

# The Hemingway Newsletter

Publication of The Hemingway Society

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## Notes from the Board —James H. Meredith, President

My sincerest thanks go to Professors Linda Miller and Rena Sanderson, who are leaving their positions on the Board of Trustees, for their hard work and devotion to The Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society. Among the many tasks she performed over the years, Linda served as our Secretary, Chair of the Editions Committee, which not only shepherded *Under Kilimanjaro* into successful publication but has been a guiding force in the organization of the Letters Project, and she served as Vice President, too. I know many of you share in my appreciation of her wise counsel, good humor, and, most of all, her kind and generous humanity. She has graciously agreed to remain as Chair, The Editorial Advisory Board, *The Cambridge Edition of the Letters of Ernest Hemingway*. During Rena's two terms on the Board, she, too, has served as Secretary, one of our key membership positions, as the Chair of the Nominations Committee, where she supervised our elections with great attention to detail and integrity. Even before her tenure on the Board, Rena aided us all by being the Program Director of the splendid Stresa international conference in 2002, an event that I will never forget. More than all of these accomplishments, however, I want to thank them both for their warm collegiality and support.

Please welcome Board newcomers Gail Sinclair and Robert W. Trogdon, who begin their terms on 1 January 2008. As I move forward into another term as president, I am humbled by what we have all accomplished over the years and the rather difficult tasks ahead.

Besides the usual issues we work through every year—the annual Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, the biennial conferences, the biannual review and newsletter, continual money issues, the Letters Project, permissions requests, etc.—we are beginning to concomitantly face challenges that go beyond our immediate control, such as a maturing membership, a serious lack of secure jobs among our younger members, and the continual decline of the US dollar, particularly in comparison to European currency. While we do have other developing problems as well, these three issues are interlocking and will require some considerable pondering. For example, what effect does it have on our planning for the next international conference when the dollar doesn't buy a half of what it did last year in Europe, and there could be fewer folks with adequately paying jobs who can afford to go there? Additionally, as we move forward as an organization, we may have fewer people in secure positions to do the work that is always there for us to do, such as membership and money management, board and conference leadership, and fund raising. This doesn't even include all the publishing that always needs to be done. All of these challenges are occurring in the midst a continual and perpetual boom in scholarly interest in Ernest Hemingway. And I can only foresee an explosion of interest in Hemingway once the letters start being published over the next 14 years. I mention these challenges by way of soliciting your help in planning for our continued success. If you have any comments or suggestions, you can always email me at

[meredithjh602@hotmail.com](mailto:meredithjh602@hotmail.com).



Miriam Mandel, Gladys Rodriguez Ferrero, Sandra Spanier, and Susan Wrynn, curator of the Kennedy Library's Hemingway archive, participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Hemingway Colloquium held in Havana in June 2007. Scholars from the U.S., U.K., Israel, Spain, and Japan joined Cuban specialists for four days of sessions at the Convento Santa Clara in Old Havana. The 17<sup>th</sup>-century convent houses CENCREM (the National Center of Conservation, Restoration, and Monuments), site of restoration and conservation work on Hemingway's papers and other items in the collection of the Hemingway Museum. Special events were held at the Hotel Ambos Mundos and the Sevilla Biltmore Hotel, with closing ceremonies at Finca Vigía. The conference marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Death in the Afternoon*, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *To Have and Have Not*, and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Museo Hemingway.

(Photograph and caption courtesy of Sandra Spanier)

## News From

### The Hemingway Collection

—Susan Wrynn, *The John F. Kennedy Library*

The 2007 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for a distinguished first book of fiction was won by Ben Fountain for *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* (Harper-Collins). Sue Miller and Patrick Hemingway presented the award on Sunday, April 1. The two finalists for this award were Yvette Christianse for *Unconfessed* (Other Press) and Rebecca Johns for *Icebergs* (Bloomsbury USA). The two writers to receive honorable mention were Jann Levin for *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines* (Alfred A. Knopf) and Marisha Pessl for *Special Topics in Calamity Physics* (Viking). Judges for the award this year were acclaimed fiction writers Elizabeth Berg, Chang-rae Lee, and Sue Miller.

Ben Fountain confessed that *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* was not his first book. “Back in my garage in Dallas” he quipped, “there’s a 600-page novel sitting in a cabinet. And its there for a reason. It’s not very good, but it was the work—I realize now—I had to do in order to get to the point where I might be able to write something decent.”

**Kennedy Library Forum—Cooper & Hemingway: The True Gen.** The feature-length documentary chronicles the fascinating 20-year friendship between Ernest Hemingway and Gary Cooper: Ernest Hemingway whose heroes personified his definition of courage—“grace under pressure”—and Gary Cooper the man who most often portrayed those characters on screen.

Patrick Hemingway, son of Ernest Hemingway, and Maria Cooper, daughter of Gary Cooper, served as consultants for the film. It is narrated by Sam Waterston and features over 50 on-camera interviews with such Hollywood luminaries as Kirk Douglas, Charlton Heston, Robert Stack and Patricia Neal & writers Budd Schulberg and Elmore Leonard.



A painting by Waldo Pierce, longtime friend of Hemingway, hangs over the staircase. The subject of the skinned bull is fascinating, especially paired with the artist's inscription, "et bon appetite!"

## Notes from Oak Park

—Marianne Rusinak, *Despatch Editor*  
*Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park*

The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park (EHFOP) continues to negotiate with neighboring institution, Dominican University, regarding stewardship of the Hemingway Boyhood Home on Kenilworth Avenue in Oak Park. Conversations and joint ventures include a sharing of facilities and restoration of the Boyhood Home. Dominican University and EHFOP have already planned educational seminars to be held at the Hemingway Birth Home. More information will be reported in our newsletter, the *Despatch* and on our website [www.EHFOP.org](http://www.EHFOP.org).

EHFOP's involvement with NEA's Big Read (*A Farewell to Arms*) took up much of fall 2007—films, reader's theater, art exhibits, book discussions and visits from James Nagel, Alex Vernon (*The Eyes of Orion; Soldiers Once and Still: Ernest Hemingway, James Salter and Tim O'Brien*), and from David Kipen, Director of NEA's National Reading Initiatives, who wrote “What Were They Putting in the Water in Oak Park?” in his blog, discussing Oak Park and the significant number of literary/artistic figures produced by this Village at: <http://www.nea.gov/bigreadblog/?p=91>. Marianne Rusinak, *Despatch* Editor, happened to attend the Steinbeck Festival in Salinas, CA this summer and the fine talks given by Kirk Curnutt and Jim Meredith. We look forward to our two Hemingway organizations reconnecting in Kansas City at the international conference in June.



The house and surrounding 10-acres along the Big Wood River were bequeathed to the Nature Conservancy in 1986 after Mary Hemingway's death. While attending the annual Sun Valley Ernest Hemingway Festival in September 2007, I was privileged to attend a dinner in the Hemingway home in Ketchum, hosted by the Nature Conservancy. The home is not open to the public so this was a rare treat. The dinner was a fundraiser to help restore the home and catalog its treasures. Dinner guests included John Hemingway, Gregory's son; Valerie Hemingway; and Bud Purdy, Ernest's close friend during his years in Ketchum. Assorted scholars, local philanthropists, and representatives of the Nature Conservancy also attended the event, including the home's caretaker, Preserve Manager, Taylor Paslay.

(Photos and captions courtesy of Jonathan Knowles)



## Hemingway Letters Project Update

—Sandra Spanier, General Editor and Project Director,  
Penn State University

The Hemingway Letters Project continues to make steady progress toward publication of the first of twelve volumes of the *Cambridge Edition of the Letters of Ernest Hemingway*. The volume 1 editorial team is led by Robert Trogdon, with Ken Panda and Sandra Spanier serving as co-editors, Miriam Mandel and Al DeFazio as associate editors, and Jerry Kennedy as advisory editor. Encompassing the letters through 1925, volume 1 has the longest chronological span of any volume in the series, as well as a wide geographical span. In order to ensure accuracy in the transcriptions and annotations of letters Hemingway wrote from a range of locales (sometimes trying out newly acquired languages), we have called upon the local expertise and language skills of a number of Hemingway scholars and aficionados. Many have been generous with their time and efforts, and we are most grateful for the information and insights they have provided.

The following individuals deserve special thanks: for help with Oak Park connections, Barbara Ballinger, Virginia Cassin, Redd Griffin, Kathryn J. Atwood, William Jerousek, and Katie Simpson; for details relevant to Hemingway's 1910 visit to Nantucket, Susan Beegel; for Michigan people and places, Fred Svoboda, Jack Jobst, and Ken Marek; for Kansas City, Steve Paul; for Hemingway's Italian, Penn State Italian professor Sherry Roush; for references to Spain and bullfighting, Miriam Mandel; and for German language matters and references to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, Rena Sanderson. Volume 1 is projected to appear in 2009, with subsequent volumes following at regular intervals of approximately eighteen months.

### Smith-Reynolds Fellowships: 2008 Application Deadline April 1

The Smith-Reynolds Committee encourages submissions for the 2008 Smith-Reynolds Founders Fellowships. Established to honor the memories of past presidents Paul Smith and Michael Reynolds, these fellowships support research on Hemingway by graduate students, independent scholars, and post-docs up through the rank of assistant professor. Applications are ranked by the committee based on the following criteria: clarity, originality, and feasibility of the project; its value in furthering Hemingway scholarship, criticism, or instruction; and the likelihood of its publication. See <http://www.hemingwaysociety.org/fellowships.htm>, or contact Professor Carl P. Eby, Department of English, University of South Carolina Beaufort, 801 Carteret Street, Beaufort, SC 29902. [carlpeby@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:carlpeby@gwm.sc.edu).

**The 2009 application deadline will be February 1.**

**General Call for Panel Proposals** The Hemingway Society sponsors two panels each year at the meeting of the Modern Language Association held in late December and the American Literature Association in late May. We invite ideas for panels through the following panel proposal process: Submit a 1-2 page proposal for the panel. It should include the "Call For Papers" that you would run to solicit papers, a description of your vision of the panel, and an explanation of how the panel reflects and contributes to current Hemingway scholarship. Please include the suggested panel title, your name, and institutional affiliation. Send the panel proposal to the Hemingway Society's ALA/MLA Program Director, Suzanne del Gizzo ([delgizzos@chc.edu](mailto:delgizzos@chc.edu)) via email. Please do not officially approach panelists or run a "Call For Papers" (CFP) until you are notified that the panel has been accepted."

Submissions are welcome any time. Please do keep in mind that panels are usually arranged six months to one year in advance of the conference. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, contact Suzanne del Gizzo at [delgizzos@chc.edu](mailto:delgizzos@chc.edu).

### The Big Read in Kansas City Features *A Farewell to Arms*

Steve Paul helped kick off a month-long focus on *A Farewell to Arms* in Kansas City. The NEA-sponsored community read project was put together by the Kansas City Public Library, Park University and the Liberty Memorial/National World War I Museum. Steve spoke Oct. 24, 2007, in the Central Branch library's elegant Kirk Hall about some of the Kansas City background related to Hemingway's early newspaper stint and the later making of the novel. Along with Oak Park, Kansas City was among the few cities adopting *FTA*. The local effort has been hugely successful. Among other things, the library has organized book club events at downtown Kansas City corporations. Steve also spoke to a lunchtime group of writers, artists and executives at Hallmark Cards, Inc. The local co-sponsors plan to give a panel at the Kansas City conference on bringing the Big Read and Hemingway to other communities.

### Hinkle Travel Grant Extended Application Deadline

Graduate students, note that the deadline to apply for Hinkle Travel Grants has been extended to March 1. Please send applications and supporting material to Gail Sinclair, Rollins College, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789. For details, visit <http://www.hemingwaysociety.org/fellowships.htm>.

## News and Notes

### Pictures of Hemingway in Cuba

August 2007's *Smithsonian* magazine carries a well photographed article under the by-line Valerie Hemingway, "Hemingway's Cuba." It affectionately recounts the efforts at restoring Finca Vigía and Cuba's love affair, not untinged with commercial opportunism, with Hemingway. A color picture of Valerie Danby-Smith and the famous author, the former's allusion to her marriage to Gregory Hemingway (dit Gigi, d. 2001, aetat. 69) as well as the paradisaical views of Cojimar bring to mind Gigi's troubled life and its relation to Papa's œuvre.

—Roger Lathbury, Alexandria, VA

### Hemingway's Cats and the Department of Agriculture

CBS's *Evening News* ran a series of stories on government waste, including outrageous earmarks and lavish, unregulated contracts. On October 19th, it ran a story on Hemingway's cats at his former home on Whitehead Street in Key West and the US Department of Agriculture. It seems that the USDA has jurisdiction over zoo and circus animals—to see that they're not mistreated. And since the six-toed cats are part of the charm of the Whitehead house's ambiance, the USDA stepped in. They declared the nearly four dozen cats exhibit animals, and since some were leaving the grounds at night—to do what cats do—the USDA wanted them caged each night. The current owner, who has the cats checked by a vet each week, declined, saying that it would be traumatic to cage the free-roaming cats. The USDA did not tell CBS how much it had spent on the case, which has run for five years, but CBS documented three government lawyers, four inspectors, six veterinarians, fourteen field trips, and a cat expert who declared the cats healthy and content. Has no one heard of spaying and neutering, if not the cats, then the USDA?

—Peter Hays, Sacramento, CA

### Well-Known Quotations by Hemingway Sought

I recently published *The Yale Book of Quotations* (Yale UP), intended to be the most accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date quotation dictionary. There are 36 quotations by Hemingway in the *YBQ*, significantly more than are included in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* or the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. For the next edition, I would welcome contributions by your readers of additional well-known quotations by Hemingway. Google Books allows access to pages 351-354 which include the Hemingway quotes.

—Fred Shapiro (fred.shapiro@yale.edu)

Jeffrey Hart (emeritus, Dartmouth) identifies five works essential to **appreciating American literature of the 1920s**: Edmund Wilson's *The Shores of Light*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *This Side of Paradise*, Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*, and Hemingway *A Farewell to Arms* (*Wall Street Journal*, 16-17 June 2007: 10) —John E. Stanford, Tiburon, CA

### Translator of Hemingway Released

President of Radio Free Europe, (RFE) Jeffrey Gedmin ("Voices that Tehran Fears," *Washington Post* 18 Sep. 2007: A23) reports the **release of Panzar Azima**, who had been detained in Iran since January. A dual citizen of Iran and the U.S., she works for Radio Farda, the Persian language broadcast service of RFE and is well known for her translations of Hemingway's works.

—Charles Oliver, Charlottesville, VA

John Wilson, editor-in-chief of *Garden&Gun* (Summer 2007: 52-65) reports on his **travels to Cuba** in search of EH's legacy. Photographer Brianna Stello contributes contemporary photos and the JFK supplies archival photos for a beautiful spread: Black Dog, the renovated Finca, book, bars, and boats.

—Roger Lathbury, Alexandria, VA

Mary Hemingway bequeathed the **Ketchum Home** to The Nature Conservancy in 1986; since then, neither the Conservancy, the neighbors, nor various groups have yet come upon a plan for its use that is amenable to all. ("Hemingway's Last Home Could Be Sold," *Lima [Ohio] News* 23 Sep. 2007: D6).

—C. C. Smith, Ada, Ohio

Scribners has published, *Fidel Castro: My Life, A Spoken Autobiography*, in which the Cuban dictator says that Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* both inspired his revolution against Batista and provided guidance as to tactics (*Sacramento Bee* 15 Dec. 07: A2).

—Peter Hays, Sacramento, CA

Senator and presidential candidate **John McCain took the title of his 2002 memoir, *Worth the Fighting For*, from Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls***. McCain called Jordan "My No. 1 hero of all time! I am an incurable idealist and romantic. Robert Jordan is everything I ever wanted to be. I read that book at age 13 and now at age 70. Nothing's changed." No comment on how the sleeping bag scenes affected him at 13 (Matt Stearns, *Sacramento Bee* 18 Nov. 2007: A21). —Peter Hays, Sacramento, CA

### Gellhorn Stamp Forthcoming

The Postal Service will include Martha Gellhorn among its "American Journalists' stamps in 2008, ([usps.com/news](http://usps.com/news) Release #07-043).



**“Kansas City was a live town in those days, and the glory of its nocturnal life was the all-night lunch wagon.” -- Hemingway in *The Toronto Star Weekly*, Nov. 24, 1923**

## **The 13th Hemingway Society Conference June 9-15, 2008, Kansas City, MO**

Gail Sinclair and Steven Trout have been sweating their way through the scheduling meat grinder and have done a fine job of organizing panels, plenaries, and other events. We're still hammering details on special events, including a BBQ feast, receptions, an evening celebration of the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Awards, a keynote talk by Patrick Hemingway and more. No bullfights lined up yet, but the Marriott conference-space aisles are pretty wide.

Jazz, baseball and more: Several people have asked about the opportunity for a baseball outing, and here's the scoop: The Kansas City Royals, a – how to say it? – team with lots of upside potential, will be in town for three of our conference days. According to a just released schedule, they will be playing the Texas Rangers on June 10-12. It's possible we can arrange a Hemingway night at the ballpark – often referred to as one of the most beautiful in all of baseball. Most likely that would be the night of Tuesday, June 10. Stay tuned.

We're also expecting to visit the museum complex at the historic 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine district. This is home to the American Jazz Museum (including the smoke-free Blue Room jazz club) and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. In addition, we're lining up a jazz-jam visit to one of the most authentic extant sites in American jazz, the Mutual Musicians Foundation, (As homework, find a copy of the 1970s film “The Last of the Blue Devils.”) The foundation has regular Friday evening jams and, on weekends, sessions also run from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. (Yes, campers, you read that right. Plan on cabbng it back to the hotel.)

A few logistical notes: If you're planning to arrive in Kansas City early and/or stay late, the \$149 conference rate at the Marriott Plaza Hotel is also available on the two Sundays, June 8 and 15. Please register early and often: We're keeping a close watch on hotel reservations and conference registrations and hope everyone can solidify their plans and reserve their places by April 1. (There will be late fees!) The conference room rate may go away soon thereafter.

Here's one incentive to stay over June 15. That night brings a full-dress rehearsal of the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival's production of *Othello*. This is a highly accomplished professional theater on an outdoor stage just a three-block walk from the Marriott. And the price is right: It's free. -- Steve Paul

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## **The Hemingway Newsletter**

### **Publication of The Hemingway Society**

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In the master bedroom of Hemingway's Ketchum home, an original promotional poster from the 1959 Malaga bullfight season hangs over the glass covered desk. Photos of Ernest and his family and friends lay under the glass.

*(Photograph courtesy Jonathan Knowles)*