

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 1

November 2003

Spring Election Results

Last spring Guy Raffa and Brenda Schildgen were elected to the Council for the term 2003-2006. Todd Boli was elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for a one-year term. At the spring Council meeting, Giuseppe Mazzotta was elected President of the Society for 2003-2006. In May, Nancy Vickers was elected Vice President of the Society by the Council, for a term of one year.

The Winter Meeting of the Dante Society

The Dante Society will meet in conjunction with the 2003 MLA Convention in San Diego, on Sunday, December 28, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m., in Manchester 2 of the San Diego Marriott Hotel. **Robert P. Harrison**, Stanford University, will speak on the topic "The Human Authorship of the *Divine Comedy*." Giuseppe Mazzotta will preside. Everyone is invited to attend.

DSA Annual Meeting

The Dante Society will hold its Annual Meeting on the Harvard campus on the weekend of May 8-9, 2004. The specific time and location of the meeting will be announced in the spring Newsletter. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Dante Studies

Outgoing Editor Chris Kleinhenz reports that Volume CXX (2002) of *Dante Studies* is currently in press and should reach members soon. Volume CXXI (2003), the first to be edited by Steven Botterill (to whom all submissions and correspondence should be sent in future), is in preparation. It is expected to go to press in spring 2004 and should be sent to members later next year. The Society would also like to announce that Professor Rachel Jacoff of Wellesley College has agreed to join the Editorial Board and will begin serving immediately.

Essay Prize Winners for 2003

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to **Kyle Anderson**, Brigham Young University, for his submission "Dante, Love, and Virgil's Bees." The Grandgent Award for the best essay by a graduate student went to **Heather Webb**, Stanford University, for her essay "'Per core un marmo': Dante's Stone Cold Rhymes." Christian Moevs (chair) and Alessandro Vettori served as Prize Committee readers.

Devers Series – DSA Membership Initiative

The Dante Society has recently joined with University of Notre Dame Press to offer to new and renewing DSA members a special 50% discount on select publications from the William and Katherine Devers Series in Dante Studies. Earlier this fall, a handsome promotional brochure was sent to DSA members, as well as to members of the MLA Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature division and the American Association of Italian Studies. Christian Moevs, chair of the Society's membership committee and co-editor of the Devers series, is coordinating the initiative. Early returns suggest that the collaboration will bring the DSA many new members.

Capital Campaign Launched at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting held this past April 27 in Cambridge, the Dante Society hosted a brunch at the Harvest Restaurant to announce the launch of its new three-year Capital Campaign. Campaign Chair Nancy Vickers invited attending members to reflect on the Dante Society's evolving mission and international scope and to join in helping to build an endowment sufficient to the Society's growing needs. An initial solicitation will be distributed soon. Please be looking for it in your mailbox.

Illuminating Dante: Debut of Digital Image Archive's First Modules

Also during our Annual Meeting in Cambridge, members convened at the Longfellow House to hear the Visual Archive Project Planning Committee's report on the results of the planning grant it had received jointly with Vassar College from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The goal of the project is to establish an archive of digitized images for teachers, students, and general readers of Dante's *Comedy*. The Committee, joined by students of the Vassar Library Media Cloisters, presented three strikingly varied demonstration image modules to the approval and enthusiasm of Society members. Presenting the modules were Planning Committee Chair John Ahern (Vassar College) and members Karl Fugelso (Towson University) and Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin College). The project team made the modules accessible by way of a link on the DSA Web site for a limited time in early summer. Society members responded from as far away as Australia, and several offered to join the DSA Digital Image Project in

producing new modules. Having met in August 2003 to take stock of the project, the Planning Group was subsequently encouraged by the Mellon Foundation to apply for an implementation grant. The Dante Society Council and Editorial Board will hold their October 2004 meeting at Vassar College in order to evaluate progress on the archive and offer guidance for its completion. The Dante Society looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Vassar and ultimately making a fully operational online sustainable digital archive accessible to Dante scholars and readers.

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Thirty-Ninth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 6-9, 2004. The following sessions are sponsored by The Dante Society of America. Members can consult the International Medieval Congress Web site at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress.

Dante I: Perspectives on *Paradiso*

Chair: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- **Christian Moevs** (University of Notre Dame): “‘Il Punto’: Incarnation and Self-Knowledge in Dante’s *Commedia*”
- **Federica Anichini** (Smith College): “Grammar and Ethics in *Paradiso* III”
- **Diego Fasolini** (Gettysburg College): “The Theological Necessity of an Objective Form of Revelation: An Interpretation of the Dantean Light in *Paradiso* XXXIII”

Dante II: From Hell to Heaven

Chair: Nicholas R. Havely (University of York)

- **Caron Ann Cioffi** (Independent Scholar): “‘La porta del futuro’: Antichrist and the Apocalyptic Allegory of *Inferno* IX and X”
- **Grace C. Chan** (University of Illinois): “The Poetics of Ascent: Dante and the Topology of Mystical Ascent in the *Paradiso*”
- **Marsha Daigle-Williamson** (Spring Arbor University): “‘I Am Not Paul, but Then Again, I Am Paul’: Dante’s Pilgrim in the *Paradiso*”

Dante III: Dante and His Readers, Medieval and Modern

Chair: Richard Lansing (Brandeis University)

- **Nicholas R. Havely** (University of York): “Dante at Cambridge: A Fourteenth-Century Franciscan Reader of the *Commedia*”

- **Laurie Shepard** (Boston College): “Dante’s Commentators and the Ecclesiological Vision of Pietro Giovanni d’Olivi”
- **Cosetta Gaudenzi** (University of Memphis): “Dante in the United States: The Beginnings as Retold in Matthew Pearl’s *The Dante Club*”

Council Members, 2003-2004

Teodolinda Barolini, *ex officio*
Todd Boli, Secretary-Treasurer
Giuseppe Mazzotta, President
Christian Moevs
Guy Raffa
Brenda Schildgen
Nancy Vickers, Vice President
David Wallace

Board of Editors

Teodolinda Barolini
Steven Botterill, Editor
Rachel Jacoff
Richard Lansing
Giuseppe Mazzotta
Susan Noakes
H. Wayne Storey

Nominating Committee, 2003-2004

Alison Cornish
Ronald Martinez
H. Wayne Storey, Chair

Prize Committee

Brenda Schildgen
Alessandro Vettori, Chair

Auditing Committee

Richard Lansing
Laurie Shepard, Chair

Dante Society Newsletter

The Newsletter is published twice each year (November and April) by the Dante Society of America and distributed to members of the Society. Please send material for publication to the Editor by e-mail at dsa@dantesociety.org.

The Dante Society of America
P.O. Box 711
Framingham, MA 01701-0711

www.dantesociety.org