

# BULLETIN

OF

## THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BOX 6328 STATION B • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37235

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 1980

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

In the January 1978 issue of this Bulletin President Ornstein alerted us to the BBC Shakespeare films, then about to be broadcast on PBS in America, and urged us all, as teachers of Shakespeare, "to start thinking about the most productive use of this stunning new resource." By now we have seen six of these films, some broadcast a second and third time. Elaborate study guides have been prepared for us. Many schools have purchased copies of the films and are building a bank of them to show to their students during the years to come.

Thanks to the BBC initiative we are now being provided what few Americans could ever hope to achieve in a lifetime of theatre-going -- a visual realization of every Shakespeare play in the canon. If there is some danger that, from repeated viewings, our students, who rarely see any other Shakespeare, will come to believe that Brutus really is Richard Pascoe and that the only Rosalind is Helen Mirren, yet it is better to believe overmuch in these fine impersonations than to see nothing of Brutus and Rosalind but black words on white pages.

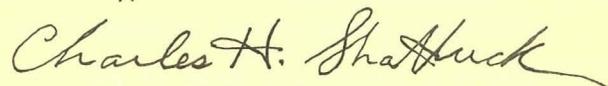
Of course we ought not to accept these Shakespeares uncritically. For better or worse they are movies, not stage plays, and hence they are a long step away from the art of the originals. Our students should be made aware of the differences between these separate theatrical arts. And within their own medium some of these films could be improved upon. When I have asked friends and colleagues their opinion of the quality of the six that we have seen, their responses have generally agreed. Two of the six--*Richard II* and *Henry VIII*--are reckoned splendid; unquestionably they belong in the bank. Three others, though spotted here and there with ineptitudes, are acceptable. One of the six has provided such indignation (here I choose a mild term) that the management ought to consider withdrawing it, filming it again with another cast and director, and sending it to us again in another season. The play on which it is based is too well known, too much in demand, for it to be represented permanently by so wretched a production.

As a partial fulfillment of President Ornstein's call for "the most productive use" of these films, every teacher ought to conduct with his classes a searching critical analysis of each film when it appears to them. I hope also that during the next half dozen years The Shakespeare Association of America will feature in each annual meeting a panel discussion and evaluation of the films which have been seen in America during the preceding season. The BBC project is of such enormous attractiveness that it can affect the teaching of Shakespeare for at least the next quarter of a century; and therefore it is no less than the official responsibility of our Association to monitor the quality of each film in the bank.

Another splendid contribution to our Shakespearean endeavor is the exhibition of Shakespeareana from the Folger Shakespeare Library, which has now begun its two-year progress around the country. Many of you explored it and heard Sam Schoenbaum's lecture in San Francisco at MLA time, and probably you acquired, too, the gorgeous catalogue of the exhibition, with Schoenbaum's learned and handsomely written text. For others who were not in San Francisco, be it known that the exhibition will visit Kansas City (February-May, 1980), Pittsburgh (June-September, 1980), Dallas (October 1980-January 1981), Atlanta (February-April 1981), and probably New York thereafter (time not yet established).

"Sweet is the country, because full of riches."

Sincerely,



Charles H. Shattuck  
President, 1979-1980

## SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION MEETS IN BOSTON IN APRIL

Final arrangements have been made for the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America. The Cambridge Hyatt Regency Hotel will be the location for the gathering, which is set for the weekend of April 3-5, 1980. An unusually large attendance is expected, with more than 150 members already enrolled in seminars.

### Annual Lecturer

Professor Alvin Kernan of Princeton University will be presenting the Annual Lecture at the luncheon on Friday.

### Special Features

In addition to the usual speakers and seminars, members can look forward to two receptions--one with the English faculty at Harvard University on Thursday evening and one at the Harvard Theatre Collection on Friday or Saturday evening. The latter reception will feature the addition of Walter Hodges' model of the Globe Theatre to the library's collection.

Internationally noted voice coach Kristin Linklater will present actors from Shakespeare and Co. at the Saturday morning plenary session, while Ronald Bryden, former dramaturge of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will moderate a panel on the BBC-TV series. Tapes of the latest BBC productions will be available for viewing each afternoon. Tickets for the Boston Shakespeare Company's productions of *Taming of the Shrew* and *Comedy of Errors* will also be offered for advance purchase.

### Registrations and Reservations

A special mailing will go out to all members early in February. Hotel reservation cards, registration forms, and ballots for the 1980 elections will be included, along with a complete listing of the program schedule. The registration fee of \$20 will include both receptions, morning coffee breaks, and the Friday luncheon. Hotel rates will be \$40 for singles and \$53 for doubles.

## PROGRAM

### Thursday, April 3

- Noon Registration  
Showing of BBC-TV Shakespeare Series  
5:00 Reception at Harvard University

### Friday, April 4

- 8:00 Registration  
9:00 Session 1: The Computer Bibliography  
Harrison T. Meserole (P.S.U.)  
John B. Smith (P.S.U.)  
Session 2: Shakespeare and Poetry  
J. Leeds Barroll III (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)  
Donald Davie (Vanderbilt University)  
10:00 Coffee Break  
10:30 Session 3: Recent Criticism I  
Charles B. Lower (University of Georgia)  
Stanley Wells (Oxford University Press)  
Session 4: Recent Criticism II  
Anthony Dawson (University of British Columbia)  
Kent van den Berg (Ohio State University)  
Noon Annual Business Luncheon  
Presiding: Charles Shattuck (University of Illinois)  
Annual Lecture: Alvin Kernan (Princeton University)  
2:00 Session 5: The BBC-TV Shakespeare Series  
Moderator, Ronald Bryden (University of Toronto)  
3:30 Showing of BBC-TV Shakespeare Series  
Reading of *Merry Wives of Windsor*  
Director, Charles Shattuck (University of Illinois)  
Seminar 1: Shakespeare and the Popular Tradition in Comedy  
Chairman, Jackson Cope (University of Southern California)  
Seminar 2: Shakespeare's Sense of the Ending  
Chairman, Duncan Harris (University of Wyoming)

### Seminar 3: *Measure for Measure*

Chairman, Barbara Hodgdon (Drake University)

### Seminar 4: Principles and Methodology of Shakespearean Stage History

Chairman, Joseph Price (Pennsylvania State University)

### Seminar 5: The Uses and Limitations of the *Poetics* in Interpreting the Tragedies

Chairman, Sheldon Zitner (University of Toronto)

- 5:30 Reception at Harvard Theatre Collection

### Saturday, April 5

- 9:00 Session 6: Shakespearean Comedy  
Susan Snyder (Swarthmore College)  
Marion Trousdale (University of Maryland)  
Session 7: Language and Action Onstage  
Michael Goldman (Princeton University)  
Anne Paolucci (St. John's University)  
10:00 Coffee Break  
11:00 Session 8: Shakespeare and Co.  
Director, Kristin Linklater  
2:30 Showing of BBC-TV Shakespeare Series  
Workshops with Shakespeare and Co.  
Seminar 6: The Textual Problem in *King Lear*  
Chairman, G. B. Evans (Harvard University)  
Seminar 7: Shakespeare's Sense of the Ending  
Chairman, Duncan Harris (University of Wyoming)  
Seminar 8: *Measure for Measure*  
Chairman, Barbara Hodgdon (Drake University)  
Seminar 9: Shakespeare and Opera  
Chairman, Joel Kaplan (University of British Columbia)  
Seminar 10: The Enclosed Theatres  
Chairman, John Orrell (University of Alberta)  
5:00 Cash Bar

# THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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## MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

1980

Please enroll me as a member of the Shakespeare Association of America. I understand that the annual membership dues are now set at \$20.00. I also understand that additional payment may be made for subscriptions to one or more of the following journals: *Shakespeare Newsletter*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Shakespeare Studies*, *Shakespeare Survey*. I have checked below the payments I will be making.

_____	Annual Dues	(\$20.00)
_____	Shakespeare Newsletter	(\$ 4.00)
_____	Shakespeare Quarterly	(\$14.00)
_____	Shakespeare Studies	(\$18.00)
_____	Shakespeare Survey	(\$20.00)
_____	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	
_____	Payment is enclosed.	
_____	I wish to charge the above sum to one of the credit cards listed below.	
_____	Mastercharge	_____
	card number	expiration date
_____	BankAmericard	_____
	card number	expiration date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT:

Name (last name first): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (including zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Shakespeare Association of America, Box 6328 Station B, Nashville, Tennessee 37235

## NOMINATIONS FOR 1980-1981

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Trustee C. L. Barber, has selected the following group of candidates for President and Trustees for 1980-1981:

### President

Maurice Charney (Rutgers University)  
Alvin Kernan (Princeton University)  
S. Schoenbaum (University of Maryland)

### Trustees

Stephen Booth (University of California, Berkeley)  
William Elton (City University of New York)  
Michael Goldman (Princeton University)  
Carol McGinnis Kay (University of Alabama)  
D. F. Rowan (University of New Brunswick)  
Susan Snyder (Swarthmore College)  
John Styan (Northwestern University)  
David Young (Oberlin College)

Members will be asked to make one choice for President and two choices for Trustees. Each officer elected will serve a three-year term on the Board. Ballots will be mailed out in February, and results will be announced at the annual meeting in Boston. All members are eligible to vote.

## IN 1981 SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA GOES INTERNATIONAL

The Shakespeare Association of America will meet jointly with the International Shakespeare Association in 1981. The World Congress is scheduled for the week of August 1-8 in Stratford-upon-Avon, with headquarters in the Stratford Hilton. Plans are already underway to arrange a group flight at reduced rates for American members and their families.

Suggestions for the program, including advice on arrangements and scheduling, should be sent to the program committee, chaired by Trustee R. W. Van Fossen (University of Toronto) or to the Executive Secretary, Ann Jennalie Cook. The committee will meet in Boston to draw up formal suggestions for the Trustees and the International Shakespeare Association. Your ideas are actively solicited and

## OPENING READING OF *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR*

Members wishing to participate in the *Merry Wives* reading at the annual meeting should bring along a paperback of *The Merry Wives*, preferably a Pelican edition. Any who wish to read particular parts should write to the director, Charles H. Shattuck, 100 English Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

## STUDIES AND SURVEY DUE SHORTLY

All members who subscribed to *Shakespeare Survey* and *Shakespeare Studies* for 1979 should be receiving them shortly. Because both volumes are issued quite late in the year, they cannot be ordered and shipped until after the first of the year. Any subscriber who does not receive the appropriate volume (*Survey* 32 and *Studies* 12) in the next few weeks should notify the Association office.

will be given every consideration. However, all suggestions need to reach the committee before April 3, 1980.

The first World Congress was held in Vancouver in 1971. Out of that meeting grew the organization of the International Shakespeare Association. The Association's first formal meeting took place in 1976 in Washington, D. C., and was hosted by the Shakespeare Association of America as part of the Bicentennial Celebration.

Further information on the International Shakespeare Association is available from the Secretary, Dr. Levi Fox (Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, England). Membership is \$5 for one year, \$10 for two years.

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DATED MATERIALS ENCLOSED

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