearance. July '88 is the promised-date for the extended Durrell-Miller correspondence. It is a co-publication by Michael Haag and Faber, and we are promised photos as well as a lot of previously unpublished letters. The latest Michael Haag catalogue carries one of the pictures: Miller and Durrell lounging nude on the veranda in Corfu. Faber is due to republish the paperback of Durrell's Spirit of Place: Letters and Essays on Travel, although I have no date yet. Two other interesting items, again for which I have no dates, are Durrell's book on Provence and a book illustrated by Paul Hogarth. Switch to an exclusive interview with Lawrence Durrell's agent:

P.B.: Any sign yet of Larry's book on Provence?
Agent: No. It's like waiting for Godot!

P.B.: Does the book have a working title?
Agent: Yes..."Provence!"

P.B.: Can I interview you for my article in the Herald?
Agent: No!!

Paul Hogarth is the illustrator of the acclaimed Graham Greene Country, which sets out to illustrate scenes from all of Greene's novels. There is talk of Hogarth's doing a similar exercise on Durrell's novels. Whilst I am delighted with the pictures Hogarth has done for Greene, the accompanying text is entirely disposable, and I fear that the net result is to add but little to the appreciation of Greene's work. Greene, like Durrell, has a strong ability to conjure up the atmosphere of a place and, indeed, his character's response to a place. Hogarth's pictures are colourful and therefore attractive, but they capture none of the psychological nuances of the original writing. Greene's contemporary commentary would have been best left out, given its triviality against the original passages. Hogarth's diary entries, made when he was visiting the sites of Greene's novels to do the original sketches, accompany his pictures but often bear no relation to the stories which he is attempting to illustrate.

My publication of Durrell's An Irish Faustus has appeared under my own imprint, The Delos Press. I have a prospectus available for those who have not yet been treated to that document. (Write me at 11, School Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ET.) There are two editions available, both incorporating a previously unpublished picture by Oscar Epfs (i.e., Durrell himself). The paperback is available in a limited edition of 350, for which I had the wrapper specially designed to incorporate Durrell's illustration. Both editions were printed letterpress to a very fine standard by the Stellar Press and bound by Woolnoths, whose workmanship well matches the high quality I wanted to achieve. Already—in only three months since publication—more than half the Special Edition of 75 has sold. The Specials are beautifully bound in buckram and are a delight to hold and read. Without a blash on my cheek, I can commend this edition of the magnificent play as being a good investment. I have read Faustus goodness knows how many times in the course of proofreading, etc., but I can still open the book and know that something refreshing will greet my mind. This is a new edition of the text on which Durrell's daughter Penelope has worked to create a much more manageable and playable text than the 1963 Faber version. In addition to his illustration, Durrell has contributed a new preface and has given his entire approval to his daughter's amendments. There is talk of producing Faustus in Lyon and then in Paris.

Birmingham, England
1 November 1987
PEOPLE, PLACES AND PUBLICATIONS

* LAWRENCE DURRELL'S An Irish Faustus, in the new adaptation by Penelope Durrell Hope, ran for three weeks in Lyon during the autumn. Eleonore Hirt, a well-known French actress and a long-time friend of Durrell, performed the role of Queen Kathleen. I have heard the play is going to appear at the Comédie Française in Paris, but have not learned whether this will indeed materialize.

* JAMES P. CARLEY gave a talk and slide show on Glastonbury and A Glastonbury Romance at the Third Annual Conference of the Powys Society of North America at Hofstra University, 5-7 June 1987. Also at that conference, PETER CHRISTENSEN presented a paper, "Wessex, 1272: History in John Cowper Powys's The Brazen Head."


* In Profession 87, the publication of the Modern Language Association, REED WAY DASENBROOK has an article, "English Department Geography" (pp. 53-59), which may well provide a focus for humanities studies over the next decade.

* GROVE Koger reviewed Paul Bowles' Points in Time for the November/December 1987 issue of The Bloomsbury Review.

* From JENNIFER LEONARD came the following note: "I was in New York in September for a staff meeting of Chrysalis. This is a new magazine which began publishing in late 1985; it focuses on exploring ways in which the mystical, or spiritual if you wish, interacts in our usual conspiracy with, or of the ordinary. The magazine has six editors, and I am Resource Editor. There is a loose consensus among us about the purpose for and the direction of Chrysalis, but to date the magazine has not crystallized around a single definition. What is set is the format of the magazine. Each issue, and there are three a year, has a topic or theme to which all the articles are pointed with varying degrees of articulation. We have just completed an issue (Vol. 2, Issue 3) on holography in which there is an article by FRANK LEONARD, 'East as West: The I Ching as Holograph,' and a group of 'Malaphors' contributed by BROOKE PEIRCE. Malaphors are common expressions given an uncommon twist which makes them ridiculous, but invariably funny.

"For $20.00 a year one can subscribe to Chrysalis and garner the warm gratitude of the editors. Examination copies of the magazine will be sent on request. To subscribe, to get an examination copy, or to send in an article, write to The Swedenborg Foundation, 139 East 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010-9990. Payment will be forthcoming for contributions that are published."


* At the San Francisco MLA Convention, IAN MacNIVEN chaired a panel that was to have featured a reading by Kay Boyle. Unfortunately, Kay Boyle was ill and could not appear, but her son, Ian Franckenstein, gave a splendid reading of two of her short stories.

* Arthur Symons: Critic of the Seven Arts, by LAWRENCE W. MARKERT, was published by U.M.I. Research Press (Ann Arbor/London) in January (1988). It is Number 25 of the series "Studies in the Fine Arts: Criticism," edited by Donald B. Kuspit. Wayne refers to Durrell once and mentions one of the LDS's favorite phrases: "The specific work of art is 'The Transfiguration' by Raphael, but for most of this late Victorian world, all of Italy was, to use Durrell's phrase about Greece, 'miracle ground.'"

* JAMES NICHOLS became Chair of the Department of English and Philosophy at Georgia Southern College during the summer of 1987. Last year he also published a book of poetry entitled Afterwords.

* ALFRED PERLES celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 28 August. On behalf of the LDS, Frank Kersnowski sent him greetings.
* DAVID RUSSELL became a partner in the law firm of Johnson, Smith, Densborn, Wright & Heath in May 1987. In August, David and his wife, Frances, went to Beijing, China as U.S. delegates to the first U.S.-China Joint Session on Trade, Investment and Economic Law. Along with justice department officials from the two countries, more than 1,500 attorneys from the U.S. and China attended the session, which U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese called "the most significant legal interchange in history between China and the United States." About his travels in China, David wrote: "Viewing the many elaborate tombs and monuments in China erected for and honoring the long-dead, I was frequently reminded of Durrell's moving comments to our group at Penn State concerning his boyhood experiences of the oriental view of death and how it influenced his writings and his mature views of life and art."


* Dennis Toner took the photographs of Ellis Island "Now" and SHARON SPENCER via original stories populated the abandoned buildings with some of the immigrants who might have been at Ellis Island "Then"--in the first quarter of the 20th century--for Ellis Island Then and Now. This book can be purchased from Lincoln Springs Press, P.O. Box 269, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417 for $10.95 plus $1 for postage/handling.

* The following Society members have a new address or telephone number:

  George Cleyet--until May:

  Gregory Dickson

  Frank Kersnowski

James Nichols
Dept. of English and Philosophy
Georgia Southern College
Landrum Box 8023
Statesboro, Georgia 30460-8023

David Russell

David Woods

SUSAN S. MacNIVEN

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY
OR CONCERNING LAWRENCE DURRELL

* In 1987, An Irish Faustus, with revisions by Penelope Durrell Hope and an illustration and a preface by Lawrence Durrell, was published by Peter Baldwin (The Delos Press). The special edition of 75 numbered copies signed by Lawrence Durrell is £55.00 (plus postage and packing: £1.50 in U.K.; £2.00 elsewhere); and the paperback edition of 350 copies is £8.95 (plus postage and packing: £1.00 in U.K.; £1.50 elsewhere). Both editions are beautifully executed--and no Durrellian should be without them. They may be ordered from The Delos Press, 11 School Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ET, West Midlands, England. (For more information about these books, see Peter's column in this newsletter.)

* Spirit of Place: Mediterranean Writings, a reissue of the 1969 Spirit of Place: Letters and Essays on Travel edited by Alan G. Thomas, will be released by Faber and Faber in April at £5.95. The cover has an excellent photo of Durrell taken by Caroline Forbes. (Faber books can be ordered from Bernard Stone, The Turret Book Shop, 42 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3LJ.)

* Lawrence Durrell: Letters to Jean Fanchette 1958-1963 was announced for 29 February. It is
a 144-page book with an 8-page portfolio of unpublished photographs of Durrell. Two thousand copies will be printed (I do not know the price of these), and two hundred special copies signed by Lawrence Durrell and Jean Fanchette will be available. The latter sell for $50, £30, or 300 FF. They can be obtained from Jean Fanchette, Directeur des Editions Two Cities E.T.C., 11 Chaussée de la Muette, 75016 Paris, France. Checks should be made out to Jean Fanchette/Editions Two Cities E.T.C.

* The Durrell/Miller Letters, 1935-1980, edited by Ian S. MacNiven, is scheduled for July publication by Michael Haag/Faber and Faber (London) and New Directions (New York). This 511-page, illustrated book contains about a third of the total correspondence between Durrell and Miller; a considerable number of the letters in this volume have never been published before, and many passages expurgated from the 1963 edition have been restored. The cost will be about £12.95/$24.95.

* "Lawrence Durrell," by Andrew Harvey and Mark Matousek in the March 1988 Interview magazine (pp. 119-120), is a weak abridgment of a long interview that was conducted when Durrell was in New York in 1986. This published form touches upon Durrell's childhood in India, his feelings about England, his opinions of other writers, Alexandria and the Quartet, Freudianism, and Buddhism. The publication of a longer, corrected version would be worthwhile.

* The World Press Review of November 1983 published excerpts from an article in La Stampa (of Turin), "Durrell's Himalayas: Retracing a Literary Passage from India" (p. 59), that was based on an interview by Piero Sanavio. This is the first time I have seen the Quincunx referred to as The Indian Quintet.

* Stille Tage in Sommières: Begegnung mit Lawrence Durrell, a documentary about Durrell made by the Hamburg television production company Aspekt Telefilm-Produktion GmbH and directed by Peter Leipp, was filmed in the latter part of May 1986. In this, Durrell discusses his life and work with Chili Hawes (of the October Gallery, London) while they sit in Durrell's garden, wander about Sommières, or visit Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. One of the highlights of the film is a spirited conversation between Durrell and Ludo Chardenon (the "Plant-Magic Man"). Stille Tage in Sommières was chosen to be shown at the Berlin Film Festival of February 1987.


* In a 27 July 1957 letter to Leila Hadley, S. J. Perelman writes: "Oh, incidentally, I haven't thanked you for sending Justine, Lawrence Durrell's book. Do you want brutal truth or tactful evasions based on my gratitude for the trouble you went to? The book reminded me in many ways of Paul Morand's Open All Night; it had a sort of smart-alecky, desire-to-shock, Bohemian-snob overlay, attitudinalizing at times to an almost insufferable degree, and the sex on occasion was practically laughable. By the time I finished I was convinced that its author was one of those Englishmen whose eye is especially made for spitting into, and that if I ever had the misfortune to meet him, that was exactly what I'd wind up doing. All this (while not blunt) will serve to indicate how I liked Justine." This is on page 202 in Don't Tread on Me: The Selected Letters of S. J. Perelman, edited by Prudence Crowther (Viking, 1987).

* The February 1988 (No. 47) Book and Magazine Collector (London) contains "Lawrence Durrell." In this seven-page article (pp. 22-29), Jean-Pierre De Rohan presents a good summary of Durrell's publications (albeit rather elementary for informed Durrellians).

"Lawrence Durrell: Complete UK Bibliography" appears on page 29. It gives the current value of Quaint Fragment (1931) as £2500—"the only title over £1000; however, this list does not include such rare items as Deus Loquitur, The Partthenon, "Premature Epitaphs And All."

for the Sunday Times Magazine (London). In this lament about the despoiling of Corfu caused by tourism and the indiscriminate use of DDT, Durrell quotes his oldest brother one time: "'Never go back to a place where you were happy,' my brother Larry once said to me."

To encourage more tourism (!), the Times next presents "The Key to Corfu: The Holidaymakers' Essential Guide by David Wickers" (pp. 22-24, 26, 28). In this, Lawrence Durrell's "white house" of Prospero's Cell, now a taverna/villa, is mentioned.

* There is one reference to Durrell (in connection with the Personal Landscape group) in the London Times 5 January 1988 obituary of Terence Tiller, who died 24 December.

* Durrell's birthday cable to Frances Steleff--"A 100 gun salute from Lawrence Durrell"--is quoted in "Bouyenne of Booksellers Is 100" by Herbert Mitgang; this appears in the New York Times of 30 December 1987, sec. C, p. 9.

* Gerald Durrell wrote an article about the BBC filming of My Family and Other Animals in Corfu--"Another Family and Other Animals"--for the Weekend Telegraph of 15 August 1987 (p. 1). Mrs. Durrell is played by Hannah Gordon, Lawrence by Anthony Calf, Leslie by Guy Scantlebury, Margo by Sarah Jane Holm, Gerald by Darren Remayne, Theodore Stephanides by Chris Godwin. Here, too, Gerald Durrell complains about the changed face of the island of Corfu: "The BBC were hard pressed to find in this motorbike-infested swamp of cacophonous tourists bits of the island that were still as lovely and as peaceful as they had been in 1935." Durrell praises the production of the film, and admits he found it "a fascinating, if slightly macabre, experience" to watch his early life being relived in front of him.

The film Durrell Family with Spiro is on the cover of the 17-23 October 1987 Radio Times to signal the beginning of the ten-part BBC serialization of My Family and Other Animals. "Growing Up in the Garden of the Gods" by Mike Cable (pp. 102-103, 105 of this Radio Times) also discusses the filming and the cast of this production.

* The New York Times of 19 July 1987 (sec. 10, p. 15) contains the article "Where Odysseus Played: Corfu, with Tame Beaches and Wild Interior, Is the Most Greek Isle" by Andrew Sinclair; he finds Corfu "hardly altered" by the hordes of tourists and "Kalami where the Durrells' white house still stands by the sea a quiet place yet."

* "An Ymryson Beirdd in Egypt: Gwyn Williams Recalls War-Time Flying in Cairo and Alexandria," in Planet (Wales), Vol. 62 (April/May 1987), pp. 64-67, is a delightful introduction to the verse war conducted by colleagues and friends of Gwyn Williams in wartime Egypt. They set up two teams of four members each to represent Cairo and Alexandria respectively: Bernard Spencer, Terence Tiller, Bryn Davies, and Robin Fedden wrote for Cairo; and Lawrence Durrell, Robert Liddell, Harold Edwards, and Gwyn Williams for Alexandria. Gwyn Williams has been working on a book about the verse war and wartime Egypt that is provisionally titled Flying in Egypt: the Story of a Verse-war 1943-45.

* John Lenzi reports that about a quarter of the way through the movie Nuts starring Barbara Streisand, the camera focuses on a copy of The Alexandria Quartet which is lying on its side on a bookshelf. The Quartet is a symbol of the heroine, who had been sexually molested as a child.

THE DURRELL CIRCLE:

* An undated poem by Richard Aldington--In Winter--that has not been published previously has been hand-set and printed in letterpress by R. T. Risk in an edition of 100 copies. The poem and two line drawings by Sylvia Nicolas O'Neill, who signed each copy, are bound in a booklet of 16 pages, and the booklet is preserved in a dark blue cloth case which has end-papers that match the light blue wrappers of the booklet. The poem is available from The Typographeum Bookshop, The Stone Cottage, Bennington Road, Franestown, New Hampshire 03043 for $45.00.

* Richard Aldington: Papers from the Reading Conference, edited by Lionel Kelly, has been published by the University of Reading in a limited edition of 100 copies. It includes 14 papers delivered at the Aldington Symposium held 8 and 9 July 1986 at Reading. This can be purchased for £10.50 from Lionel Kelly, Dept. of English, University of Reading, Whitekni...
P.O. Box 218, Reading RG5 2AA, England. Checks should be made out to David Wilkinson (not to Lionel Kelly).

* In *Answers For My Murdered Self* Adrian Barlow discusses how Richard Aldington's experiences during WWI haunted the poetry he wrote in the 1920s. This is hand-set, printed letterpress, and cloth-bound by R. T. Risk; it is available from The Typographeum Bookshop (see above) for $25.00.

* Keith Douglas: A Study by William Scammell was scheduled for February 1988 publication as a Faber and Faber paperback at £4.95.

* A Literate Passion: Letters of Anaïs Nin and Henry Miller, 1932-1953, edited by Gunther Stuhlmann, was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich this year.

* New and Selected Poems by Anne Ridler is scheduled for June 1988 publication as a Faber and Faber paperback at £4.95.

****I wish to thank Michael Begnal, Artemis Cooper, Peggy Fox, Norman Gates, John Jackson, John Lenzi, Carol Peirce, Richard Pine, and Bernard Stone for contributing material to this column.

---

U.S. Television Premiere of
FRANCES STELOFF:
MEMOIRS OF A BOOKSELLER
a film by Deborah Dickson

WNET New York
Channel 13
Sunday October 26, 1986
11:30 pm

"Compulsory viewing for lovers of the Arts"
—Lawrence Durrell