

BULLETIN

OF

THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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During the discussion period with members of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Urjo Kareda registers amusement at Marti Marden's laughter. Richard Monette listens intently as his fellow Hamlet, Nicholas Pennell, responds to a question from the audience.

TORONTO HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

The sixth annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America convened at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Toronto on Thursday, April 13, running through Saturday, April 15. This, the first meeting in Canada, drew some 270 registrants, the largest attendance in the history of the Association, except for the ISA Congress in 1976. The informal comments of those attending, along with the general level of enthusiasm during the weekend, all pointed toward the extraordinary success of the meeting. Much of the credit goes to R. W. Van Fossen of the University of Toronto, who handled the many details of the local arrangements.

Following registration on Thursday, the annual meeting was officially inaugurated with a concert of Elizabethan songs and melodies by the Elizabethan Consort. Led by Donald Beecher, the group included his fellow instrumentalists Susan Butler, Colin Everett, and Elizabeth Green, together with soprano Vicki Iles. The evening at St. Michael's College ended with a lavish reception at Brennan Hall lounge.

The formal sessions began on Friday, with papers in the morning and seminars through the afternoon. At the luncheon President Robert Ornstein announced the following results of the elections for 1978:

President — C. L. Barber (University of California,
Santa Cruz)

Trustees — Jill Levenson (University of Toronto)
Jeanne Roberts (American University)

During his address at the luncheon, the Annual Lecturer, Professor Virgil Whitaker of Stanford, urged his listeners to focus broadly in their teaching of Shakespeare. He counseled teachers to ground the plays in their theatrical setting and to give students a full rather than a narrow understanding of Shakespeare's creations.

Friday evening featured Robert Boerum in "Eternal Numbers," a highly controlled and skillful presentation of the son-

nets performed despite difficult competition from a prom next door. Following the performance, members were invited to drop in at a cash bar in the executive suite. This additional opportunity for informal interchange proved so popular that it was repeated Saturday afternoon after the seminars.

The final day of the annual meeting again scheduled papers in the morning and seminars in the afternoon. However, the unquestioned highlight of the day was the appearance of members of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival company. Under the chairmanship of Urjo Kareda, Literary Director for the company, the Association members heard a description of the experimental *Hamlet* which featured two actors, Richard Monette and Nicholas Pennell, alternating in the lead. Mr. Monette and Mr. Pennell then performed scenes with their Ophelia, Marti Marden. The discussion period which followed was marked by lively interchange and perceptive probings into both the play and the actor's apprehension of his role.

Throughout the Toronto gathering, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library mounted a special exhibition of "Hollar's England," drawn from the unparalleled collection of Hollar materials at the library. With enlargements and technical displays, the exhibit offered striking visual images of the London Shakespeare and his contemporaries knew. The seminar on theater history was privileged to meet in the library's display room, surrounded by engravings and enlargements, and to hear a paper from Stanley Fisher, who gave the Hollar collection to the University of Toronto and built the rare book library to house it. Handsome catalogues of the exhibition were given to all members in attendance at Toronto.

The seventh annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America will be held in San Francisco on April 12-14, 1979, at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. Plans are already underway to develop a program that will equal or surpass the standards set in Toronto.

HOW THE PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED

Repeatedly, members want to know just how the program for an annual meeting is decided. The process apparently seems mysterious or even capricious, but the Trustees certainly have no wish to appear secretive about this important part of their responsibilities. Actually, the program planning, like much else in the Association, has been subject to a good deal of experimentation and flexibility. The present system is one that has evolved and is still open to both criticism and change.

There are four ways a member may take part in the program at an annual meeting. He can submit a paper good enough to be selected for presentation, he may be invited to give a paper, he may participate in a seminar, or he may serve as a session chairman. The open submissions are quite straightforward. Any member may send in a suitable paper prior to the deadline, this year set for September 15. The papers are sent to the Association's office, but they are read by a committee of distinguished scholars headed by a Trustee. Of necessity, the identity of the committee remains confidential. The readers select from four to eight papers, depending on how many seem good enough to warrant presentation. No topic is ever specified, since the effort is simply to feature the finest work currently being done by the membership. Each year many of the best papers come from this category, often written by younger scholars whose work is not yet known.

Other speakers on the program are invited. The Trustees consider ideas given them by members and by the Program Committee, look at past programs to avoid serious duplication, and make their own suggestions. By the end of a long meeting, there is a list of topics and suggested speakers for each one. During the succeeding weeks, the Executive Secretary calls the recommended scholars and, insofar as their schedules permit, secures a promise for a paper. The effort of the Trustees here is to find specific subjects and speakers

who will attract wide interest among the members. Though some invited speakers may be lesser known scholars with a particular expertise on a certain topic, for the most part they are well-known Shakespeareans. By deliberate policy, no Trustee is ever asked to speak. Furthermore, there is a conscious effort to represent both sexes and all areas of the U.S. and Canada, as well as to avoid asking the same people year after year.

The seminars are designed to permit the widest participation of the membership and, at the same time, to allow for highly specialized topics. The chairmen are invited by the Trustees. Some are asked to focus on a particular problem in a certain area, such as text or theater history. Others are asked to organize a seminar on a topic of their own choice. If he chooses, a chairman may personally invite up to half the members of his seminar, but the remaining places are open to enrollment from the membership at large. Written materials are circulated in advance so that the time during the annual meeting can be spent in discussion. Next year abstracts of papers will be made available so that auditors can follow the discussion more easily. The seminars vary in quality and approach, but the Trustees are firmly committed to this method of insuring wide participation and of developing serious post-doctoral dialogue. The best seminars have produced significant scholarly research; potentially, all seminars could do the same.

The session chairmen are selected last, as a final opportunity to include people not yet on the program and to provide a balanced representation of the membership. Each chairman must have some expertise in the topic for his session, must be thoroughly familiar with both papers, and must handle the difficult task of managing the discussion.

The Trustees welcome suggestions from the membership. If you have useful criticism to offer or ideas that would improve the process of program planning, please fill in the blank on the opposite page and send it in.

NUMBER PLEASE

Where can I call the Shakespeare Association of America? Here is a simple question with a not-so-simple answer. The office is located on-campus at Vanderbilt University, but because the Association does not have a full-time staff, callers may not always be able to reach the Executive Secretary, Ann Cook, or her assistant, Nancy Orr. During the day, however, a call to (615) 322-7405-ext. 41 will at least put members in touch with an English Department secretary who can take a message. Members may also call Ann Cook directly at her home office, (615) 383-8058, where a code-a-phone will record any message if she is away from the telephone.

DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

In response to many requests from the membership, the Trustees have authorized publication of an annual directory of the Shakespeare Association of America membership. The directory will be mailed to members only, sent out every fall. Each listing will include the member's academic affiliation, where appropriate, and the address on file with the Association.

IF YOUR ACADEMIC AFFILIATION AND/OR ADDRESS ARE TO BE CHANGED IN THE FALL, PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR SAN FRANCISCO PAPERS

All papers for the annual meeting, to be held in San Francisco on April 12-14, 1979, should reach the Association office no later than September 15. Members are asked to submit no more than one paper and to provide two copies. Papers should be designed for a twenty-minute presentation (ten to twelve typed pages). In the interest of fairness, the committee will not consider papers from members whose submissions have been selected during the past two years. Notification of selections should be sent out early in November.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS SUGGESTIONS

Any member of the nominating committee for 1979 will be happy to accept suggestions for nominees for the President and the two Trustees who will take office at the San Francisco meeting. All will serve three-year terms on the board. Members of the committee are as follows:

Chairman, David Bevington (University of Chicago)
Carole Carlisle (University of South Carolina)
Russell Fraser (University of Michigan)
G. B. Shand (Glendon College, York University)

In addition, the membership is reminded that nominees may be put on the ballot with a petition signed by twenty current members. Petitions must reach the Executive Secretary before January 1, 1979.

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS OR CRITICISM?

The form below is provided so that members of the Shakespeare Association of America can offer their ideas on the meeting in Toronto, future meetings, or the affairs of the Association in general. Negative remarks are just as welcome as positive ones. All responses are confidential.

I did _____ did not _____ attend the Toronto meeting.

I have _____ have not _____ attended other meetings of the Association. Years attended _____ .

I have _____ have not _____ appeared on the program(s) in the following capacity _____ .

Comments on the programs and policies of the Association:

NOTICES OF INTEREST

The *Shakespeare on Film Newsletter* is available at a rate of \$2.00 for one year (add 50¢ for Canada and overseas). Back issues are available at \$1.50 each. Inquiries and subscriptions should be addressed to Bernice W. Kliman, Circulation, *Shakespeare on Film Newsletter*, 70 Glen Cove Drive, Glen Head, New York 11545.

The Fourth Shakespeare Summer School will convene at Westfield College (University of London) and the central School of Speech and Drama from July 24 to August 25. The fee for the course, including single room accommodation, tuition, theater tickets, and excursions (to Stratford to see two R.S.C. productions) is £480. It is not necessary, of course, for students to come for the entire five weeks. The format is informal and flexible enough so that visiting Shakespeareans are encouraged to contact James Redmond at Westfield College if they find themselves in London. Application forms are available from James Redmond, Westfield College (University of London), Hampstead, London N.W. 37 ST. or from H. R. Coursen, Department of English, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine 04011. The emphasis of the school is on understanding through performance, and the format includes practical work on the plays with professional directors.

I am running a workshop the last two weeks of July for high school teachers of Shakespeare. I would be very glad to receive any advice or information members of the SAA can offer. Please send to Professor R. C. Fulton, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401.

All correspondence regarding bookings of ETERNAL NUMBERS, the solo performance of Shakespeare's Sonnets which was presented at the recent Association meeting in Toronto, should be addressed to Robert Boerum, Post Office Box 581-C, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

The booklet *Shakespeare in the Classroom: Resources and Media Aids* (82 pp.) is available for \$1.00 from The Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141.

Several members have received a request for help from Don Myrick, who has embarked on a serious study of Shakespeare at Leavenworth. Now in the ninth year of a twenty-five year sentence for bank robbery, he reports that "this 2200-man prison does not have a library and my monthly 'tenured' salary of \$15.00 doesn't go far." He asks that any old materials (critiques, reviews, etc.) be sent to Don Myrick, PMB 84860-132, P. O. Box 100, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048. Mr. Myrick came to prison without a high school diploma and will receive a B.G.S. in May.

Notices are welcome from all members. In future, space limitations may require that we set guidelines, but for the present any item of interest to the membership is acceptable.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 1978, please do so as soon as possible. In July the names of all delinquent members will be removed from the rolls. If you wish to continue your membership in the Shakespeare Association of America, do pay your dues promptly. We will be glad to send you an enrollment form if you have lost or misplaced the one in the January *Bulletin*.

EXTRA TORONTO PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

The Shakespeare Association office has on hand almost three hundred copies of the program for the Toronto meeting. Because the hotel cleaning crew tossed out a box containing programs, some who came to the meeting failed to get one. We will be glad to send one or more copies to any member upon request.

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DATED MATERIALS ENCLOSED