

# Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1

November 1994

## Report from the Publications Committee

By Joan Ferrante

The world of Dante studies is now so active that the Dante Society has decided to publish a newsletter for the benefit of our members. We will send it out once or twice a year with information on Dante conferences, Dante sessions at more general meetings, special lectures, large projects, and dissertations deposited during the year. Please keep us informed and we will do our best to relay the details.

We are also considering a reprint series of out-of-print texts that would be useful for teaching Dante, provided we can obtain the rights to them and a publishing agreement that would allow us to make them available at a reasonable price. We have talked about re-printing works like Gilson's *Dante and Philosophy*, Schevill's *History of Florence*, and Toynbee's edition of the *Letters*. Please send comments and suggestions, using the enclosed form, and let us know 1) what works you would like to see back in print and 2) whether you need them for your own use or for your classes.

## International Dante Seminar

The first conference of the International Dante Seminar was held at the Chauncey Center, Princeton University, on October 22-23, 1994. Organized by Robert Hollander, the conference presented sessions on Dante and the Italian vernacular tradition (T. Barolini, G. Gorni, M. Picone), on Dante and Lucan (V. De Angelis, A.J. Minnis, J. Schnapp), on Dante and St. Bernard (S. Botterill, F. Mazzoni, L. Pertile), and on Dante and the exegetical tradition (J. Ahern, A.R. Ascoli, G. Brugnoli). A final session was held on Oct. 24, at Columbia University, co-sponsored by the Dante Society and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies, on the topic "Dante's Career as a Writer" (Z. Baranski, G.C. Alessio, J.A. Scott).

The Second session of the IDS is scheduled to be held in Zürich,

Switzerland, in June of 1997.

## ADB on Disk, Volume 2

By Richard Lansing

The Society has produced a second volume of the *American Dante Bibliography* on disk, for the years 1970-1980, and 1992. The third and final volume will be available this coming spring, and will contain the annotated bibliographies for the years 1953 (the year of its inception under the editorship of Anthony Pellegrini) through 1969, and 1993. The slightly higher pricing on volumes 2 and 3 is tied to the cost of scanning the text of

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**The DS Newsletter welcomes your comments, suggestions, and listings. Please let us hear from you. Our goal is to keep members informed about what is happening in the world of Dante.**

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the older bib-liographies. While the files will be available only in the 3.5" High Density disk format, we have expanded the file format to include Word for Windows 6.0 and WordPerfect for Windows 6.0. One advantage of these formats is that the entire screen of text is visible at one time. Other formats include WordPerfect for DOS 5.1 and Word 4.0 for the Macintosh. Disks may be ordered by sending a check with the enclosed form. Volume 1 (1981-1991, with the Centennial Index 1882-1982) is now available in all four formats, on 3.5" High Density disks.

The chief virtue of having the ADB on disk is the ease and rapidity with which word or string searches can be conducted. It also facilitates copying of entries into notes and bibliographies. Those of you who have fairly fast and powerful computers (486s, Pentiums, or Power

PCs) will want to consider the advantages of merging all of a volume's files into a single, long (renamed) file. Searches can then be conducted more rapidly.

## International Dante Directory

The Dante Society is compiling a directory of names, addresses, phone numbers, and e\_mail addresses, for all members of the various societies dedicated to the study of Dante around the world. Representation will initially include not only the DSA, but the SDI (Società Dantesca Italiana), the DDG (Deutsche Dante-Gesellschaft), and scholars from Great Britain. The Directory will be distributed free to members in North America, and to individuals elsewhere at the cost of postage.

Last fall we enclosed a form for listing information for the Directory. If you did not list your phone or fax number or e\_mail address, there is still time for you to update your listing. Please send this information to us as soon as possible, and preferably by e\_mail via Internet, at "lansing@binah.cc.brandeis.edu".

## Winter Meeting of the DSA

The Dante Society will meet in conjunction with the MLA Convention in San Diego on Wednesday, December 28, at 3:30 p.m. in the Windsor Room A&B of the Hyatt Regency San Diego Hotel. Christopher Kleinhenz's talk, "The Verbal and the Visual: The Interpretive Tradition of *Inferno* VII," will be accompanied by a slide presentation. A Cash Bar reception will follow in the same room from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

## Dante and Grandgent Prize Competition Revisions

Members who are affiliated with an academic institution are encouraged to inform their students of the annual essay competition at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. There are two recent

changes regarding eligibility and deadline for submission. American and Canadian students are eligible to compete for the Grandgent Prize if they are enrolled in a graduate program at any institution. Previously eligibility was restricted to enrollment in an institution in North America. Essays for both categories should not exceed 7500 words; entries must be postmarked no later than March 15. Undergraduate students retain their eligibility to compete for the Dante Prize through August 15 of the year in which they graduate. Essays submitted by this date will be considered in the following year's competition.

## Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The 30th International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, on May 4-7, 1995. The following sessions on Dante have been arranged by Christopher Kleinhenz.

### Dante I: Intertextual Approaches to the *Divine Comedy*

Chair: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison):

Donald Maddox, University of Massachusetts: "The Motif of Interrupted Reading: *Inferno* V and the Old French Prose *Lancelot*."

Caron Ann Cioffi, University of California, Davis: "Dangerous Art and Fatal Eros: The Ovidian Illustrations of *Purgatorio* in the Arsenal Codex (MS 8530)."

Nicholas R. Havelly, University of York, England: "Poverty in Purgatory: *Commercium* to *Commedia*."

### Dante II: Dante's Poetic Voices

Chair: Caron Ann Cioffi (University of California, Davis):

Marsha A. Daigle-Williamson, Spring Arbor College: "Mt. Purgatory: Dante's Sermon on the Mount."

Michelle Bolduc, University of Oregon: "The Transformation of the Siren: The Poet's Divine Appropriation of Seductive Song."

Ann-Maria Contarino, "Dante's Pastoral Letters: A Study in Poetic Filiation."

### Dante III: Problems in the *Divine Comedy*

Chair: Nicholas Havelly (University of York):

Martin Wenglinsky, "Heresy and Schism in the *Inferno*."

Alberto M. Pizzai, "Another Ghibelline Interpretation of the *Engima Forte* in Relation to the Apocalyptic Number of the Beast."

Margaret W. Grimes, "On Beatrice and Poetic Guides."

## Dante Session in Chicago

Susan Noakes arranged a session on the topic "Teaching Dante Today: A Roundtable Discussion," which took place at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association in Chicago on November 12. Panelists included Mark Musa, "From the Translator's Perspective"; Lawrence Baldassarro, "Teaching Dante's Modernity"; and Christopher Kleinhenz, "Teaching the *Comedy* through Visual Art."

## Dante Sessions at the AAIS in Tempe

Two open sessions on "Dante," sponsored by the Dante Society, will be held at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Italian Studies in Tempe, Arizona, April 20-23, 1995. The program has been arranged by Steven Botterill, University of California, Berkeley, who will also chair the session.

## DSA Annual Meeting, 1995

The Annual Meeting of the Dante Society will be held at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, 61

Kirkland Street, Cambridge, MA, on Saturday, May 20, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Edward Peters, University of Pennsylvania.

## DSA Officers, 1994-95

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### Dante Society Newsletter

The Newsletter is published by the Dante Society of America and distributed to members. Send material for publication to the Editor, Richard Lansing.