

**BULLETIN**  
**OF**  
**THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH • P.O. Box 4033 • SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75275-0433

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1996

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**1995 - 96**

**Nobody goes there any more. It's too crowded.**

—*Yogi Berra*

Owing to the odd coincidence of my having served twice as President of this organization in years when we have met with the International Shakespeare Organization, once in Washington DC in 1976 and this current year in Los Angeles, I have never given, and presumably never will give, a presidential address. That suits me right down to the ground. Presidential addresses are not my favorite genre, nor are the luncheons at which we assemble to applaud the efforts of the local arrangements chair and the committee on nominations and the retiring trustees. I am mistrustful of business-as-usual as the mystique of a gathering of Shakespeareans. The phenomenon of the Shakespeare industry is too much in evidence for us to foster it at our annual meeting.

And so, in this, my one pastoral letter to you about our life together as Shakespeare scholars, I should like to speak about the annual meeting. Our gathering in Chicago in March of this past year was, by general reckoning, a success. I am glad of this, since I was local arrangements chair, and in any case I want people to discover or rediscover how wonderful a city Chicago can be (as it is not always at MLA time). The Drake Hotel got rave reviews for its gracious service and comfortable, handsome places of assembly. We all enjoyed being out on Michigan Avenue. Good restaurants were close at hand. The Newberry Library was just around the corner, and Shakespeare Repertory, equally near, regaled many of us with a very funny rehearsal of some scenes from *Antony and Cleopatra*. A good time was had by all, as the saying puts it.

The only thing that seemed missing, in the view of some members, was some sense of urgency and vital critical encounter in the program itself.

I spoke with many colleagues who worried about this. Where were the sessions one simply could not afford to miss? Where was the critical center of the conference? What engagement with new ideas could one take home with one, in the knowledge that being at the meetings had made a difference in one's understanding of something significant in Shakespeare?

In part, I think, this anxiety reflected a phase in criticism that may be necessary, a kind of stock-taking after years of revolutionary manifestos, a consolidation in the wake of many new critical movements. Perhaps, some friends were wondering, one can't expect to keep having critical newness as a steady diet.

Another line of reasoning suggests that we are in danger of being transformed by our own success into a kind of prosperous complacency. The association has grown substantially in recent years, to the point where hotels like the Drake may no longer be able to accommodate us. We may not fall into the category of a "boutique" conference much longer. The prospect of moving to superhotels on the MLA model is alarming. I heard a fair amount of nostalgia for the good ol' days of only ten years ago, when one knew most of the members at any annual meeting as friends and colleagues who were doing front-line work and who came to the meetings to argue and to find out what things really mattered. Remember those tense and ultimately

*continued on page 6*

**1996 WORLD CONGRESS,  
7-14 APRIL, LOS ANGELES**

**Complete details of meeting registration, hotel reservations, theater offerings, and social events will be available in the International Shakespeare Association's World Congress Provisional Program -- arriving in a separate mailing.**

**AIRFARE DISCOUNT TO LOS ANGELES**

The SAA has again arranged with American Airlines to secure reduced fares for members who choose to fly to the annual meeting, the 1996 World Congress. Those wishing to inquire about American Airlines convention rates should call 1-800-433-1790 and ask for Star File S-9605. Although the fares offered cannot be guaranteed to be the lowest available on any carrier, they represent a substantial reduction from standard coach prices.

**LAX SUPER SHUTTLE SERVICE**

Super Shuttle service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from Los Angeles International Airport. The current rate from LAX to the Biltmore Hotel is \$12.00 for the first person, and \$10.00 for each additional person one way. A group rate of \$47.00 per 7-passenger van is available.

**AVIS RENTAL CAR RATES**

Avis offers SAA members the following special discounted rates from 31 March-21 April:

Car Class		Daily	Weekly	Weekend
Subcompact	(A)	\$28.99	\$128.99	\$25.95
Compact	(B)	33.99	138.99	26.05
Intermediate	(C)	37.99	150.99	28.95
2-door Full Size	(D)	43.99	175.99	29.95
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Luxury	(F)	74.99	299.99	49.95
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All rates include unlimited free mileage. Cars may be picked up at either the airport or downtown Avis offices. Weekend daily rates are available from noon Thursday through Monday at 11:59 p.m.

To reserve an Avis Rental Car, call 1-800-331-1600 and ask for Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD)#J626842.

**LIGHT FANTASTIC IX**

Yet once more the extraordinarily popular SAA/Malone Society Dance will cap the meeting's official offerings. Saturday evening from 10:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., SAA members and their guests will gather in the fabulous ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel to enjoy the music of the LA Hey Nonny Nonnies. The cost of the dance will be \$10 per person in advance, \$12 at the door. As always, a cash bar will provide additional recreational opportunities.

**VISITING THE HUNTINGTON**

On April 8 delegates to the World Shakespeare Congress will be welcomed at a reception and an exhibition of prints and drawings from the Turner Shakespeare, curated by Robert R. Wark.

Scholars who wish to spend time doing research at the Huntington Library should write in advance to arrange it with the Reader Services Department, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. The application for reading privileges at the Library will be forwarded to prospective readers with scholarly research projects upon request. Applicants are advised to return the application by March 15. Those without a Ph.D. degree must file their application so that two letters of reference may be requested and received by the Reader Services Department prior to their arrival. Prospective readers should allow at least 30 minutes to complete the registration process. Registrars are on duty from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Rare books and manuscripts are not paged from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

**CHILD CARE PROSPECTS**

Those members who need child care in the Los Angeles hotels may wish to contact in advance the following agencies:

We Sit Better - 4 hour minimum; \$34/4 hours (1-2 children); each additional hour is \$6.35; plus \$17.60 parking fee; cash only, payable to sitter. Phone: 818-997-1421.

Sunshine Sitters Agency - 4 hour minimum; \$10 per hour; plus \$17.60 parking fee; cash only, payable to sitter. Phone: 714-520-2444.

**1997 PROGRAM IDEAS REQUESTED**

Any member of the Association is eligible to submit suggestions on content or format to the Program Committee for the 1997 meeting. Please send proposals for sessions, seminars, workshops, and special events (one-page maximum) to A.R. Braunmuller, Chair of the Program Committee, Department of English, University of California, Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1530.

Materials must be received **no later than 1 April 1996.**

## NOMINATIONS FOR 1996-97

Trustee Coppelia Kahn (*Brown University*) reports the following candidates for office in 1996-97.

### Vice President (select one):

- \_\_\_\_ Tony Dawson (*University of British Columbia*)  
\_\_\_\_ Mary Beth Rose (*Newberry Library*)

### Trustees (select two):

- \_\_\_\_ John Astington (*Erindale College, University of Toronto*)  
\_\_\_\_ William Carroll (*Boston University*)  
\_\_\_\_ Margaret Ferguson (*University of Colorado, Boulder*)  
\_\_\_\_ Richard Knowles (*University of Guelph*)  
\_\_\_\_ Virginia Vaughan (*Clark University*)  
\_\_\_\_ Valerie Wayne (*University of Hawaii, Manoa*)

SAA members in good standing may vote for a Vice President and two Trustees, each of whom will serve three years on the Board. Please sign the enclosed envelope when using it to return ballots. **Note also that all ballots must be received no later than 10 March.**

Current members of the Board of Trustees and the expirations of their terms on the Board are as follows:

### President:

David Bevington (*University of Chicago*)—1997

### Vice President:

Barbara Mowat (*Folger Shakespeare Library*) — 1998

### Trustees:

David Bergeron (*University of Kansas*)—1996  
A.R. Braunmuller (*University of California, Los Angeles*) —1998  
Coppelia Kahn (*Brown University*)—1997  
Arthur Kinney (*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*)—1998  
Bruce Smith (*Georgetown University*)—1996  
Paul Werstine (*Kings College, University of Western Ontario*) —1997  
Georgianna Ziegler (*Folger Shakespeare Library*)—1996

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES WORLD CONGRESS (received by 1 February)

### Institutional Contributions

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Drake University  
Georgetown University  
George Washington University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Hope College  
Lafayette College  
President's Office, University of Minnesota  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota  
Provost, Arts, Sciences & Engineering, University of Minnesota  
Montclair State University

Queens University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Stanford University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
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University of Oregon  
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World Shakespeare Bibliography

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES WORLD CONGRESS

(received by 1 February)

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*\*Indicates more than one annual contribution*

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# THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Department of English • P.O. Box 4033 • Southern Methodist University • Dallas, Texas 75275-0433

## CALENDAR YEAR 1996

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

Please fill in the appropriate blanks below, noting the annual dues figures are determined by yearly income. Additional payments for *Shakespeare Newsletter*, *Shakespeare Studies*, and *Shakespeare Survey* are optional. **Membership dues are assessed by the calendar, not the academic, year. All North American registrants for the Los Angeles World Congress should be 1996 members of the SAA.**

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Below \$15,000 (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Shakespeare Newsletter* \_\_\_\_new\_\_\_\_ renewal? (\$12.00) \_\_\_\_\_

*Shakespeare Studies*, Vol. 24 (\$48.00) \_\_\_\_\_

*Shakespeare Survey*, Vol. 48 (\$48.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to 1996 LA World Congress - **LAST CHANCE!** \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is enclosed (U.S. funds or credit cards only.)

I wish to charge the above sum to one of the credit cards listed below:

MasterCard/VISA Card number: \_\_\_\_\_/exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

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profound encounters in Boston and in Cambridge between feminist critics and the New Historicists? Nowadays, I heard friends saying, not only are there too many people to have a sense of knowing the group as a whole, one no longer knows who they are: graduate students in ever increasing numbers, it seems along with some teachers at smaller institutions that used not to be so much in evidence. These complaints emerged with some sense of embarrassment at what plainly sounded like a kind of snobbish longing for a smaller gathering of the elite. Embarrassment or no, the worry was that increased size and diffusion are changing the nature of the association.

At the center of this anxiety over increased size are the seminars. They are prime examples of what some observers see as our being endangered by our success. I do not wish to understate the value of the seminars to us. They are doing so well that they have recently been emulated by the International Shakespeare Association. America's gifts to the world, it seems, along with blue jeans and rock music, are the seminars. They are quintessentially democratic, and as such they share the virtues and vices of democracy. The virtues are manifest: a wide inclusiveness in the process of research and investigation, and a chance for new members to be heard and to meet established scholars. At the same time, this inclusiveness comes at a price. Any member who wishes to attend the annual gathering is guaranteed a place in a seminar, not always first choice, but a place nonetheless. And since anyone can join who is willing to pay dues, and since any member can of course attend the annual conference, anyone can be in a seminar. Do you follow me?

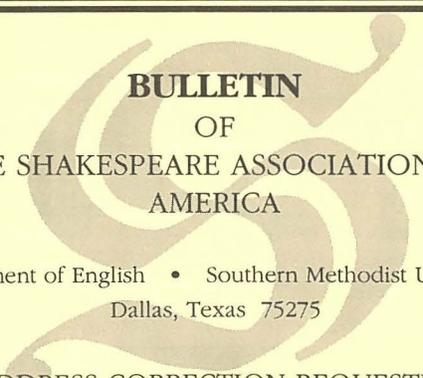
The number of seminars has risen exponentially, to the point that the program committee yearly racks its brains for new topics and leaders, and inevitably repeats certain topics more quickly than might be ideally wise. Some seminar leaders are under pressure to double their sessions, though resistance is predictably growing to such appeals.

The worry is that if everyone can be in a seminar, not necessarily of one's choice, there is a temptation to pull out of the desk drawer a paper that might seem to bear on the announced topic and let the seminar leader cope with the matter of integrating it into the discussion. The highly democratic practice in our colleges and universities of encouraging scholars to attend conferences and of funding their travel once a year or so if the scholars are on the program means that placement in a seminar is a ticket to the conference. Graduate students, faced with disappearing job openings, are eager to appear on the program and thus have an item on the cv.

The opportunities and dangers here are inseparable. There is much to be said for this kind of democratizing of scholarship, in that it broadens contacts and opportunities. Graduate students, who represent our future, should be in a position to make original contributions to an assembly of scholars and critics. The process keeps us young. At the same time it also runs the danger of professionalization of our endeavors. The answers won't be easily found. I suggest only that size and diversity are sure to be central topics of concern in the coming years, and that we must find ways, as we grow, to remain as vital and unorthodox as we can.

*David Bevington*

David Bevington



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