

# The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

No. 44/June 2002

## Hemingway Letters Project Begins; Spanier Starts Search for Material

The headline over *The New York Times* story (May 4, 2002) on the early progress of the Hemingway Letters Project reads "Hide This Until You Die. Very Truly Yours, Ernest." The quotation is not identified in the *Times* story, but the reporter, Celestine Bohlen, catches the excitement of people in Hemingway studies over the prospect of seeing Hemingway's estimated 8,000-10,000 letters in print.

Sandra Spanier (Penn State Univ.) has been named General Editor of the project by The Hemingway Foundation/Society, which holds U.S. rights to the letters. She will head a team of international scholars, in consultation with an editorial advisory committee that includes Linda Miller (Penn State/Abington), James L. W. West III (Penn State/University Park), Jackson R. Bryer (Univ. of Maryland), and Scott Donaldson (President of the Hemingway Foundation/Society). The undertaking will be known formally as the "Hemingway Letters Project at Penn State." Spanier says that since the announcement of the project nationally, she has

heard from a number of people with an interest in Hemingway's letters—from as far away as Australia. Some are simply aficionados volunteering to help however they can. Other contacts have come from holders of Hemingway letters offering to share copies. One man wrote from Connecticut offering to share copies of three letters that Hemingway wrote to him the early 1950s in response to a critique he had written of Hemingway's work for his college newspaper. He had been astonished that the great writer would take the time to respond to "a 21-year old college student who had the temerity to critique his work"—evidence, he feels, that Hemingway was "an understanding and caring person."

### Spanier adds that

to borrow a metaphor from Mike Reynolds, a biographer (or literary historian) connects up the dots to draw the picture. The first step is to find the dots of data, leaving as little space between them as possible. Hemingway's life has been well examined, but his letters, more than 90 percent of them unpublished, hold untold thousands of new dots to enhance the picture. The letters represent the last great unexplored frontier of Hemingway studies. And because Hemingway was always, as Edmund Wilson pointed out as early as the 1930s, a "gauge of morale," a barometer of his times, interest in his letters is more than biographical. They are a running eye-witness account of the twentieth century.

In the press release from University Park, Patrick Hemingway is quoted as saying, "I'm very pleased to see this project is being undertaken because so much of Ernest Hemingway is in his letters. He had many friends and devoted a great deal of time writing to his friends, and for this reason his letters give a very complete account of the twentieth century." Spanier adds that

Hemingway's letters tell us a great deal about the times in which he lived (1899-1961). Hemingway's work was always of the moment. His second book was entitled *In Our Time*, and he reflected the temper of his times whether

## Oak Park Schedule Includes Cuba

Two major activities are on the schedule for The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, including a Colloquium in Cuba next May.

The Foundation presents its fourth annual colloquium on the occasion of the centennial of Oak Park Saturday, July 20, 2002, at the Hemingway Museum. Morris Buske, former Oak Park and River Forest High School teacher and founding chair of the Foundation, will give the Keynote Address, titled "A School for Writers." Other activities will include the presentation of juried papers and presentations by local historians, a panel discussion on Oak Park and literature, and a public reading of a Hemingway short story. For more information or to request a registration form, e-mail <fms@uic.edu> or call (708) 848-2222. Information is also available on the Foundation's web page at [www.hemingway.org](http://www.hemingway.org).

### Call for Papers for Cuban Conference

The Foundation is leading a group to Havana, Cuba, May 17-26, 2003, to attend the IX Ernest Hemingway Colloquium. A call for scholarly papers for presentation at the Colloquium will be coordinated by the Oak Park group. Contact Executive Director Scott Schwar at the Foundation for further information. The address is P.O. Box 2222, Oak Park, IL 60303.

### Other Oak Park Activities

Oak Park has hosted two other events during the past five months. April 2 was designated as International Children's Book Day in Oak Park, encouraging people to donate "Books to Brighten Young Minds." New children's books in English or Spanish, pre-school age through Grade 6, were collected at the Hemingway Museum or at the Hemingway birthplace home, 339 N. Oak Park Ave. The books were distributed to non-profit preschools, the Chicago Board of Education, and elementary schools in collar suburbs of Cook County. "Books to Brighten Young Minds" culminated on April 28 with a children's day at the Hemingway Museum that included story telling, contests, and other activities meant to encourage reading.

A lecture on "Irish History in James Joyce's *The Dead*" was presented on Feb. 21, 2002, at the Museum. The lecturer was E. Kim Stone, an assistant professor of British Postcolonial Studies in the Dept. of English at Illinois State Univ. The evening opened The Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park Lecture Series for 2002.

## Fitzgerald Society Set for St. Paul

The 6th International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference is scheduled for Sept. 19-21, 2002, in St. Paul, MN. Sponsors are the Fitzgerald Society, Hofstra Univ., and the City of St. Paul. Program directors are Kirk Curmutt (Troy State Univ.) and James Meredith (U.S. Air Force Academy).

For further information, call Prof. Prigozy at (516) 463-5462 or e-mail her at <Rprigozy@aol.com>.

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## Hemingway Letters Project story continued from p. 1

he was writing about the malaise of the "lost generation" in Paris in the twenties or about the Spanish Civil War. His letters constitute a cultural history of the 20th century.

Scott Donaldson, president of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation, added that "Hemingway made an indelible mark on modern American prose. It is hard to conceive of any other writer's letters that might rival his in importance and interest."

In an interview for the Associated Press story about the project, Joseph DeFalco (Marquette Univ. Prof. Emeritus) said, "Some biographical critics have been searching Hemingway's fiction and works of poetry for years, looking for the man. But the letters can give us the man behind the art considerably better than trying to find him through a fictional character. There are plenty of biographies and biographical articles, but the best biography comes out of the letters."

Here is more from the Penn State press release:

The first part of the project will involve a lot of detective work, as [Hemingway's] correspondence is not located in one place. But the hunt for Hemingway letters is on. Spanier has located letters in at least two-dozen libraries in the U.S., the largest cache being The Ernest Hemingway Collection at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library in Boston. Other collections are located in archives around the world and in the hands of private collectors and dealers.

According to Spanier, Hemingway saved everything. He was meticulous in saving drafts of his prose, letters, recipes and even receipts. "There were trunks filled with papers left at the Ritz Hotel in Paris and at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, as well as in his home in Cuba, where he lived from 1939-1960," she says. "His widow, Mary,

### Newsletter Correction

In a story about the selection of Editor for the Letters Project (*Newsletter* No. 43/January 2002: p. 1), the editor made the mistake of writing that of the several thousand letters involved, most "have been previously published."

Most of the letters in the project have *not* been published. The editor apologizes for the mistake.

was given permission by Fidel Castro to remove about 200 pounds of paper and other items from Hemingway's home after his death."

.... "I see Penn State as an especially fitting location for the Hemingway letters edition, both in terms of its tradition and its commitment to the project," says Spanier. "I am honored to be carrying on the work of my professors, Philip Young and Charley Mann, who were the first to catalog Hemingway's papers in the late 1960s—back when they were kept in a New York bank vault and in shopping bags in the closet of his widow's apartment." Their book, *The Hemingway Manuscripts: An Inventory*, was published in 1969 by the Penn State Press.

Spanier's research interests include 20th-century American literature, especially expatriate American modernists. A long-time Hemingway scholar, she recently led the Penn State Alumni Association study tour, "A Moveable Feast: Hemingway's Paris and Pamplona," which followed Hemingway's footsteps through the streets of Paris and retraced the route of Jake Barnes, Hemingway's character in *The Sun Also Rises*, to Spain.

She has served on the editorial board of *The Hemingway Review* since 1992, and has participated in international Hemingway conferences in such Hemingway haunts as Paris, Sun Valley, Bimini, and Havana. Spanier also interviewed and edited a book by Martha Gellhorn, writer and war correspondent who hated being known as Hemingway's third wife, before Gellhorn died in 1998 at the age of 89. With David Morrell, she edited a book of Philip Young's essays,

including a section on Hemingway, published by the Penn State Press in 2000.

Spanier also has extensive experience in editing a writer's letters. She is completing an edition of the letters of the late Kay Boyle—at the request of Boyle—who was one of the most enduring writers of modernist American literature and well-known among Paris' American expatriate community. Spanier's 1986 book, *Kay Boyle: Artist and Activist*, was the first to treat the author's life and work.

She estimates that Boyle wrote more than 20,000 letters in her lifetime. "I have made dozens of trips to archives during the course of the project and personally collected copies of more than 7,000 letters." While searching for letters, she discovered the manuscript of Boyle's long-lost first novel, *Process*, written in France in 1924-25 and missing since the late 1920s. The novel, edited by Spanier, was published for the first time in 2001.

Spanier worked with John Harwood, director of Penn State's Center for Academic Computing to develop a computerized inventory system that enabled her to sort the database of letters by date, author, recipient, and provenance. This system will be utilized for the Hemingway Letters Project.

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SANDRA SPANIER, PROF. OF ENGLISH AT PENN STATE, IS THE GENERAL EDITOR OF THE HEMINGWAY LETTERS PROJECT. SEE STORY BEGINNING ON P. 1. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PENN STATE UNIV.





## New Information on Macomber Name

by Morris Buske  
(Oak Park, IL)

We have long assumed that Hemingway based the name of his protagonist in "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" on that of Bartlett Macomber, Oak Park High School Class of 1913.

Recently, the name of Frank Bartlett Macomber turned up on the roster of the school's 1910 football squad. His record at the school identifies his father as F.B. Macomber. It seems likely that although the son's original name was the same as his father's, the son preferred to be known by his middle name, Bartlett. He evidently continued, however, to be known at times as "Frank."

Macomber played on the high school's 1910 football team and on its national championship teams of 1911 and 1912. Even if Hemingway were not a sports fan he could scarcely have avoided the football enthusiasm in Oak Park during those years just before he enrolled at Oak Park High. He no doubt knew of "Frank" Macomber and used a more rhythmic version of the name in his

## Overseas Members Get Credit-Card Choice

Overseas members of The Hemingway Society may now pay for their memberships by credit card.

Susan Beegel (Univ. of Idaho), who is handling the transactions, is quick to point out to all Society members that credit-card usage is meant for overseas members who have trouble getting checks and money orders in U.S. dollars. "We don't want to do anything," Beegel says, "to encourage credit card payment by Americans, because Visa takes 3% of each transaction."

A signature is required, as are the card's number (Mastercard or Visa), expiration date, cardholder's name, and billing address. Beegel would also like telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, the latter so she doesn't have to make long distance calls if there's a problem.

Beegel will also have a manual credit-card machine with her at the Stresa Conference so that conference registrations and Society memberships for the coming year can be accepted without bothering with currency exchange.

## Founders Fellowship Awards Announced

The fourth annual Smith-Reynolds Founders Fellowship Awards have been announced by the selection committee of the Hemingway Society's Board of Directors for the 2002-2003 academic year. The committee is chaired by Gerry Brenner (Univ. of Montana). The winners, both of whom receive \$1,000, are Suzanne del Gizzo of Tulane University and Janis Marie Hebert Hausmann of the Univ. of South Dakota.

Del Gizzo is writing her Ph.D. dissertation on "Liminal Spaces in Hemingway: The Intersections of Recreation, Creativity, and Identity." Hausmann is writing her Ph.D. dissertation on the "Musical Structures in Ernest Hemingway's Early Fiction."

The Founders Fellowship Awards are named for Paul Smith, first president of The Society, and for Mike Reynolds, Hemingway biographer and a recent Society president.

## Biographer Peter Griffin Dies

by George Monteiro  
(Windham, CT)

Peter Griffin died on March 26, 2002, in Fall River, Mass., at the age of fifty-nine. Born in New Bedford, he was educated in the Southeastern Massachusetts area, earning a college degree from Bridgewater State College. He received a master's degree from Providence College and a Ph.D. from Brown Univ. in 1979. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the fiction of Ernest Hemingway, having been among the first scholars to work with the Hemingway papers before they were placed on permanent deposit in the John F. Kennedy Library.

Over the years Peter Griffin taught at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brown Univ., Skidmore College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Bristol Community College. He published two biographical books on Hemingway with Oxford University Press. *Along with Youth: Hemingway, the Early Years* appeared in 1985, and *Less than a Treason: Hemingway in Paris* was published in 1990. In a *New York Times* review, Raymond Carver described *Along with Youth* as a "wonderful and intimate book," one that "brings to life the young Hemingway with all his charm, vitality, good looks, passionate dedication to writing, like nothing else I've ever read about the man."

At the time of his death Griffin was writing a book about Vincent Van Gogh. He is survived by his wife, Penelope Griffin.

## Journalsim Prof. John Bittner Dies

John Bittner, author of *Mass Communication*, a journalism textbook in its fifth edition and popular throughout the country and translated into several languages, including Arabic, died April 9, 2002. He was 58.

Bittner was chair of the department of radio, television, and motion pictures at the Univ. of North Carolina from 1982-1987. He was a lecturer on Hemingway and a member of The Hemingway Society.

## Kilimanjaro Now Ten Feet Shorter

Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain, in northern Tanzania, is ten feet shorter than previously thought. Tanzanian and German scientists climbed the peak in 1999 and, using Global Positioning System technology, set Kilimanjaro's height at 19,442.8 feet. In addition to previous measuring errors, the height discrepancy was attributed also to rising sea levels due to global warming and compression of the mountain over the years.

Hemingway has the mountain at 19,710 feet in the epigraph to "The Snows of Kilimanjaro." He wrote the story, however, in 1935, before satellites provided scientists with precise triangulation methods used for measuring mountains now.

The scientists who did the most recent research did not mention whether they had spotted a frozen leopard carcass during their climb.

—Randall Scott Davis  
(Colorado Springs, CO)



## New York MLA Speakers, Papers Selected

Following are the session topics, speakers, and titles for the Modern Language Assn. convention in New York City, Dec. 27-30, 2002.

**Session No. 1:** "Hemingway: Rethinking the Early Classics in Light of the Posthumous Works." Chair: Carl Eby (Univ. of South Carolina/Beaufort). Papers: Hilary K. Justice (Illinois State Univ.), "Hindsight: Teleological Fluidities in the Hemingway Textual Matrix"; Gail Sinclair (Rollins College), "Rethinking Hemingway's Women: The Roles of Catherine Barkley in *A Farewell to Arms* and Maria in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*," and Larry Broer (Univ. of South Florida), "The Repressed Feminine: The Art of Allegory in the Posthumous Novels and *The Old Man and the Sea*."

**Session No. 2:** "Hemingway and New York, New York." Chair: Fred Svoboda (Univ. of Michigan/Flint). Papers: Robert W. Trogdon (Kent State Univ.), "Charles Scribner's Sons and the Creation of Ernest Hemingway"; Nancy R. Comley (Queens College, CUNY), "The New Yorker's Hemingway"; and Larry E. Grimes (Bethany College), "Hemingway's 'New York Story': A Study of the Mae Marsh Telegram Exchange as Experimental Fiction."

## 2003 MLA, ALA Proposals Wanted

Anyone interested in organizing and chairing one of the two Hemingway panels at either the 2003 MLA or ALA conferences, please e-mail the committee chair, James Meredith (U.S. Air Force Academy): e-mail address is <James.Meredith@usafa.af.mil>.

You may send your proposal by regular mail to Meredith at PO Box 51, USAFA, CO 80840. Readers may also phone for more information at (719) 333-8474. In making a proposal, please send a 250-word abstract about the proposed panel and a copy of your CV. All topics will be considered. The MLA will be somewhere on the West Coast and the ALA will be in Cambridge, MA.

## Hemingway Review Wins Design Award

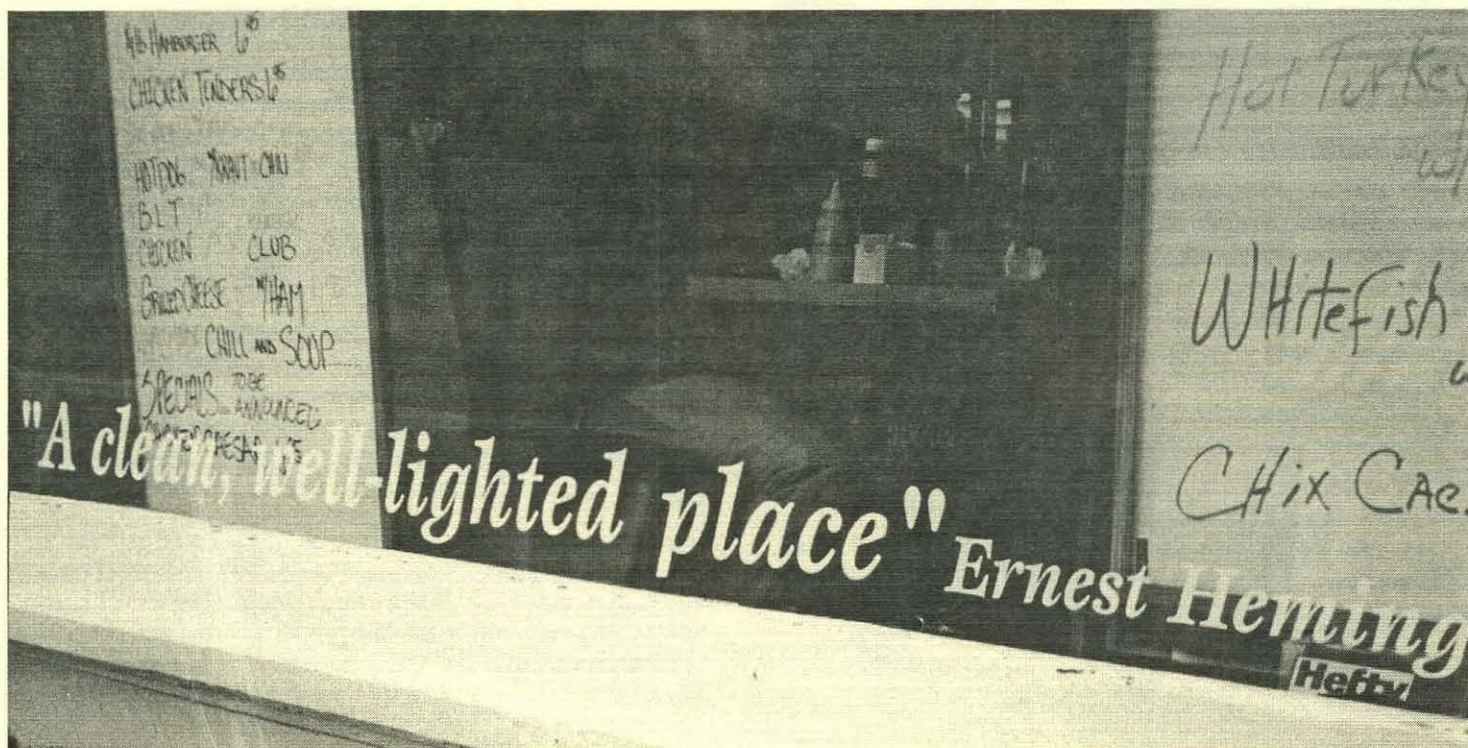
The Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) presented *The Hemingway Review* with a runner-up award in the Best New Design category for 2001-02. The award was given at the MLA Convention in New Orleans on Dec. 27, 2001.

In making the presentation, CELJ President Michael Cornett said the following:

Scholarly journal editors, unaccustomed to thinking visually, often relegate design to a backburner status. While economic considerations often govern how much attention is given to design, and journals aimed at the individual subscriber typically invest more on design than those aimed at a specialist audience depending on library subscriptions, the adage about the "cost" of journal design bears keeping in mind: "good design costs no more than bad design." The CELJ design award recognizes the value of good design. The runner-up for Best Journal Design is *The Hemingway Review*, edited by Susan F. Beegel of the Hemingway Society and University of Idaho Press, and it is published by the University of Idaho Press for the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society. I doubt Hemingway would have fussed too much about design, but this journal makes the mythologically rugged author look quite good. The cover immediately draws the eye to the subject of this single-author journal with its daring use of narrow vertical orientation to illustrate moments, like fragments, of Hemingway's life, with a suggestion of seasonal change in the subtle shift of cover color from issue to issue. Opening the journal, the partial image of Hemingway on the cover then becomes a full screened background image behind the table of contents, showing the wider photographic context of the cover image. The texture of the high quality paper, choice of typography, and handsome elegance and simplicity of organization of its various editorial parts, gives the journal an appropriate sensual feel in the hand complementing the focus on Hemingway. One of the judges, with admittedly little interest in Hemingway, says that she was tempted to subscribe to this journal for its looks alone. . . .

**Editor's note:** Susan Beegel says in a note that "credit for the award really belongs to Amy Grey and the late Caroline Hagen, designers for U. Idaho Press."

PICTURED BELOW IS THE FRONT WINDOW AT THE "LETTERMAN'S ASTOR STREET CAFE" ON MACKINAC ISLAND, MI., "A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE." PHOTOGRAPH BY DONNA COTÉ, SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM COTÉ (MICHIGAN STATE UNIV.)





## Hemingway's Italian Lagoon "Embellished"

by Elisabetta Nuti  
(Florence, Italy)

*Corriere della Sera*, Italy's most important daily newspaper, featured a story (Dec. 22, 2001: 1, 16), headlined "Millions of cubic metres of concrete on Hemingway's Lagoon." The article is written by Gian Antonio Stella, one of *Corriere's* most important "signatures."

Members of The Hemingway Society who came to Lignano in 1986 will probably remember the Caorle Lagoon, the hunting place which Hemingway describes in *Across the River and Into the Trees*, where he used to hunt in the lands of Barone Franchetti and where he met Adriana Ivancich, the model for Renata in the novel. The beautiful, untouched, wild lands and waters, miraculously preserved through the years, will soon be "embellished" by "838 buildings with 12 flats each plus 7 touristic harbours for 4,000 boats plus roads, gas stations, parking lots, supermarkets . . ." for a grand total of 2 million and a half cubic metres of concrete.

The journalist quotes passages from *ARIT* in his article but also mentions other writers who were impressed by this area, such as Herman Hesse and Andrea Zanzotto, a contemporary Italian poet. Mr. Stella is particularly enraged by the fact that all this operation, which is clearly a building speculation, has been passed by the local government as a project for "environmental improvement and protection." Stella is especially worried about the six or seven thousand boats which will sail the canals in summer and "will burn at least 70 litres of gas or oil each for a total of a half million litres of oil whose waste will be dumped exactly where Papa Hemingway used to go fishing with Fiorindo [Silotto, his boatman]. . . . Furthermore, the various "concrete castings" will be christened with poetic names such as "Water Lands of Lagoon," "Nature Island of Livenza," "Park of Caprice," "Park of Music," and "Sweet Peninsula of Brian."

The article, which also shows pictures of Hemingway, Hesse, and Zanzotto, and a map of the lagoon between Venice and Trieste, ends with this paragraph:

I wonder what old Ernest would do to these poets of the concrete mixer, if, "across the river and into the trees," he had his double-barrelled gun in his hands.

## Plimpton Play Scheduled for Paris

The George Plimpton-Terry Quinn play, "Zelda, Scott, and Ernest," which was staged twice in January, 2002—first at the 92nd Street Y in New York and then at the Folger Theatre in Washington DC—will be performed as part of the First International James Jones Conference June 22-23 in Paris.

The 70-minute play is based on the Scott Fitzgerald-Ernest Hemingway correspondence, memoirs, and fiction. Norman Mailer plays Hemingway, Plimpton plays Fitzgerald, and Mailer's wife, Norris Church Mailer, plays Zelda. According to Plimpton, quoted in a *Washington Post* story, "the play is about the 'arc of friendship' among the three people. The subtext is envy."

The James Jones Literary Society has held 11 previous conferences, but this will be its first on an international scale.

## West Was Hemingway's "Hidden Muse"

Using a paragraph from the short story "The Wine of Wyoming" as an epigraph, Ron Franscell wrote an article for *The Denver Post* (July 1, 2001: 1A, 17A) about the importance of the West in Hemingway's life and writings.

Franscell says, for example, that "Hemingway's ghost still haunts the West. It materializes, when the light is true, in the prose of Cormac McCarthy, Jim Harrison and Evan Connell." Franscell wonders why Hemingway didn't write more stories than he did with a western setting, and he quotes Hemingway Society member Robert Fleming (Univ. of New Mexico) for a possible answer. Fleming said,

Perhaps it is because for Hemingway, the American West represented not only an idyllic setting filled with magnificent scenery, but a nightmare area where man might encounter his own heart of darkness.

"Fleming explores this duality of place," Franscell says, "in a 1989 essay 'American Nightmare: Hemingway and the West,' in which Fleming concludes that 'Hemingway intuitively understood the complexities of the West's geography, myths and metaphors.'"

There is a photograph of Hemingway with the lengthy article, the caption quoting Fleming again, stating that Hemingway's work saw in the West "a painful confrontation between romance and reality, in which reality usually won."

—Julia Bailey  
(Sedalia, CO)

## Books Recent & Forthcoming

Hemingway, Sean, ed. *Hemingway on Hunting*. New York: Lyons, 2001. [Non-fiction articles and excerpts from the fiction of Ernest Hemingway all on the subject of hunting, selected and edited by the oldest son of Gregory and Valerie Hemingway.]

Mandel, Miriam B. *Hemingway's Death in the Afternoon: The Complete Annotations*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, [January] 2002. 696 pp.; \$95.00. [Order on-line to receive a 15 percent discount: [www.scarecrowpress.com](http://www.scarecrowpress.com).]

\_\_\_\_\_. *Reading Hemingway: The Facts in the Fictions*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2001. 609 pp.; \$56.95 [Paperback edition of original volume, published in 1995. Order on-line to receive a 15 percent discount: [www.scarecrowpress.com](http://www.scarecrowpress.com).]

## Writer on Spain Wants Material

A writer doing research for a guide to Hemingway's Spain is looking for source material. Graeme Pont says that his book will be a "guide for those interested in retracing Hemingway's steps. Bars, cafes, hotels, restaurants, bullrings, and settings that are featured in his works will be described and accompanied by details of their relevance (and any interesting anecdotes)."

Pont also says: "I have undertaken research in Spain and have consulted virtually all relevant sections in most of the biographies and in Hemingway's own works." He would appreciate any ideas from Society members concerning possible sources for his project. His e-mail address is <[Gfpont@aol.com](mailto:Gfpont@aol.com)>.



### EH Signature On Sale for Charity

*The Sunday [Peoria, IL] Journal Star* (April 21, 2002) reports on a World War II veteran with a five-franc note that Hemingway signed on board the *Dorothea L. Dix* carrying troops to the Normandy beaches during the allied invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944. There is a photograph of the note, with Hemingway's signature.

The veteran, James Ingold, 79 and a member of the American Legion in nearby Farmington, IL, wants to sell the signature in order to help finance a five-stone memorial to Farmington's 2,000 veterans of American wars. Ingold says that the Farmington Legion has collected \$30,000 of the \$70,000 needed for the memorial, and he hopes that the sale of the five-franc note will help reach the goal toward completing the memorial in 2003.

According to the *Journal Star* story, Ingold's job during the Normandy invasion was driving a landing craft full of soldiers from the *Dix* onto the beaches. It was during one of his trips that he met Hemingway and asked for the autograph. All Ingold had at hand was the five-franc note. (As Hemingway scholars know, Hemingway did not land in France.)

Anyone interested in purchasing the signature may contact Ingold at (309) 245-2786. Those interested in contributing to the veterans memorial may make checks out to the Veterans Memorial Fund, Bank of Farmington, IL, P.O. Box 320, Farmington, IL 61531.

—Carl Grimm  
(Peoria, IL)

### Hemingway Photographer Comments on Hemingway

*Biography* magazine (April 2002) has a quotation from Yousuf Karsh, the photographer who took what is arguably the most famous picture of Hemingway:

A man of peculiar gentleness, shyest man I ever photographed—a man cruelly battered by life but seemingly invincible.

—Sharon Stilwell-Hopewell  
(Durham, CT)

### Hemingway/PEN Winner Joins Princeton Faculty

Chang-rae Lee, a former winner of the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for his novel *Native Speaker*, has been appointed to the Princeton Univ. Humanities Council and to the creative writing program.

### Robert Jordan One of Sen. McCain's Heroes

Senator John McCain (R, Arizona) numbers Robert Jordan, the protagonist of Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, among his cultural heroes, all of whom—according to Nicholas Lemann's profile of McCain in *The New Yorker* (Feb. 2, 2002), are “dashing rebels.”

Lemann suggests that McCain may have derived his own code of self-sacrificing conduct, illustrated by his opting for imprisonment rather than special treatment by his captors during the Vietnam War, from Jordan's decision to stay behind and face the fascists alone, while sending “his stalwart compadres and his devoted Maria off to safety” at the end of “For Whom the Bell Tolls.”

—Scott Donaldson  
(Scottsdale, AZ)

### And Speaking of FWBT

Here's a different play on the well-known Hemingway title: “It's a little-known fact that William Tell and his son were avid bowlers as well as archery buffs. Unfortunately, all the league records were destroyed in a fire, so it may never be known for whom the Tells bowled.”

—Marvin Heffner  
(Manakan-Sabot, VA)

### Irish Darts Expert Uses Allusion to the Leopard

Covering the World Grand Prix darts tournament in Dublin for *The Irish Times* (Oct. 26, 2001: C20), writer Keith Duggan interviewed one of the tournament leaders, who was once compared to Hemingway's leopard on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Sid Waddell is known as “The Voice of Darts” throughout Britain. Duggan says that

Since 1977, when BBC2 first broadcast his off-kilter accent, Waddell has become the beloved chronicler of the old pub game of nerves and ale. He is to darts what Johnny Carson was to talk shows, Sinatra to melody. . . .

The “posh British papers,” as Waddell terms the broadsheets, have all done portrait jobs on him, writing him up, he says “as some kind of warped genius.” “I remember the *Observer* using this line I had about Phil Taylor being “like a Leopard on the snows of Kilimanjaro.” They had it in as a sort of “Colemanballs” thing—they didn't understand the reference to the Hemingway story, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro.” What is a leopard, who likes hot, flat sandy surfaces doing at 26,000 feet in a snowstorm? It was Taylor—he was so far ahead of the rest, he was like a leopard in a snowstorm. They never got it but I never said anything. Not my job to educate.”

Not a bad use of the reference.

—George T. Dempsey  
(Dublin, Ireland)

### Collectors Note High EH Signature Prices

A recent catalog from Lane Duck Books/James S. Jaffe Rare Books lists three Hemingway signature items for sale.

The catalog advertises a “Photographic Portrait, Inscribed,” at \$6,500. It's a “black and white photograph of Ernest and Mary Hemingway, along with the subject of the inscription, Bill Wasile, evidently aboard a ship.” The inscription reads, “For Bill Wasile, from his friend, Ernest Hemingway, 6/4/50.”

The second item is an “Autograph Letter, Signed,” c. 1930, at \$12,500. The letter is described as extensive, “written on seven sides of six . . . sheets of stationery bearing the letterhead of the Hotel Ambos Mundos in Havana, addressed to Charles Thompson, . . . one of Hemingway's company on the safari that eventuated in *Green Hills of Africa*.”

The third item is listed as a “Ship's Log, Signed by Hemingway,” c. 1934, \$7,500. It is also signed by Jean Harlow. It's the log of the private yacht *Minoco* from December 1932 to March 1937. The description suggests that the boat probably has an Oak Park connection.

—Scott Donaldson  
(Scottsdale, AZ)



### Note That the "Southern Belle Tolls"

Two plays with allusions to Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* have been advertised recently. There's "For Whom the Tinkerbelle Tolls," by Ray Sheers, a "three-act comedy," and "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls," a play that is described as "quite grand."

—Sandra Forman  
(Northern Kentucky Univ.)

### Havana's "Floridita" Hits London

Here's the lead paragraph in a London *Telegraph Weekend* story (Aug. 4, 2001: 9) on a Scotsman's recreation of Havana's Floridita Bar in London's Belgravia district:

The spirit of El Floridita, Cuba's legendary bar-restaurant, cradle of the daiquiri, Hemingway hangout, soul of Havana and lobster opportunity par excellence, is, perhaps rather incongruously, due to hit London on Tuesday for a three-week riot of rum, cigars, salsa and crustacea.

Rory Ross is the reporter for the story, which includes a photograph of Hemingway with an unidentified man at a bar, Hemingway holding a nearly empty bottle of gin. The photo caption reads, "Bar room style: Ernest Hemingway holds court in 1959—now London is about to feel the Cuban experience."

—John C. Bird  
(West Midlands, England)

### EH Note in *The Burroughs Bibliophile*

The following item appeared in *The Burroughs Bibliophile* (Series #32, Fall 1997: 35), a quarterly journal dedicated to articles about Edgar Rice Burroughs. The letter is signed, Errett Callahan, Jr., Lynchburg, VA.

My father, Errett H. Callahan, Sr., lived in Oak Park, Illinois at about the same time as Hemingway and Burroughs. Actually it was at 605 Kenilworth, right across the street from Ernest Hemingway. He never told me if he'd met [Edgar Rice Burroughs] in those days, though his son (me!) was destined to be raised on his books. In his unpublished Biographical Memoirs, [my father] had this to say about Hemingway: "Dr. Hemingway was a respected physician in Oak Park who had a very troublesome son named Ernest. He was ten years older than I was, but he used to beat up all the younger kids (myself included) and we hated him. He turned out to be a writer of sorts. . . ." Pop lived there from 1907-1911.

—Philip José Farmer  
by way of Joe and Gay Haldeman  
(Gainesville, FL)

### Vikings Used "Hemingwayesque" Style

A two-year old *National Geographic* (May 2000: 24) carried an article about the Vikings with the following statement about writing style: "Many sagas are written in terse prose about real people, like this Hemingwayesque excerpt from *Najals Saga*:

Kolskegg moved quickly and stepped toward him and struck him on the thigh with his short sword and cut of his leg, and then he said, "Did that hit you or not?"

"This is what I get," said Kol, "for not shielding myself,"—and he stood for a while on his other leg and look at the stump.

Kolskegg said, "You don't need to look: it's just what you think, the leg is gone."

Then Kol fell down dead.

Such a Hemingway allusion should come as no surprise, since the Hemingways can trace their name back to the Germanic epic story, *Beowulf* (see Patricia Shedd Hemingway's *The Hemingways Past and Present*, 1988, p. 1).

—John E. Sanford  
(Tiburon, CA)

### Which Reminds HN Editor of OED Mistake

The only main entry in the *Oxford English Dictionary*—online or print—referring to Ernest Hemingway gets his birth year wrong, as do both the fourth and fifth editions of *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, and even *Life* magazine's special issue on "the 100 most important Americans of the 20th century."

The OED main entry is for "Hemingwayesque," and, in identifying the "American novelist," the author's dates are given as "1898-1961."

OED editors, responding to an e-mail correction from the *Newsletter* editor, said that the mistake would be corrected in both the on-line and print editions as soon as is practical.

There is only the one main entry, but those with access to the on-line OED will find dozens of Hemingway quotations, using the keyword search.

**Further note:** the editor is interested in hearing about other sources of information about Hemingway that get wrong his birth year. Send to The Hemingway Newsletter, 1417 Ricky Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22901.

### Here's Another Comic Strip Allusion

The comic strip "Hagar the Horrible," by Chris Browne, shows the wife saying to Hagar, "The Great Hagar the Horrible! Ha! And just what kind of Viking-like virtue are you exhibiting by loafing around the house all day?!" Hagar, responds, "Grace Under Fire."

—Claude Smith  
(Ohio Northern Univ.)

### "Pu-leeze Mr. Hemingway" in South Carolina Collection

The following note is in response to a *Newsletter* item (#42/ June 2001: p. 10) about the song "Pu-leeze! Mr. Hemingway," published in Melbourne, Australia, in 1932 and first performed by "Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians."

"The Collection of Ernest Hemingway at the Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, has a 78 rpm Lombardo recording of "Pu-leeze Mr. Hemingway!" by Drake-Kent-Silver (Brunswick #6390)."

—Matthew J. Bruccoli  
(Univ. of South Carolina)

### The Hemingway Newsletter Editorial Office:

Charles M. (Tod) Oliver  
1417 Ricky Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
E-mail address: cmo7798@earthlink.net



# GQ Runs Two Articles on Hemingway

GQ magazine has used Ernest Hemingway as a peg for two items in 2001. In the February issue, Edward Hemingway, son of Gregory and Valerie, reports on his visit to Havana's El Floridita Bar, the Finca Vigia, and other associated places. He is lionized as "El nieta de Hemingway," ushered to Papa's barstool (otherwise cordoned off to the public), and shown around by Claudio Izquierdo Trunco, who apparently stimulated Edward's trip as part of his plan to publish a book on Ernest's eleven living grandchildren. Edward clearly feels embarrassed and unworthy of such attention, as he never knew his grandfather and says he has read only *The Old Man and the Sea*.

In GQ's July issue a last page-filler takes off on the theme of "adapted" novels, such as "The Wind Done Gone," recently written to tell the *Gone With the Wind* story from the slaves' perspective. Two adaptations are Hemingway related: "Farewell to Your Arms? Uh What About Me?" by Catherine Barkley; and "Me and the Old Pain in the Ass" by Fish.

Other titles include: "How to Win Friends and Influence People and Die in a Swimming Pool" by Jay Gatsby, "How and When to Say No" by Molly Bloom, and "I'm Running a Little Late" by Godot.

—Jack T. Calkins  
(Washington, DC)

# NY Times Website Heading: "A Moveable Feast"

In the "what next?" category of Hemingway items is a column in *The New York Times on the Web*, headed "Dining In: A Moveable Feast." The subject for "this week" is bagels.

—Bick Sylvester  
(Bellingham, WA)

# EH Now Among the Undead?

By John Sullivan  
(Scottsdale, AZ)

Unknown to me, until recently, there is a genre of books labeled "alternate history." One of the more famous examples is *The Bloody Red Baron*, with its World War I setting by Kim Newman, who is best known for the prequel, *Anno Dracula*.

In the latter work Newman takes many well-known people and works them into his stories about the expanding vampire population. In Chapter 28, "The Moon Also Rises," we briefly meet a wounded American who had very recently turned into an "undead" in Paris.

He thought the vampire state would better his chances of surviving the war. With distaste, Kate pictured the mindless can-can nymph who had turned him. [Jake] Barnes might not be satisfied with the shape of his survival. He was, in many senses, no longer a man.

And remember how Jake Barnes relates that "Brett's face was white and the long line of her neck showed in the bright light of the flares. The street was dark again and I kissed her."

# Furniture Ad: "Sleep With Hemingway. . ."

An ad in *The Washington Post*, touting the new Hemingway furniture line, includes the caption over a photograph of a bedroom set, "Sleep with Hemingway. . . Everyone else did." As tasteless as it is, it probably would have secretly pleased Ernest for making him a greater Don Juan than he actually was.

—Jack T. Calkins  
(Washington, DC)

# The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of  
The Hemingway Society

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