

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

No. 1/January 1981

A Note on the Hemingway Society

By Paul Smith, President

Looking back now on last summer's Thompson Island conference, I can't recall just when the idea of a Hemingway Society first occurred to us, but I do remember that it immediately seemed to many to be an obvious, necessary, and even inevitable, venture. It was certainly implied in Michael Reynolds's opening address. He remarked that in the last ten years every project in Hemingway studies he had worked on had been done simultaneously by someone else—a not uncommon experience in this profession. But he went on to suggest that every prospect for the next ten years of Hemingway scholarship argues for some sort of cooperative effort. And that is an all too uncommon suggestion in a profession where the work is often, and in several senses, hermetic.

Some might take Michael's remark as proof of the recent opinion that the best and most obvious work in Hemingway has been done. But the papers at that conference, now collected in last fall's issue of *College Literature* confirm the impressions of those who have surveyed the manuscripts: there is about as much to do again as there is to do for the first time. The first work to do is, of course, a standard edition, or even something like a variorum, for the preliminary versions of many of the works say much about the final texts and more about how Hemingway wrote and thought. With a standard edition, the wealth of resources at the Kennedy Library, the new studies of Hemingway's own library and his reading, and the imminent edition of the letters, we can take up Michael's challenging prospectus of the work that awaits us.

That prospectus is a comprehensive one, and I can add only one note. Six years ago Linda Wagner published her selection of some fifty years of Hemingway criticism. Although she noted a few instances of other critical methods, the only trend she could isolate in Hemingway scholarship was, as she said, formalist. If that selection was, as I believe, a fair and considered sample, it raises an obvious question: How did a theory and practice which was about to dominate the critical scene in the first decade of a writer's career remain the only recognizable trend more than a decade after his death? The question may answer itself; perhaps Hemingway is one of those writers whose work shared so much of its cultural scene with a contemporaneous critical movement that any reconsideration from a later perspective seems almost an intrusion in a private family matter. If this

speculation is even partly right, then those in editorial positions or in the leadership of this society, who may well influence the direction of Hemingway studies, would do well to encourage a new generation of Hemingway scholars to bring the best of recent theory and practice to a reading of a new Hemingway canon.

A Short History of Our Beginnings

It must have been on the minds of many for a long time, because the beginning was surprisingly easy. Someone said "What if," one or two others said "Why not," and four hours later forty-two people were sweltering under a large oak tree, talking about starting The Hemingway Society.

Paul Smith (Trinity College, Ct.) was the prime mover, presiding over that first meeting and taking the steps necessary for organizing the reception and inaugural meeting of The Society at the Houston MLA, December 28.

But it is that first meeting, July 18, 1980, under that Thompson Island oak and in view of the Kennedy Library across Dorchester Bay, that most of us will remember, or at least will the original forty-two. The Thursday evening clambake still a fresh memory and the Friday evening opening of the Hemingway Room at the Kennedy Library a pleasant prospect, we ate our box lunches and discussed the benefits to Hemingway studies of the formation of such a society. We suggested fresh metaphors to describe what might be happening in Hemingway's grave over our actions on his behalf, but nobody suggested not forming a society, and so here we are. It was surprisingly easy.

But, of course, that was merely the beginning. Smith's work to make us official was hard, and harder yet will be the future where we make our reputation, as our statement of purpose says, assisting and coordinating Hemingway studies.

Charter Membership Deadline

Deadline for joining the Hemingway Society as a charter member is March 15. Dues are the annual subscription rate for *The Hemingway Review* (now *Hemingway notes*) and \$7. See the application form inserted in this newsletter.

Paul Smith First President

To the surprise of no one (he did nearly all the preliminary work to get us started), Paul Smith of Trinity College, New Haven, Ct., is the first president of the Hemingway Society. Paul was elected by a unanimous vote of those present for the Society's opening business meeting, December 28 at MLA in Houston.

Also elected, by authority of the by-laws (see page 3 of this newsletter), were four additional people to the Executive Committee: Bob Lewis, University of North Dakota; Mike Reynolds, North Carolina State University; Bern Oldsey, West Chester (Pa.) College; and Linda Wagner, Michigan State University.

Two other people were then appointed to the Executive Committee: Jo August as Administrative Secretary and Charles M. (Tod) Oliver as Editor-in-Chief. Jo will be responsible for maintaining the bibliographic center of the Hemingway collection at the Kennedy Library; Tod will be responsible for the editorial management of *The Hemingway Review* and *The Hemingway Newsletter*.

Three committees were also appointed. The Publications Committee will be co-chaired by Tod Oliver and Bern Oldsey with Frank Laurence, Mississippi University for Women, assisting; The Conferences Committee will be co-chaired by Bob Lewis and Jim Nagel, Northeastern University; the Research Center Committee will be co-chaired by Jo August and Warren Bennett, University of Regina (Sask.).

In the photo at right the Society's first president, Paul Smith of Trinity College, right, is talking to Jim Nagel of Northeastern University, following the inaugural business meeting at MLA in Houston, Dec. 28. That's not really a woods behind them, but Hyatt Hotel panelling. Below, Thompson Island conferees are "looking up" following the initial meeting in July to get us started. See story, page 1. Credit the editor for the first photo, Jim Rabbitt of Chicago for the second.

Call for Papers

The 1981 meeting of the Modern Language Association will have a special session on "Ernest Hemingway's Literary Heritage: Sources and Influences." Outlines of one-two pages should be submitted to Robert W. Lewis, Department of English, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND., 58202. Deadline for outlines is April 1.

Publications Deadlines

Deadlines for submission of items for *The Newsletter* is December 15 for the January issue and June 15 for the July issue.



By-Laws of The Hemingway Society

ARTICLE I - NAME: The name of the society shall be The Hemingway Society.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE: The purpose of the society shall be to assist and coordinate Hemingway studies through

- A. The organization of the society's annual general meetings and other special conferences;
- B. The establishment of a bibliographic center associated with the Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Library;
- C. The publication of *The Hemingway Newsletter* associated with *The Hemingway Review*; and
- D. The support of similar activities approved by the society.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP:

- A. **Classes of members and eligibility:** The society shall be composed of
 1. **Honorary Members:** any person who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, merits membership for outstanding service to Hemingway studies or for any other reason, may be nominated by that committee and elected as an Honorary Member;
 2. **Members:** any person who subscribes to the society's by-laws and pays annual dues shall be a Member; and
 3. **Student Members:** any student enrolled in an accredited college or university who subscribes to the by-laws and pays annual dues shall be a Student Member.
- B. **Privileges:** All members shall be entitled to:
 1. Attend and vote at the society's annual general meetings, and (with the exception of Honorary Members) hold office in the society; and
 2. Receive *The Hemingway Newsletter*, *The Hemingway Review*, and any other publications authorized by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION:

- A. **The Executive Committee:** The affairs of the society shall be managed by the five elected and the two appointed members of the Executive Committee. The Elected members of the committee shall be
 1. The President, who shall be the chief executive officer of the society and preside at all meetings of the society and the Executive Committee; and
 2. Four members of the society elected at the annual general meeting.

The members appointed by the Executive Committee shall be

1. The Administrative Secretary, who shall maintain the bibliographic center of the Hemingway Collection, record the minutes of the society and the Executive

Committee, and assist the President with the society's communications, records, and arrangements for meetings;

2. The Editor-in-Chief, who shall be responsible for the editorial management of *The Hemingway Newsletter* and *The Hemingway Review*, assisted by other editors and editorial boards approved by the Executive Committee, and who shall serve as secretary of the society's Committee on Publications.
- B. **Terms of Office:** Elections shall be held at the annual general meetings in accordance with parliamentary procedure; the terms of office shall be
 1. Three years for President, the Administrative Secretary, and the Editor-in-Chief;
 2. Two years for two of the elected members and three years for the other two, in the first instance, after which the terms of office shall be for three years.
 - C. **Special Committees:** The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint members to chair special committees, and in consultation with those chairpersons, designate the members of those committees.
 - D. **Meetings:** Annual general meetings shall be held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Modern Language Association or at such other times and places as the Executive Committee shall determine. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the annual general meeting, and a simple majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for its meeting.

ARTICLE V - ANNUAL DUES:

- A. Annual dues for Members shall be the annual subscription rate of *The Hemingway Review* and \$7.00; for Student Members that subscription rate and \$4.00; Honorary Members shall be exempt from dues.
- B. All dues shall be payable to *The Hemingway Society* by 15 February 1981 for the 1980-81 academic year, and by 1 September for each following academic year.
- C. Any member delinquent in dues by 31 December of that year shall be dropped from the membership.
- D. Any changes in the annual dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS:

Amendments to the by-laws adopted by the society shall be made upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members attending the annual general meeting.

Hemingway Work-in-Progress

With this first issue of *The Newsletter*, the Hemingway Society wishes to list books about Hemingway that are either about to be published or still in the writing stage. The purpose of the list is to announce work-in-progress in an effort to provide an opportunity for better cooperation among Hemingway scholars. The editor would appreciate knowing about other appropriate works which could be listed in the July *Newsletter*.

1. August, Jo, editor. *Ernest Hemingway: Catalog of the Manuscripts, Correspondence, and Other Material at the John F. Kennedy Library*. 2 Vols. New York: G. K. Hall and Co. (December 1981 publication date).

2. Baker, Carlos. *Ernest Hemingway: Selected Letters*. Charles Scribner's Sons. (March 1981 publication date).

3. Brasch, James D. and Joseph Sigman. *Hemingway's Library: A Composite Record*. Boston: Garland Publishing Co. (March 1981 publication date).

4. Josephs, Allen. Work-in-progress: *The Last Good Country: Hemingway's Vision of Spain*.

5. Laurence, Frank M. *Hemingway and the Movies*. Jackson, Miss.: The University Press of Mississippi. (Published January 1981).

6. Phillips, Gene D. *Hemingway and Film*. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. (Published December 1980).

7. Reynolds, Michael S. *Hemingway's Reading, 1910-1940: An Inventory*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (March 1981 publication date).

Research Center Established

One of the most important values to members of The Hemingway Society is the coordination of research. To this purpose, Jo August, curator of the Hemingway collection at the Kennedy Library, has agreed to establish a research center at the Library. The membership application has a place to indicate active interests in Hemingway studies and work-in-progress. The purpose is not

for people to stake claims but to encourage cooperative scholarship. Those interested in this cooperative venture are encouraged to send appropriate information to Jo August, John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point on Dorchester Bay, Boston, MA., 02125.

Ms. August wants also to maintain a current bibliography. Members are encouraged to send bibliographical information on any publication not listed in one of the current bibliographies: Hanneman, *Fitzgerald / Hemingway Annuals*, *Hemingway Notes*, PMLA. Members are also encouraged to send copies of their own publications (offprints or xeroxes) in order to strengthen the present collection of biography and criticism at the Kennedy.

The Society editor is also interested in information concerning work-in-progress and bibliography. Bibliographical citations for publication in the *The Hemingway Review* should be sent to William White, Department of Journalism, Oakland University, Rochester, MI. 48063. Information on work-in-progress for publication in *The Hemingway Newsletter* should be sent directly to the editor, Charles M. Oliver, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH., 45810.

Film Conference in Boston

The next conference for Hemingway scholars and teachers will be at the Kennedy Library, Boston, May 19-20, 1981. It is the "Ernest Hemingway Film Conference" and will include, among other speakers, the two authors of recent books on Hemingway films, Gene Phillips of Chicago Loyola University and Frank Laurence of Mississippi University for Women. Jo August, curator of the Hemingway collection at the library, is conference director.

For information and forms, write to:

Hemingway Conference
John F. Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston, MA. 02125.

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