

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

No. 2/July 1981

"Literary Heritage" Topic for MLA

The title for the special session on Hemingway at the MLA Conference in New York (December 27-30) is "Ernest Hemingway's Literary Heritage: Sources and Influences." Robert W. Lewis, University of North Dakota, organized the session, selected the four papers, and will moderate.

Lewis's detailed description of the topic to MLA officials is interesting for its suggestions of Hemingway research yet to be done and is, therefore, published here in part:

The research and criticism of Ernest Hemingway's work have matured. Recent books mark a welcome evolution to those readers who have witnessed or traced the complex response to Hemingway's work beginning with the contemporaneous book reviews, moving on to often impressionistic and sometimes naive critical essays, reaching critical maturity with the first full-length works in the early fifties (at the time of the virtual conclusion of Hemingway's own writing career), then spreading out into books and essays in thematics and explication in the sixties, and ripening in the seventies with refined studies in stylistics, linguistics, biography, bibliography, and textual studies.

Contrary to a once common impression that many readers had (and that Hemingway himself inadvertently fostered), he was not a "Dumb Ox," a mere reporter with a voguish flair for hard-boiled subjects and a reticent style. He was, in fact, an omnivorous reader who borrowed ideas, characters, situations, and even language from a wide assortment of sources. He himself once wrote, "Writing about anything actual was bad.... The only writing that was any good was what you made up, what you imagined. That made everything come true."

Michael S. Reynolds recently wrote, "The vein of psychoanalytic exegesis has been overworked. The misleading thesis that Hemingway is always his own protagonist has littered the critical landscape with so much debris that it will take another generation of critics to restore the ecology.... Hemingway's reading is as important to his art as that of Coleridge; his textual revisions are as significant as those of Keats."

The many recent books on Hemingway's reading, plus the *Letters* and a few previous studies such as Baker's *Life* (1969)...provide further and incontestable evidence of an authorship typically combining both experiential and literary origins. These books and the opening last July of the Hemingway Room in the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, the greatest single Hemingway repository, occasions this proposal.

These resources will almost certainly stimulate a new wave of scholarship, as evidenced by the four papers selected for the proposed session. No similar meeting, either at MLA or elsewhere, has yet been held.

The four panelists for the program and their titles are as follows:

1. James Hinkle, San Diego State University, "Sources for *The Sun Also Rises*."
2. George Monteiro, Brown University, "Two Sets of Books, One Balance Sheet: 'Financing Finnegans'."

3. Edward R. Stephenson, Canisius College, "Crane and Hemingway: For Better, For Worse."

4. Max Westbrook, University of Texas/Austin, "Hemingway: the Summer of 1920."

There will also be a meeting of The Hemingway Society and "probably" a dinner with a guest speaker.

Hemingway Work-in-Progress

The following list of works-in-progress is a continuation of items listed in the January *Newsletter*. The Hemingway Society wishes to list books about Hemingway that are either about to be published or still in the writing stage or published by small presses. The purpose of the list is to provide an opportunity for better cooperation among Hemingway scholars. The editor would appreciate knowing about other appropriate works "in the mill" which could be listed in the January, 1982, *Newsletter*:

1. Hayashi, Tetsumaro. *Steinbeck and Hemingway: Dissertation Abstracts and Research Opportunities*, with Introduction by Warren French. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1980. Dr. Hayashi has published 21 books and 85 articles in Elizabethan or American literature, is professor of English at Ball State, and is editor of the *Steinbeck Quarterly* and the *Steinbeck Monograph Series*.

2. Meyers, Jeffrey. *Hemingway: The Critical Heritage*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul (Fall, 1981, publication date). Contains a 75-page introduction, reprints of 122 essays of criticism, an annotated bibliography, and "hundreds of notes."

3. Stanton, Edward. Work-in-progress. *Hemingway and Spain: The Undiscovered Country*.

Are You a Society Member?

Membership in The Hemingway Society costs \$10 a year (September-August) and includes subscriptions to *The Hemingway Review* and to *The Hemingway Newsletter*. Charter members are listed on page 3. For more information about or membership application to The Society, write:

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Film Conference Attracts 75 to Boston

Hemingway and film enthusiasts gathered at the Kennedy Library in Boston for a two-day conference May 19-20 titled "A Moving Picture Feast: The Filmgoer's Hemingway." Jo August, curator of the Hemingway Collection at the Kennedy, was conference director.

Seven papers were delivered and twelve Hemingway films were shown for the 75 conferees. Here is a list of papers: "Filming Novels," George Bluestone (Boston University); "Hemingway's Hollywood Paris: a Discussion of *The Sun Also Rises*," Hugh Ford (Trenton State College, NJ); "Soldier's Home: A Space Between," Marianne Knowlton (University of Lowell, Ma.); "Novelist v. Screenwriter: the Case for Casey Robinson's Adaptations of Hemingway Fiction, a discussion of *The Macomber Affair*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, and *Under My Skin*," Gene D. Phillips, S. J. (Loyola University of Chicago); "Islands in the Stream and Hemingway's Bahamas Photographs," Allan Goodrich (Kennedy Library A-V Archivist); "Larding the Text: Problems in Filming *The Old Man and the Sea*," Linda Dittmar (University of Massachusetts/Boston); and "Hemingway and War in the Movies: a discussion of *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, and *The Spanish Earth*," John Garrick (St. Andrew's School, Middletown, De.) and Frank Laurence (Mississippi University for Women).

The films shown were *The Killers* (1946), *The Macomber Affair* (1947), *A Farewell to Arms* (1932 and 1957), *The Spanish Earth* (1937), *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* (1952), *Soldier's Home* (1977), *Hemingway's Adventures of A Young Man* (1962), *Under My Skin* (1950), *The Old Man and the Sea* (1958), *Islands in the Stream* (1977), and *The Sun Also Rises* (1957).

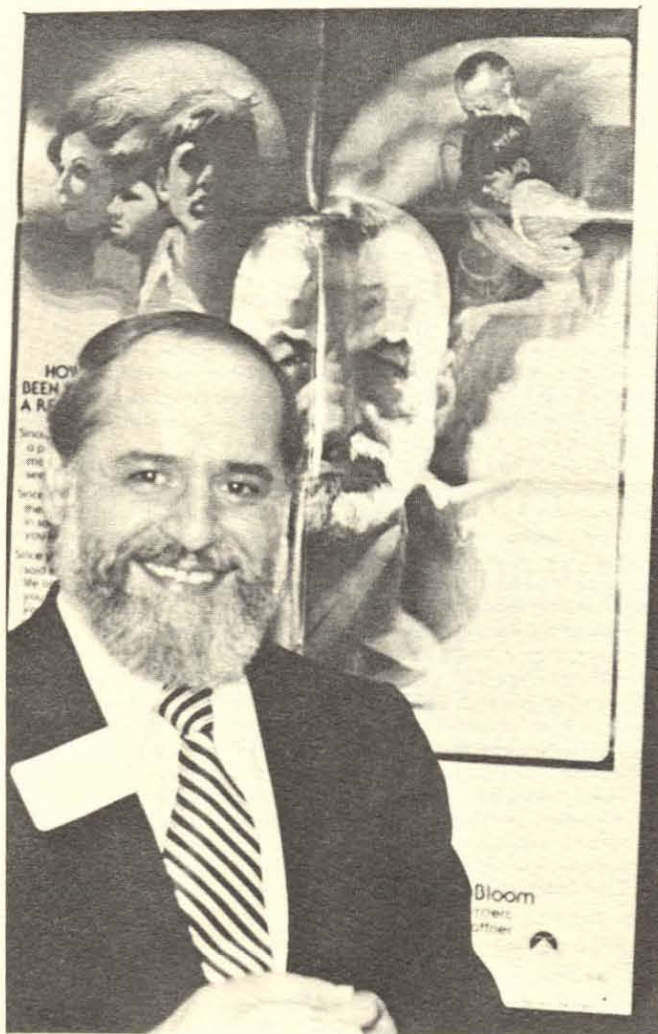
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Charles Scribner, Jr., were special guests at the conference, and Mr. Scribner presented the sixth annual Hemingway Award for the best first book of fiction by an American writer (see story below).

Joan Silber Wins Hemingway Award

The 1980 Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award of \$6,000 was presented May 19 to Joan Silber for her novel, *Household Words*. The Award, administered by PEN American Center and supported by the Hemingway Foundation, honors the best first book of fiction by an American writer for the year.

The Award was made at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston as part of the Hemingway Film Conference May 18-19. A special award of \$1,500 was given to Stuart Dybek for his first collection of short stories, *Childhood and Other Neighborhoods*. Judges for the award, which drew a record 210 nominations, were fiction writers Thomas M. Disch, Darcy O'Brien, and Anne Tyler. O'Brien, whose 1977 novel, *A Way of Life, Like Any Other*, won the third of the six annual awards, made the presentations.

Other previous winners of the Hemingway Award are Loyd Little for *Parthian Shot* (1975), Renata Adler for *Speedboat* (1976), Reuben Bercovitch for *Hasen* (1978), and Alan Saperstein for *Mom Kills Kids and Self* (1979).



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Conference Scheduled for May, 1982

Northeastern University, in cooperation with the Hemingway Society and the John F. Kennedy Library, will host a conference on Ernest Hemingway May 21-23, 1982. Papers are invited for consideration on any aspect of Hemingway's life and work with special emphasis on the new approaches made possible by the opening of the manuscript collection at the Kennedy Library.

The deadline for submission of papers and proposals is December 1, 1981. Write to Professor James Nagel, Department of English, Northeastern University, Boston, MA. 02115.



Hemingway Film Conference photos: upper left, Joan Silber is the winner of the \$6,000 Hemingway Foundation award; lower left, Erik Nakjavani, University of Pittsburgh/Bradford; upper right, Charles Scribner, Jr., left, presents the \$1,500 "special" award to Stuart Dybek; lower right, a group picture in the auditorium at the Kennedy Library, where the conference was held. All photos were taken by Laurie Zwicky, reporter for the Lawrence, Ma., *Eagle News*.

Here's An Idea for Hemingway Teachers

A letter has been received by *The Newsletter* editor and by members of the Executive Committee that may be of general interest, especially to teachers of Hemingway. Frank Laurence of Mississippi University for Women has written, suggesting a special section of *The Newsletter*, perhaps an insert page, for distributing ideas about the teaching of Hemingway.

Laurence suggests that the special section could contain

material of interest and use to school and college teachers. Members of the Society would contribute the material: descriptions of Hemingway courses, good assignments, successful theme topics, test questions, anecdotes about teaching Hemingway. I can think of short articles we might want to do about Hemingway in the classroom; for example, a report called "Freshman Hemingway," based on a review of a wide selection of anthologies used in Freshman Lit classes.

I think it would be a very good thing for us to share what we know about teaching Hemingway...

Laurence further suggests we might offer prizes to high school and undergraduate college students for essays on Hemingway.

No official decision about such a project has been made, but any *Newsletter* readers who think this a good idea or who would like to contribute further suggestions, please write to the editor.

First Review Due October 1

The fall issue of *The Hemingway Review* will feature a lead article titled "Hemingway's Complex Values" by Richard Gebhardt, Findlay (Oh.) College, arguing Hemingway's affirmation of human values. The expanded issue will also contain an interesting response to the proposal for a definitive edition made by Michael Reynolds and Scott Donaldson at MLA last December and published in the spring *Hemingway notes*, plus Jackie Tavernier-Courbin's description of Hemingway's Paris notebooks. The issue will be published October 1 and numbered Volume I, Number 1.



NCTE Offers Hemingway Workshop

A one-day workshop on "Hemingway in the Classroom" is scheduled Thanksgiving weekend in Boston at the annual conference of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Professor Bruce Stark, University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee, is coordinating the program.

The morning session will be devoted to discussion of teaching approaches to Hemingway with each of four leaders offering 15-20 minute papers on their own method of teaching a particular Hemingway work, followed by general discussion of other approaches to that work. The afternoon session will be held at the Hemingway Room of the Kennedy Library. Jo August, curator of the Hemingway collection, will describe for the high school and college teachers what is available in the collection and how to use it.

Society Executive Committee Meets

Several items of business were acted upon at the Executive Committee meeting of The Society at its February 20 meeting in New York. Besides decisions on topics for the NCTE meeting at Thanksgiving and the MLA meeting at Christmas (see stories elsewhere in this issue), other items of business included the following:

1. Scott Donaldson was named chairman of the Nominations Committee and will be assisted by one member of the Executive Committee whose term of office is about to expire and one other Society member. Mike Reynolds will serve with Donaldson this year.

2. The idea of having a commemorative stamp for Hemingway was discussed; no action was taken, but an official proposal has been made and a response received from the U.S. Postal Service. We have been placed on the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee's "agenda." (Czechoslovakia has one!)

3. It is necessary for an organization to be in existence

for two years before it can affiliate with MLA.

4. It was decided that charter members (see list, page 3) will be guaranteed the original membership fee (\$10) for the duration of their membership in the Society. The membership includes subscriptions to *The Hemingway Review* and *The Hemingway Newsletter*.

5. It was determined that the two-year members of the Executive Committee will be Mike Reynolds and Linda Wagner.

6. Jo August announced that she is considering a workshop/conference for secondary and community college teachers in 1983 on the use of the Hemingway Collection in their classrooms.

Another Hemingway Myth?

Here is a letter from a Texas reader of *Hemingway notes* trying to substantiate or repudiate a story he once heard about Hemingway and his "antics" in a cafe along old U.S. 66 near Santa Fe during the summer of 1952. I can not substantiate the story from any of the obvious sources; can anyone?

Once in New Mexico, we stopped at a cafe/motel on U.S. 66 (old) and met a lady who claimed that Hemingway had stayed at her place for a few weeks during the time he was doing *The Old Man and the Sea*. She said he'd been referred by friends at Santa Fe, who told him he could have peace and quite good food at her place; the pie was quite good, homemade.

She launched into a description of his antics there that was beyond belief: he pinched the Indian girls, they had to avoid him; he was gruff with his wife, and all felt sorry for her; he was nasty and cruel to the boy, son, and all who observed hated him for it. He would sit in the shade outside and write.

Later when he sent her a copy of *Old Man*, she didn't open the package for years, she was so disgusted with him.

We've since tried to obtain more data. I've searched the Baker biography. Is it all possible? It's the sort of side note that really is intriguing; is it a local myth made up for tourists, has anyone ever heard of such a thing? I wonder if you know or could find out?

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

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