

BULLETIN

OF

THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

6328 VANDERBILT STATION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37235

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 1986

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT 1985 - 1986

One person's grim sense of the cosmos seems frolicsome naivete to another, and so it is especially daunting to hang from temporary presidential scaffolds and harrangue a membership which never did, never does, and, one hopes, never will brook dispensings of Higher Truth. What then can be ventured in this annual presidential space that will dare, yet evade showers of old fruit and new wine?

An acknowledgement of our diversity, for one thing — and appropriately enough for the Renaissance, of the unity in our diversity. If all of us were, *horrible dictu*, to be found housed in some giant office building, I am sure we would be sequestered according to that last classifying refuge of the bureaucratic scoundrel: "skills." Those producing the Variorum Shakespeare would occasionally come down/up in the elevator to visit the *JWC* types who in turn might wander over to the West Tower every two years to have some sort of power-lunch with the people in the Bad Quarto office, and so on. But our academic lives are not so sectioned out. On the contrary, we understand that our chosen way demands many skills even though we do not possess them all ourselves.

I hope we are not losing this sense of integration. Naturally the way in which we understand our subject and pass on our particular understanding to our peers must come from an individual searching and thinking that leads us in our lives to write, or to lecture, or to direct plays and films, or to act. But I hope we never reach the point where we secretly and rigorously believe that the only true study of Shakespeare comes from one kind of effort only — from the contemplation of his times, *or* of his sources *or* of his psychodynamics *or* of his texts *or* of his alienation from/integration with an emerging materialist culture, *or* of Renaissance dramatic forms, *or* of his unknowableness within the dialectic illusion that is history, *or* of any and all performances of his plays.

We could scarcely blame ourselves as humans if we did become so absorbed, for the variety of our efforts might bemuse Montaigne. But, in the end, I do not think we would want to be isolated hobbyists. Working within our particular socio-intellectual microcosm which coexists with so many other microcosms comprehended by that extraordinary volume, *The World of Learning*, we are most fulfilled, I should guess, by a sense of making contributions to those who care, present and future. Each of us is one of a small group on this planet for whom the dramas and poems of Shakespeare and his age are things which must not vanish from human memory. We join each other to preserve some sense of that long-ago society which made Shakespeare possible, and some sense of the aesthetics which in turn shaped that society.

Yet sadly enough, all of us whose profession it is to work seriously in the area of this, our mutual interest, might not fill a good-sized high-rise apartment house in a small block of one section of a medium-sized city in one of the various countries of this earth. And so we seek to replicate our kind by training "graduate students" and granting them "advanced" degrees. By such behavior we allow young men and women access to the enormous good fortune of spending their own lives financially reimbursed for pursuing the kind of professional lives in which we ourselves have become so involved — and this at a time in the history of human civilization when starvation, slavery to the physical environment, intellectual isolation, or imprisonment have been and are the lot of a significant proportion of the planet's human inhabitants. Contemplating the luck of these young men and women, we remember our own luck, and perhaps the luck of those who made our luck possible.

Nine hundred years from now the cultures of the planet earth may have lost the language by which Shakespeare may at least be approached, if not wholly known. I like to hope, though, that we here will have left the seeds of ever-renewable efforts to understand William Shakespeare and his era. As we ourselves become part of the pattern of history, I hope we will not allow that which must always be known to fade with us. I hope that those whom we have been given to train in what we do will not simply mirror our own personal absorptions. I hope that these men and women neophytes will be aggressive, imaginative, unawed, and incredibly industrious. I also hope they will not be ignorant.

(continued on the back page)

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

27-29 March 1986
Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Montreal, Canada

J. Leeds Barroll, President

Registration and Participation

Registration for the annual meeting is open to all members of the Shakespeare Association of America. However, members' spouses are also welcome to attend all sessions, though they will be expected to pay for the luncheon(s).

The fee for advance registration is \$30, with \$35 for registration in Montreal. This fee includes the costs of the Friday luncheon, coffee breaks, all receptions, and transportation to and from the receptions. A registration form is printed on the reverse side of the membership dues form.

Hotels and Reservations

The headquarters for the SAA meeting will be Montreal's elegant Ritz-Carlton Hotel. A special discounted rate of \$88 Canadian (\$65 U.S.) has been arranged for both single and double rooms. The rate is available only by returning the reservation card enclosed in this mailing. Please note: All cards must be received **NO LATER THAN 27 FEBRUARY**. Late reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis at the Ritz-Carlton's regular rates.

Because attendance is expected to be larger than originally anticipated, additional space has been reserved in the Shangri-La Hotel at the same rate of \$88 Canadian (\$65 U.S.) for single or double rooms. The Shangri-La is a deluxe new hotel, located just one block down the street from the Ritz-Carlton. Members will be assigned to this auxiliary hotel only after the room block at the Ritz-Carlton is filled, with all reservations handled on a first-come first-served basis.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Transportation

Because flights in and out of Montreal are, for many members, complicated by travel to the World Shakespeare Congress in West Berlin, the SAA has secured the services of a professional agent to assist with reservations if necessary. All members, whether attending the Berlin Congress or not, may take advantage of this service to secure the most convenient schedules at the lowest rates available. Call Kathleen Hayes of Bank Travel Clubs of America at 1-800-251-2672.

Taxi service from the airport to the Ritz-Carlton is about \$17-\$18 Canadian (\$13 U.S.), with limousine service \$21.50 Canadian (\$16 U.S.). Shared taxis, like shared hotel rooms, will clearly effect a considerable savings.

Transportation to and from the receptions each evening will be provided free of cost.

Trustees Luncheon

The SAA Trustees always welcome the opportunity to discuss matters of common interest with the membership. In order to foster such dialogue, the Trustees last year hosted a Saturday luncheon for anyone interested in attending and voicing his/her views. Again, on a strictly optional basis, such a luncheon has been arranged on Saturday. Those present should be prepared to offer suggestions for improvement, confirmation of current policies, requests for change, and any other comments that will promote the well-being of the Association.

Of course, similar ideas may be expressed to any officer at any time with the assurance that they will receive every consideration.

Special Sessions

Two sessions will take advantage of resources unique to Canada. A public address Saturday morning will feature Mavor Moore, former Chairman of the Canada Council for the Arts. Moore's outstanding career as a playwright, poet, producer, director, and critic for radio, television, film, and theater well qualify him to speak on "Shakespeare, Inc." Among other matters, he will be analyzing Shakespeare as a font of international business. The recipient of countless awards, Mavor Moore is now on the faculties of both York and Victoria Universities. The SAA is indeed fortunate to have one of Canada's leading figures in the performing arts for its plenary speaker.

A critical assessment of Canada's Stratford Festival is scheduled for Friday morning. Under the chairmanship of John Ripley, a panel of professionals variously associated with the Festival will include actress Sharry Flett, director Guy Sprung, professor and board member Ronald Bryden, and critic Herbert Whittaker. They will discuss the recent crises and future directions of the company. A substantial portion of the session will be devoted to questions from SAA members, a rare opportunity to raise issues relevant to the festival's controversial work.

Hosts

A consortium of colleges and universities in the Montreal area has graciously contributed to offer a series of social events for SAA members during the annual meeting. In addition, Mayor Jean Drapeau and the City of Montreal have also agreed to host the meeting, providing an official reception and arranging for special tours of the city on Easter Sunday.

The academic institutions serving as hosts include John Abbott College, Bishop's University, Concordia University, Dawson College, Marianopolis College, McGill University, University of Montreal, University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, University of Quebec at Montreal, and Vanier College. The Committee on Local Arrangements is ably chaired by Professor Catharine M. Shaw of McGill and Concordia Universities.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

Slide Shows

Several audio-visual presentations will be available to delegates during the annual meeting. On Thursday afternoon, 27 March, at 3:00, Douglas Lewis, Curator of Sculpture for the National Gallery of Art, will be giving a slide-lecture on "The Shakespearean 'Myth of Venice.'" His expertise on Renaissance Italy provides members with a rare opportunity to explore this area with an authority from an auxiliary field. Lewis' appearance is arranged through the courtesy of the seminar on "The Italianate Englishman in Shakespearean Drama," whose session will immediately follow this lecture.

The seminar on "*King John: New Perspectives*" will involve a showing of the BBC-TV production of this play. The video is also scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 3:00.

Another videotape, entitled "Shakespeare and the Globe," will be available for viewing during coffee breaks and other intervals throughout the meeting. A complete schedule will be posted at the registration desk. The video is provided by Hugh Richmond (*University of California, Berkeley*), who is responsible for its production.

University Receptions

Both Thursday and Friday nights will feature receptions at Montreal universities. McGill University's Redpath Hall will be the site of the first evening's hospitality to SAA members. The following night, delegates will be bussed to the Art Gallery at the University of Quebec at Montreal for another gala reception following the day's events. These two locations will introduce attendees to very different sorts of architecture, besides providing a taste of Canadian hospitality.

Mayoral Reception

On Saturday evening, 29 March, SAA members will be entertained at Montreal's spectacular Botanical Gardens, thanks to the generosity of Mayor Jean Drapeau and the City of Montreal. Professionals from the gardens' staff will be on hand to answer questions and conduct tours of special collections. At this Easter season, there will be unusual displays of spring flowers.

Pennell Performance

Following the Friday evening reception, there will be a one-man show by Nicholas Pennell entitled "That Shakespearean Rag." Slated for the theater in the Bibliotheque Nationale, this performance will feature one of the leading members of the Stratford Shakespeare Company. In the 1985 season his varied roles included Malvolio, Angelo, and the Fool in *King Lear*. Some members may also recall his discussion of Stratford's alternating Hamlets which he presented at the 1978 SAA meeting in Toronto.

City Tour and Services on Easter

Since several members will be staying over on Sunday, 30 March, a bus tour of the city has been arranged to include both a look at Montreal's landmarks and attendance at Easter services. The services will be those at either Notre Dame in Old Montreal, St. Joseph's Oratory, or the Cathedral Mary Queen of the World. While a modest charge for the cost of the bus transportation may be assessed, even that expense will perhaps be underwritten by the city's Office of Cultural Affairs.

Members who wish to take the tour should check the appropriate box on the Registration Form. No fee will be charged at this time, but the hosts will need to have an estimate on the number who will be present.

Dining in Montreal

Because the city prides itself on its cuisine, many attendees will wish to take advantage of Montreal's fine restaurants. Besides providing the usual dining guides, the Arrangements Committee will also assist with reservations following the receptions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Each of these events will place members in a different area of culinary interest — respectively, the cosmopolitan university district, the French District, and Old Montreal.

A complete listing of the tentative program is on the next page.

DIRECTORY

All 1985 members will receive a copy of the 1985-1986 Directory in this mailing. Any errors or omissions should be reported immediately to the SAA office for correction in the next *Bulletin*. New members will be sent a Directory upon enrollment.

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

The staff of *Shakespeare Quarterly* urges all SAA members to renew their subscriptions immediately. At a discount of \$5.00 over the regular price, it will not be possible to back order issues if subscriptions are received later than *mid-February*. For late subscriptions, members must forego issues or pay extra for back orders.

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard Beckerman

1921 - 1985

Scholar, Teacher, Director, Husband, Father, Friend
President, 1981 - 1982, Shakespeare Association of America

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
PROGRAM**

Thursday, 27 March

- Noon - 6:30 Registration
Book Displays
- 3:00 - 4:00 "The Shakespearean 'Myth of Venice':
A Slide-Lecture,
Douglas Lewis (*National Gallery of Art*)
- 3:00 - 5:30 BBC Video of *King John*
- 4:00 - 6:00 Seminar 1: "Shakespeare and Television"
Chairman, H. R. Coursen (*Bowdoin College*)
Seminar 2: "Shakespeare and Renaissance
Rhetoric"
Chairman, Richard Finkelstein
(*State University of New York, Geneseo*)
Seminar 3: "Shakespeare's Personality: Author as
Text"
Chairwoman, Barbara Freedman (*St. John's
University*)
Seminar 4: "The Italianate Englishman in
Shakespearean Drama"
Chairwoman, Nancy Elizabeth Hodge
(*Franklin, Tennessee*)
Seminar 5: "Shakespeare and the Idea of Rome"
Chairman, David Scott Kastan (*Dartmouth
College*)
Seminar 6: "Renaissance Perceptions of the Actor"
Chairwoman, Lena Cowen Orlin (*Folger
Shakespeare Library*)
- 7:00 - 9:00 Reception, McGill University

Friday, 28 March

- 8:00 - Noon Registration
- 8:00 - 5:30 Book Display
- 9:00 - 10:00 Session I: Explorations in Form and Language
"Repetition and Remembering: Imitation and
Intertextuality in *The Winter's Tale*," Barbara
Bono (*State University of New York,
Buffalo*)
"Taking Tropes Seriously: Language and
Violence in *The Rape of Lucrece*," Katharine
Maus (*Princeton University*)
Session II: Jacobean Plays under Scrutiny
"The Politics of Attribution: Authorial Image
and the Competitive Field of *The Two Noble
Kinsmen*," Donald Hedrick (*Kansas State
University*)
"Egyptian Past, Roman Future: The Jacobean
Antony and Cleopatra," Paul Yachnin (*Wilfred
Laurier University*)
- 10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30 12:30 Session III: The Institutionalization of Shakespeare
Chairman, Terence Hawkes (*University College,
Cardiff*)
Speakers to be announced
Session IV: Shakespeare Tomorrow: Canada's
Stratford Festival
Chairman, John Ripley (*McGill University*)
Speakers, Ronald Bryden (*University of
Toronto*), Sharry Flett (*Actress*), Guy
Sprung (*Director*), Herbert Whittaker
(*Critic*)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Luncheon
- 3:00 - 5:00 Seminar 7: "*King John*: New Perspectives"
Chairwoman, Deborah T. Curren Aquino
(*Catholic University of America*)
Seminar 8: "Development of Shakespeare's
Theater"
Chairman, John Astington (*University of
Toronto*)
Seminar 9: "Bad Shakespeare"
Chairman, Maurice Charney (*Rutgers University*)
Seminar 10: "Shakespeare and Television"
Chairman, H. R. Coursen (*Bowdoin College*)

Friday, 28 March (continued)

- 3:00 - 5:00 Seminar 11: "Shakespeare's Narrative Poems"
Chairwoman, Heather Dubrow (*Carleton College*)
Seminar 12: "Rethinking *Pericles*"
Chairwoman, Nancy Leonard (*Bard College*)
Seminar 13: "Silences and Silencings in
Shakespeare"
Chairwoman, Susan Snyder (*Swarthmore
College*)
- 6:00 - 8:00 Reception, Université du Québec à Montréal
- 8:30 - 9:30 "That Shakespearean Rag," Nicholas Pennell
(*Stratford Shakespeare Festival*)

Saturday, 29 March

- 8:30 - Noon Book Displays
- 9:00 - 10:30 Session V: Shakespearean Dialogue
Chairman, James Siemon (*Boston University*)
Speakers, Keir Elam (*University of Florence*),
Karen Newman (*Brown University*), Joseph
Porter (*Duke University*)
Session VI: Historiography and the Study of
Shakespeare's Plays
Chairwoman, Susan Zimmerman (*Queen's
College*)
Speakers, Jackson Cope (*University of
Southern California*), Annabel Patterson
(*University of Maryland*), David Harris
Saks (*Harvard University*)
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 Plenary Session
"Shakespeare Inc.," Mavor Moore (*Former
Chairman, Canada Council for the Arts*)
- 12:30 - 1:30 Trustees Luncheon
- 2:30 - 4:30 Seminar 14: "*King John*: New Perspectives"
Chairwoman, Deborah T. Curren Aquino
(*Catholic University of America*)
Seminar 15: "Carnival and the Carnavalesque in
Shakespeare's Plays"
Chairman, Michael D. Bristol (*McGill
University*)
Seminar 16: "The Shakespeare Scholar as
Dramaturg and Rehearsal Eye-Witness"
Chairman, Cary M. Mazer (*University of
Pennsylvania*)
Seminar 17: "Shakespeare and Renaissance
Philosophy: Stoicism and Epicureanism"
Chairwoman, Gail Kern Paster (*George
Washington University*)
Seminar 18: "Teaching Shakespeare's Language"
Chairman, Randal Robinson (*Michigan State
University*)
Seminar 19: "Shakespeare and the University Wits"
Chairman, John Tobin (*University of
Massachusetts, Boston*)
Seminar 20: "Speech-headings: The Bibliographer,
the Editor and the Critic"
Chairman, George Walton Williams (*Duke
University*)
- 6:00 - 8:00 Reception, Montreal Botanical Gardens
Hosts: Mayor Jean Drapeau and the City of
Montreal

Sunday, 30 March

- 9:00 - Noon Tour of the City of Montreal and Easter Sunday
Services



THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

6328 VANDERBILT STATION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37235

1986 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

Please fill in the appropriate blanks listed below. Annual dues are set at \$25. Additional payments for *Shakespeare Newsletter*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Shakespeare Studies*, and *Shakespeare Survey* are optional.

_____	Annual Dues	(\$25.00)
_____	<i>Shakespeare Newsletter</i>	(\$ 6.00)
_____	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>	(\$20.00)
_____	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly Bibliography</i>	(\$ 5.00)
_____	<i>Shakespeare Studies</i>	(\$20.00)
_____	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>	(\$27.00)
_____	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	
_____	Payment is enclosed.	
_____	I wish to charge the above sum to one of the credit cards listed below:	
_____	Master Card _____ / _____	
	card number	expiration date
_____	VISA _____ / _____	
	card number	expiration date

This is a _____ renewal _____ new membership.

Signature: _____

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Meeting
Shakespeare Association of America
27-29 March 1986
Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Montreal, Quebec

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

_____ Arrival Date and Time _____ Departure Date and Time

_____ I will be staying at the Ritz-Carlton or the Shangri-la Hotel.

_____ I will be staying at _____.

_____ My spouse (Name) _____ will accompany me.

REQUIRED FEES:

_____ Annual Dues and Optional Subscription Charges (See form on reverse side)

_____ Registration Fee (\$30 if paid in advance, \$35 at meeting)

OPTIONAL EXPENSES:

_____ Spouse's Luncheon on Friday (\$15.00)

_____ Luncheon with Trustees (\$12.00)

_____ Spouse's Luncheon with Trustees (\$12.00)

_____ Tour of Montreal and Easter Sunday Services
(Transportation costs payable at meeting)

_____ TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____ Check enclosed

_____ Charge to MasterCard/Visa

No. _____ /exp. date: _____

Special Dietary or Physical Requirements:

_____ I am planning to attend the ISA Congress in West Berlin.

_____ I would like to be included in the reception on Monday, 31 March, and the tour on Tuesday, 1 April, in West Berlin.

Please return this form by **20 March 1986** to
Shakespeare Association of America, 6328 Vanderbilt Station B, Nashville, TN 37235.

SPECIAL FLIGHT TO BERLIN CONGRESS

A group flight from Montreal to West Berlin has been set up for members planning to attend both meetings. The return flight will be from Berlin to either Montreal or Toronto, depending on what connections are necessary to complete the journey home. The schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, 30 March - Dep. Montreal 7:40 p.m.
Arr. West Berlin 2:50 p.m.
- Sunday, 6 April - Dep. West Berlin 11:00 a.m.
Arr. Montreal 3:30 p.m.
or
Arr. Toronto 3:10 p.m.

At a cost of \$575, including tips, luggage handling, and bus transfers to and from the airports, the price represents a substantial savings over most fares. A fully refundable \$50 deposit is due at the time of reservation, with the remainder of the costs payable by 31 January. After 31 January, reservations will still be accepted on a space-available basis until 4 March. For cancellation, a \$50 penalty will obtain until 4 March, increasing to \$75 after that date.

For further information, write or call toll-free to:

Ms. Kathleen Hayes
Bank Travel Clubs of America
49 Music Square West
P. O. Box 40726
Nashville, TN 37205
1-800-251-2672, ext 181 or 182

Ms. Hayes will also be happy to coordinate travel to and from the Montreal meeting with travel to and from the Congress, as well as to make reservations for Montreal only.

WEST BERLIN HOSPITALITY

A special reception and tour have been arranged for SAA members who arrive on Monday, 31 March, to attend the World Shakespeare Congress in West Berlin. Because the hosts would like to include all Americans in these events, anyone who will be present on those dates should check the appropriate lines on the Montreal registration form. Please provide this information regardless of whether or not you will be on board the group flight to the Congress.

SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED FOR 1987 MEETING

The Program Committee for the 1987 meeting invites your suggestions regarding both the content and format of the program. By 1 February 1986, please send proposals and ideas to any member of the committee: Jean Howard (*Syracuse University*), Paul Gaudet (*University of Western Ontario*), Charles Frey (*University of Washington*), and Karen Newman (*Brown University*).

NOMINATIONS FOR 1986 - 1987

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Trustee Jonas Barish, report the following candidates for offices in 1986-1987:

- President Jean Howard (*Syracuse University*)
Coppélia Kahn (*Wesleyan University*)
Jeanne Roberts (*American University*)
- Trustees Lawrence Danson (*Princeton University*)
Michael Goldman (*Princeton University*)
Sherman Hawkins (*Wesleyan University*)
Alexander Leggatt (*University of Toronto*)
Barbara Mowat (*Folger Shakespeare Library*)
Richard Wheeler (*University of Illinois*)

Members will elect a President and two Trustees, each of whom will serve a three-year term on the Board. A ballot, enclosed in this mailing, must be returned by THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY.

Those serving on the Nominating Committee were Janet Adelman (*University of California, Berkeley*), Edward Berry (*University of Victoria*), and Charles Forker (*Indiana University*).

BERLIN SHAKESPEARE CONGRESS UPDATE

The next World Congress of the International Shakespeare Association, set for 1-6 April 1986 in West Berlin, will focus on the theme "Images of Shakespeare." The final circular goes out to all SAA members later this month. Full particulars on speakers, performances, receptions, housing, and registration will be included in the January circular.

A delegation of SAA members is expected to fly to Berlin immediately following the Montreal meeting. As its contribution to the Congress, the SAA has arranged for seminars on eight specialized topics related to the general theme. Chaired by American scholars and co-chaired by leading international scholars, the seminars have attracted an enrollment double the original expectations.

PLEASE NOTE: ROOM RESERVATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED. No one who sent in the reservation form from the first circular has received a confirmation. Apparently the organizers will affirm all housing requests at a date closer to the time of the Congress when space can be definitely assigned.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

"Fact into Fiction: Shakespeare and the Uses of History in the Renaissance"

Ohio Shakespeare Conference
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Ohio State University
27 February — 1 March 1986

Write to: Robert C. Jones, Department of English, Ohio State University, 164 W. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210

NEH Summer Seminars for College Teachers
Seminar Participants for 1986
Seminar Directors for 1987
1 March 1986 Deadline for Applications

Write to: Summer Seminars for College Teachers, Room 316, Division of Fellowships and Summer Seminars, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20506

G. Wilson Knight Memorial Conference
University of Leeds
9 - 10 April 1986

Write to: Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank, School of English, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England

"Shakespeare and His Contemporaries"
Eighth Annual Shakespeare Symposium
Iowa State University
24 - 25 April 1986

Write to: Linda R. Galyou, Department of English, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

"The Play out of Context: Transferring Plays from Culture to Culture"

Jerusalem Theatre Conference
1 - 4 June 1986

Write to: Hanna Scolnicov, Department of Theatre Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 91905, Israel

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT (continued)

There are too few of us to be able to afford that luxury. So if, for instance, we ourselves are oriented to cultural history, I hope that we will assure ourselves that our own students are sophisticated in and have respect for those disciplines dealing with the transmission of texts. I hope that if we ourselves are absorbed in the history of the language, we will assure ourselves that our own students are versed in the history of criticism in the last thirty years. I hope that if we ourselves think that plays are only understood in performance, we will also see to it that our own students are familiar with the society in which these performances were first generated. And so on.

For at some point, all of us who are reading the present screed (despite our most ardent hopes!) will be gone. Our intellectual heirs will either be casually going to meetings on other planets or picking their way through the rubble of a new medievalism. Whatever their situations, *their* students should not be forced to embark upon laborious studies to "rediscover" long hidden truths buried in our own neglect. I hope this despite what I have been seeing, as the editor of two journals, in too many of the manuscripts coming my way in the past five years, manuscripts in which too often the ideas move as if several hundred years of searching and thinking had never occurred, as if in, say, 1975, a group had gathered together to invent historical research without the benefit of any previous models to guide or tools to help. Our friends outside of the academy tend to describe such activity as "reinventing the wheel." I hope we will make sure our students do not waste the small, precious amount of human energy at the disposal of our discipline in this century on such redundancy.

Neither I, nor those who have shared my concern, can be comforted by the familiar cant that regards younger persons as not up to the standards presumably prevailing in one's own youth. The novice today, as yesterday and the day before yesterday, can be apprised of standards, criteria, and possibilities, it is true. Learning is up to the individual. But is it only we who tell that student when we are satisfied. And at that point it is the novices who must trust. They must trust that they have been trained.

We are, at present, the only persons now living who hold in our collective minds all the achievement and tradition of scholarship and criticism so painfully amassed in our field by those who came before us. I hope we will remember our collective responsibility to pass on with scholarly impartiality all that can help our intellectual heirs not to echo us but to disagree with us. To do this they must know things that may not interest us personally but which we have incurred an obligation to pass on to them. It is an obligation that, as eloquent members of the Third World can tell us, has been purchased by the West at enormous human cost. It can only have been worth it if, in the end, we use the incredible idyll furnished us by this century not to pass on personal notions, but to pass on a way of doing life that tries to surmount the dubious comforts of ignorance.



J. Leeds Barroll
President
Shakespeare Association of America

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIALS ENCLOSED