

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 2

April 1998

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The 116th Annual Meeting of the Dante Society of America will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (reception to follow) at Sever Hall 202 on the Harvard University campus, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After our usual brief business meeting, Rachel Jacoff, Wellesley College, will speak on "Dante and the Legend(s) of Saint John." At the Dante Society's MLA session in San Francisco this December our speaker will be Steven Botterill, University of California, Berkeley. Professor Botterill will speak on "Dante and the Language of Community."

I am pleased to announce that the Dante Society will hold a Dante 2000 Conference in the spring of the year 2000. Please mark April 7-9 (Friday-Sunday) of the year 2000 on your calendars and be prepared for a visionary, if not conversional, experience. We will hold a "New Technologies" demo/exhibit and have an exhibition space that will display current translations and illustrations of the *Commedia*. We plan to feature sessions on "Dante and Gender," "Science and Philosophy," "Material Culture," "Reception and Cultural Studies," "The Body," "Eschatology and Visions," "Dante and Ovid," and "Eros and Mysticism."

Accompanying this mailing you will find an enclosed ballot containing the slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating

Committee, as provided by our by-laws. Kindly mark your ballot, seal it in the envelope provided, and return it, together with the proxy statement, in time to have it included in the vote count on April 30. The returning members of the

Dante Studies, volume 114 (1996), is scheduled to be sent to members in time for the Annual Meeting in Cambridge in May. Volume 115 (1997) should appear this fall. We will return to our normal schedule with volume 116 (1998) in early 1999.

Council are Teodolinda Barolini, Kevin Brownlee, Alison Cornish, Robert Durling, Richard Lansing, Lino Pertile.

I would like also to take this opportunity to urge you to have your best students send their papers in to our undergraduate and graduate prize contests, as well as sending your own contributions to the Society's electronic bulletin (EBDSA). And, of course, recruitment of new members remains vital. If you can think of appropriate persons (their interest in Dante need not be professional), please send their names to our Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Lansing. You will note mailing addresses on the reverse side.

I am excited about the "nuovo e mai non fatto cammino" that lies in front of us as we steer the "navicella" of our Society into the

new millennium. All ideas, suggestions, or thoughts you would like to share, I would very much appreciate your letting me know. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Meeting in May.

With best wishes,

Teodolinda Barolini

Spring Election

The Nominating Committee has placed the following nominees on this spring's ballot:

Theodore J. Cachey (Notre Dame University)

Associate Professor of Italian and Director of the William and Katherine Devers Program in Dante Studies. Selected publications: *Le isole fortunate: Appunti di storia letteraria italiana* (Rome, 1995); ed., A. Pigafetta's "First Voyage Around the World" (New York, 1995); ed., *Dante Now: Current Trends in Dante Studies* (London and Notre Dame, 1995).

Edward Peters (University of Pennsylvania)

Henry Charles Lea Professor of History. Selected publications: *Inquisition* (New York: Free Press; London: Collier Macmillan, 1988); *Heresy and Authority in Medieval Europe* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1980); *The Magician, the Witch, and the Law* (Philadelphia:

University of Pennsylvania Press, 1978).

Regina Psaki (University of Oregon)

Associate Professor of Italian. Selected publications: "The Sexualized Body in Dante and the Medieval Context." *Annali di storia dell'esegesi* 13/2 (1996); "Dante's Redeemed Eroticism." *Lectura Dantis* 18-19 (1996); "Le donne antiche e' cavalieri: Arthurian Women in the Italian Tradition." In *Arthurian Women: A Casebook*, ed. Thelma Fenster (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1996).

H. Wayne Storey (Fordham University)

Associate Professor of Italian, Director of Medieval Studies. Selected publications: *Transcription and Visual Poetics in the Early Italian Lyric* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1993); "The Other Sword of Purgatorio XXX." *Dante Studies* 107 (1989); "Transferring Visual Ambiguity from Manuscript to Modern Edition." *Romance Philology* 43 (1989).

Dante Sessions for 1998 AAIS Meeting

The 18th annual conference of the AAIS will take place April 2-5, in Chicago at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, hosted by Loyola University. Christopher Kleinhenz, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has organized the following sessions for The Dante Society:

Session 1: New Perspectives on Dante as Author

Chair: Santa Casciani
(Pennsylvania State University)

1. Gabriella Finizio (University of Delaware), "Dal latratus canis allo scriba Dei: una rilettura della profezia del veltro."

2. Antonio Rossini (University of Toronto), "Tra senno e cenno: Dante discepolo e poeta attraverso la Commedia. Uno studio sulla rima in fine di terzina."

3. Paul Vlajcic (Northern Illinois University), "Dante's Pastorals:

The Auctor as Exile."

Session 2: New Perspectives on Dante: Questions of Influence

Chair: Sergio Corsi (Loyola University)

1. Christopher Muskopf (Miami University), "Architectural Structure and Dante's Celestial Rose Image."

2. Fabian Alfie (University of Arizona), "Dante and the Comic Style."

3. Santa Casciani (Pennsylvania State University), "Fifteenth-Century Mariology: Dante and the Franciscans."

Dante Society Newsletter

The Newsletter is published twice a year, in April and November, by the Dante Society of America and distributed to members. Send material for publication to the Editor, Richard Lansing, preferably by email, to lansing@mediaone.net or Brandeis University, MS 024, Waltham MA 02254-9110.

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Official Residence:

Dante Society of America
Eliot House, Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Correspondence:

Dante Society of America
Brandeis University, MS 024
P.O. Box 9110
Waltham, MA 02254-9110

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