The past year has brought remarkable events to the International Lawrence Durrell Society and, more generally, to research on Durrell’s works. I am privileged to have served as the Society’s president while we celebrated the centenary with Durrell 2012, the seventeenth On Miracle Ground conference, at Goodenough College, London, and the British Library. The remarkable organizational skills of Charles Sligh brought this event to a crescendo with media and public attention continuing throughout and beyond the centenary year. That the projects set in motion by Durrell 2012 continue to play out testifies to Charles’s exceptional gift for bringing people together in good will. I must also acknowledge the generous support of Ilyas Khan, without whom we would not have enjoyed this exceptional celebration.

The capacious spirit of the event was infectious, and the environment of mutual support has demonstrably continued with the ongoing renewal of Deus Loci, several collaborative scholarly projects, and now planning for our eighteenth conference. The inviting welcome our London conference offered to new colleagues and the continued activity since are the best tributes one could offer to the spirit of Durrell 2012, and I thank the colleagues and dear friends whose energies made the celebration happen.

The centenary year brought abundance to the International Lawrence Durrell Society. Open Road Media has published the ebook editions of Durrell’s works in America, as has Faber & Faber in the UK. Faber also released new editions of The Alexandria Quartet and The Black Book with fresh introductions by Jan Morris and D.B.C. Pierre. Additionally, Jennifer Condon’s recording of the opera Sappho by Peggy Glanville-Hicks (libretto by Durrell) was released on CD. An exceptional new book, discussed in the Durrell 2012 sessions at the British Library, was Joanna Hodgkin’s biography of Nancy and Lawrence Durrell, Amateurs in Eden. Hodgkin (who also writes as Joanna Hines) is Nancy’s daughter and sister to Penelope Durrell Hope, and her work has drawn much attention. The British Library has released a CD of Durrell’s readings, interviews, and musical performances in their Spoken Word series (including, in this case, “sung” words as well). Radio Australia has also released a special program on Durrell and Henry Miller, “A Wartime Correspondence.” These efforts and others mark the continuing importance of Durrell’s works beyond his 100th year.

Each year also brings sadness, and in 2013 we said our ave atque vale to friends, mentors, and colleagues. Ray Morrison, a longstanding member of the ILDS whose A Smile in His Mind’s Eye: A Study in the Early Works of Lawrence Durrell appeared in 2005 through the University of Toronto Press, passed away. Those who attended Durrell 2012 met the Cypriot poet and travel writer Niki Marangou, who became a fast friend to the Society before passing in a traffic accident this past spring. “You gone, the mirrors all reverted,” but we all remember.

But 2014 approaches. To celebrate the achievements of our past and to support future work, we will all draw together again in May 2014 for our eighteenth conference, On Miracle Ground XVIII, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Please join us all in Vancouver to remember, to plan, and most importantly, to celebrate the present.
Vice President’s Report

Durrell 2012:
The Lawrence Durrell Centenary

Charles Sligh, Vice President, ILDS

The year 2012 marked what would have been the one-hundredth birthday of Lawrence Durrell. During the week of 13-16 June, members of the International Lawrence Durrell Society gathered, together with a host of scholars and readers from around the globe, to mark the occasion. With events held at the British Library and at Goodenough College, London, Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary was in every sense a fitting way to reflect upon and celebrate the life and work of Lawrence Durrell.

The main events of Durrell 2012 were held at Goodenough College, London. Located in the leafy green-space of Mecklenburgh Square in Bloomsbury, and within easy walking distance of the British Library and London’s major academic campuses, Goodenough College was a serendipitous choice of venue for the Centenary. Lawrence Durrell’s formative years in London (1923-1935) were centered on Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia, and any number of landmarks from the writer’s biography lie close to Goodenough College. Nearby sites include: the former location of Caduceus Press, publisher of Durrell’s first volumes of poetry—Ten Poems, Bromo Bombastes, and Transition; the Faber & Faber offices at 24 Russell Square, where T. S. Eliot first read the manuscript for The Black Book; the Slade School of Art, where Nancy Myers Durrell studied; and a number of other Durrellian addresses located up and down Guilford Street, the road immediately adjacent to Goodenough College. These are the very London streets and neighborhoods that contributed their sights and sounds to the writer’s earliest novels, Pied Piper of Lovers (1935), Panic Spring (1937), and The Black Book (1938). With all of these rich biographical and literary associations in mind, Centenary attendees were afforded the opportunity to immerse themselves in a part of London that—according to historian and biographer, Michael Haag—Lawrence Durrell “never left behind.”

Several exhibitions and archival talks were held in honor of the Centenary, and these events presented a glimpse of an unrivaled assembly of items relating to Lawrence Durrell’s life and art. On the evening of Wednesday, 13 June, the Opening Exhibition at Foyles Books featured a gallery filled with previously unseen photographs, letters, and works in manuscript, along with a number of paintings by Oscar Epfs (Lawrence Durrell), Nancy Durrell, and David Gentleman—the water-colourist whose work for many years distinguished Faber’s printings of Lawrence Durrell’s books. All of the artworks and personal items featured in the Opening Exhibition appeared on loan from various private collections from around the world. Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary extends great appreciation to the staff of Foyles Books and to these collectors for their generosity.

On Friday, 15 June, the British Library opened up its manuscript collections and Conference Centre for a special day highlighting its archive of Lawrence Durrell materials. In a series of small-group viewing sessions, Rachel Foss, Curator of Modern Manuscripts, offered Durrell Centenary attendees direct access to a roomful of treasures—including typescripts for Pied Piper of Lovers and Panic Spring; the notebooks and typescripts used for Justine and Balthazar; and letters selected from Lawrence Durrell’s correspondence with Gerald Durrell, Alan G. Thomas, and others. Taken together with panel presentations on the Durrell archives at Faber & Faber, the Morris Library (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) and the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, the Centenary exhibitions at Foyles Books and the British Library presented attendees...
with the most Durrelliana ever collected in any place or at any time. (For their work in planning and facilitating the British Library events, the organizing committee for Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary would like to express deep appreciation to Rachel Foss, Corinne Alexandre-Garner, and Isabelle Keller-Privat.)

In addition to panel sessions featuring 40 presenters from 19 different countries and the day of special exhibits and talks at the British Library, a bounty of plenary sessions and keynote addresses marked the significance of Lawrence Durrell’s Centenary. Plenary talks held in the Large Common Room at Goodenough College featured the following speakers addressing aspects of Durrell’s biography and writings:


Corinne Alexandre-Garner (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre), “Manufacturing Dreams—Lawrence Durrell’s Fiction Revisited Through Chirico’s Metaphysical Paintings”;

Anthony Hirst (Durrell School of Corfu), “Einstein or Escher?—Whose ‘Relativity’ Really Informs The Alexandria Quartet?”;

Mark Morris (University of Alberta), “In the Days of Sappho—Lawrence Durrell’s Plays, 50 Years On.”

An entire special session was dedicated to the topic of “Lawrence Durrell at 100: Durrell & The Biographer’s Art.” The session’s panel of eminent biographers and historians—including Ian MacNiven (Lawrence Durrell: A Life), Michael Haag (Alexandria: City of Memory), and Joanna Hodgkin (Amateurs in Eden)—discussed the pleasures and the problems of researching and writing about Durrell’s life. Additionally, Eleni Verhagen shared songs and memories drawn from the time she spent as Lawrence Durrell’s housekeeper.

Finally, during the Durrell Centenary Banquet, held in the Great Hall of London House, Goodenough College, a series of addresses and speeches capped off the London events in true celebratory style. Featured speakers delivering remarks at the banquet included:

James Gifford (President, International Lawrence Durrell Society); Ian S. MacNiven (Past President and Founding Member, International Lawrence Durrell Society); Anthea Morton-Saner (Curtis Brown Group Ltd, retired); Susanna Nicklin (Director of Literature, British Council); Suzanne Joinson (Writer and Literature Adviser, British Council); Christopher Butler (Christ Church, Oxford).

The official program printed for Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary featured a special “Open Letter” from Françoise Kestsman-Durrell, and it is fitting to conclude this retrospect by recalling her charge that we all remember Larry not only as a novelist and travel-writer, but also as a human being and as a poet, “one of the greatest poets of the last century.”

An Open Letter from Mme Françoise Kestsman-Durrell:

To Everybody I know and also those I don’t know. . . .

I am so sorry not to be able to come and celebrate Larry’s memory with you. But like everybody I am becoming older and older and very tired. I know you have done a lot to prepare for this celebration and I thank you deeply for that.

But please, don’t be too academic;—Try to remember him as an ordinary human being with a way of thinking and feeling that is deeply poetic.

Don’t forget that first he was—he is!!—one of the greatest poets of the last century, perhaps the greatest one.

Of course he is best known for his novels and travel books, but listen to his poems. It is only through his poems that one can hope to be able to feel his deep mind and sensibility.

And also don’t forget his wonderful laugh—so deep, full of life and dark humour.

In front of such a soul the only way to behave is to read him and to listen to the silence, full of his mind.

I hope very much that you will have a great meeting, full of the joy and pleasure of togetherness, and I send a lot of thanks to each of you for being there for him.
On Miracle Ground XVII
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary expresses gratitude to Françoise Kestsman and the Estate of Lawrence Durrell for their willingness to provide necessary permissions for Centenary publications, events, and exhibitions.

Durrell 2012: The Lawrence Durrell Centenary extends its appreciation to Ilyas Khan for his generous patronage of the Centenary events at Goodenough College.

The following people and institutions also made invaluable contributions to success of the Durrell Centenary:

Anna Davis [Curtis Brown]
Rachel Foss [British Library]
Rachel Alexander [Faber & Faber]
Miriam Robinson [Foyles Books]
Jennifer Condon [Sappho: Opera in 3 Acts]
Simon Toombs [Folio Society]
Suzy Joinson [British Council]
Susanna Nicklin [British Council]
James Bantin [Special Collections, Morris Library]
Lee Durrell [Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust]
Sam Jordison [Guardian Books]
John Hope
Joanna Hodgkin
Anthea Morton-Saner
Mary Byrne
Michael Haag
Ian MacNiven
Peggy Fox
Isaac Sligh
Stela Ghetie
Eleni Verhagen
Philip Pulan

Adrian Dannatt
Lynne Roberts
Simon Ings
Christopher Butler
Mark Morris
Leo Mellor
Peter Baldwin
Sandeep Parmar
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Vancouver
Université Paris Ouest Nanterre

Never before available in book form, Lawrence Durrell’s Judith has recently been published in a limited edition of 500 copies by the Durrell School of Corfu. Set in Palestine at the end of the British administration, the novel began life in 1962 as a treatment for a film of the same title starring Sophia Loren, and was serialized in five issues of Woman’s Own in 1966. Durrell later rewrote and expanded the treatment, and it is the expanded version that is printed here and introduced by Richard Pine. Copies of this and other Durrell School publications are available from Colenso Books; write colensobooks@gmail.com for details or order through www.amazon.co.uk.

Alyscamps Press of Paris marked the centenary of Durrell’s birth with an attractive limited edition broadside of Elegy on the Closing of the French Brothels, which originally appeared in volume 8 of Now (1947) and was subsequently included in the collection On Seeming to Presume. Colenso Books stocks the Elegy as well as several more Alyscamps publications of interest to ILDS members.

Those other two musketeers of pre-war Parisian days, Anaïs Nin and Henry Miller,
have also been receiving attention. Sky Blue Press has published a facsimile of the 1939 edition of The Winter of Artifice, Nin's second work of fiction and a volume in the Villa Seurat imprint of Obelisk Press. (The others were The Black Book and Henry Miller's Max and the White Phagocytes.) This new edition is introduced by Benjamin Franklin V and represents the first complete and unexpurgated American edition. Sky Blue has also published The Portable Anaïs Nin. For details, see http://www.skybluepress.org.

Another welcome publication from Alyscamps is a revised, 106-page limited edition of Nin’s Paris Revisited, which recounts Nin’s return to Paris in 1954. This edition includes an afterword by publisher Karl Orend as well as photographs of places and people (including Durrell and Miller) mentioned in the text.

Frederick Turner celebrates Miller and his most famous work in Renegade: Henry Miller and the Making of Tropic of Cancer (Yale University Press). Appearing on the fiftieth anniversary of the novel’s triumphant publication in the United States by Grove Press, Renegade is a volume in the publisher’s “Icons of America” series. Jeanette Winterson’s somewhat dismissive review in the New York Times Book Review brought a spirited response from Michael Haag, who pointed out that “Miller, the late-arriving American in Paris, could have written a book of utter despair and degradation in keeping with the times, but instead he sings.” Miller left his series “The Rosy Crucifixion” incomplete, with only the first volume of Nexus appearing in his lifetime. Yet he went on to write another hundred pages or so of what would have been its second volume. Paris publisher Autrement released a translation of those pages as Nexus 2: Vacances à l’étranger in 2004, and now John Libbey in the UK and Indiana University Press have published editions of Miller’s notes as Paris 1928: Nexus II, each with an introduction by Tom Thompson and drawings by Garry Shead. In addition, Australia’s Bolinda Audio has released a version on three CDs read by Lynn Hard.

Simon Fenwick describes the eventful lives and exuberant correspondence of three writers—two famous and another who deserves to be better known—in “Shanks’s Europe: Patrick Leigh Fermor, Lawrence Durrell and Xan Fielding: A Friendship.” Fenwick’s article, which quotes generously from the correspondence, appeared in the TLS for Nov. 16, 2012, pages 16-17.

In “Age of Gold? British and Greek Writers and Artists in Athens 1945-50,” Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith considers a unique period, discussing Durrell, Leigh Fermor, Rex Warner, Bernard Spencer, John Craxton, and many more figures who passed through the Greek capital in the years following World War II. Wonders Sir Michael, “Could it happen again?” Sadly enough, his answer is no. “The circumstances that brought it about will not recur.” You can read the entire article in number 47 of The Anglo-Hellenic Review (Spring 2013), pages 3-6, along with Lt. Colonel Michael Westropp’s “Secret War in the Aegean Islands during World War 2” and an array of book reviews bound to be of interest to Philhellenes. Theodore Stephanides’ delightful Autumn Gleanings collects the Corfu memoirs of the scientist whose enthusiasm and wide-ranging knowledge profoundly influenced both Lawrence and Gerald Durrell. It also includes a selection of Stephanides’ decidedly backward-looking poetry and a short fantasy in which Lawrence Durrell is magically transformed into a bishop! Published jointly by the Durrell School of Corfu and the International Lawrence Durrell Society, the volume is edited by Richard Pine, Lindsay Parker, James Gifford and Anthony Hirst.

Although Norman Douglas seldom wrote directly about Greece, he repeatedly paid tribute to Magna Graecia, those regions of southern Italy settled by the ancient Greeks. Several years ago the Norman Douglas Forschungsstelle of the Vorarlberger Landesbibliothek (near Douglas’s Austrian birthplace) inaugurated biennial symposia devoted to him. More recently, Neugebauer Verlag has begun issuing attractive volumes of letters to and from this “grand man,” as Nancy Cunard described him. The first volume, Respectful Ribaldry: A Selection of Letters from Norman Douglas to Faith Compton Mackenzie, came out in 2008, and since then four more volumes have appeared. For details, search the (German-language) site of the Landesbibliothek at http://vlb.vorarlberg.at, and to obtain copies of the symposia and letters, as well as other Douglas items, contact the publisher at wnverlag@aon.at.
Deus Loci is flourishing! Two issues related to Lawrence Durrell’s centenary are currently being prepared for publication. Articles for the first issue, volume 13, were collected by Robert Haslam, a Durrell aficionado from England. Rob’s collection, entitled Emended Readings, aspires to re-assess Durrell’s oeuvre for the 21st-century reader and to right wrongs committed by past British negative reviewers, who, according to Rob, didn’t understand Durrell’s ethos.

Volume 13 includes articles by Corrine Alexandre-Garner, Mary Byrne, Michael Haag, Robert Haslam, Isabelle Keller, Ray Morrison, Clive Scott, Fiona Tomkinson, Dianne Vipond, and Ralph Yarrow. David Radavich, the poetry editor, has directed a White Mice contest for the issue. This year’s winning poets are Steve Lautermilch, Julia Older, Jerome L. Wyant, Brian Clark, and Paul Solar. The poetry editor, has directed a White Mice contest for the issue.

In this Spring 2013 semester I am teaching (for the second time) the English Senior Seminar, capstone course for our English majors here at Mansfield University. The seminar is entitled Lawrence Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet: Magic and Mindscape. I have an amazing group of 14 students this semester, and I barely have to teach the class. We spent the first half of the course doing a close reading of Justine, Balthazar, Mountolive, and Clea. Each week, the students wrote informal response papers about everything from Durrell’s use of symbols to whether Nessim is really crazy to the reliability of the omniscient narrator. The students are now preparing their major papers, which they will present in public forum at the end of the semester. Several of these are conference worthy—at least in my opinion.

In my previous incarnation of this course, I kept to a rigid structure, introducing lots of secondary works and insisting that students familiarize themselves with background material as well as previous analysis of the Quartet. This time around, I have focused more on student interpretation and close reading. And I have let the students burrow around and dig out their own secondary sources. For the most part, this approach has been successful.

At OMG XI (Corfu, 2000) there was a panel session on teaching Durrell, which I found to be enormously helpful. If others are preparing to teach Durrell, especially the AQ, and want to get in touch, I would be more than happy to pass on the ups and downs, ins and outs of my experiences.

Topics researched by Linda Rashidi’s students at Mansfield University

1. The Strange Narration of the AQ: Is Darley Dead?
2. Our Perspective of Darley through Different Points of View
3. Issues of the Foreigner Voice
4. Parents and Children: Power in Peril
5. Borderlands within the AQ
6. Defining “Love” in the AQ
7. The Shape of a Woman
8. Existentialism: Determining Meaning in the AQ
9. The Development of Self through Sexual Interactions
10. Durrell’s Conception of the Relationship between Man and Place
11. Perceptions of Truth and Reality in the AQ
12. Reimagining the AQ through Its Minor Characters
Micro-Minutes:  
ILDs Meetings

Anne Zahlan

The 2012 Business Meeting:

As part of On Miracle Ground XVII, a general business meeting was convened on 16 June 2012, in London, England, ILDS President James Gifford presiding. (Detailed minutes will be submitted for approval at the 2014 business meeting.) In addition to reports on many activities of the Society including the Web site, the on-line discussion group, Deus Loci, the Herald, book publications, and academic conference participation, other items on the agenda were news from the Durrell School of Corfu, consideration of locations for the next Durrell conference, and society elections.

Elections: A slate of officers was presented by the Nominations Committee (Don Kaczvinsky, David Radavich, Dianne Vipond). There being no additional nominations from the floor, the slate was accepted. Elected by acclamation were: as president, James Gifford; as vice president, Charles Sligh; as secretary-treasurer, Paul Lorenz; and, as members-at-large, James Clawson, William Godshalk, and with places associated with Fiona Tomkinson. These board members, along with former presidents, will lead ILDS until the 2014 conference when elections are again held.

2014 Conference: A major topic of discussion at the business meeting was the location of OMG XVIII. A plurality of those present expressed interest in Cyprus or New York as the next meeting place, with Corfu and Istanbul also favored.

Executive Board Meetings in 2012 and 2013:

The ILDS Executive Board met on 17 June 2012, the day after the London business meeting. In the International Lawrence Durrell Society, at the rate of $800 for an individual and $1000 for a couple. Life members will be recognized in Society publications.

By the time of the 2013 ILDS Executive Board meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, the Cyprus and Corfu proposals to host the 2014 conference had been withdrawn, and New York and Istanbul were on hold. In the meantime, a proposal had been received from the Fairleigh Dickinson University campus in Vancouver, British Columbia. After discussion, the board voted to accept the proposal to hold OMG XVIII in Vancouver. This location honors the custom of alternating North American venues with places associated with Durrell in other parts of the world, and Canada is a host country and offers a variety of attractions to many potential attendees. A Call for Papers will be issued in the near future: it will appear on the Web site at www.lawrencedurrell.org as well as in the next issue of the Herald. In addition to extensive discussion of Deus Loci and the contents of the next two issues, the Web site and the online bibliography, and the need for more communication with members, the board addressed financial need on the part of the Society. A decision was made to offer a Life Membership in the International Lawrence Durrell Society, at the rate of $800 for an individual and $1000 for a couple. Life members will be recognized in Society publications.

London in the Aftermath

As Durrell 2012 came to a close, Pamela and Greg Francis celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary at a Bloomsbury restaurant.

Pamela and Greg Francis celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary at a Bloomsbury restaurant.
“No, you should have picked one from a poem
Being written softly with a brush—
The breathless ideogram for love we writers hunt.”
—Lawrence Durrell, “A Bowl of Roses”

A Call for Poems on ISLANDS

The White Mice Poetry Contest


Deadline: October 1, 2013. Submit one to three poems, all previously unpublished (and not to be published during the course of the contest), and a brief biography. Electronic submissions are preferred. All poems will be considered for publication. Since all submissions are read anonymously, your name and address (including e-mail) must appear on cover sheet only. Manuscripts cannot be returned.

Reading Fee: $10. Special Subscription Offer: $15. This includes the reading fee plus a one-year subscription to Deus Loci (normally $10). Payment may be made online at http://www.lawrencedurrell.org/mice.htm

Send electronic entries (preferred) to: radavich@earthlink.net.

Send hard copies (with a check made out to Deus Loci) to:
Deus Loci White Mice Poetry Contest
David Radavich
6216 Glenridge Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

“Words I carry in my pocket,
where they breed like white mice.”
—Lawrence Durrell to Henry Miller
The International Lawrence Durrell Society Membership Form
Membership in the Society entitles you to receive The International Lawrence Durrell Society Herald, the Society's membership directory, and advance information about the biennial Lawrence Durrell conferences and activities. Your membership dues help fund these conferences as well as other Society activities and publications.

Name: ____________________________________________

Home Address: ______________________________________
____________________________________________________

Office Address: ______________________________________
____________________________________________________

Home Telephone: ___________Office Phone: _____________
FAX: _________________________E-Mail: __________________

Where do you prefer to receive mail? ______________________

___ Student single membership is $15.00 a year.
___ Regular single membership is $25.00 a year.
___ Regular double membership (two people, one address) is $30.00 a year.
___ Life membership (individual) is $800.
___ Double Life Membership (two people, one address) is $1000.00.

I wish to pay my membership dues for ___________ year(s)/life.

Contributions to the International Lawrence Durrell Society are tax deductible under U.S. law [509 (a) (1)]. I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of ________.

Subscriptions to Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal: ($10/year. For subscriptions to be sent outside of North America, add $2/year surface mail or $8.00 for air). Enroll me for a subscription to Deus Loci ______.

Amount Enclosed: __________

Mail this form and your check or money order in U.S. dollars payable to the International Lawrence Durrell Society to:
Paul H. Lorenz, Secretary/Treasurer, International Lawrence Durrell Society
3201 S. Beech Street #40, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 USA