

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

No. 7/January 1984

Madrid Arrangements Confirmed

Although there was other business conducted at the annual meeting of the Hemingway Society in New York, December 29, the item that drew most of the attention was the International Hemingway Conference, scheduled for June 24-29 in Madrid.

General chairman for the conference, Jim Brasch (McMaster University), presented information that falls into three categories: travel, hotel accommodations, and program.

TRAVEL. Participants are on their own for travel arrangements, but the travel committee has arranged several options with Hispanidad Holidays, Inc. of New York which members can request through their own travel agents or by calling Hispanidad (212-261-2112). Round trip costs through Hispanidad (which means Iberia Airlines) are as follows: from New York, \$585, but \$479 "spantax" rate (Thursday or Saturday); from Chicago, \$559; from Miami, \$579; from Los Angeles or San Francisco, add \$290 to the New York rate. There is also a \$279 one-way "spantax" rate from New York; but read the small print before choosing either "spantax" arrangement. Round trip from Toronto (secured from any travel agent) is \$750 in Canadian dollars, which could make it attractive from the Midwest.

HOTEL. The headquarters hotel is the Florida Norte, a "first rate" hotel, costing \$15 per person per day double occupancy and including a continental breakfast each day. The single rate is \$22.

PROGRAM. The conference will begin Sunday evening, June 24, with a Hemingway Society reception at the Florida Norte and will end Friday noon, June 29, with a reception sponsored by the mayor of Madrid at City Hall. The Society is responsible for sessions Monday and Wednesday mornings and late afternoons and Friday morning. The Spanish program will be held Tuesday and Thursday mornings and late afternoons, with tours scheduled for the afternoons, one to the Prado Museum and one to the Spanish countryside setting of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

The Kentucky Institute for European Studies is also conducting a special Hemingway Seminar as part of their regular five-week program in Spain. The seminar will follow the International Conference and will include special tours as well as lectures. The institute is offering three hours of credit to students.

Following is a summary of logistical matters concerning the conference and names and addresses where appropriate.

1. Registration fees are as follows: \$25 for each participant, \$35 for a married couple if both want to partic-

ipate in the conference, and \$10 for students. The form enclosed with this newsletter should be completed and mailed with a check (made out to the Hemingway Society) to:

James Brasch
Department of English
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L9
Canada

Only those people registered through the Society will be guaranteed admission to all events.

2. Travel arrangements are to be made by individual participants through their own travel agents or through Hispanidad.

3. Hotel reservations may be made by writing to:

Sr. Pedro Rodriguez, General Manager
Hispanidad Holidays, Inc.
118-21 Queens Blvd.
Forest Hills, NY. 11375

4. Registration forms for the Kentucky Institute Seminar may be obtained by writing to:

Dr. J. Milton Grimes, Director
Kentucky Institute for European Studies
Murray State University
Murray, KY. 42071

Oak Park Plans Celebration

The Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, Ill., is planning a celebration July 21, the 85th anniversary of the author's birth and the 30th of his having received the Nobel Prize. The village government has proclaimed July 21 as Hemingway Day, and the Foundation will sponsor an open house at Hemingway's birthplace as well as tours.

Jim Nagel Elected President

At its annual business meeting in New York December 29, The Hemingway Society elected Jim Nagel (Northeastern University) as its new president. Nagel succeeds Paul Smith (Trinity College).

Also elected at the meeting were three new Executive Committee members: Roger Asselineau (University of Paris—Sorbonne), Jo August Hills (Sudbury, Ma.), and Kenneth Rosen (Dickinson College). For a complete list of the Executive Committee, see p. 4.

A Farewell Note from Paul Smith

It is a little over three years since I stumbled into the presidency of this society in the summer of 1980 on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. It must have been the wine and the weather, for it certainly was not my scholarly credentials. But it seemed, as I said then, obvious, necessary, and even inevitable that we form this society; and so I violated every enlisted man's maxim and volunteered. It was the happiest mistake I have ever made — at least in my professional life.

I had no idea that the forty of us there under the trees would become some two hundred in an international society; that we would have by 1984 eight issues of our review and newsletter, four annual meetings and affiliation with the Modern Language Association, two national conferences, an international conference this summer in Madrid, an edition of critical essays (James Nagel's collection from the Boston conference due in March from Wisconsin), a front page story in the *New York Times*, the usual response to it from the *Washington Post*, and some interest from another news magazine on the "renaissance" in Hemingway studies — to which I replied, "When did it die?" Remember Hemingway in Africa in 1954?

None of this could have happened without the generous support of Trinity College for the presidency and the universities of Ohio Northern, North Carolina State, and North Dakota for the newsletter. Nor could we continue without Northeastern University and James Nagel's decision to carry on the office of the president. Our deepest gratitude for their support.

But now, at the end of my term, it is not the numbers of members or publications or meetings that I find remarkable, however much they justify the investment others have made in this venture. Rather, it is the sort of spirit — for want of a better word — that seems to inform this society that I find so rare and memorable. For all that and for the lasting friendships, fine talks, and confidence I shall always be indebted to you.

—Paul Smith

Hemingway Style Topic at MLA

The topic for the MLA session on Hemingway at the annual convention December 29 in New York was "Hemingway's Style: The Word and the World." Peter L. Hays (University of California/Davis) was the moderator. Papers were delivered by Charles M. Oliver (Ohio Northern University), "The Merger of Form and Meaning in Hemingway's Fiction"; Blagoy P. Trenev (University of Wisconsin/Eau Claire), "The Words Hemingway Did Not Leave Out"; James Brasch (McMaster University), "How to Make it 'Realer Than Real. Truer Than... True'"; and Robert E. Gajdusek (San Francisco State), "Where Did Uncle George Go: Debridement and Purgation — Style as Therapy."

Review Subscription Rate Increased

Subscription rates for *The Hemingway Review* will be increased, beginning with the fall, 1984, issue. The new rates are as follows: one year (two issues), \$6; overseas and library rates for one year (two issues), \$9.

SAMLA Holds Hemingway Session

A special session on Hemingway was held October 28 in Atlanta at the South Atlantic MLA; Allen Josephs (University of West Florida) was the moderator.

The four speakers and their titles follow: Paul Smith (Trinity College), "Up in Michigan' Revisited"; Donald Jenkins (University of Massachusetts/Amherst), "Hemingway's Contribution to American Poetry"; Frank Scaffella (West Virginia University), "I and the Abyss: Hemingway and the American Vision of Death"; Alfred Kazin (City University of New York), "Hemingway, the Twenties and the Great American Thing."

Hemingway Work-in-Progress

Donnell, David. *Hemingway in Toronto: A Post-Modern Tribute*. Windsor, Ont.: Black Moss Press, 1982. 61 pages. \$8.95.

Spilka, Mark. (Work-in-progress on "Victorian keys to the early Hemingway as part of a larger study of Hemingway's quarrel with androgyny.")

"Up in Michigan" Attracts 125

The "Up in Michigan" Conference, held in Traverse City, October 20-22, included 20 papers, ten on Hemingway's Michigan stories, and a Saturday morning tour to Horton's Bay, Walloon Lake, and Petoskey. There were approximately 125 participants.

Joe Waldmeir (Michigan State) was the general chairman and Ken Marek (Northwestern Michigan College) was the on-site chairman and tour guide. Several participants drove from Petoskey to Seney in the upper peninsula Saturday afternoon to see the Fox (Big Two-Hearted) River.



Hemingway Notes and Queries:

Re Hinkle's Polo Shirt Query

A friend tells me that originally a polo shirt was a sort of standard dress shirt worn by polo players. The most distinguishing feature of the shirt was its button down collar which kept the collar out of the player's face. In the photo on page 2 of *The Hemingway Newsletter*, No.6, President Paul Smith is wearing a "polo shirt."

—Mike Seely
Ventura College

More Re Hinkle's Polo Shirt Query

The "white polo shirt" with which Fitzgerald claims he wears "a plain black knitted tie" in *A Moveable Feast* (p.153) is the "polo collar shirt" developed in the early 1900's by Brooks Brothers. It was fashioned after a shirt worn by polo players in England that had a buttoned-down collar that would not flap during play.

Of his earlier meeting with Fitzgerald at the Dingo Bar just a few days prior to the occasion cited by James Hinkle in the July *Newsletter*, Hemingway writes, "(Scott's) Brooks Brothers clothes fitted him well and he wore a white shirt with a buttoned-down (i.e., polo) collar and a Guard's tie," the same sort of shirt he no doubt wore at their second meeting.

And again, Robert Cohn's "polo shirt" is less probably the open-neck golfer's sport shirt than the classic Ivy League Brooks Brothers Oxford cloth button-down, a sartorial symbol for Robert, as for Fitzgerald, of the Princeton connection.

—James B. Haines
Point Park College (PA)

Yet More Re Hinkle's Polo Shirt Query

See *Scott and Ernest*, p. 17. By "polo shirt" EH meant a Brooks Brothers button-down shirt.

—Matthew J. Bruccoli
U. of South Carolina

The left photo shows Jack Jobst (Michigan Tech), left, and Doug LaPrade (Illinois) at the railroad bridge over the Fox (Big Two-Hearted) River at Seney, Mi.; they were there with other "tourists," following the "Up in Michigan" Conference. Below, Paul Smith (Trinity College), left, immediate past president of the Hemingway Society, talks with newly elected president Jim Nagel (Northeastern) during the Scribner's reception at MLA in December.



Note on Hemingway in Thailand

I recently returned from a lecture tour of Southeast Asia and in Thailand, especially, most of my audiences wanted to hear about Faulkner and Hemingway. Hemingway scholars may be interested to know that Hemingway is very much alive and well in Thailand, that he is regularly taught in surveys and seminars, and that (while Faulkner remains untranslated) a good many Hemingway works have been translated.

But the real tale is this: everywhere I went in Thailand, from the traffic-mad streets of Bangkok to the opium-rapt fishing villages on the Gulf of Siam, I heard, blaring from radios and jukeboxes, the following:

Mr. Hemingway says in his book
For Who The Bell Tolls
You're lucky to feel the earth move
Three times in your life.
I never felt the earth move
Any more than it's supposed to move
Maybe I never will,
But an hour ago you made love to me
And I swear by all that's holy
The whole wide world stood still

Now American music is extremely popular in Thailand, especially country music and Fifties tunes (if you're a Child of the Fifties, a fan of Everly Brothers and early Elvis, you could relive your life in the cafes of Siam). It turns out that the earth-move ballad is a fairly recent country song by Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers.

Toward the end of my time in Thailand, I had just completed a lecture on Faulkner and Hemingway and, in the question and answer period I said I'd love to hear from them about their favorite Faulkner or Hemingway stories, passages, images, etc. Several students and professors came up and we talked for an hour or so. One student said "Well, who is right — Hemingway or Gatlin?" For a moment I was lost, bemused at the still point of the turning world. He went on: "I think Mr. Hemingway is correct and Mr. Gatlin is wrong. Still, it is an interesting case and you Americans are fortunate to have such very rich culture. Do your singers always sing about your great writers?" "Not always," I said.

—H.R. Stoneback
State University of New York
New Paltz

Query for New York City Members

If Grace Hall Hemingway sang opera in New York, why haven't we been able to find any evidence of it?

—Michael Reynolds
North Carolina State

Proposals Invited for '86 Meeting

Program proposals for the 1986 national conference of the Hemingway Society are now being encouraged and accepted by Society President, James Nagel. Besides the sessions held annually at MLA, The Society intends to sponsor national meetings every other year.

Send proposals to:

James Nagel
Department of English
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115

Note on Alan Dugan Interview

The following comes from an interview with the poet Alan Dugan in the May/June 1983 issue of the *American Poetry Review*:

APR: How about Hemingway and his war participations?

Dugan: Hemingway did very well in World War II getting to Paris in 1944 before just about anybody else. Those French intellectuals made fun of Hemingway, but all those French intellectuals, like Sartre and Camus, what were they doing during World War II? They were sitting in their cafes, right along side of Nazis, talking their usual talk, sharing their usual mistresses, and saying how terrible the Germans were, making terrible jokes. The Germans, of course, didn't understand French. And Hemingway arrives and liberates Paris, and Hemingway is supposed to be the clown. Camus and Sartre and all the rest of them suddenly join the Liberation army after the Germans are gone. Now, who's the good guy? Hemingway. Not Sartre, not Camus.

APR: Sounds like a lot of disdain there.

Dugan: It is. They were bastards. They were collaborators and all of a sudden are the big heroes of the Liberation. Bullshit. Hemingway was a big hero. They were shits.

—George Monteiro
Brown University

Note on Poster with OMS Quotation

The Bilingual Review/Press at the Department of Foreign Languages and Bilingual Studies, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, publishes a poster "Bilingualism in the Bicentennial and Beyond" that features drawings of and quotations from Patrick Henry, Emiliano Zapata, Benito Juarez, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, Julia de Burgos, and Ernest Hemingway. The Hemingway quotation is from *The Old Man and the Sea*. The poster and accompanying pamphlet cost \$2.95.

—Robert W. Lewis
University of North Dakota

Query on "A Divine Gesture"

If a "Divine Gesture" in the *Double Dealer* is an allegory, what is the point of it?

—Michael Reynolds
North Carolina State

Re Query on Passage from SAR

Donald E. Houghton asks in the January 1983 *Newsletter* about the meaning of Bill's speech on p. 122 of *The Sun Also Rises* — "Don't eat that, Lady — that's Mencken." I think I can supply at least part of an explanation. If I am right, we are talking about the most directly obscene sentence in the book.

Begin at p. 121 where Bill and Jake are unwrapping the lunch put up for them at the inn in Burguete. They find chicken and hard-boiled eggs. "First the egg. Then the chicken. Even Bryan could see that," Bill says. Since Bryan argued just the opposite about the order of creation, Bill has to be talking about the proper order for eating. Experienced in the Chautauqua fried chicken banquet circuit, even Bryan with his Munchausen vision of reality would understand that eggs precede chicken at meals.

Jake tells Bill he read in yesterday's paper that Bryan had died. Bill puts down the egg he was unpeeling and takes up a chicken leg. "I reverse the order. For Bryan's sake. As a tribute to the Great Commoner. First the chicken; then the egg."

Bill sucks on a drumstick and drinks some wine, then, in a series of free-association non-sequiturs (with ideas from Bryan but at least some words from Mencken: e.g., "pry with simian fingers"), Bill urges Jake to eat and drink too. The context is a mock call-to-communion with chicken and wine as host. Bill calls on Jake to join him on his knees and to "accept on faith" what is before him and to eat.

But just as Jake is about to take a first bite, Bill notices the size and shape of the chicken leg. It is not Lamb of God. Even a small dose of Mencken has corrupted the transubstantiation miracle. The chicken of the chicken and wine, the coq of the coq et vin, has transmogrified instead into "cock of Mencken." Bill's reverse-the-order version of Joysprick discovers Menckensprick — cold mutton in the British sense. And so, just in time, he warns Jake not to put it into his mouth.

That Jake follows Bill's train of thought seems clear from Jake's comment: "You're cock-eyed."

—James Hinkle
San Diego State

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