ALAN GRADON THOMAS
19 October 1911-3 August 1992

On 3 August 1992, Alan G. Thomas
died in London. It was a peaceful
death—his wife Shirley, who was at
his side when he died, said, "He just
stopped breathing." On 19 October,
the day that would have been Alan’s
81st birthday, a memorial gathering
in his honor was held in the Great Hall
of Lambeth Palace Library. At this
"celebration of his life and interests,"
Gerald Durrell, who was seven when
he met Alan, and several of Alan’s
friends from the book world gave
short addresses.

A bookseller with a world-wide
reputation and "widely regarded as
the doyen of the British antiquarian
book trade," according to the Times
obituary on 6 August 1992, Alan began
working with books at age 16 as
assistant to Ernest Cooper, who owned
the Horace G. Commin’s bookshop
in Bournemouth. In 1936 at age 25,
Alan bought Commin’s. After returning
from war service with the RAF,
he became increasingly interested in
antiquarian books and manuscripts,
and at age 45 he sold the bookshop
and brought out the first of almost fifty
antiquarian catalogues, "which delighted
their readers not just by the breadth
and excellence of their offerings,
but also by the quirkiness of their
footnotes," as the Times described
them. To be closer to the London auc-
tions, Alan moved to Hobury Street,
Chelsea, at age 54; and for the rest of
his life, the four-storied Victorian
house with a charming, walled-in gar-
den remained his home. In Hobury
Street, Alan also met Shirley, who
became his essential business partner
and shared in his adventures and in his
friendships, old and new.

Besides the catalogues and vari-
ous articles, Alan wrote two volumes:
Fine Books in 1967 and Great Books
and Book Collectors in 1975. To honor

him on his 70th birthday, thirty-three
of Alan’s customers collaborated on a
Festschrift for him, Fine Books and
Book Collecting (1981), for which
Lawrence Durrell wrote the preface.
"A career such as Alan’s is shaped by
a ruling passion... [and] a phenom-
ena1 memory and a wonderful histori-
1 sense, coupled with that enigmatic
factor, a nose, without which one cannot
successfully speculate in his intricate
and highly specialised field," wrote Larry.
He credited Alan with enabling him to acquire
a small library of Elizabethan books.

Alan and Larry had met in Bourne-
mouth in 1934. They quickly formed a
close friendship that lasted until Larry’s
death, and Alan became a virtual
member of the Durrell family, with Louisa
Durrell always wishing to fatten up
Alan, who she thought looked as thin as
a garden rake. Alan visited the Durrells
when they were in Corfu; there he met
Theodore Stephanides, who also became
a lifelong friend.

Not only did Alan recognize
Larry’s creative genius, but he also re-
peatedly helped Larry literally. While
Larry was in Corfu, Alan corrected the
proofs of Panic Spring for him in
1937. For G. S. Fraser’s 1968 study of
Durrell, Alan provided the bibliography,
which—with James Brigham—he
updated in 1979 (in Deus Loci: The
Lawrence Durrell Newsletter, Vol. 3,
No. 1) and in 1983 (as Lawrence
Durrell: An Illustrated Checklist). In
1969, Alan edited Spirit of Place: Le-
ters and Essays on Travel, a miscel-
nany of Durrell’s prose. And it was
Alan and Shirley who transported the
first part of Durrell’s personal archive
of books, notebooks, manuscripts,
articles, and letters from Sommières
to London and who facilitated the
sale of this material to Southern
Illinois University at Carbondale in
1970. Over the years Alan amassed a
tremendous collection of Durrell ma-
terial (which he bequeathed to the

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Ian S. MacNiven

I should be writing this in the "gnomic
orist," the historical past. So much
has, was, happened, has been since my
previous message to the Society: the
Avignon conference, a far smaller
gathering at the MLA in Manhattan,
planning sessions for future conferences
and publications, the achievement for
the Society of non-profit status with
Internal Revenue. Sadly, we mourn
the deaths of Larry Durrell’s old friends
Alan G. Thomas and Jean Fanchette.

On Miracle Ground VII took
place in the great echoing Palais des
Papes, and I refer you with pleasure to
the accounts in this Herald written by
officers and other Society members. I
would like to thank a number of people
did not named or especially singled out in
the printed program. Françoise Kestman
invited all the conference participants
to a reception at the home she shared
with Lawrence Durrell, and thus pro-
vided what many of us found the most
memorable part of the conference. It
was due to the inspired efforts of conf-
ference participant Denis Constancias,
who became "Our Man in Avignon,"
that financial and logistic assistance
was arranged from the regional govern-
ment and that complimentary wine—
special Festival vintages—was pro-
vided for the receptions. Warm thanks
go to Michel Gontard of the Conseil
Général de Vaucluse for his welcoming
address and for his material support
of OMG VII. In fact, Avignon took us
in like family, and many were the kind-
nesses that we received from its citizens.

Frédéric-Jacques Temple was
inducted into the Society as an honor-
ary lifetime member, in recognition of
his long championing of Lawrence
Durrell in writing, publishing, and
friendship.

Brewster Chamberlin and Lynn
Smith were essential to the success of
ALAN continued

British Library), and he most generously allowed scholars and Durrell aficionados to use it. In recognition of his significant contribution to Durrell studies, the LDS made him its first honorary member.

Alan was a most impressive figure: tall and slender with a long extravagant beard. Often he wore a Sherlock Holmes cloak which, Christopher de Hamel states in his Introduction to the Sotheby’s catalogue Fine Books and Manuscripts from the Library of the Late Alan G. Thomas, “he had commissioned with special pockets large enough to accommodate Sotheby catalogues”—or a bottle of wine. He had a marvellous sense of humor and an endless fund of fascinating stories, often told with a mischievous look of complicity. The book business was not his only passion; he loved music, architecture, painting, good conversation, book collecting (the Sotheby’s catalogue listing the exquisite items in Alan’s personal library numbers 285 pages), Shirley’s children and grandchildren, walking, travelling, entertaining. In addition to their own friends and family, Alan and Shirley most graciously entertained Larry (who frequently stayed with them when he was in London), Larry’s friends, and Durrellian scholars. Even when physical infirmities were threatening to overpower him, Alan did not complain or give in; he continued working, talking, listening—playing out his passion for life.

Susan S. MacNiven

PREZIDENT continued

the conference in more ways than I can even list here: they introduced us to their old friend Denis Constancias, they helped us with housing and transport arrangements, they plotted out the Night Walk, they helped man/woman the registration desk, and Brewster pulled many a cork during the degustations. Thanks, dear people!

Lyn Goldman stepped down after serving for two years as Vice-President of the Society. Terrific thanks, Lyn, for not only helping plan and publicize the conference, but for moving gracefully into every crisis during the event, for smoothing ruffled feelings with your wonderful smile and manner, for your warmth and good humor.

A large part of what justified the “miracle” that occurred on the Avignon ground was due to the many kind, conscientious, easy-going, exciting, outspoken, tactful, and generally fantastic individuals who forgathered within the walls of the ancient city. My thanks to you all for coming!

The LD Society is now registered with the IRS as a Non-Profit Organization. This is thanks to Anna Lillios and her father, retired Judge N. E. Lillios, who initiated the process, and to LDS member David W. Russell, Attorney at Law, who donated his time and expertise. Now individuals and corporations can make tax-deductible contributions to the Society in support of publications, scholarships and travel grants, future conferences, and so on. Roll up, you Rockefellers and Morgans!

Suzanne Henig is working hard on OMG VIII in San Diego. You should have received a Call for Papers. See Society Notices for further information.

We are watching the situation in Egypt attentively, and hope that it will be feasible to hold OMG IX in Alexandria in 1996.

As a partial reflection of her major responsibility for Deus Loci, Carol Peirce has been named Editor (instead of Associate Editor) of the journal, sharing that designation with me.

My thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the Society and to Durrell studies! I look forward to hearing from you: suggestions, comments, offers of help with the Society’s activities, news, and, yes, even complaints!

Bronx, 27 July 1993

FROM THE OUTGOING VICE-PRESIDENT

Lyn Goldman

September 1992, Regina, Canada—Yes, this really is the wilds of Canada, I’ve realized over the past year of trying to communicate with Ian and Susan and Anna. Of course, some of the delays have been due to my own habit of procrastination, but I know that your new executive will have much better habits.

The Avignon adventure was wonderful! We had some excellent papers, the Palais des Papes was a superb setting, and the city offered us everything, including huge loads of potatoes and zucchini spilled in the streets as part of the summer protest. Thanks to Ian and Susan and Carol, and to the hospitality of Françoise Kestman, we discovered that Durrellians can meet outside the United States and survive.

I really missed those of you who didn’t come to France (you know who you are!). Our sense of camaraderie has developed over the years, and the stories (about ourselves, and about Larry) are not quite the same when some of the “family” are missing.

17 November 1992—Well, that’s how I started out after I spoke to you, Susan, and then the words seemed too chatty and banal to explain the whole experience. I know I’ve been a bad correspondent—perhaps because my mental—my spiritual relationship with Larry and his work has been the most intensely personal relationship of my life.

You know. You know that until I saw the little flowered mound in that sun-baked graveyard, with the grotesque crucifix jutting out of it like a desiccated arm, I really didn’t know he was dead—I just hadn’t faced it. It didn’t make me unhappy at the time. I thought we all did pretty well, with the poems and the—what? The group feeling? The feeling of Provence and Sommières? No, I was fine then, and I cried a little, and went on to Spain.
But I've felt so empty since. I tried to re-read The Avignon Quintet on the long flight back home, and couldn't, somehow. I've picked up Spirit of Place a few times. Only the poetry, and Cavafy, seem to catch my feeling about Durrell right now. I suppose it's a kind of mourning—late, but appropriate.

When I read over my cheery ex-VP message today, I found some truth in it: those who didn't come missed an important experience, a kind of bonding that may not take place again.

Unless, of course, we go to Alexandria in 1996. And that will be another city and, of course, "the wench is dead." Best wishes and regards to all our Durrellians.

Love,

Lyn

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT:
AVIGNON REPORT
Jack Raper

Avignon, a circle of high walls intersected by the bridge that extends into the infinity of the Rhône and ends there, may well be the secret yoni and lingam of Europe.

No wonder that Lawrence Durrell lived for decades within an hour’s drive of its walls and came to title his final erection to eternity after this city, or that, in July 1992, a hundred Durrell scholars and admirers gathered behind the austere, almost blank, white walls of Avignon’s Palais des Papes to celebrate his life and to honeycomb the Palais with cells of light illuminating his arcane pages.

Thanks to the generosity of the French hosts and the planning of Society president Ian MacNiven, Carol Peirce, James Nichols, and Susan MacNiven, the conference attracted participants from all parts of Europe, the U.S., and Canada plus scholars from Egypt, India, and Japan. Even when they argued most earnestly, these commentators contributed new depth and richness to the mosaic of responses that all aspects of Durrell’s writings continue to stimulate.

Among those gracing the conference with their presence and perceptions were: Michel Gontard, Conseil Général de Vaucluse; Michel Dénon de l'Académie française; Jacques Lacarrière, poet, philosopher, and environmentalist, Durrell’s long-time friends David Gascoyne and Frédéric-Jacques Temple; and such established Durrell scholars as Corinne Alexandre-Garnier, William L. Godshalk, Richard Pine, Gordon K. Thomas, and Susan Vander Closter. Scholars less familiar in the field, including Francesca Palumbo, Craig DeQuetiveille, and Dianne L. Vipond, also shared important insights.

The most dramatic exchanges followed the talk by Hala Halim, American University in Cairo, pointing out that, in Durrell’s feminizing of Alexandria, he, in effect, annulled the individuality of female characters and violated the otherness of the place.

Avignon is a walled city. Its warren of little streets conceal small restaurants of every sort and quality—pizza houses, salad bars, every Asian cuisine imaginable, excellent French dinners at $50 or $100 a person, a McDonal’ds. A stranger wandering the maze can easily get confused, end up in what seems another century. Even a stranger, however, if he or she will follow the wall in any direction, eventually returns to the bridge or the gardens above the Palais and knows the place. So too did the various conference participants, no matter where they wandered in the labyrinth of Durrell’s inventions, return sooner or later to the excellence of his writing and storytelling. In this way the audience was able over and over to find itself at home in a strange land where people speak a clipped language unlike Durrell’s even in its most austere moments. Perhaps it is because Durrell was primarily a great storyteller that his works, like Shakespeare’s, reward each approach that critics and scholars bring to them.

Two events that could not have occurred had the conference been held in any other city in the world, each worthy of one of Durrell’s novels, highlighted the five-day gathering: a Grand Night Walk in the manner of Quatre-fages and Felix Chatto, and the bus trip to Durrell’s last home in Sommières, a journey that included a stop at the famous Pont du Gard. The climax of the conference came on the bus trip, at La Chapelle St-Julien outside Sommières, when Lyn Goldman, like a figure out of an epic poem, forcefully uprooted the cross someone had stabbed upside-down into Durrell’s unmarked, rubble grave. Until that moment of honest anger, many of the visitors to Avignon said they had been able to deny to themselves that their bold friend was dead. After that, there was, they said, little room for doubt.

August 1992

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT
Anna Lillios

I’d like to report on my visit to the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell in Sommières during June 1992. My week-end stay was conveniently arranged by a quick phone call a month before my visit. I flew to Orly Sud in Paris and then transferred to Orly Ouest for my Air Inter flight to Nîmes. Françoise Kestman had arranged for a Sommières taxi-driver to meet me in Nîmes and transport me to the Centre (one-way fare was around $35.00).

I hadn’t met Françoise before this visit, but she instantly made me feel welcome. She took me to the kitchen, a place which seems to give rise to good conversation, and offered me food and drink. As we shared a bottle of wine, we began to talk of Larry. His presence is everywhere in the house, from his paintings and photographs on the walls, to the piles of paper on his desk, to his dogs underfoot. It was unsettling to
think that I was suddenly in the midst of his most intimate surroundings.

I could imagine Larry in many areas of the house and garden, but the library seemed his special domain. It is like a Cave of Wonders, which contains his journals filled with aphorisms ("Life is on nobody's side"), whimsical drawings, and the rough drafts of his printed works (notably, the Avignon Quintet and Caesar's Vast Ghost); his personal collection of books annotated in his hand; innumerable essays, interviews, Prefaces, single most striking piece of paper that I picked up was a kind of death map that Larry began in February 1968. He listed fifty-four friends and relatives who had died "within a space of a few years," including his mother, Henry and Eve Miller, Claude, Richard Aldington, Anais Nin, Seferis, Katsimbalis, and Athenaicos of Corfu. Off to the side, he had written: "Finally death assumes the shape of a constellation." All in all, there's an immense amount of material here waiting to be read. Luckily, Françoise's daughter is currently in the process of cataloging every item in the library—a monumental task which should be of great service to scholars. During my stay, Richard Pine was also a visitor; both of us were overwhelmed by the interesting manuscripts set before us.

During the week-end, I kept thinking of the generous gesture that lead Larry to open his home and library to those of us who love his work and of the dedication that compels Françoise to make the Centre a working reality. I salute both of them!


The meeting was called to order by President Ian MacNiven, who reported on the following Society activities:

1) Deus Loci—the first issue of the new series was published in June 1992 and would be sent to all current members and to those who would join the Society by 4 July, the last day of OMG VII. Georgia Southern University and the University of Baltimore contributed funds to defray printing costs. The second issue will be out during the autumn of 1993.

2) OMG VII—due to a change in the administration of the Palais des Papes and to the increased number of participants, room rental fees increased sixfold from the time when we first began planning the conference. Generous grants from Gallimard publishers and the Conseil Général de the Vauflese helped make up this difference. Faber and Faber sponsored the reception at the Durrell Centre in Sommières. Finally, M. Rafféjô of the local Institut de Vin donated one hundred bottles of wine.

In my capacity as secretary/treasurer, I reported that the Society has $227.24 in its Publications Account and $718.60 in its General Fund. The Society should break even after all conference expenses are paid. The Society is applying for tax-free status, which will enable the Society to solicit donations and build up an endowment, so that Deus Loci can be published on a regular basis, and other Society activities can be subsidized.

Members voted to adopt the proposed revisions to the LDS By-Laws that were listed in Herald 14.

Finally, possible conference sites for OMG VIII were discussed. The Executive Board will consider proposals from the following Society members and their institutions: Bill Godshalk, the University of Cincinnati; Suzanne Henig, the University of San Diego; and Jack Raper, the University of North Carolina. The 1996 conference will most likely be held abroad, either in Alexandria, Egypt, or Corfu, Greece.

Report Update

As of May 1993, the Society had $1,549.24 in the Publications Account. The first issue of Deus Loci cost nearly $3,800 to produce. The University of Baltimore and Georgia Southern University each contributed $1,000 towards its publication. The Society is grateful for these contributions which helped get Deus Loci, New Series, off to a fine start.

In our General Fund, we had $1,907.23. This includes the dues that we receive yearly and $774.48 that we made from the conference. I'd like to note that sales of the posters accounted for over half of the favorable balance of this conference figure.

For the past several months Ian and I, under the direction of Society Member/Attorney David Russell, worked on the IRS application that would give the Society tax-free status. We submitted the application on 10 February 1993, and on 17 May our application was approved. We couldn't have completed this project without the help of David, who kindly donated his time and advice.

There are thirty-two additional names on the Society roll, and I'm delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Anna Anagnostopoulou
- Michael Balter
- Pauline W. Beard
  Dept. of English P.O. Box 751
  Portland State Univ.
  Portland, OR 97207-0751
- Ivan Billikopf
- Robert Blackburn
- Heinz Boeckmann
- Claudine Brelet-Rueff
Many of us who journeyed to OMG VII expected to enjoy southern France's legendary "Dance and Provençal song, and sunburnt mirth." Instead of a "beaker full of the warm South," we found ourselves wading through piles of bread and vegetables dumped in the streets by disgruntled farmers, confronting road blockades manned by protesting truckers, and sitting in train stations waiting for trains that never arrived. The situation, predictably, came to a head at the end of the conference when we were all trying to get home. I asked OMG participants to relate their adventures and received the following accounts.

**Getting Home from Avignon**

*Marianne and Keith Brown*

Like the others who'd been on the Sommieres visit, we spent most of Sunday trying to find ways out of France. We'd had tickets for a Sunday morning train to Geneva that didn't run. Around 8:30 P.M., we learned a train was "scheduled" to leave at 11:30 that night.

It actually left at 2:30 A.M.—the French army rather ominously distributing water-bottles and food packs before departure—and was due to reach Geneva by the southern route via Grenoble at 7:40 A.M. This was fine, as it meant we could catch our 9:30 A.M. flight to Norway from Geneva.

However, shortly before dawn we found we were in Lyon—on the northern route to Switzerland. We then went south from Lyon to Grenoble, and
thereafter wandered slowly through France on loops of branch-line. A railway worker said that the rioters had been burning vehicles chained to the mainline track, destroying the ties and heat-warping the rails.

We eventually reached Geneva at 1:00 P.M. on Monday. I went to buy new air tickets to Oslo since there was no refund or transfer allowed on our original APEX tickets, but Swissair just said, "Go away and have a nice relaxing afternoon by our lake, and we'll fix you new tickets to Oslo this evening. We may have to route you via Belgium, but don't worry. We'll get you there somehow. There'll be no charge."

They were as good as their word, and we reached Oslo at midnight.

Of Barrages, Blocages, and Bénédictions

Harry Stoneback

All the pleasant memories of Avignon 1992 are, for us, mélange with the revolt of the French truckers and farmers. Since Sparrow and I stayed out at our old home, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, during the conference, we missed several conference sessions because of the barrages, the blocked roads between Fontaine and Avignon. We hoisted glasses of wine with truckers and farmers at several blockades during the conference. It was, for most part, a very pleasant and civilized French revolution, with tables set up across highways, red bistro tablecloths, wine, bread, cheese; and we found ourselves absolutely in solidarity with the truckers and farmers, especially the farmers: "Non! à Maastricht! Non! PAC 92! La Dignité Pas La Charité! PAC 92 = 500,000 Paysans de Moins—Un Million de Chomeurs en Plus!" The signs were everywhere, and we saluted them.

As the conference neared its end, several Durrellians, perhaps a bit unsure of themselves on the miracle ground of France, certainly anxious about driving on blockaded roads and nervous about getting to airports on time, asked us for advice, for directions about how to proceed. We advised one and all to declare, at any blockade they encountered, their solidarity with the truckers and the farmers, and to mention that they were writers—a magic word in France—and all would be well. We hope this worked for our advisees; it certainly did for us as we navigated the back roads of France after OMG VII.

After we left Sommieres and the ceremony at Durrell's grave at Chapelle St.-Julien, we were in a hurry to get to Spain for the Hemingway conference. We hit several minor barrages, but we found our way around and through them without difficulty. We knew the real test was coming in the Toulouse area—this was where the truckers and farmers were the most radical, everyone was saying; this was the worst bottleneck in all France: not just blocages, the locals all said, but Toulouse and all the roads around it were bouché. We cruised past ancient Carcassonne, hating it that we had to hurry past one of our old numerous places without stopping—the blockades were increasing by the hour. We hit various barricades, we backtracked, we stopped in back-road villages, asking advice on the road ahead. The French were generous, hospitable, and helpful—as they always are, especially in the enchanted back country. On several occasions, when the locals inquired about our presence there, in obscure villages where no tourists ever came, I mentioned that I was not a tourist, but a writer, that I had just come from a conference in Avignon honoring the great French writer Durrell. Then they were even more effusive in their efforts to guide us truly—after all, this was France, where writers are more to be honored than generals, presidents, and kings.

Still, things looked tricky. We had to get past Toulouse. All reports confirmed that the area was bouché, absolutely sealed, corked. Rumors were running down all the back roads: the service stations had no gas, the border with Spain was about to be sealed. We finessed our way southwest of Toulouse, arrived in Cazères by a series of back roads, and there, quite suddenly, we found ourselves sealed in, bouché. I went into a café to seek advice about farm roads, dirt roads, logging roads—any route that would get us past the blockades and to the border. Talking with Monsieur le Patron of the café and his friends, I pulled out all the stops: I declared that I was a Kentucky tobacconist in absolute solidarity with the French farmers; I explained that I was a former truck-driver, an over-the-American-road-big-rig-Teamster, and I was in complete solidarity with the French truck-drivers. But I had to get to Spain. The good villagers of Cazères, all of whom seemed to be gathering in the café, commiserated with me about this complicated and unfortunate situation. The wine flowed copiously. It was mid-morning.

"Peut-être you stay with us here in Cazères for a few days until the barrages are maybe terminated?" Monsieur le Patron filled my glass with the good local red, pétillant with promise.

"It would give us great pleasure, but, regrettably, we must go to Spain."

"Quel dommage, that anyone must go to Spain, even if it is possible to get there."

"D'accord. It is always with regret that one leaves France. But I have to speak to a conference of writers, a conference about the writer Hemingway, and I must go. I am a writer." I timed carefully the insertion of this magic word into the conversation, and it worked its spell, far more efficaciously than had my words of solidarity with the French farmers and truckers. Monsieur le Patron touched his glass against mine and we drank.

"Ah! You are a writer? Mais oui. And you must go to Spain to speak of the great Hemingway?" He poured the wine again.
“Yes. And here in France, the other day, I spoke of the great Durrell, and I read a poem at a ceremony at his grave. At Sommières.”

“Durrell? At Sommières? In the Gard, on the Vidourle?”

“Oui.”

“And this Durrell—he is French writer? He is enterre—his flesh rests in French earth?”

By this time, there were maps spread on several café tables. Clusters of locals were arguing over the maps, discussing passionately the best back roads to follow to evade the barrages. Two village patriarchs were on the two telephones, talking to friends and family scattered along the various routes, trying to determine which roads we should take, shouting directions across the café to the assembled cartographers. Then Monsieur le Patron was on the phone, speaking very distinctly and with great authority:

“Il est nécessaire to be very precise. We have here in my café an American writer and farmer who loves France and who has come all the way from Kentucky to make poetic benedictions at the grave of the great French writer Durrell. We must get this writer and his wife safely to Spain. It is a matter of honor, the honor of our village, of France.” I do not know what the voice at the other end of the phone said, though I can guess.

In the meantime, one of the waiters came out of the back room with a fat encyclopedic book in his hands. In a voice appropriate for a Bastille Day observance, he read a brief entry about Durrell. The others looked up from their maps.

“So this great Durrell lives in Sommières. He is a French writer, yes?”

“Well, I think so. Vraiment.” I lifted my glass to the villagers and drank. “Even if his ancestors had the misfortune of being British.”

In the background, the patron’s voice boomed, still talking with great authority into the telephone: “It is necessary to be exact. No, not for an American tourist, for a friend of France, for a writer who makes benedictions at the grave of a French writer. Be exact.” He was making notations on a map as he spoke. “Yes, I have that. Okay. And after Terre-basse he follows D75 to D13, and then D13F into Aurignac. And on the dirt road left for two kilometers....”

At this point, Monsieur le President of the Petanque Club of Cazères presented me with the official pin of his Petanque Club, and poured my fourth or fifth glass of wine. It was about 10:30 a.m. He observed the other pins on my hat and then, as he put his pin on my hat, he made a fine speech all about honoring the true French-American amity, about honoring pilgrims on the road, about honoring writers.... There wasn’t much I could say. It sufficed to drink with them, to love them, and to salute the thing in France that we have always loved, that has always made us feel profoundly in place, placed, at home, the thing that explains why Durrell lived out his life in the real, deep France. Ah, bénédictions, blocages, barrages. I promised the people of the village that I would return one day to play Petanque with them. (And I will.) They blessed us on down the road.

In short, their directions were flawless; their carefully annotated maps got us into Spain without a single blockade, even as the radio, the media, the press screamed that movement was impossible. And the whole time we were in Spain, we ached to be back in France. All of this now resonates as at the edges of some haunted recurring dream—the conference and its aftermath—and I see the patron of the café speaking words of peace on Larry’s grave. He said that: standing there, in his café, in an obscure village, surrounded by friends and neighbors, all of them helping a foreigner, a stranger, the hospitality and concern and the wine all abundant and genuine, and he said that word—bénédictions. (It is the same in all the languages that count.) And the word came alive for me, there in that café, rich with blessedness. Yes, it was a splendid conference and this is to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it happen, and everyone who arranged for the lovely farmer-trucker barrages and benedictions. Or was it Larry who arranged it all, whimsically directing from beyond the grave those manifestations of the numinous French earth which he loved? Bene dicti.

SOCIETY NOTICES
Officers, Board and Standing-Committee Members

In accordance with our By-Laws and the election held at the 2 July 1992 business meeting, the following will serve the Society until the next election in 1994:

President: Ian S. MacNiven
Vice-President: Julius R. Raper
Vice-President/General Counsel: David W. Russell
Secretary/Treasurer: Anna Lillios
Executive Board: Michael Cartwright, Nancy Lewis, Anna Lillios, Ian S. MacNiven, James R. Nichols, Carol Peirce, Julius R. Raper

Publications Board: Michael H. Begnal, Paige Matthey Bynum, Michael Cartwright, Ian S. MacNiven, Suzanne Henig, Lawrence W. Markert, Carol Peirce, Julius R. Raper

Conference Director: Suzanne Henig
Conference Committee: Ian S. MacNiven, James R. Nichols, Carol Peirce

Archivist: Susan S. MacNiven

Deus Loqui: The Lawrence Durrell Journal
Editors: Ian S. MacNiven, Carol Peirce
Associate Editors: Anna Lillios, Suzanne Henig

Herald
Editor: Susan S. MacNiven
Assistant Editors: Lawrence W. Markert, Jane Ellen Keller
Deus Loci:  
The Lawrence Durrell Journal

In June 1992, Deus Loci NS1 was published and sent to all who were members of the International Lawrence Durrell Society as of 4 July 1992. (If you belonged to the Society at that time and did not receive a copy, notify the editor.) Since Society membership fees do not cover the high costs of production and postage, there will be a charge for future issues: $10 for domestic addresses, $12 for overseas surface mail, $15 for overseas air delivery. You are invited to submit critical articles, original work with some relation to Durrell or his circle, notes, and queries. Send orders (with checks payable to Deus Loci) and submissions to Editor, Deus Loci, Dept. of Humanities, SUNY Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, New York 10465.

For gifts to friends and family, consider a subscription to Deus Loci!

OMG VII Posters

Copies of Bert Smith’s award-winning poster for the Seventh International Lawrence Durrell Conference are still available. To order this 11-by-32-inch poster featuring a Durrell-like image standing on the end of the St. Bénézet Bridge in Avignon, send $15 (check or money order in U.S. dollars made out to The Lawrence Durrell Society) to Anna Lillios, Dept. of English, University of Central Florida, P.O. Box 25000, Orlando, FL 32816.

OMG Proceedings

The Proceedings of the First National Lawrence Durrell Conference, edited by Michael Cartwright, has sold out. However, there are still copies available of On Miracle Ground II: Second International Lawrence Durrell Conference Proceedings, edited by Lawrence W. Markert and Carol Peirce. The cost is $10 for U.S. and Canadian addresses, $12 for overseas surface mail, $15 for overseas air delivery. Make checks payable to The Lawrence Durrell Society, and send your order to Anna Lillios at the address given in the previous notice.

LDS Meeting at 1992 MLA

On 28 December, Brooke Peirce, Peter Christensen, Gene Hollahan, Edmund Keeley, David Roessler, Larry Gamache, John Lenz, Anna Lillios, Ian and Susan MacNiven, Betsy and Jim Nichols, and Carol Peirce met for an hour of wine and conversation at the Marriott Marquis, and then the latter eight enjoyed excellent Indian food at the Mughul-E-Azam on 6th Street.

OMG VIII

The Eighth International Lawrence Durrell Durrell Conference will meet at the University of San Diego 24-28 June 1994. From the 25th through the 27th, Suzanne Henig, the coordinator, has scheduled formal sessions, along with an art exhibit, a concert, a cocktail party, and a banquet cruise around San Diego Harbor on a Gay 90s paddleboat. Before and after the formal sessions, there will be optional, reasonably priced trips: on the 24th a tour of the Temecula wine country with free sampling, and on the 28th a day trip to Mexico—probably Ensenada—for sightseeing, shopping, and lunch. There are numerous things to enjoy in the San Diego area; if you prefer, arrange your own outing—to Disneyland, Universal Studios, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the beaches, the Getty Museum, the Huntington Library, etc.

Many of the dormitory rooms of the University of San Diego overlook an inner courtyard of roses or the ocean. Single rooms will cost about $65 per day, and double rooms will be about $50 per day per person. Every room has a private bathroom, and the price includes three meals a day plus gym and swimming facilities. Arrangements can be made to stay for a limited time beyond the conference dates at the same price—a terrific bargain in an important tourist area. Suzanne would like to have some indication of how many rooms to book and also of how many people to include in the arranged trips on the 24th and 28th. Please let Suzanne know your tentative plans about rooms, the wine tour, and the Mexican trip.

Write her at the Dept. of English, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182, or phone her at 619-481-5284 before 9:00 A.M. California time. (Note that Suzanne teaches at San Diego State University, but the conference will be held at the University of San Diego.)

The coordinators have proposed Durrell and His Friends—especially but not limited to Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin whom LD travelled to California to see in 1974—for the central theme of OMG VIII. Durrell’s reception in the Americas and his view of them—the U.S. and Argentina—is a sub-theme. Of course, topics of your own invention are also welcome. Proposals or papers should be sent by 15 February 1994 to:

James R. Nichols  
On Miracle Ground VIII  
Program Committee  
Dept. of English and Philosophy  
Georgia Southern University  
Landrum Box 8032  
Statesboro, GA 30460-8032

You should have received a Call for Papers in October.

LDS Membership

Membership in the Society entitles you to receive The International Lawrence Durrell Society Herald, and your dues help fund the biennial Durrell conferences and various publications. A single membership (one person) is $10.00 a year; a double membership (two people, one address) is $15.00. Send your check payable to The Lawrence Durrell Society to Anna Lillios, Dept. of English, University of Central Florida, P.O. Box 25000, Orlando, FL 32816.

The Herald

The newsletter owes its new look to people at the Institute for Publications Design, Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts of the University of Baltimore.
Denise Knoblock, a recent graduate of the M.A. program in Publications Design, created the logo; Neil Kleinman advised on the artwork and contributed toward printing costs; and Bruce Harris, also a recent M.A. recipient, served as Editorial Assistant and Production Manager for this issue. Jane Eileen Keller has joined the staff as an Assistant Editor.

The newsletter is scheduled to appear on 15 October and 15 March (although it has been rather behind schedule lately). Please send news, comments, suggestions to Susan MacNiven at 14 Magnolia Place, Silver Beach Gardens, Bronx, NY 10465 or phone at 718-792-2726.

Notice of Cavafy Conference

The Hellenic Foundation, the Embassy of Greece in Egypt, and the Kavafis Committee are hosting the III Kavafis International Symposium in Cairo and Alexandria 13-17 November 1993. The main theme will be "the great Alexandrian poet as 'a Person,' as a 'being turned towards the Other,' in the Greek meaning of the word." The Symposium also "will trace the influence of the Alexandrian poet on the other creators of the 'City': Tsirkas, Edward Al Harat, L. Durrell, Ungaretti, E. M. Foster." This is a special year for Kavafis studies since it is the 130th anniversary of his birth and the 60th anniversary of his death.

The languages of the Symposium are Greek, Arabic, and English; however, an English translation of each paper is required. Papers are limited to twenty minutes and should be received by 31 October 1993. Send your paper to or request information from:

Mr. Kostis Moskof
Embassy of Greece in Egypt
The Cultural Section
18, Aissa El Taimuriya, St.
Cairo, Egypt

The "hospitality in Egypt" is paid for by the Organisation Committee, but not the travel cost to and from Egypt.

LETTER FROM FRANCE

Stephanie Moore

I think I am not the only person to have breathed a sigh of relief upon setting foot on île de France following our mad, anything-goes escape from Avignon. It is the opinion of one of my travelling companions that the spirit of Lawrence Durrell exercised its power over those of us trying to leave Avignon after the conference in July, even though the French attributed the cancelled and delayed trains to the anger of the truckers over the initiation of the point system for drivers' licenses in France. Getting OUT of Avignon was certainly one of this summer's most memorable events, but not the only point of interest for francophone Durrellians.

One weekly magazine, Le Nouvel Observateur, had a special series of articles for summer: "Ces écrivains dont la vie est un roman," or "Those Writers Whose Lives Are like Novels." Daniel Rondeau kidded off the series with his piece, "Lawrence Durrell, le vagabond." This article is a moving tribute to Larry in which Rondeau takes us through the physical and mental geography of the author's life, from his earliest love of the Indian landscape to The Black Book, from Alexandria and the war to the success of Justine, and finally, to his retreat in Sommières. Rondeau includes many anecdotes from Larry's friends and writes about friendships, deaths, and separations which were the hills and valleys of his wandering. Summing up Durrell's life, he writes: "Ce n'est pas seulement une soif insatiable de paysages et de visages, pas seulement la chasse au bonheur qui poussent Larry le vagabond d'un port vers l'autre, mais aussi les fièvres les plus tormentueuses de l'Histoire." [It is not only an extreme thirst for landscape and for faces, not only the search for happiness which steer Larry the vagabond from one harbour to another, but rather it is the most tormenting waves of History.]

Le Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell in Sommières exhibited the pictorial work of Oscar Epfs from 20-29 September 1992. Who is Oscar Epfs? The question is, Who is Lawrence Durrell? (Think of the Bloshford-Blanford duo in the Quintet.) The exhibition included paintings as well as an array of documents, photos, rare editions, and ceramics by the author. As a further exploration of Durrell's creative universe, this occasion permitted the community to understand more fully the author-artist who was their neighbor.

The Lawrence Durrell Prize, created in 1990, was awarded to Stephanie Moore on 2 October in Antibes, France. She received this honor for her paper, "Turning in the Trap," which was presented at the conference in Avignon. This prize, awarded as a grant of FF10,000, is given yearly to a postgraduate student who has completed a research work on Durrell's works or related themes. As yet, Stephanie has only purchased a train ticket with the money, in hopes of getting back to Paris.

A final note of interest. In speaking with the vice-president of a small marketing company who also teaches marketing courses in a business school in the Paris region, I happened to mention Durrell. This highly cultured man wants to teach his students about life outside the world of high finance. He gives them Tunc and Nnumuam as required reading. I didn't ask him if they had figured out the numeric schema of the books, but I did ask if they enjoyed them. He gave a very frank answer: "Some of them do, and some don't get it at all, but it's good for them." What would Larry say to that?

October 1992

NECROLOGY

Jean Fanchette

Psychoanalyst and writer Jean Fanchette, born in Mauritius on 6 May 1932, died
unexpectedly in Paris on 29 March 1992, about a month before his sixtieth birthday which he was looking forward to celebrating. Jean came to Paris in 1951 to study medicine. In 1957, he happened upon Justine and immediately recognized it as a major work. Shortly after, he became the editor of a literary supplement to a medical students’ monthly magazine, Lettres Suivis, and Jean filled most of the first issue with a long article about LD and Justine. This was the first—or second—article to be published in French on the first novel of the Quartet, and it led to an exchange of letters and then to a long friendship between Larry and Jean.

In 1959, Jean founded the literary magazine Two Cities: La Revue Bilingue de Paris, and the first number was an “Hommage à Lawrence Durrell.” In 1988, Jean published LD’s letters to him: Letters to Jean Fanchette, 1958-1963. In addition to editing and publishing, Jean wrote highly praised essays, novels, and poems; among other prizes, he won the Prix Paul Valéry, the Prix Fénéon, and the Prix de la Langue Française of the French Academy. He also maintained a successful practice as a psychoanalyst.

In 1990, Jean took part in the Sixth International LD Conference at Georgia Southern College, where he was made an honorary member of the LDS. He seemed to love every second of that stay in the U.S., even the drive from New York to Statesboro in the MacNiven’s recalcitrant Fiat that would not start without a push. Especially, he enjoyed the conversations with the participants of OMG VI. Every phone call and letter after that ended with a reference to the next conference: “I’m looking forward to seeing all the Durrellians in Avignon.” Alas, it was not to be.

John Walsh


PEOPLE, PLACES AND PUBLICATIONS

- From 20-29 September 1992, De Chypre à la Provence: itinéraire d’un peintre méditerranéen, Lawrence Durrell was held at the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell in Sommières. About 800 people came to view the 58 paintings and various ceramics, photographs, and rare editions of EPFS/DURRELL.
- In Thessaloniki from 2-3 November and in Athens from 23-28 November 1992, the British Council hosted Writers Abroad, a poster exhibition consisting of 16 panels, each covering a different area of the world or theme and referring to books written on that theme. Over 60 writers from the 16th to the 20th centuries were featured, including Walter Raleigh, Laurence Sterne, Charles Dickens, Rudyard Kipling, D. H. Lawrence, LAWRENCE DURRELL, Patrick Leigh Fermor.
- Nine members of the LDS were on the program of The Richard Aldington Centenary Conference, held at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France, 5-8 July 1992. SHELLEY COX spoke on “The Richard Aldington Collections at Southern Illinois University”; CANDACE FERTILE’S paper was “Women in Richard Aldington’s Novels”; NORMAN T. GATES gave a welcoming address; FRANK KERNSNOWSKI presented “Liddell Hart Stirs the Pot: The Lawrence Controversy”; “Being English Abroad: The Aldington-Durrell Friendship” was IAN S. MacNIVEN’S contribution; MICHEL PHARAND read “An ‘English Authority on French Literature’: Richard Aldington’s Secret Avocation”; PATRICK J. M. QUINN discussed “A Dwelling At the Very Heart of Life: Richard Aldington’s The Crystal World”; FREDERIC-JACQUES TEMPLE delivered the keynote address: “Words for a Centenarian Young Man”; and “Dying at the Word of Command” was offered by DAVID WILKINSON.
- Seven LDS members were on the program of the Modern Language Association Convention in New York City in December 1992.
- “The Literary Interview and Intentionality” was ERIE INGERBOLL’S contribution to the Inscribed Conversations: Interviews as Literary Texts session.
- ZORA NEALE HURSTON: Anthropologist as Modernist Filmaker” was delivered by ANNA LI LIOJS at the Feminists, Modernists, Writers, Cinéastes: Screening the Early Twentieth Century through a Gendered Lens session.
- IAN S. MacNIVEN co-chaired the session Lawrence Encountering the Americas.
- HARRY STONEBACK was the respondent for the session The Old Man and the Sea: 1952-92.


• KHANI BEGUM gave a paper on a Zimbabwean writer at the Commonwealth Studies Conference at Statesboro, Georgia in the spring of 1992; in June she attended the Joyce conference in Dublin, and in October she presented a paper at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, which was held at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

• JOE BRATCHER completed his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin this spring (1993). His dissertation is entitled “An Alexandrian Trio: Three Anti-Foundational Readings of Lawrence Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet.” He uses Paul de Man, Fredric Jameson, and Stephen Greenblatt to develop three analytic readings of the Quartet.


• KEITH BROWN edited a collection of essays, Rethinking Lawrence (Milton Keynes and Philadelphia: Open University Press, 1990). The front cover of this paperback has one of D. H. Lawrence’s sensuous paintings—Boccaccio Story. The book is available from Open University Press at Celtic Court, 22 Ballmoor, Buckingham MK18 1XW, England and at 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101, Bristol, PA 19007, U.S.A.

• ANGELA CECERE helped organize the 4-6 May 1992 conference Idea e Realtà dell’Europa: Lingue, Letterature, Ideologie held at her school, the Faculty of Foreign Languages of the University of Bari: Angela presented the paper “Il mito del sud nella letteratura di viaggio inglese,” in which she considers Durrell and Sicilian Carousel along with Henry Swinburne, George Gissing, and Norman Douglas. In late October 1992, Angela attended the National Congress in Parma. She wrote: “I spent four nice days in Parma, a lovely town, listening to lectures, enjoying a splendid concert in Chiesa della steccata, going out for tasty dinners, and viewing paintings by Correggio.” Angela gave a talk on The Alexandria Quartet at the Anglo-Italian Association in Bari on 10 March 1993.

• In collaboration with Janet Wing, Angela wrote The Crisis of Victorianism to the Modern Age: A Text-Based Study of the Language of Late Victorian and Early Twentieth-Century English Literature (Bari: Adriatica Editrice, 1988), a guide to the reading of English texts; an Aubrey Beardsley illustration produced for but not used in the Yellow Book is on the cover.

• Angela’s Viaggiatori inglesi in Puglia nel settecento was published in 1989 (Fasano: Sciena Editore). This is a beautifully produced book with lovely old maps, both in color and in black and white; Durrell is named on the dust wrapper along with Dickens, Lawrence, and Forster as authors. Angela has written about. Recently, Angela completed a second—and last, she says—volume on English travellers.

• Miriam/Clara: Passione spirituale e passione sensuale nel primo Lawrence,” Angela’s paper for I Linguaggi Della Passione, the conference of the Italian Association of University Teachers held at Pisa 25-27 October 1990, was published by Campanotto Editore Udine.

• Angela’s paper “Physical/mental consciousness in D. H. Lawrence: le difficili scelte delle Figlie del vicario” appeared in Review Textus in 1992 [?].

• Viaggio in Italia (Rome), a magnificently illustrated bimonthly, bilingual magazine of tourism, culture, and travel literature, includes Angela’s “La Scoperta della Puglia nel ‘Grand Tour’ degli inglesi” ["The Discovery of Apulia by Englishmen during the Grand Tour"] in its March-April 1992 issue (pp. 16-24).

• BREWSTER CHAMBERLIN is quoted throughout a 6 December 1992 article in the New York Times: “Holocaust Museum Gains in Communist Fall” by Henry Kamm (p. 9). Brewster, Director of Archives of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, which opened to the public on 23 April 1993, explained that Eastern European countries have been making available records of their former Communist governments as well as German and Jewish documents that had been kept secret since World War II. Brewster has been gathering as much material as possible from these countries for the Archives in order to facilitate scholarly research.


• REED WAY DASENBROCK was Jerome S. Cardin Visiting Professor of the Humanities at Loyola College in Maryland for 1992-93. He and his wife, Feroza Jussawalla, edited Interviews with Writers of the Post-Colonial World published by the University Press of Mississippi in 1992 [?]. Literary Theory after Davidson, edited by Reed, is scheduled for publication by the Pennsylvania State Press in July 1993.

• In the Summer 1992 MLA Newsletter, ALAN FRIEDMAN is listed as the newly elected executive-committee member of the 20th-Century English Literature Division.
• LYN GOLDMAN sent the September 1991 Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities; she circled the paragraph titled “Alexandria Revisited,” which I quote:

“In addition to the new library in Alexandria, the famed Lighthouse will also be rebuilt, thanks chiefly to a grant from the government of Finland. The old Lighthouse, once located where a yacht club now stands, was destroyed by an earthquake. The new lighthouse will be built close to the new library and appears on the logo for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It will be designed to look like the original. Completion is expected for February 1993.”

I suspect that Lyn would like to lead a parade of Durrellians to the new library and lighthouse in 1996.

• GROVE KOGER has written an essay on the group of French composers known as “Les Six” to appear in Great Events from History II: Arts and Culture (Salem Press). Bloomsbury Review will carry his review of Gibs ville, Pa., a collection of classic short stories by John O’Hara; a later issue will include his review of Too Far from Home: The Selected Writings of Paul Bowles.

From 1-4 April, 1993, Grove was in Chicago for the second annual Mid-West Symposium on Assassination Politics.

• During the 1992-93 academic year, NANCY and BOB LEWIS had Fulbright Grants to teach in Bulgaria, Nancy at the University of Sofia and Bob at the American College of Sofia. Between semesters they celebrated Christmas in Greece.


• KIMBERLY NOLAN contributed her 23 and 24 August 1992 diary entries to Lasker: A Journal of Remembrance and Discovery, Vol. 4, No. 1 (Winter 1993), a special issue devoted to journal writing. Kimberly, who moved to Miami thirteen days before the city became front-page news, describes her preparations for Hurricane Andrew and the day of the storm (pp. 27-30).

• ILEANA COSGAREA and TIBERIU PASKUY have been in the Deep South since August 1992. Tiberiu is in the doctoral program in English at Georgia State University and is working on the Epic of the South in/with Faulkner and Durrell.

• Knowing that various LDS members have had difficulty obtaining the individual Alexandria Quartet novels, KAY THOMPSON has been collecting copies which she has kindly offered to share. If you should need a few of these titles, write to Kay ( )

• This summer (1993) MARIE-CHRISTINE VELDEMAN is completing her doctoral dissertation, which explores love, entropy, the spirit of place, and art in The Avignon Quintet.

• There have been changes in (and corrections to) the following members’ addresses and/or telephone numbers:

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY OR CONCERNING LAWRENCE DURRELL

Grove Koger and Susan S. MacNiven

• White Eagles Over Serbia, first published as a paperback by Faber and Faber in 1962, was reissued as a Faber paperback in 1993. It has a cover painting by Dan Williams and costs £5.99.

• A Penguin paperback of Bitter Lemons was issued in 1992.
• An Italian translation of *Proserpina's Cell* appeared in the fall of 1992.

• *Cartas Durrell-Miller, 1935-1980*, edited by Ian S. MacNiven, was translated into Spanish by Maria Faidella Martí and published by Edhasa (Barcelona) in November 1991. It has the same photographs as those in the Faber and New Directions editions, except on the back of the dust jacket, which contains a long blurb by Gore Vidal instead of the photo of Durrell and Miller.

• In June 1991 in Bucharest bookstores, LDS member Brewster Chamberlin saw *The Alexandria Quartet* in Romanian translation for the first time. It is published in four separate volumes, and *Justine* has a 32-page preface by Dan Grigorescu.

• Henri Michaux, *Poète du parfait solipsisme* was translated into French by LDS member F. J. Temple and published by Fata Morgana (Montpellier) in 1990. This book contains Durrell's essay and his "Poème en l'honneur d'Henri Michaux" in both French and English, and it has lovely illustrations.


  In his review of the Cocker book, "Outremer, Autres Mœurs" (*Times Literary Supplement* of 6 November 1992, p. 27), Robert Carver cites LD as an example to illustrate his point that most of the heterosexual émigrés "are what would have been described in the pre-war world as having 'loose morals'...Durrell and his girls and friends swam naked in view of the telescopes of the British fleet in pre-war Corfu."

• The poem "Feria en Nîmes," from Françoise Kestman's French translation of *Caesar's Vast Ghost* to be published by Gallimard, appears on the back wrapper of the beautifully produced brochure *De Chypre à la Provence: Itinéraire d'un peintre méditerranéen Lawrence Durrell*, published by the Centre d'Études et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell in Sommieres for the Durrell art exhibition there 20-29 September 1992. The front wrapper contains Durrell's explanation of how he chose the name Epfs, quoted by Michael Dibdin from an October 1990 interview (published 11 November in the *Independent On Sunday*); inside are "Sur le chemin d'Eleusis" by Françoise Kestman, "...témoin du rêve méditerranéen" by Michel Déon, "L'Eipsistentialisme" by Jean-Pierre Barou, and "Des fantaisies jubilatoires" by Jacques Lacarrière. The brochure has color reproductions of five paintings by Epfs and one color and two black-and-white photographs of Durrell.

• "Case History," from *Esprit de Corps*, is included in *The Penguin Book of British Comic Writing* edited by Patricia Craig and published by Viking (London) in 1992. This also contains an excerpt from Gerald Durrell’s *My Family and Other Animals*. The price is £15.99.

• Maurice Girodias’s *The Olympia Reader*, containing an extract from *The Black Book*, was reissued in 1992 in an Evergreen paperback from Grove Press (New York) at $15.95.


• LD’s description of Venice at dawn from *Bitter Lemons* is quoted in *The Literate Traveller*, Catalog No. 5, 1991, a mail-order catalog from a travel bookstore of the same name at 8306 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 591, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. It’s a great list.

• “Jots and Tittles” and “Frying the Flag” are included in *The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose: From Willaim Caxton to P. G. Wodehouse: A Conducted Tour*, edited by Frank Muir (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1990). Muir’s introductory note to these pieces indicates that he may not be aware of LD’s third volume of sketches.

• LDS member H. R. Stoneback’s book *Hemingway’s Paris: Our Paris?* (New York: LINES, 1990. 26 pp. $12.50. Signed copies of this limited edition may still be available from the publisher: LINES, RD 1, Box 333, Germantown, NY 12526) contains a brief reference to Durrell and an epigraph and quotation from conversations with LD. When excerpts—including a Durrell quote about the fifth dimension and Hemingway—appeared as “Hemingway’s Paris” in the magazine *Areté* (July 1989), one reader wrote to Stoneback: “Did Durrell and Hemingway go hunting together? Is that where they found the fifth dimension Durrell talks about?” Quite an image! Amused, and then bemused, the author was unable to reply to this letter.


• L’*Héritier littéraire* (Poitiers: Chêne, c. 1989, pub. 1990), edited and illustrated
with watercolors by Marthe Seguin-Fontes, is a collection of quotations referring to herbs and flowers with facing-page paintings of flowers and plants. Under the title "Les lauriers-roses," two paragraphs from Vénus et la mer [Reflections on a Marine Venus] appear opposite a Nerium Oleander. This beautifully produced hardcover book is 29 x 16.5 cm, and the pages are unnumbered; it sells for FF198.

- H. R. Stoneback comments about a book mentioned in Heralds 11 (the British publication) and 14 (the U.S.): "Double tribute is paid to Durrell in the recent very attractive small travel book—or, more accurately, a meditation on place in prose and poetry selections, photographs, and paintings—entitled Spirit of Place: Provence (New York: Arcade, 1989; 'Text selection' by Russell Ash and Bernard Higon). Aside from the nod to Durrell in the book's title, there is a passage from LD strategically placed in the exact center of this book, facing a splendid photograph of a Provençal vineyard. The selection, from 'Ripe Living in Provence,' is the paragraph which concludes:

the great wines of the south sleep softly on the French earth like a pledge that the enchanted landscapes of the European heart will always exist, will never fade against this taut wind-haunted blue sky where the mistral rumbles and screams all winter long.

Durrell's prose stands up very well here in the company of Bellow, Dickens, Connolly, Nabokov, Plath, and Smollett, of Cézanne, Monet, Renoir, et al."


- The dust jacket of André Bernard's Alexandrie la grande (Paris: Arthaud, 1966) contains the subtitle, "D'Herodote à Lawrence Durrell, le destin d'une ville fabuleuse," but it does not appear on the title page, nor are there more than two references to Durrell in the text. The first is a quotation of 15 lines beginning "Et quand tombe la nuit," from page 362 of the French one-volume edition of the Quartet (Editions Buchet/Chastel, 1963), and the second is a reference to pages 188-95, the great hunt on Lake Mareotis, in connection with the concentration of waterfowl.

- LD's line in Bitter Lemons about the British expatriates in Kyrenia, living "what appeared to be a life of blameless monotony" is quoted in David Lancashire's "The Ancient Brits of Old Kyrenia" (Globe and Mail [Toronto], 5 June 1993).

- In "Packing by the Book" (New York Times 18 October 1992, sec. 5, p. 31), Robert Eisner sketches the history of packing lists found in literature. He begins with a work written in 1498 and ends his article with Durrell's advice to Alan G. Thomas about what the latter should pack for his forthcoming visit to Larry and Nancy in Corfu. The quotation is in a circa 1937 letter from Durrell to Thomas that appears in Spirit of Place.

- William Davis quotes the third sentence of Reflections on a Marine Venus in "Island Life," which appears in Sky Life (Summer 1992, pp. 8-10, 12, 14), a magazine published for Caledonian Airways.


- In a fascinating article about Alexandra David-Neel, Andrew Harvey states that for Durrell "Tibetan Buddhism had been a revelation, one...for which David-Neel had been partly responsible," and he quotes Durrell's comments about her made during a conversation Durrell and

- Two pages from the French translation by Françoise Kestsman of Caesar's Vast Ghost are included in the November 1991 Calades (Nîmes), the art magazine of the Gard. This issue focuses on LD; there are articles and notes by Constant Bakas, Nelly Bouveret, Gerald Durrell, Lucio Charderon, Françoise Kestsman, Jean-Charles Lheureux, Sophie Rigon, Yvan Prat, Barbara Robinson, Frédéric-Jacques Temple, Henri Teissier and a variety of photographs.

- An excerpt from Caesar's Vast Ghost appears in the Summer 1991 issue of Mediterraneans: A Quarterly Review (Didsbury Press, £22 per year). The Times Literary Supplement of 27 March 1992 reviews the issue and accuses Durrell of mixing his metaphors!

- An extract from Chapter V of Caesar's Vast Ghost (pp. 63, 66), which contrasts the Greek mind with that of the Roman, is quoted in the "Noted With Pleasure" column of the New York Times Book Review of 30 December 1990 under the subtitle "Rash Greeks, Cautious Romans."

- On 10 November 1990, the Weekend Telegraph (London) published under the title "Durrell's Days of Wine and Warmth" (pp. I-II) an extract from Caesar's Vast Ghost.


Ana: Focus on LD

- In The Devil at Large: Erica Jong on Henry Miller (New York: Turtle Bay Books, Random House, 1993), a considerable number of pages pertain to LD, others to Betty Ryan, friend to both LD and Miller. Jong recounts her January 1990 visit with Durrell, who gave his views on writing ("In order to find your own voice as a writer, you have to have a nervous breakdown") and his memories of Miller and of T. S. Eliot, who knew that "one can only incarnate the unrealized pattern of the race by a 'surgical operation on the self."


- The first number of Olive Tree News, the biannual, bilingual Bulletin of the Centre d'Études et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell, appeared in January 1993. It contains a page from John Strype's Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion (1725) annotated by LD, a report of the Centre's activities by Françoise Kestsman, a letter from Stephanie Moore ("About the Lawrence Durrell Study & Travel Grant"), the first synopsis of the 1994 Avignon Festival that will focus on LD, and a copy of the De Chypre à la Provence exhibition brochure (mentioned above). Olive Tree News is available to members of the Centre's Association (yearly dues: FF150) and to non-members (annual subscription fee: FF95). Write to the Centre, B.P. 15, Sommières, 30250 Gard, France.

- Joe Bratcher's "An Alexandrian Trio: Three Anti-Foundational Readings of Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet" is his Ph.D. dissertation submitted to the University of Texas at Austin in 1993.

- LD receives attention from David Solway in The Anatomy of Arcadia (Montreal: Vehicule, 1992). In a review of this book ("Sheer Helias" on p. 28 of the Times Literary Supplement of 6 November 1992), Sofka Zinovieff states: "The great English-speaking writers on Greece—Henry Miller, Patrick Leigh Fermor and Lawrence Durrell—are all criticized for what Solway sees as their unrealistic enthusiasm for the country."

- Part memoir, part semi-interview, "My Short Life with Lawrence Durrell" (Poets and Writers Magazine, September/October 1992, pp. 47-55) by Thomas Kaplan-Maxfield describes his first meeting with LD in 1984, which led to a friendship that continued until LD's death.

- In "Durrell Society Meets in Avignon" (in the September 1992 Recorder, one of the two English monthlies published in France), Pauline Wright mentions On Miracle Ground VII and presents a short outline of LD's life and major works.

- LDS member Michael Balter in "Lawrence Durrell Country" (International Herald Tribune 28 August 1992, p. 8) briefly discusses Durrell in Sommières; critical reception of his books in Britain, France, and the U.S.; Caesar's Vast Ghost; Gerald Durrell; Françoise Kestsman; and the Centre d'Études et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell. Two photos accompany the article: one of Durrell inset against the background of the River Vidourle, and another of Françoise Kestsman.


- "Lawrence Durrell, le vagabond" by Daniel Rondeau is in the Nouvel Observateur of 9-15 July 1992, pp. 84-87. See the column by Stephanie Moore for information about this.


- The Dauphiné Libérel-Vaucluse Matin (Avignon) of 2 July 1992, p. 5, contains
a short article about On Miracle Ground VII, "Lawrence Durrell et son œuvre" by M.-H. Aelvoet, and a photo of several of the participants.

• The Comtadin (Avignon) of 2 July 1992, p. 17, has a biographical sketch of LD, "Sacré Lawrence" by Félicien Lalaue, preceded by a brief mention of the LD conference being held in the Palais des Papes, the building that LD "trouvait hideux et d'une laideur hostile." This includes a good photo of LD.

• Carina Istre writes about On Miracle Ground VII and LD in "Avignon dans 'l'ombre immense de Durrell" in the 1 July 1992 Méridional (Avignon), p. 3. A photo of LD and one of Carol Peirce, Denis Constancias, and Ian and Susan MacNiven accompany this article.

• In "Sommières ne se détache pas de Lawrence Durrell" (Le Monde 9 May 1992, p. 24), Jean-Pierre Barou describes Sommières and Durrell's life and friends there. A 1987 photo of Durrell taken by Carlos Freire accompanies the article.


• LDS member Peter Baldwin's essay that appeared in the Winter 1990 Private Library [See Herald 14] is now a separate publication: Conon's Songs from Exile: The Limited Edition Publications of Lawrence Durrell (Birmingham: The Delos Press, 1992. £7.50). It is a beautifully produced book limited to 100 copies. Peter is now able to accept checks in U.S. dollars payable to The Delos Press, and his charge for overseas mail is £1.00. Write him at Delos Press, 11, School Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ET, England.

• In Crisis-Consciousness and the Novel (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1992. $37.50) by LDS member Eugene Hollahan, there is a chapter on LD: "A Trope to be Explicated: Lawrence Durrell" (pp. 174-187). Hollahan states that in The Alexandria Quartet, "Durrell uses crisis in eight contexts, ranging from the routine to the unusual and finally to the unique."

• Narcissus from Rubble: Competing Models of Character in Contemporary British and American Fiction by LDS member Julius Rowan Raper (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1992. $27.50) has one chapter devoted to LD, "The New Philosopher's Stone: Lawrence Durrell's The Avignon Quintet" (pp. 127-143). Raper considers the kind of treasure that exists in the cavern at the end of Quintx, since it is not the actual treasure of the Templars for which Lord Galen and Hitler's emissaries have searched.


• Volume 3 has an article on The Alexandria Quartet (pp. 1452-53) by LDS member Carol Peirce.

• "Inauguration de l'Espece Lawrence Durrell"—vendredi 8 Juin à 19 h." in Bulletin Municipal (Sommières) No. 25, Troisième Trimestre 1990, reports the ceremony honoring LD by giving his name to the new cultural center.

• Gérard Ducret, in "Le patelin rend hommage à son écrivain" (Midi Libre, 11 June 1990), writes more fully about the above ceremony. He quotes LD: "J'ai aimé ce patelin et le mide avec mon premier pastis!" Two photos accompany this.

• "Pass Notes 19: Lawrence Durrell" (Sunday Correspondent, 4 February 1990) is a spoof on LD's writing. One example: "The flaw in his work is the terminal good taste from which it suffers: lunatics, impoverished writers, headless corpses—all are described in beautiful tones."


• Mahmud Manzalaoui's "Mouths of the Sevenfold Nile: English Fiction and Modern Egypt" (pp. 131-50), in Studies in Arab History: The Antonius Lectures, 1978-87 edited by Derek Hopwood (Macmillan with St Antony's College, Oxford and World of Islam Festival Trust, ca. 1989), discusses LD at some length. According to LDS member
Edmund Keeley, the article “offers rather derogatory comments on Durrell’s image of Egypt and his failure to get his facts right (e.g., you do not reach the desert by going east from Alexandria, you reach the Delta region; the desert is south), and this rather casual handling of literal Egypt spoils Dr. Manzalaoui’s appreciation of the *Quartet*.”


In James Dickey’s *Babyl to Byzantium: Poets & Poetry Now*, there is a short entry, “Lawrence Durrell” (pp. 84-85). It is a laudatory review of the Grove Press, 1956 edition of *Selected Poems*, and Dickey admits that Durrell “has long been a favorite of mine.” This book was published by The Universal Library, Grosset & Dunlap (NY) in 1971 and reissued by The Ecco Press (NY) in 1981.

**Appreciations/Obituaries**

*Le Monde* of 9 November 1990, p. 18, contains “Sommieus d’honneur,” a short piece about LD’s attachment to the banks of the Vidourle, and a basic “Bibliographie.”

Patrick Leigh Fermor wrote “Lawrence Durrell” for the 17 November 1990 *Spectator* (pp. 28 and 30).

In “Après la disparition de Lawrence Durrell, Je te salute, Larry,” in the 22 November 1990 *L’Evénement du Jeudi* (Paris), Frédéric-Jacques Temple reminisces about his first meeting and long friendship with LD.

In the *Observer* (New York) of 10 December 1990, in “Maitre or ‘Also-Ran,’ Durrell Had a Rare Courage,” Erica Jong discusses her only meeting with LD. She also comments briefly on *Caesar’s Vast Ghost*. With slight changes, this article appears in *Deus Loci NS* (1992) under the title “Larry Durrell, Pagan Providence, and Miller’s Vast Ghost.”

- Volume 132 of *Contemporary Authors* (Gale Research, 1991) contains a short obit of LD.

**Reviews of Durrell Books**

*The Alexandria Quartet*

- In “Spiritual Sunbathing in the Heat of Durrell’s Alexandria: Second Thoughts” (*Globe and Mail* [Toronto], 15 June 1991), Eric McCormack, who found the *Quartet* unreadable when he began it in 1958, explains how he changed upon it in 1988 and had a totally different reaction: “I was intoxicated.” To him the plot was still “not that gripping. But the characters! What an intelligent, sensual, wonderful collection they are; and what great lines Durrell puts into their fictional mouths.” McCormack calls LD “an axiomist as superb as Kundera.”

*The Durrell-Miller Letters, 1935-80*

- A review of the New Directions edition by Kathleen Chase is in the Spring 1989 *World Literature Today* (Norman, Oklahoma).
- Fred Lippincott reviewed the New Directions edition for the *Montgomery Advertiser and Alabama Journal* of 4 June 1989 in “New Collection Documents 45-Year Correspondence Between Author, Poet.”
- Longer blurbs on the *Letters and Antrobus Complete* are in the “Paperbacks” column of the 19 November 1989 *Sunday Correspondent* (London). Regarding *Letters*, the reviewer writes: “It is an irresistible privilege to be allowed a private view of two madmen with a hypertrophic sense of their own talent.” And about *Antrobus*: The stories are “sloppily conceived at times, chiefly because Durrell said he wrote each in 20 minutes.”

- Durrell and Miller are labelled “two old Mediterranean maverick expats” in the two-line blurb accorded the *Letters* in the “Paperbacks” column of the 3 December 1989 *Observer* (London).
- LDS member Anna Lillicos reviews the New Directions edition in the *South Atlantic Review*, Vol. 55, No. 4 (November 1990) pp. 139-41. Lillicos cites as a major theme of the Durrell-Miller correspondence the “Tibetan sensibility” which “united them in their alienation from the materialist, goal-oriented West.” Although neither man ever visited Tibet, “for forty-five years, Miller and Durrell nurtured this imaginary land in the other.”


*Caesar’s Vast Ghost*

- “Durrell is often at his most pungent in this prose poem to Provence, which masquerades—here and there—as a travel book,” begins the 1 October 1990 report on *Caesar’s Vast Ghost* in *Kirkus Reviews* (New York). This piece praises the “fabulous anecdotalist,” but also warns that “some readers...will take issue with his harsh words about Judaic/Christian monotheism and how it crushed man’s natural homosexual impulse.”
• In the Booklist (New York) of 15 October 1990, John Brosnahan considers briefly in one entry Caesar's Vast Ghost and A Window on Provence: One Summer’s Sojourn into the Simple Life by Bo Niles (New Yor: Viking).

• David Hughes ends his very short review, “Durrell’s Last Words Endure” (Mail on Sunday, 11 November 1990), thusly: “This movingly ordinary volume, with its undertow of love for a Utopia abroad, is the last word in famous last words.”

• “The Pagan of Provence Writes a Fitting Farewell” by Colin Walters appears in the 19 November 1990 Washington Times (p. F2). About half of this excellent article treats Durrell’s earlier books and Durrell’s paganism. “Mr. Durrell was no different from many other Englishmen of his time and class in finding a spiritual home among the ancient Greeks and Romans. But he alone (if aided and abetted by Henry Miller...) mounted his own rebellion against the Judeo-Christian world that had supplanted the ancient world 2,000 years earlier.” Walters states that in Caesar’s Vast Ghost “the travel material is as good as ever” and the poems, “like Mr. Durrell’s poetry in general, reminiscent of Robert Graves and Joyce.”

• In a review of several books beginning with Caesar’s Vast Ghost, “Scenes from Provencal Life: Roger Clarke Explores Lawrence Durrell’s France and Other Exotica” (Sunday Times [London] of 25 November 1990), Clarke states: “The Provence [Durrell] writes about existed nowhere but in himself. The friends he writes about are dead before him, and some of his sources... he admits making up.” Clarke says the poems “read as if translated from a superior French original.”

• Caroline Ballinger, in “Landscape with Vanished Figures” (Saturday Independent [London], 15 December 1990), says that in essence Ghost “is a work of whim, an appealing concoction of poems, anecdotes and delvings into aspects of the Midi that had pleased or intrigued Durrell from the time he settled there in 1957.”

• “There’s a piquancy of reference, a sizeable pinch of adverbial stuffing, a bouquet garni of history and a great deal of learned allusiveness: those staples of the Durrell-diet that spice this verbal stew.” Thus writes Nicholas Delbanco about Caesar’s Vast Ghost in “Tribute to South of France Explores Time and Terrain” (Detroit News and Free Press, 16 December 1990). Although objecting to some of Durrell’s lines and ideas, Delbanco praises his portrayal of Provence: “No author of our time has done more to capture... the Spirit of Place.”

• Karen Stabiner’s paragraph, “Caesar’s Vast Ghost” in the Los Angeles Times of 13 January 1991, gives a brief introduction to the book; however, Stabiner misleads the reader by stating that Provence “is both French and Italian” [i.e., Roman].

• In the “Short Takes” column of the Boston Globe of 20 January 1991, Amanda Heller says of Caesar’s Vast Ghost: “By being so intensely personal and unconventional, the book paradoxically draws us closer to the place than any travelogue list of where to stay and what to see could possibly do.”

• Without acknowledging her authorship, the Huntsville, Alabama Times of 20 January 1991 printed a shortened version of Karen Stabiner’s “Caesar’s Vast Ghost.” See above.

• Extremely critical of Caesar’s Vast Ghost is Michael Matza’s review, “Durrell’s Ode to Provence Is Shallow,” in the Indianapolis Star of 27 January 1991. Matza writes, “Ghost” is a triumph of style over substance, packaging over pondering. The impression left is of a publisher and celebrated author cashing in on a famous name who doesn’t have all that much to say.” He concludes: “Avid fans may be fascinated by glimpses into the free-associational workings of Durrell’s mind. Others may simply wonder what in the hell he is trying to say.”

• The Dallas Times Herald of 27 January 1991 reprints Karen Stabiner’s “Caesar’s Vast Ghost,” without acknowledging her authorship, under the title “A View of Provence.” See above.

• An article about travel guides and travel books in the January 1991 American Bookseller lists Caesar’s Vast Ghost with Jan Morris’s Ireland Your Only Place and V. S. Naipaul’s India: A Million Mutinies as “recent books from accomplished travelers” (p. 18).

• Karen Stabiner’s review, “Caesar’s Vast Ghost,” appears also in the Providence, Rhode Island Journal of 3 February 1991 as “A Picture of Provence.”

• An excerpt of Michael Matza’s article [See above.] appears in the Atlanta Journal of 10 February 1991 with short reviews of several other books under the title, “Explore Far and Wide Without Leaving Home.”

• London Magazine for February/March 1991 contains “Images” (pp. 129-130), by Alan Ross, a review of several works including Caesar’s Vast Ghost.

• In “Deathscape: Durrell’s Grace Only Whispers in Last Book,” published in Zyypo 14 March 1991 (p. 12), Grove Koger mentions the underlying theme of death in Caesars Vast Ghost and adds: “This sense of mortality may be responsible for weakening the poems scattered throughout the book’s text. Most slip all too easily from the sublime into the ridiculous, as if Durrell—a poet of no little repute—had lost confidence in the power of language to penetrate the mysteries of life and love. And yet the old grace is frequently on display.”

• In “20th-Century Invaders of Provence Disguised as Tourists” (Trenton, New Jersey Times of 17 March 1991), Clara Pierre writes that Durrell “was one of
the area's reigning expatriates. No novelist, poet—or sensationalist—of our time was better qualified to transmit the essence of his adopted patrimoine. [Caesar's Vast Ghost], filled with gentle forebodings of death, haphazardly organized and undisciplined as its prose sometimes gets, is nonetheless vintage Durrell." She adds that "Durrell was [in Provence]—as he had been in Corfu, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Cyprus—as a sort of permanent traveler, someone who was a perpetual learner of new ways...his role was never that of resident sage."

* Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal NS 1 (1992) has two reviews of Ghost. Durrell’s last book helped Edmund Keeley understand more fully George Seferis’s poem "The Last Day," especially the lines about how a man dies. Keeley writes: “I take [Ghost] to be, at its heart, a revelation of the death [Durrell] earned, a death that was entirely his own because of the way he played the game that was his life.” In "Lawrence Durrell’s Last Journey" (pp. 123-126), Keeley identifies two themes in Ghost, “death and otherworldly mystery,” and states: “These are strong themes with their analogies in Durrell’s earlier work, yet [they] are not what dominate the book. It is the author’s journey through time towards the lush country that he has celebrated so often over the years...."

Richard Pine, in "Caesar’s Vast Ghost: The View from Dublin" (pp. 127-129), calls LD’s last book "a retourn secret sur soi-même." Pine says the book "is a powerful restatement of many of [Durrell’s] recurring themes”... and "touches all his previous work, often with deliberate echoes of The Alexandria Quartet, The Revolt of the Aphrodite, and... The Avignon Quinter"; Pine declares that the poems in Ghost “renew his reputation in a genre in which he had been eclipsed by his success in prose.”

* Along with other books, Barbara Bischoff reviews Caesar’s Vast Ghost [newspaper unknown]; she mentions that it is an alternate selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

• Susan Spano Wells calls Caesar’s Vast Ghost "a kind of personal scrapbook dedicated to Provence" and a "floridly impressionistic text" and states that "it sums up Durrell himself as both a sybarite and a man of great tenderness contemplating the end of his life" in "In the Footsteps of the Gods" [publication unknown], a review of Ghost and two other books.

Ana: Reference to LD

• In "Envoy To Two Cultures," Robert Hughes’s article about Edward Said (Time, 21 June 1993, pp. 60-62), the description of his “English public-school education” in Cairo begins: “Its teachers were all English, extra from Lawrence Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet.”

• References to LD are found in Christopher de Hamel’s "Introduction" (pp. 11-13) to Sotheby’s Catalogue Fine Books and Manuscripts from the Library of the Late Alan G. Thomas (1993). The sale occurred in London on 21 and 22 June 1993.

• In March 1993, Henry Miller: A Bibliography of Primary Sources with an original preface by Henry Miller appeared. This monumental work, compiled, edited, and published by Lawrence J. Shifreen and LDS member Roger Jackson, contains 1,160 pages, describes 2,600 items, and has 365 items illustrated. LDS member Karl Orend wrote the foreword to the European edition. Of course there are many references to LD, and there is a blurb by him on p. vi. The price is $95.00 plus $4 postage; however, if you buy three or more copies, you may take 33 1/3% off the price. Get together!

Send payment by check or money order to Roger Jackson, 339 Brookside Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

For credit card purchases, write to West Side Books, 113 Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (Phone: 313-995-1891).

For European orders contact Alys-camps Press, 35 rue de l’Espérance, 75013 Paris, France.


• Writing about the new Cavafy Museum in Alexandria, Hala Halim, in "Of Graven Images" (Al-Ahram Weekly, 26 November-2 December 1992, p. 9), refers to LD: "Cavafy achieved a fictional reincarnation twenty years after his death as Balthazar in Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet."

• In the Fall 1992 catalog for New Amsterdam Books, one Gabriel Josipovici praises Waguil Ghali’s Beer in the Snooker Club as making "The Alexandria Quartet look like the travel brochure it is."

• In "Splendors and Miseries of Literary Biography," Jeffrey Meyers lists LD as an "unravished" author—that is, one whose life has not been written (Virginia Quarterly Review, Autumn 1992, p. 669). He goes on to note that "Durrell has been ‘claimed’ by a scholar who edited his correspondence. Anyone we know?


• The New York Times Book Review of 4 October 1992 contains three references to LD: in D.M. Thomas’s review (p. 13) of Live from Golgotha by Gore Vidal; in Rona Berg’s review (p. 20) of Antiquity Street, a first novel by Sonia Rami set in Egypt; and in an advertisement (p. 33) for the novel Lepriière’s Dictionary by Lawrence Norfolk.

• In Martin Hamlyn’s obituary, "Alan
Thomas" (The Independent [London] of 4 August 1992), there are a few mentions of LD.

- "Alan Thomas," the London Times obituary of 6 August 1992, includes references to LD.

- In her introductory paragraph to "Rites of Passage: Alice Walker Spins a Harsh Story in Possessing the Secret of Joy" (Village View [Los Angeles] 31 July-6 August 1992, p. 30), Naomi J. Ryerson refers to LD's "multilayered narratives."

- Valerie Grove in "My Animals and Other Families," an interview with Gerald Durrell in Life and Times (London) of 3 July 1992, mentions LD three times.

- In "Gerald and Lee Darrell," an interview by Ian Woodward in the ca. March 1992 Hello!, the English-language version of ¡Hola! (the leading pictorial magazine of Spain), there is one reference to LD. Excellent photos of the Gerald Durrells by Mike Daines accompany this three-page (78-80) article.

- Miriam Horn in an article about the architect Antoine Predock, "The Rise of the Desert Rat" (Vanity Fair, March 1992, pp. 112ff.), quotes him: "I got interested in the idea of the labyrinth, and started reading Umberto Eco, Lawrence Durrell, Mary Renault."


- In The Oxford Companion to the English Language, edited by Tom McArthur (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), LD is mentioned in the entry on "Fabre."

- The LD entry (pp. 301-2) in The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English, Revised Paperback (edited by Ian Ousby, Cambridge University Press, 1992), is overly brief. LD's last-named book is Monsieur, and there is no indication that this is the first of a five-part series. Besides the incompleteness, there are errors. Panic Spring is listed as LD's first novel published in 1935, and the entry states Pied Piper of Loves also appeared in 1935.

- Joseph Coates suggests that Nicholas Mosley's Hopeful Monsters is the culminating volume of what "may be one of the most important extended literary projects of this century, on a level with the multi-volume universes created by Proust, Anthony Powell, Lawrence Durrell and John Updike." John Updike? (Chicago Tribune Books, 22 December 1991, p. 3.)


- In 1991, Coast Publishing (Big Sur, California) issued a pamphlet, Henry Miller: The Serigraphs: A Centennial Collection, about the limited edition of serigraph prints that were being produced from Miller's watercolors to commemorate the centenary of his birth. One of these paintings, a brightly colored 15 x 15-inch Epesian rendition of a Greek village, is titled "A la Durrell."


- The 5 October 1990 Seattle Post-Intelligencer contains William Arnold's review of Henry and June, "An Erotic Drama Ushers in the NC-17 Film Rating" (p. 6), which mentions LD once.

- Departures magazine for September/October 1990 includes an article about LD's part of the world. In "The Hérault!" (pp. 90ff.), Caroline Ballinger quotes LD on p. 101, and, in the following "Country Guide" section by Corinne Labalme, Caesar's Vast Ghost (a "piece of 'inspired gossip' by Languedoc's most famous resident writer") is among the recommended reading matter.

- The New York Times obituary of Maurice Giordias (5 July 1990, sec. B, p. 5) lists LD and several other authors who were published by Giordias.


- Under the title "The Principal Attraction of Sommieres," H. R. Stoneback sent this note. "Has anyone noticed that one of the bibles of travellers, the Blue Guide: France (2nd edition, 1988), has this entry as one of its two sentences on Sommieres: 'Lawrence Durrell has lived in the congenial vicinity of Sommieres since 1937? This is a rare—extremely rare, if not the only instance—of a reference to a living writer's place of residence in this authoritative travel book. Perhaps it is a kind of recognition of Durrell's unique stature, a small but telling reminder that some writers know—even if Nobel Committees and many literary critics and historians do not—exactly how important Durrell is. And the Blue Guide seems to know already that, a century from now, pilgrims will come to Sommieres seeking the Spirit of Durrell."


- Both the 1985-86 and the 1988 editions
of The Hachette Guide to France (New York: Pantheon Books) contain this sentence under the Sommières entry: “Beautiful and somewhat neglected, near the stony hills where Lawrence Durrell found the same light and olive trees as in Greece.”

• There are two references to LD in the first chapter, “‘A Day Is Hardly Enough’: Alexandria, 1966” (pp. 13-21), of Among the Cities (Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1986) by Jan Morris.

• For a local London newspaper of August 1985, Joseph A. Allen wrote “Memories of Guilford Street—Fifty Years Ago,” in which he mentions LD. Allen under the imprint Caduceus Press published three early books of LD: Ten Poems (1932), Bromo Bombastes (1933), and Transition: Poems (1934).

• Four brief mentions of Durrell are found in The Contemporary English Novel, Stratford-upon-Avon Studies 18, published in New York by Holmes and Meier in 1980.

Marginalia

• The Scholar’s Bookshelf (51 Everett Drive, P. O. Box 179, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550) is offering an excellent sale book of interest to students of The Alexandria Quartet: Anthony Sattin’s Lifting the Veil: British Society in Egypt, 1768-1956. The price is $16.95 plus $4 postage ($5 outside the U.S., with pre-payment by U.S. Postal Money Order or check drawn on a U.S. bank). New Jersey residents should include sales tax. Canadian residents 7% GST tax. Specify item number 677R5.

• About September 1992, Scarecrow Press published Nile Notes of a Howadji: A Bibliography of Travelers’ Tales from Egypt, from the Earliest Time to 1918 by Martin R. Kalfatovic ($49.50). The publisher’s catalog describes it as being “limited to firsthand accounts of Egypt by travelers who actually visited there.”

• Mary Louise Pratt has written Imperial Eyes: Studies in Travel Writing and Transculturation (Routledge, January 1992. $49.95 cloth and $15.95 paperback). It deals with material “from the eighteenth century to Paul Theroux” (publisher’s catalog), but we don’t know whether LD is discussed.

Lawrence Durrell Circle

• One chapter of J. Gerald Kennedy’s Imagining Paris: Exile, Writing, and American Identity (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993) is devoted to Henry Miller. “The Secret Paris of Henry Miller” (pp. 142-184) does not mention LD.

• Note the Henry Miller bibliography by Lawrence J. Shifreen and Roger Jackson that is listed under Ana: Reference to LD.

With Gratitude

• Our thanks to the following who provided bibliographical information for this newsletter: Corinne Alexandre-Garner, Joseph A. Allen, Michael Balter, Michael Begnal, John Bodley, Heinz Boeckmann, Roger Bowen, Angela Ceceré, Brewster Chamberlin, Ludo Chardenon, Denis Constancias, Shelley Cox, George Dowell, Margaret Durrell Duncan, James Fetzer, Peggy Fox, Barry Fruchter, Lyn Goldman, Hala Halim, Eugene Hollahan, Penelope Durrell Hope, Edmund Keeley, Anna Lillios, Françoise Kestman, Joan MacK-Pinkney, Frances von Maltitz, Ray Mills, Mary Mollo, Stephanie Moore, Anthea Morton-Saner, James Nichols, Carol Peirce, Richard Pine, Richard W. Seaver, H. R. Stoneback, Michael Teague, Frédéric-Jacques Temple, Shirley Thomas, Dianne Vipond, and Pauline Wright.

QUERY

There were three quick responses to the query in Herald 14 (p. 18): Where is the Durrell epigraph that begins chapter 25 of Norman Sherry’s The Life of Graham Greene located? Ann Ashworth, Jay Brigham, and Richard Pine recognized Clea speaking in Justine, on p 25 of the one-volume edition of the Quartet. Thanks and cheers to our experts! Does anyone else have a query for them?

PURCHASING INFORMATION

Nepenthe, a stunning work by Oscar Epfs/Lawrence Durrell, is reproduced on the poster announcing De Chypre à la Provence: itinéraire d’un peintre médiéval, Lawrence Durrell, an exhibition held 20-29 September 1992 in Sommières. Dominated by the bright yellows and oranges of Durrell’s palette, this 24-by-16-inch portrait is one of his finest productions. It is available for $10.00 from the Centre d’Études et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell, B.P. 15, Route de Saussines, Sommières, 30250 Gard, France.

Note that Bernard Stone’s Turret Bookshop is now located at 36 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA (Phone: 071-405-6058).