



The International Lawrence Durrell Society

Number Seventeen, June 1994

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ian S. MacNiven

The countdown to On Miracle Ground VIII is being sounded in telephone messages and the cybernetic double note of facsimile call tones. Over the past few days as we rush toward the first conference event on 24 June, I have spoken to Japan, England, Egypt, Canada...and of course many times to Suzanne Henig in San Diego, to Anna Lillios in Casselberry, to Jim Nichols in Statesboro, to Carol Peirce in Baltimore over details of logistics, financing, program, and publications.

Bearing in mind the somewhat vinous interludes that have occurred during past conferences, this time we will begin with a wine tour, on the theory that a bit of early relaxation in the Temecula wine-growing region will loosen tongues and relax the nerves of travel. The conference will close with a banquet on the Bahia Belle paddle-wheel steamer, and the next day a few of the more adventurous will head for Mexico. A survivor's account will appear in the next Herald.

The announced theme of this conference, Durrell and His Friends, will be borne out with sessions on such well-publicized relationships as Larry's friendships with Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin, and also, interestingly, with

David Gascoyne, Olivia Manning, and Bernard Spencer. Beyond the circle of friends, yet pertaining to the placement of Durrell in world literature, we will hear papers on resonances shared with W.H. Auden, Albert Camus, and Yukio Mishima.

We will be particularly happy to welcome to the San Diego Miracle Ground a number of participants from beyond North America: Benny Jehaes-Groppa from Belgium, Ivan Billikopf from Chile, Duncan Hadfield and Patrick Quinn from England, Soad Hussein Sobhy and Nahla Swidan from Egypt, Richard Pine from Ireland, Madeline Merlini from Italy, Miho Shimada from Japan. High costs and rejected funding requests will deprive us of the presence of Ravi Nambiar of India, who contributed with such grace and intelligence to the last conference, and of Patrick McGuinness, whose talk on Durrell's poetry at Avignon was one of the best presentations.

The Business Meeting at the conference will include a report on Society activities and a discussion of publication plans and future conferences. Should you wish to bring up anything under new business, please phone Suzanne Henig by 23 June at 619-481-5284. The final item will be the election of officers. The Nominations Committee, consisting of Susan MacNiven

(Chair), Jim Nichols, and Wayne Markert, has arranged the following slate: Carol Peirce for President, Anna Lillios for Vice President, Paul Lorenz for Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations from the floor, duly seconded, will be added to the ballot.

As President over the past four years, I have enjoyed the friendship, help, support, and encouragement of many, both within and outside our organization. Nonetheless, I am happy to be relinquishing this rather time-consuming post. If called upon, I will do all I can to assist the new officers.

These are the critical years of an author's literary survival, the fifteen years following his death. I am sure that everyone in the Society is convinced of the durable nature of Durrell's best work, but quality alone may not be enough to keep public and scholars alike from forgetting him. You, individually and collectively, have a responsibility to Lawrence Durrell. To the barricades!

Bronx, 10 June 1994

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Anna Lillios

Last 24 March I journeyed north to Statesboro, Georgia, for a Durrell Society Executive Board meeting. Carol Peirce, Ian & Susan MacNiven,

and I holed up at Jim and Betsy Nichols's lake-side home for four days and three nights to discuss Society business and plan OMG VIII. The conversations were so intense and informative that I hardly wanted to leave the room to make a phone call. Once again, I was struck by how much Durrelliana the others know. They inspired me to plunge back into my research. I was also impressed by the fact that a long time has gone by without anyone talking to me about Durrell's work. My chairman and colleagues, out of politeness, often ask me about my research, but they really don't know the Quartet and haven't heard of the Quintet. Only other Society members can understand what I'm doing and comment on it. Sometimes, though, two years between conferences seem like a long time. Maybe we should think of new ways to communicate with each other. Shelley Cox mentioned to me recently that she sends E-mail to Candace Fertile in Canada and Patrick Quinn in England. Sounds like a good idea.

Four people have joined the LDS, and I extend a heraldic welcome to them:

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SOCIETY NOTICES

Deus Loci: The LD Journal
Deus Loci NS 2 appeared in December 1993. The cost is \$10 in the U.S. & Canada, and \$2 additional for regular mail or \$5 for air mail in the rest of the world. Critical and review articles, original work with some relation to Durrell or his circle, notes, and queries are invited. Send orders (with check/money order payable to Deus Loci) and submissions to Editor, Deus Loci, Dept. of Humanities, SUNY Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, NY 10465-4198.

The Herald

What are you doing? What are you discovering? Send news (whether or not it is related to LD), LD bibliographical information, comments, suggestions for the next newsletter by 1 September to Susan MacNiven, 14 Magnolia Place, Silver Beach Gardens, Bronx, NY 10465-3817 or phone at 718-792-2726.

LD Special Session/SCMLA

At the South Central Modern Language Association Convention in New Orleans 10-12 November 1994, Donald Kaczvinsky will chair a special session on The Fiction of Lawrence Durrell. If there is good attendance, the special session on LD can be repeated in subsequent years.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PUBLICATIONS

* Several LDS members were present at D.H. Lawrence's Cosmic Adventure: Assessing the Man, His Works, and His Place in History, the Fifth International D.H. Lawrence Conference held in Ottawa 24-28 June 1993 and coordinated by LAWRENCE B. GAMACHE and IAN S. MacNIVEN. Papers were read by KHANI BEGUM ("Re-Gendering the Gendered Text"), CANDACE FERTILE ("Triangular Relationships in 'Mother and Daughter' and Other Stories"), EARL INGERSOLL ("Bloomsbury in 1915"), JANE KELLER ("Anaï's Nin: Living by Lawrence"), LAWRENCE WAYNE MARKERT ("Auden and Isherwood"), CAROL PEIRCE ("The Long Shadow of Lawrence on Durrell's Quartet"), PATRICK J. QUINN ("Apocalypse and the New Consciousness"), and SHERRY LUTZ ZIVLEY ("Lawrence's Reaction to New Mexico"). KEITH BROWN, LARRY, EARL, IAN, SUSAN MacNIVEN, MICHEL PHARAND, and PATRICK chaired sessions; SHELLEY COX also attended.

* At the Modern Language Association Convention in Toronto in December 1993, KHANI BEGUM read "Valorizing Ethnicity and Gender in Caribbean and Asian Indian Immigrant Experience of Kincaid's Lucy and Mukherji's Jasmine" for the session Immigrant to Ethnic: The Asian Experience; PETER CHRISTENSEN gave "Hélène Cixous's Faust: A Revolutionary in Spite of Himself" for the European Readings and Rewritings of

Faust session; REED WAY DASENBROCK presented "Putnam's Literary Critique of Rorty: Why It Matters for Literary Theorists" for the session Hilary Putnam as a Philosopher of the Humanities; ALAN FRIEDMAN offered "The Great War and/as Ritual" for the Modern Literature and War session; and EARL INGERSOLL considered "Doris Lessing's 'Space Fiction,' Margaret Atwood's Science Fiction, and the Possibility of a 'Female Narrative'" for the Doris Lessing and Margaret Atwood session. LAWRENCE B. GAMACHE and PAUL LORENZ also attended the convention. However, with so few Durrellians in Toronto, there was no LDS meeting at last December's MLA.

* IVAN BILLIKOPF and his wife, Pilar, flew from Santiago, Chile, to Buenos Aires in May to visit RAUL VICTOR PELAEZ and make a serious comparison of Chilean and Argentinian wines. The two men spent a day in Córdoba where "all of the Ferreyra family" received them with champagne, entertained them with stories of LD's sojourn in Argentina, and took them to places where he had been. The Ferreyras were LD's principal hosts and benefactors in the country.

* ROGER BOWEN reported that he began 1994 with a "five-week jaunt from Sydney to Bangkok to Phnom Penh to Angkor Wat to Phnom Penh to Saigon to Bangkok to Maehongson to Bangkok to Sydney to LA."

* This summer PETER CHRISTENSEN has an NEH grant

to attend a seminar on religion and magic at Princeton University.

* In Falling into Theory: Conflicting Views on Reading Literature, edited by David H. Richter and published by Bedford Books/St. Martin's Press at \$9.50 (paperback) in January 1994, REED WAY DASENBROCK has an essay, "Do We Write the Text We Read?"

* CANDACE FERTILE'S article "Women in Richard Aldington's Fiction" was published in Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1993).

* To avoid some winter weather, LYN GOLDMAN escaped to Malta for a short vacation early in the year.

* GROVE KOGER has written entries for Don DeLillo's novel Libra and for Djuna Barnes and her novel Nightwood for reference sets to be published by Salem Press later this year. He will also be reviewing recordings of modern Greek music for Disc Respect (Boise); he will talk about folk music and urban styles such as rebetika, but will concentrate on "art" music by such composers as Petrides, Skalkottas, Kalomiris, Sicilianos, and so on.

* Touring France in December 1993, BETSY & JAMES NICHOLS drove from Calais to Sommières, spent two weeks at the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell, and then wandered into the

Cathar region. They also stopped in London and visited Bernard Stone and his bookshop.

* In the autumn of 1993, DANIEL OLSON received the third Lawrence Durrell Prize, which is funded by the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Lawrence Durrell in Sommières and by the city of Antibes. Daniel travelled to France to accept the award.

* PATRICK J. QUINN'S The Great War and the Missing Muse: The Early Writings of Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon, published in 1993(?) by Susquehanna University Press at \$45.00, is available from Associated University Presses, 440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512. Patrick edits the biannual journal Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries, and he is coordinating the Robert Graves Centenary Conference to be held at St. John's College, Oxford (England) in August 1995.

* Does anyone still refuse to believe it's a Small World? While vacationing in Santa Marta, Colombia, in March 1994, LINDA STOKES met a mason from Sommières!

* HARRY STONEBACK gave a talk on Hemingway at the University of Central Florida, where ANNA LILLIOS teaches, on 31 March 1994. Afterwards, Stoney and Sparrow played guitar and sang, entertaining the Floridians long into the night.

* The first conference on Anaïs Nin met at the Southampton Campus of Long Island University 27-29 May 1994. The session Issues of Androgyny, Duality & Creativity in the Work of Anaïs Nin and Three Confrères consisted of JANE KELLER ("Reinventing Herstory and History: Masculine Versions of Much the Same Story in the Work of Anaïs Nin & Georges Simenon"), LAWRENCE WAYNE MARKERT ("Speaking with your Skeleton: D.H. Lawrence's Influence on the Thought & Work of Anaïs Nin"), and CAROL PEIRCE ("To Travel by Moonlight as Well as by Sunlight: Nin's Theory of the Novel & Durrell's Alexandria Quartet"). IAN & SUSAN MacNIVEN also attended the conference.

* The following members have new addresses and/or telephone numbers and/or names:

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NECROLOGY

Georgina Mills

With great sorrow we learned of the death in June 1993 of Georgina Mills, wife of LDS member Dr. A. Raymond Mills, known to the many readers of Reflections on a Marine Venus as Ray Mills. Georgina too appears in the book, although for reasons known only to him, Durrell disguised her as Chloe. Perhaps her innate modesty pleaded with him to spare her the renown. Nonetheless, Larry's introduction of her in the book is true: "[Mills] had married a delightful Greek girl who had been his chief nurse in the U.N.R.A. unit to which he had been attached." Georgina, born and raised in Alexandria, was both delightful and professionally capable, and she is tremendously missed by Ray Mills, and indeed by all who were so fortunate to have known her, to have enjoyed her warm hospitality in her treasure-and-curio-filled home in Edinburgh. She remained a lifelong friend to both Eve and Larry Durrell.

George Cleyet

Those who attended OMG VII in 1992 will be especially saddened to hear that George Cleyet died 2 December 1993 of congestive heart failure after a short hospital stay. Appearing in Avignon just three weeks after having undergone an operation for cancer, George still had his

usual twinkle, energetic mind and gait, interest in everything, and somewhat mischievous sense of humor, and he made many new friends there. In Paris during the 1920s and '30s, George had occasionally attended Gertrude Stein's salon and frequently visited Shakespeare and Company. In California during the late 1960s and the 1970s, he knew Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin and met LD. George told many fascinating tales of literary figures, taught literature and French, and at times was a broadcaster for Radio Pacifica. At the 1980 MLA Convention in Houston, Texas, George read a paper at The Villa Seurat Circle: Creative Nexus special session. In spite of a fractured metatarsus which made walking difficult, he joined in all the Durrellian activities and was one of the twelve charter members of the LDS, which was founded that 29 December. His daughter wrote to the Society: George "lived a long, full 90 years and I know his friendship with you was an important part of it those last few years."

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Grove Koger and Susan S. MacNiven

Books

* In May 1994, Arcade (New York) republished Caesar's Vast Ghost in paperback as Provence for \$10.95.

* Vénus et la mer, a French paperback of Reflections on a Marine Venus, was published in January 1994.

* Nurse and Mistress of the Crossroads: Arles & the Alyscamps (Paris: Alyscamps Press, 1993) is a beautiful production of Chapter VI of Lawrence Durrell's Caesar's Vast Ghost, "published in a limited edition of fifty copies for private distribution in France to friends of Karl Orend and Alyscamps Press and is not for sale." It has an introduction by Karl Orend, one photo of Durrell, and sixteen photographs of Arles circa the late nineteenth century.

* Durrell-Miller cartas, 1935-1980, edited by Ian S. MacNiven, was translated into Spanish by Victoria Schussheim and published in paperback by Siglo Veintiuno Editores (Mexico and Madrid) in 1993. It contains the same photographs as those in the Faber and New Directions editions, but the front-cover photo is the one of Durrell and Miller in bed (not on the beach in Corfu) and the back cover lacks a photo.

Foreword

* A revised and updated edition of The Living Past of Greece by A.R. Burn and Mary Burn with LD's foreword was published by Harper Collins (New York, 1993, \$20 paperback).

Contributions to Books & Periodicals

* The opening lines of Justine, Balthazar, and Mountolive reappear in Great Beginnings: Opening Lines of Great Novels, edited by Georgianne Ensign (New York: Harper Collins, 1993, \$15).

* "Something à la Carte?" is included in A Literary Feast: An Anthology, edited by Lilly Golden (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1993, \$23).

* "In the Garden: Villa Cleobolus" appears in The Oxford Book of Garden Verse, edited by John Dixon Hunt (Oxford & New York: Oxford UP, 1993, \$30). Hunt generously allots LD an extra decade of life, moving back the date of his birth to 1902.

* Brief quotations from Monsieur, Spirit of Place, and Livia are featured in Provence: A Country Almanac by Louisa Jones (New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1993, \$29.95).

* Page 245 of Robert D. Kaplan's The Arabists: The Romance of an American Elite (New York: The Free Press, Macmillan, 1993) contains a quotation from the 12 June 1960 New York Times Magazine publication of "Landscape and Character."

* At least one selection by LD is in Greece in Poetry, edited by Simoni Zafiroopoulos (New York: Abrams, 1993?, \$39.95).

* "Tips on How to Avoid Date Disaster," an article by Judith Newman released by the New York Times news service and reprinted in the 26 February 1994 issue of the State (Columbia, SC), quotes LD: "Music was invented to confirm human loneliness."

The poem "Paris Journal" appears in Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal NS 2 (1993), p.134.

Interview

* LDS member Anna Lillios's "Interview with Lawrence Durrell, State College, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1986" appears in Deus Loci NS 2 (1993), pp.3-6.

Ana: Focus on LD

* Lawrence Durrell: The Mindscape by LDS member Richard Pine will be published in August. This 304-page book, Pine's second volume of his study of LD, "examines in detail Durrell's unique contribution to the development of the modern novel." Purchase it from St. Martin's Press, Scholarly Division, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010 for \$39.95.

* In Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal NS 2 (1993) are "Interview with Lawrence Durrell: State College, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1986" by Anna Lillios; "Remembering Alan Thomas" by Gerald M. Durrell and Alan G. Thomas's 1937 travel diary, "Paris-

Rome-Corfu"; **critical essays:** "'The perfect form of public reticence': Some Aspects of Lawrence Durrell's Poetry" by Patrick McGuinness, "Turning in the Trap: or, Can You Escape the Prince of Darkness? A Reader's Guide to Monsieur" by Stephanie Moore, "Chaos and Cosmos in The Avignon Quintet" by Ramón Pío Alastrué, "Lawrence Durrell's Balthazar (1958): Breaking the Modernist Mold" by Julius Rowan Raper, "Salute to Larry: Looking Back Through Thirty-Three Years" by Frédéric-Jacques Temple, "The Medieval Art of Lawrence Durrell's Avignon Quintet" by Susan Vander Closter, and "Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet: The Missing Link to Postmodernism" by Dianne L. Vipond; **poetry:** "Prelude to Greece," a poem by Lawrence Markert, "Emblems of Friendship: Lawrence Durrell and David Gascoyne" by Ian S. MacNiven, "Paris Journal" by Lawrence Durrell, and "The Other Larry" by David Gascoyne; **reviews:** The Devil at Large by Erica Jong (Ian S. MacNiven), Selected Essays on the Humor of Lawrence Durrell edited by Betsy & James Nichols and Frank Kersnowski (Eugene Hollahan), Narcissus from Rubble by Julius Rowan Raper (Virginia Kirby-Smith Carruthers), The Other Lawrence Durrell, a special issue of Studies in the Literary Imagination edited by Eugene Hollahan (Donald P. Kaczvinsky), Loneliness and Time: British Travel Writing in the Twentieth Century by Mark Cocker (Grove Koger), and The Chymical Wedding by

Lindsay Clarke and Possession: A Romance by A.S. Byatt. (Mark F. Lund); **notes & queries:** "Incest! The Deviance of The Day" by Jane Eblen Keller, "A Matinee Idyll?" by Susan S. MacNiven, "'Some worthwhile work to be done': Is Nessim the Leader of the World Today?" by Carol Peirce, and "On Miracle Ground VIII" by The Editors; and the "Durrell Bibliography: 1986-1988" by Grove Koger and Susan S. MacNiven. Also included is one photograph of LD and Alan G. Thomas.

* Lawrence Durrell by David Gascoyne was privately printed in 1993. "Seventy-five copies of which fifty-five are for sale have been hand-set and printed by Alan Anderson at the Tragara Press for Alan Clodd." This memoir was published previously in The Independent (10 November 1990) and as "Fellow Bondsman" in Deus Loci NS 1 (1992).

* Betsy and James Nichols and Frank Kersnowski edited The Selected Essays on the Humor of Lawrence Durrell, No. 60 of English Literary Studies published by the University of Victoria in 1993. It contains "Social and Anti-Social Comedy in Lawrence Durrell's Early Work" by Peter G. Christensen, "Joshua Samuel Scobie: A Celebration of Life" by Candace Fertile, "Balthazar: A Comedy of Surrogation" by W.L. Godshalk, "B is for Babylon and Banana Peel" by Frank Kersnowski, "Lawrence and Gerald Durrell in Prospero's Corfu" by Anna Lillios,

"Tristesse Tristram Lawrence Durrell: 18th Century Rationalist" by James R. Nichols, "Sex and Comedy in Lawrence Durrell's Avignon Quintet" by Daniel Olson, "Durrell's Festive Comedy: 'Very Reverent Sport'" by Carol Peirce, "Durrell's Monsieur: Gnosis, Trickster, and the Othering Side" by C.W. Spinks, and "Black Parody: The 'Gothic Frankensteinery' of Nunquam" by Gordon K. Thomas. The cover photograph of LD was taken in New York City on a rainy afternoon in April 1986 by Ian MacNiven.

* Volume 12 (1994) of Anais: An International Journal includes "Writing as a Woman: Henry Miller, Lawrence Durrell, and Anais Nin in the Villa Seurat" by Deirdre Bair (pp.31-38; this is an excerpt from her forthcoming biography of Nin). Also in this issue is the poem "Lawrence Durrell" by Frederick Smock (p.63). One brief mention of LD appears in "From 'Jim' to 'Jamie': Tracing a Friendship in Anais Nin's 'Diary'" by Gunther Stuhlmann (pp.120-24).

* Peter Porter wrote the entry on LD (pp.140-41) for The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry, edited by Ian Hamilton (Oxford and New York: Oxford UP, 1994). Porter states that LD's "first book from a major publisher, A Private Country...may claim to share with Wallace Stevens's Harmonium and W.H. Auden's Poems (1930) the title of most accomplished debut of the century." Porter calls

"The Death of General Uncebunke" the "most (perhaps the only) successful example of surrealism in British poetry, David Gascoyne notwithstanding." However, Porter believes that LD's poetry "did not mature and produce the masterpieces his readers had every reason to expect from such youthful achievement."

* The paperback edition of The Devil at Large: Erica Jong on Henry Miller was published by Grove Press (New York) in 1994. See Herald 15 & 16.

* LDS member Roger Bowen's "The Importance of Elsewhere: Durrell's Return to Egypt in The Avignon Quintet" appears in London Magazine NS Vol. 33, Nos. 5 & 6 (August/September 1993), pp.73-79. About this publication, Roger wrote: "CAVEAT LECTOR! The author received no proofs for this article and identifies the following printer errors: on p.73 the date of Bernard Spencer's poem, 'Picked Clean from the World,' is 1938, not 1948; on p.74, the date of Durrell's 'Egyptian Pastiche' is 1938, not 1948; the author of The Tourist Gaze, p.76, is John Urry, not John Murray; and, on p.75, it is 'mouldid' not 'mould.'"*

* Anais: The Erotic Life of Anais Nin, an impressive and fascinating book by LDS member Noël Riley Fitch, was published by Little, Brown (Boston) in 1993. Although many ardent supporters of Nin have criticized Noël's

emphasis on the erotic side of Nin's nature, the book presents a fair and accurate picture of LD's relationship with Nin.

* LD, Prospero's Cell, the Quartet, Never on Sunday, The Colossus of Maroussi, and Zorba the Greek (the movie) are all discussed in one chapter--"'Teach Me, Zorba. Teach Me to Dance'"--of Robert D. Kaplan's Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History (New York: St. Martin's P, 1993, \$22.95). In 1994, Vintage Departures, Random House (New York) published it as a paperback at \$12.

* The Spring 1992 Translation includes Francesc Parcerisas' "Variation on a Poem by Lawrence Durrell," translated from the Catalan by Hardie St. Martin (p.94).

* Eperon's Guide to the Greek Islands by Arthur Eperon with photos by Fanny Dubes and illustrations by Mary Fraser (Edison, New Jersey: Hunter Publishing & London: Pan Books, 1988) refers to LD some ten times.

Reviews of Durrell Books

* Eric Ollivier in "Rhodes et la déesse" (Le Figaro Littéraire of 14 January 1994, p.7) reviews the new French edition of Vénus et la mer.

* Gore Vidal's review of The Durrell-Miller Letters 1935-80, which originally appeared in the TLS 9-15 September 1988, is reprinted in United

States: Essays 1925-1992 (New York: Random, 1993, \$37.50) under the title "Pen Pals: Henry Miller and Lawrence Durrell."

Papers Presented on LD

* At the Fifth International D.H. Lawrence Conference in Ottawa in June 1993, there were two papers concerning LD. Linda Karch read "The Durrell

Connection" at the Literary and Biographical Connections session, and Carol Peirce talked about "The Long Shadow of Lawrence on Durrell's Quartet" at the Literary Influence session.

* "To Travel by Moonlight as Well as by Sunlight: Nin's Theory of the Novel & Durrell's Alexandria Quartet" was presented by Carol Peirce

at the Conference on Anaïs Nin in Southampton (Long Island) in May 1994.

With Gratitude

* Our thanks to the following who provided bibliographical material for this newsletter: Roger Bowen, Noël Riley Fitch, Mary Mollo, Karl Orend, Richard Pine, and Fiddle Viracola.

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All materials c. The International Lawrence Durrell Society Herald, 1994