

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

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Stresa Most Likely Conference Site

A final decision will be made this summer by the Board of Directors of The Hemingway Society, but it looks as if Stresa, Italy, will be the site of the 10th International Hemingway Conference, to be held during the summer of 2002.

John Sanford (Tiburon, CA) was asked by the Board to visit Stresa and discuss with city officials the possibilities of holding a conference there, and he is in Europe as this issue of the *Newsletter* goes to press and will report his findings to the board at its meeting in July. The announcement of the site proposal was made at a meeting of Society members during the Bimini Conference, Jan. 8.

Stresa is located on the west side of Lago Maggiore, a beautiful lake 55 kilometers long and averaging about four kilometers wide, in the Italian Alps, with its northern-most eight kilometers in Switzerland. In *A Farewell to Arms*, Catherine Barkley and her nurse comrade Helen Ferguson go on leave to Stresa from the American Hospital in Milan. Frederic Henry joins them at the beginning of Book IV, after he has deserted from the Italian ambulance corps, and it is from there that he and Catherine row a small, borrowed boat up the lake and into Switzerland, where Catherine dies in childbirth at a Lausanne Hospital. For anyone who might want to imitate Frederic's rowing prowess, the distance is 34 kilometers on the water from Stresa to Brissago, Switzerland, where Frederic and Catherine were detained by the Swiss border guards. And he did it in about eight hours.

The nearest major airport to Stresa is at Milan, about 80 highway kilometers to the southeast. Sanford would be the site chair for the conference, and the board will appoint a program chair, who will send out a call for papers later this summer or in the early fall.

Sanford Donates \$500 to NDQ

John Sanford, son of Hemingway's older sister, Marcelline, has donated \$500 to the *North Dakota Quarterly* to help reduce the cost of a Special Hemingway Issue for Society members who do not subscribe to the journal. *NDQ* editor Bob Lewis (Univ. of North Dakota), a member of the Society, plans to publish some of the papers from last January's International Bimini Conference, including the keynote address by Derek Walcott.

Sanford's contribution will go toward reducing by \$10 the cost of the special issue to each of the first 50 members of the Society who request a copy and who do not now subscribe to *NDQ*. The cost, then, including postage, is \$4. The \$500 contribution is made in honor of Sanford's grandmother, Grace Hall Hemingway.

Two Grad Students Win \$1,000 Awards

The Hemingway Society has announced that the Paul Smith Founders Fellowship Committee has selected two graduate students to receive \$1,000 awards. The winners are Amy Vondrak, a Ph.D. candidate at Syracuse University and Kenneth B. Panda, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Delaware.

Vondrak's dissertation title is "In Between Genders: Hemingway, Woolf, Freud and the Fetish"; her dissertation advisor is Prof. Susan Edmunds. Panda's dissertation is titled "Ernest Hemingway: Collected Letters, 1909-1925"; his advisor is Prof. Richard Davison.

PHOTO FROM THE BIMINI CONFERENCE: SEVEN OF THE EIGHT BIMINI CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ARE PICTURED BELOW AT PARADISE POINT ON NORTH BIMINI ISLAND. THE OCCASION WAS A RECEPTION SPONSORED BY HEMINGWAY HIDEAWAY ON JAN. 8. LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT ROW, ARE JOLEE MARIE BOHANNON (UNIV. OF WEST FLORIDA), CHARLES J. RIVET (LSU), KRISTA MEDO (UNIV. OF NEBRASKA), AND MARK BELLOMO (SUNY/ NEW PALTZ); SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT, ARE KEN PANDA (UNIV. OF DELAWARE), STEVE FLORCZYK (SUNY/ NEW PALTZ), AND MARK OTT (PHILIPS EXETER ACADEMY). LAWRENCE BEIMER (SUNY/ NEW PALTZ) WAS THE EIGHTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT. SEE MORE PHOTOGRAPHS ON PAGES 2-3.



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE BIMINI CONFERENCE

TOP PHOTOGRAPH, THIS PAGE: THREE PAST PRESIDENTS DISCUSS THE HISTORY OF AND TELL STORIES ABOUT THE HEMINGWAY SOCIETY, WHILE SUSAN BEEGEL, EDITOR OF *THE HEMINGWAY REVIEW*, MODERATES. SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THE FORMER PRESIDENTS ARE ALLEN JOSEPHS (UNIV. OF WEST FLORIDA), JIM NAGEL (UNIV. OF GEORGIA), AND LINDA WAGNER-MARTIN (UNIV. OF NORTH CAROLINA). BOTTOM PHOTOGRAPH, THIS PAGE: SEVERAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ENJOY A BOAT TRIP TO CAT CAY, A SMALL ISLAND ABOUT 14 MILES SOUTH OF NORTH BIMINI. THEY AND THREE OTHER BOATLOADS OF PASSENGERS WERE TREATED TO LUNCH ON AN ISLAND MADE FAMOUS BY REGULAR VISITS FROM THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR (KING EDWARD VIII) DURING THE DUKE'S TERM AS GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS (1940-45) AND BY THE SEASONAL HOMES OF THE ROCKWELLS, DUPONTS, AND NIXONS, AND OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSE FRIEND BEBE REBOZO. ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE IS A PHOTO OF SIR MICHAEL CHECKLEY, LEFT, ON-SITE COORDINATOR OF THE CONFERENCE, AND DONALD JUNKINS (UNIV. OF MASSACHUSETTS/AMHERST), CONFERENCE DIRECTOR, BOTH MEN RELAXED AT THE DOCKS THE MORNING AFTER THE CONFERENCE ENDED. PHOTOS BY THE EDITOR.



Hemingway/PEN Awards Presented

Jhumpa Lahiri, born in London and raised in Rhode Island, won the 2000 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, given for an author's first novel, published in 1999. Ms. Lahiri's novel is titled *Interpreter of Maladies*. The presentation is made annually, sponsored by The Hemingway Foundation and PEN/New England. Justin Kaplan, recent winner of a Pulitzer Prize, was the keynote speaker at the April 9 dinner, held at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston.

Other finalists were Nathan Englander, *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* and Colson Whitehead, *The Intuitionist*. Two other writers were named alternates: Lily King for *The Pleasing Hour* and Eric Miles Williamson for *East Bay Grease*.

Ms. Lahiri's parents were born in India, where a number of her short stories and *Interpreter of Maladies* are set. A graduate of Barnard College with a degree in English literature, Lahiri's graduate work at Boston University has earned her three Masters Degrees: in English, in Creative Writing, and in Comparative Studies in Literature and the Arts. She has a Ph.D. from Boston University in Renaissance Studies.

About That Literary Travel Survey

By Nina M. Ray
(Boise State University)

All of us in Hemingway studies know that marketers believe that the Hemingway name continues to have endorsement potential. We have seen his image used in newspaper and magazine advertisements and in television commercials for everything from Mercedes-Benz automobiles to hunting and fishing gear, even wallpaper and, most recently, a line of furniture. There seems to be no end to the commercial value of the Hemingway name.

Travel researchers are finding that tourism to literary places is on the upswing, too. Savannah, Georgia, saw its tourism business increase by nearly one-third after the book publication and movie release of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." There are drives through the "Bridges of Madison County," Iowa. The "Anne of Green Gables" house on Prince Edward Island, Canada, draws thousands of tourists each year. And, of course, we all know that many people wish to visit places associated with the life of Hemingway. Tours through literary places can sometimes risk *Death in the Afternoon* (a play on words used in a recent Wall Street Journal article). The article writer tells of a person who, after reading a biography of Leif Ericsson, tried to imitate the 1,900-mile journey from Greenland to Newfoundland in a 54-foot replica of a Norwegian vessel.

Many (about 20%) Hemingway Society members recently responded to a survey investigating the travel motivations and preferences of tourists for both their general vacations and their literary travel. Some investigators believe that literary tourists share many characteristics with ecotourists and my results show many similarities. More important from a commercial point of view, we are seeing higher growth rates for heritage/cultural tourism and nature-based tourism than for more traditional travel.

Like ecotourists, Hemingway tourists list wilderness and undisturbed nature, national and provincial parks, and being physically active as important motivations for their travel. Respondents listed historic sites, museums and art galleries, and of course, sites of literary importance as more important motivators than ecotourists do. Literary folks are environmentally caring (as evidenced by an "ecological paradigm scale") and they like local festivals and events, learning about new foods and nature, and meeting people of similar interests. Maybe not surprisingly, they think hunting and gambling or meeting people of the opposite sex are not as important.

Forty-five percent of our respondents believe that literary tourism does have an important role in ecotourism (30% think it depends on the author and 15% believe literary tourism has no role in ecotourism). In fact, based on survey results, we now have a working definition of environmental tourism:

An enlightening travel experience that attempts to minimize as much as possible the impact on the environment, while respecting the integrity of host communities. It includes rural tourism, heritage/cultural tourism, nature-based tourism, and adventure/experience-based tourism.



Websites Continue to Grow

It's probably not possible to keep up with the growth of information about Hemingway on the Internet, but here is a list of websites that may be of interest.

1. The "official" Hemingway Society website: <http://members.aol.com/sbeegel/hemsoc.htm>. This site recently offered travel, accommodations, and registration information for the Bimini Conference and will continue to provide such information for future Hemingway conferences, foreign and domestic. There are also a number of links to other relevant websites. The Bimini Conference site, for example, offered links to a Bimini Island site with information, color photographs, and calypso music. A link to a Fodor's page, tells readers how to find material on the Bahamas.

The Society page also has links to the Nobel Foundation page in Sweden, where recent acceptance speeches may be found, including the one by Derek Walcott, who gave the keynote address at the Bimini Conference.

2. The Hemingway Review website: <http://members.aol.com/sbeegel/hemrev.htm>. This page links to permissions guidelines for use of Hemingway materials and contains copyright owners' addresses. There is a link to CARL Uncover for anyone needing a full text of Review articles. CARL Uncover also has its own website and offers articles from The Review for \$13 per article. The website URL is <http://uncweb.carl.org>.

There is also a link to the Princeton University rare book and manuscripts division, a catalogue of the Carlos Baker collection, a finding aid for Hemingway holdings, and the "Portfolio Project," where readers can see and order photographs of Hemingway online.

3. An audio website for hearing Hemingway read selections from his own works: http://town.hall.org/Archives/radio/IMS/HarperAudio/022494_harp_01_ITH.ram. Readings include a recording by a Havana radio station in 1954 of Hemingway reading his "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech."

Bimini Conference Video Available

Brian Edgar's commemorative video of the 9th International Hemingway Conference in Bimini is completed and for sale.

Edgar, who also shot the official video for the Stes. Maries de-la-Mer Conference in France and directed the award-winning adaptation of "Indian Camp," is making the tape available for \$45 (including postage/shipping.) Send checks to Brian Edgar, 202 Riverside Dr., Apt 7B, New York, NY 10025. His e-mail address is briwrit@aol.com.

McBain Names Favorite "Comfort Book"

In a "Bibliofile" column for the Sunday London *Times* crime writer Ed McBain was asked to name his favorite writers or books according to several categories. His "favorite novelist," for example is James Joyce, the "funniest book" he has read is Max Shulman's *The Sebra Derby*.

McBain was asked if he had a "comfort book" which he had reread. His answer? *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

—Jean Dalglish
(Glasgow, Scotland)

Hemingway Numismatics

by John F. Cox
(Univ. of Arizona)

I have seen two coins with Hemingway's likeness, and I am wondering if there are others.

There is a Cuba coin, produced in 1982, which has on one side a bust of Hemingway with his name above, the date "1982," and Hemingway's dates, "1898 [sic]-1961." The reverse side contains a shield, with "Republica de Cuba" above it and "1 peso" below.

I have also seen a bronze Hemingway medallion. On the edge is stamped, "Longine-Wittnauer, NC U.S.A. Bronze." The obverse side has a bust of Hemingway with his name above and the dates below, the birth date again wrong. To the left of the bust is a small figure of Hemingway, holding a manuscript in front of an open window, from which a palm tree can be seen. On the reverse side is an inscription: "Acclaimed as one of America's greatest novelists and noted for his hard, terse literary style, Ernest Hemingway was awarded the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature for 'The Old Man and the Sea.'"

Does anyone know of other Hemingway-inspired coins?

EH Boxing Partner, Friend Dies

Kermit "Shine" Forbes, one of Hemingway's Key West sparring partners, died Feb. 16, 2000; he was 83 years old.

Forbes was considered the last surviving member of the Key West Hemingway crowd. "He first met Hemingway," according to a story in *The Key West Citizen* (Feb. 27, 2000), "by getting in his face at a boxing match over a disagreement about Ernie's refereeing."

"The feisty black boxer later went to the writer's house to apologize, and the two became fast friends."

Forbes was managing a young boxer (the story goes), who was getting beaten up by a more experienced fighter, but Hemingway wouldn't stop the fight. Forbes threw a towel into the ring three times, and Hemingway kept throwing it back.

—Bill Young
(Key Largo, FL)

Hemingway Scholar John Cox Dies

John ("Jack") F. (for Francis) Cox (Univ. of Arizona), a long-time Hemingway scholar and regular contributor of items to *The Hemingway Newsletter*, died Jan. 31 in Tucson. He died as the result of an "unexpected heart attack," according to his wife, Ginger. He was 63 years old.

John graduated from Tucson High School, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Northern Arizona Univ. and his Ph.D. from Arizona State Univ. He taught at a number of universities, including the Univ. of Arizona and Arizona State. He received Northern Arizona University's Alumni Achievement award in 1997 and 1998.

Cox's most recent contribution to *The Newsletter* was received by the editor in December. It appears just above, a story indicating something of the range of Jack's varied interests.

Strange Hemingway Item Found

Originally copyrighted in 1954 by Kurt Singer, Belmont Books published in 1961 a book of "stories" titled *Hemingway: The Secret Agent's Badge of Courage*. The book is subtitled "The world's greatest spy stories edited by Kurt Singer with Eric Ambler, Pearl Buck, Joseph Conrad and others."

The title page ("The Secret Agent's Badge of Courage" Ernest Hemingway) would have a reader believe that Hemingway wrote the entire book, and the Table of Contents lists the nine "complete stories," without the authors's names, further misleading readers.

The only Hemingway piece in the book, however, is a one-page, five-paragraph excerpt from two prefaces to items in *Men at War*, edited by Hemingway in 1942: the two-paragraph preface to C.S. Forester's "Gold from Crete" and the three-paragraph preface to Stephen Crane's "The Red Badge of Courage."

Here's Another Publication Tidbit

Hemingway's "The Good Lion" was first published in English in *Holiday* magazine (May 1951), along with "The Faithful Bull," both of the items "fables."

But this was not the first publication of "The Good Lion."

It was first published in *Epoca* magazine in 1950, in Italian, and Francesca Scapinelli was the illustrator. Adriana Ivancich illustrated the story when it appeared the next year in *Holiday*.

Books Recent & Forthcoming

Candido, Joseph, ed. *Value and Vision in American Literature: Literary Essays in Honor of Ray Lewis White*. Ohio Univ. Press, 2000. 280 pages., \$45 hb. Includes essays by Hemingway Society members Michael Reynolds ("A View from the Dig at Century's End"), Keneth Kinnamon ("The Politics of 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro'"), Linda Wagner-Martin ("The VaNe Sisters' and Nabokov's 'subtle and loving' Readers"), and Jackson J. Benson ("Wallace Stegner: Artists as Environmentalist").

Knott, Toni D., ed. *One Man Alone: Hemingway and To Have and Have Not*. Univ. Press of America, 1999. \$56 hb; \$35.50 pb. Includes essays by Knott, Robert E. Gajdusek, Carl P. Eby, Tracy Banis, Randall A. Meeks, Larry E. Grimes, and Robert W. Trogdon, with a Foreword by Susan F. Beegel.

Locklin, Gerald. *The Iceberg Theory & Other Poems*. San Pedro, CA.: The Lummo Press, 2000.

Prosser, Thomas. *Naked Hemingway*. Cappuccino Productions, 1999. 220 pp., \$19.95 pb. Includes photographs. [A fictional autobiography, up to 1941]

Baby Ernie Needs Tougher Playthings

In a "Personals" column for *Sky* magazine (dated January 1900, evidently a tilt at Y2K), "[r]eaders share with us some recent news of their families." Included are birth announcements for Alfred Hitchcock and Alphonse Capone and an item indicating little Amelia Earhart's fascination with birds. There is also a report from the father of sixth-month old Ernest Hemingway that he "has already broken his grandmother's finger when she lodged it in his tiny fist," and that he is so ungentle with his toys that "we've had to ask family members and friends for sturdier playthings."

—Sandra Forman
(Northern Kentucky Univ.)

Hemingway, Louise Bryant, and Refik Bey

By Keneth Kinnamon
(Univ. of Arkansas)

Of the major biographers of Hemingway, only Kenneth Lynn and Michael Reynolds make even so much as a passing mention of Louise Bryant, the bohemian journalist, political radical, and lover of Eugene O'Neill and John Reed (among others).

According to Mary V. Dearborn's recent *Queen of Bohemia: The Life of Louise Bryant*, however, Hemingway knew Bryant well in both Constantinople and Paris. Dearborn claims that Hemingway was attracted to her while they were both covering the Greek-Turkish War in 1922. In Paris, Bryant, now married to Bill Bullitt, moved in the Montparnasse crowd with Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Vincent Sheean, Kitty Cannell, Pauline Pfeiffer, Robert McAlmon, Ford Madox Ford, and Ernest and Hadley Hemingway.

Dearborn gives a fuller version of a story told by Morley Callaghan in *The True Gen*, about a young Turkish ward of the Bullitts named Refik Ismaili Bey. One day in a Paris café when Ernest boasted of his knife-throwing ability, Louise remarked that Refik was also adept at the pastime, whereupon knives were requested from the kitchen. While Ernest "stood against a door with his arm outstretched, fingers apart," Refik "neatly landed the knives in the gaps between Hemingway's fingers." Quite a feat if true.

Dearborn relates another strange Hemingway anecdote, one not recorded elsewhere to my knowledge. In the company of the Bullitts, Ernest offered to stop at a shooting gallery and teach Refik how to shoot, but the boy "proceeded to outshoot Hemingway. Later that evening, back at the Bullitts's apartment, Hemingway was moved to hold his hand in the fire, 'until the burning flesh smelled,' remembered Louise's daughter."

It is always difficult to distinguish between myth and reality in considering such tales, and Anne Bullitt was quite young at the time. But even a four-year old might well have remembered such a vivid sense impression as the smell of burning flesh.

Key West Program Announced

The un-removeable feast is steadfast and the Key West Hemingway Days Festival will celebrate its 20th anniversary July 19-23, 2000, centering on the 101st anniversary of Hemingway's birthday.

The events will include literary workshops and books signings, a 5k sunset run, a two-day marlin-fishing tournament, a "running of the bulls," a street fair, and a twilight party at the Hemingway home/museum. Other events include Lorian Hemingway's short-story contest, a Hemingway look-alike contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a story telling-contest, an arm-wrestling contest, and a key lime pie eating contest.

There will not be a writer's workshop this year, but there will be "the first annual creative writing scholarship" awarded, sponsored by the "Look-alike Society."

—Bill Young
(Key Largo, FL)

Didn't Hemingway Know Better?

As a new member of The Hemingway Society I probably lack the necessary credentials to question the works of Ernest Hemingway, but I wish to examine what appears to be an anomaly in *A Farewell to Arms*.

It is my understanding and belief that no self-respecting and authentic "Scotsman" or "Scot" would ever refer to himself as being "Scotch." Yet, in my copy of *FTA*, p. 21, there is the following exchange:

[Rinaldi]: "That is not good. You love England?"

[Miss Ferguson]: "Not too well. I'm Scotch, you see."

Rinaldi looked at me [Frederic Henry] blankly.

"She's Scotch, so she loves Scotland better than England," I said in Italian.

Since I know Hemingway to be a world traveler and careful writer I cannot explain his improper usage of these terms which he attributes to a Scottish person in the dialogue. The only correct usage of "Scotch" is as an adjective used with "whisky."

—Peter W. Runkle
(Richmond, VA)

An "Unlikely Alignment" of Planets?

In a profile of playwright Noel Coward, *Time* magazine (Dec. 13, 1999) began as follows:

Anyone assembling a roster of artistic types who shaped the 20th century aesthetic could do worse than a team comprising Duke Ellington, Fred Astaire, Ernest Hemingway, Alfred Hitchcock and Noel Coward. Through some unlikely alignment of the planets, all five were born in the last eight months of 1899, and thus have all been celebrated in this centennial-sodden year.

—Lisa Tyler
(Sinclair CC, OH)

Editor's note: And how about Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, E.B. White, Hoagy Carmichael, and Vladimir Nabokov, all born in 1899. For more on this "unlikely alignment of the planets," see the January/2000 issue of *The Hemingway Newsletter* (p. 7).

"Only" in Key West

Only in Key West would the local newspaper claim that "only in Key West" could a group of people run naked through their home town. In this case *The Key West Citizen* (Feb. 27, 2000) reported that it was a "group of master potters . . . [who ran] naked down Duval Street, [and] assaulted a police car."

The writer noted that "only in Key West refers to feistiness and frolic rather than corruption and decay, and for such stories — and smiles — we should be grateful."

—Bill Young
(Key Largo, FL)

"Grab Bag" Column Gets it Wrong

San Francisco Chronicle writer L.M. Boyd, who does a weekly column called "The Grab Bag," wrote the following item for the Jan. 29, 2000 issue, apparently in answering a reader's question.

Q. "When did newspapers get the first electronic editing terminals?"

A. In 1970. Same year divorce became legal in Italy, Ernest Hemingway at age 61 shotgunned himself to death, and U.S. women rejected a change in skirt lengths to free themselves of fashion designer demand.

In response to perhaps several letter-writers, but certainly to the one who submitted this item, Boyd more or less apologized a month later (Feb. 26: B3).

That year 1970 was a dandy, but contrary to previous report, it was not an active year for Ernest Hemingway — he died in 1961."

—Toni Graham
(Chico, CA)

Sun Microsystems Alludes to EH

In an article titled "Does Sun Deserve Its Internet Price Tag?" (*Fortune*, Feb. 21, 2000: p. 330), the writer discusses the rising stock of Sun Microsystems. Included with the item is a graph showing weekly stock market closings for the last 12 months and a heading which reads, "Sun Also Rises."

—Linda Wagner-Martin
(Univ. of North Carolina)

Hemingway Lampooned

A cartoon by Bruce McCabe entitled "Midtown Feb. 13, 1925, 11 p.m." features a number of notables from the Twenties and their supposed activities this particular evening in New York City. Hemingway is included, and it is reported that he "belts Zelda Fitzgerald after losing an arm-wrestling match with Jackie Coogan at Michael Arlen's" (*The New Yorker*, Feb. 21 and 28, 2000).

—Kathy G. Willingham
(Tougaloo C., MS)

In Our Time Listed Among Top 25 Books of the Century

In the December 1999/January 2000 issue of *Men's Journal*, Anthony Brandt selects his 25 books of the century. Hemingway's *In Our Time* is listed, praised by Bryant for its "remaking of American prose style."

—Keneth Kinnamon
(Univ. of Arkansas)

Why Do Writers Attack Other Writers?

Roger Rosenblatt, in an essay for *Time* (Jan. 24, 2000: p. 86) titled "Why Writers Attack Writers: Nothing matches, or comes from, a catfight among the people of letters, quotes Hemingway on Wyndham Lewis."

Rosenblatt was inspired to write the article by Renata Adler's recent memoir

that takes a brilliant flamethrower to the *New Yorker* magazine. Adler is a scrupulous, usefully unsettling critic, not to be yoked with casual hit men. She eviscerates so elegantly that her corpses remain standing. But her book and its overheated reception invoke the whole delightful genre of vengeful, venomous, and ultimately purposeless, literary assaults.

Rosenblatt then quotes John Irving on Tom Wolfe and Wolfe on Irving; Truman Capote on Jack Kerouac and Gore Vidal on Capote ("He has made lying an art. A minor art."); James Gould Cozzens on John Steinbeck; H.L. Mencken on Henry James and William Allen White on Mencken, etc. etc.

Rosenblatt wonders why jazz musicians and actors "say only the most adoring things about one another" but only writers "claw and spit" at other writers.

He says, "Who knows what terrible solitary stewing drove Hemingway to say of Wyndham Lewis that 'his eyes had the look of an unsuccessful rapist.'" Rosenblatt says that "[a] writer alone is almost as frightening a sight as a writer among others, especially at a book party. Paranoia fills the bloodstream. . . . It's a bad lot on the whole—petty, nasty, bilious, suffused with envy and riddled with fear."

—Sandra Forman
(Northern Kentucky Univ.)

Hemingway's Fictional Women "Respected"

Katherine Ashenburg, writing for the weekly Books Supplement of *The (Toronto) Globe and Mail* (Feb. 5, 2000: D22), describes her experience in rereading the three "major" Hemingway novels in preparation for a lecture. Her friends, men and women, were surprised that she was even interested in Hemingway, one woman friend saying, "He's so sexist, I never want to read him again."

Ashenburg's response, even before her rereading, was to wonder whether her friends were criticizing Hemingway or his works. But she

wanted to walk around again in those clean, well-lighted sentences.

It was his plain, modern prose that drew me [to the rereading], not his heroines.

Ashenburg noted Brett Ashley's "beauty and magnetism [which] give her force-of-nature status." Catherine Barkley "is a canny Scot with the supreme Hemingway virtue, bravery. Surprisingly, she's a more fully fleshed-out character than Frederic." Maria is "funny, capable of anger, a bit sly. It is Pilar, though — fatalistic and shrewd, with a caustic tongue and a past full of matadors, braver than her traitorous husband but not as intelligent — who is one of the book's most complex characters."

In summary, Ashenburg reminds us that

Reputations are funny things, compounded of fact, hearsay, shifts in the intellectual climate and nonsense. They also take on a life of their own. No question, when it came to women, Hemingway had issues, as people used to say in the 1990s. But they didn't stop him from peopling his best novels with credible, memorable, respectfully imagined women.

—Walt Jowett

(Georgetown, Ontario)

Releasing the Trout

Attaché, the in-flight magazine of U.S. Airways, carries an article entitled "Big Two-Hearted Lake" by James Dodson (June 1998 issue), excerpted from his book *Faithful Travelers*. The book is an account of a man waiting for a divorce who travels across the country with his seven-year old daughter on a fishing trip; the article focuses on an afternoon fishing Lake Charlevoix out of Horton's Bay against the background of the passage from "Big Two-Hearted River" in which Nick releases the first trout he catches.

Like Nick, Dodson releases his first catch, a two-pounder, but unlike Nick, he and his daughter philosophize about the nature of piscatorial pain. Despite this and some biographical errors about Hemingway, the piece is appreciative of the early short fiction and certainly evocative of Hemingway's northern Michigan.

—Keneth Kinnamon
(Univ. of Arkansas)

Justifying Jake's Absinthe Drinking

In "Absinthe-Minded Traveler" (*Hemispheres*, Feb., 2000: 116) Jason Wilson speaks of the renewed interest in and availability of the drink in London, Spain, Portugal, and the Czech Republic, and in a brief overview of the relationship of absinthe to the arts and letters, Wilson mentions *The Sun Also Rises*. After quoting the passage where Jake indulges in some absinthe during the last night of the fiesta, Wilson writes:

Of course, by this point in the book, Jake's friends have beaten the hell out of each other and the girl has run away with the bullfighter. Drinking absinthe probably seemed like the right thing to do.

—Kathy G. Willingham
(Tougaloo C., MS)

Reporter Calls Harry's Bar Atmosphere "Cool"

London *Mail* reporter Frank Barrett wrote recently a short history of the Arrigo Cipriani family in Venice, including Cipriani's ownership of Harry's Bar, "Venice's most famous hostelry."

Barrett includes material on the "lavish" development of the Hotel Cipriani during the last decade. He says that "a hotel is much more than the sum of its elegantly furnished parts—it depends on the attitude of the staff. In the Cipriani, the staff have the knack of being able to offer friendly service with none of the ill-concealed arrogance that blights some other 'posh' hotels." Barrett then adds an interesting comment about Harry's Bar:

Interestingly, you are more likely to get the cool treatment at Harry's Bar where staff can't seem to wheel customers in and out quickly enough. When we ordered a Bellini—and let's face it, everybody has to drink a Bellini at least once at Harry's Bar—the waiter's mouth twitched with obvious distaste at our crass predictability.

—Jean Dalglish

(Glasgow, Scotland)

Editor's note: Several Society members will recall a similar "cool" treatment at Harry's Bar on a visit there in 1986, during the Lignano International Conference. There was no chance to order a Bellini or anything else. About ten people (including this editor) were turned away at the bar because two of our group were dressed in shorts. The two were Hillary Hemingway (Leicester's granddaughter) and her friend Jeff Freundlich, and neither they nor Society Pres. Jim Nagel, also present, could convince the barman that he might bend the rules a bit for the sake of EH.

Off in a corner of the bar were the only customers, the actor Burt Reynolds and a friend of his. Reynolds heard the short discussion as the barman hustled us out the door. Reynolds stood up and told the barman that what he was doing was "shitty," that the only reason he or anyone even knew about Harry's Bar was because of Hemingway. Alas, the barman was not moved.

The one consolation the group of Society tourists had came the next day when all three Venice newspapers carried the story (we still don't know who reported the story to the papers), all in Italian, of course, except for the very American term "Shitty," quoted directly from our Hollywood star.

It's Not Just High School Kids Who Can't Write

Everyone knows that even college students can't write, and most of us would regard teaching writing to high schoolers with terror. In *The Modern Researcher*, Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff cite one garbled composition from the high schools. It reads:

Hemingway works is the beginning of all modern American Literature. He doesn't write too much conversation in his books. Just enough to make the idea go across and his descriptions are brief with many adverbs.

The sad news is that this was written not by a student, but by a high school English teacher. Not much conversation! Many adverbs!

—Scott Donaldson
(Scottsdale, AZ)

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Hemingway and Pratesi Sheets?

Did you know that every time Ernest Hemingway finished a novel, he bought himself a Pratesi sheet, a linen, hand-embroidered sheet? According to an ad for the sheets, he did. The ad reads, in part,

The Pratesi story begins in mid-eighteenth-century Tuscany. A wine merchant named Remigio Pratesi fell under the spell of linens hand-embroidered by local women. Eventually, he opened a shop in Forte dei Marmi; before long he was supplying linens to royal houses and wealthy families throughout the region. By the 1930s, Pratesi had established an artistic following. The writer Gabriele D'Annunzio proclaimed, "In your sheets I have known fabulous nights."

Etc., etc. To the left side of the text is a box with the following statement:

Just rewards:/ Hemingway gave/ himself/ a Pratesi sheet/ every time/ he finished a novel.

—Marvin Heffner
(Richmond, VA)

Editor's note: Can any *Newsletter* reader verify as true the information in the Pratesi ad?

New View of Hem in Pop Culture?

In "Looking for Hemingway" (*Men's Journal*, May 1999) Terry McDonell provides a brief, yet decidedly, fair overview of Hemingway's life and work. McDonell first addresses some of Hemingway's contradictory actions and beliefs and, in doing so, offers a complex, multi-faceted profile—one which counters some of the more strident mythologies and stereotypes.

McDonell's piece also features segments on Hemingway's relationship to work, sports, and women, as well as a commentary on the publication of *True at First Light*. Although McDonell's article doesn't contain any new revelations, it nevertheless signifies, perhaps, the beginnings of an important trend in popular culture's treatment of Hemingway.

—Kathy G. Willingham
(Tougaloo C., MS)

Zurich Restaurant Named After EH

Society member and Liechtenstein book dealer Frank P. van Eck writes that he ate recently in a Hemingway Restaurant in Zurich, Switzerland, but that there isn't "much to report."

"What is optically interesting," van Eck says, "is that the windows of the place have enlarged text from 'Fiesta' engraved (sand-blasted) on it, as well as a 1/1 size double page from the same book (in German). Inside there is a framed photograph of Hemingway and a separate dedication 'to Mrs. Scribner with all my best wishes from her friend Ernest Hemingway.' The author is wearing a three-piece checked suit and tie, with a mountain panorama, perhaps Italy, in the background. The menu-card has a photograph of Hemingway on the cover.

Miami Artist "Inspired" by Hemingway

According to *Miami Herald* staff writer Liz Doup, artist Guy Harvey, "perhaps the world's most famous marine artist," was inspired early in his career by Hemingway.

Harvey, a PhD in fisheries management and a former college professor, is also an expert angler. According to Doup, Harvey painted the logo for a popular shirt worn by Miami Marlins fans. He also did the 26-foot leaping sailfish on Fort Lauderdale's Las Olas Bridge, plus the life-sized tarpon and kingfish swimming the walls of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

In 1986, near the beginning of his career, Harvey donated 12 pen-and-ink prints to the Broward County-based International Game Fish Assn. for a fund-raiser, and he says, according to the article, that the prints were "inspired by a favorite childhood book, Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*."

—Bill Young
(Key Largo, FL)

The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

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