

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 1

November 2009

Annual Meeting, May 2009

The Dante Society of America's 127th Annual Meeting took place on May 16, 2009, at the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on whose grounds the DSA was founded in 1881. Pleasant weather greeted those assembled for the event.

For this final meeting of his tenure as President, Giuseppe Mazzotta organized a



The Longfellow House

panel discussion titled *Future Directions in Dante Studies*, featuring four younger scholars of note: Heather Webb (Ohio State University), Filippo Naitana (Fairfield University), Susanna Barsella (Fordham University), Justin Steinberg (University of Chicago). A stimulating question-and-answer period followed the presentations. After adjournment, refreshments were served in the pergola of the formal garden, whose restoration was funded in 2005 by the Friends of the Longfellow House.

Spring Election Results

Last Spring the membership of the Dante Society elected Albert Ascoli and Victoria Kirkham to the Council for 2009-12. Vincent Pollina was re-elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for a one-year term. In May, Todd Boli was re-elected Vice President by the Council for a term of one year. Also in May, Nancy Vickers was elected President of the Society by the Council for 2009-12 (see below).

Our New President

Nancy Vickers returned to the DSA Council in 2008, having completed her eleven-year tenure as President of Bryn Mawr College in that same year. She had previously served on the Council from 1999-2005, as Vice President of the Society from 2003-05, and as Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign.

In May 2009 the Council elected her to the presidential office for a three-year term. Speaking on behalf of the members of the Council at their Fall meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Vincent Pollina welcomed Dr. Vickers as the Society's seventeenth President, wishing her a distinguished and personally fulfilling period of service.

Winter Meeting

The Dante Society will meet at the 2009 MLA Annual Convention in Philadelphia on Monday, December 28, 2009, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., in Commonwealth Hall B, Loews Hotel. Jan Ziolkowski of Harvard University will speak on "Dante and the Popular Culture of His Day." Nancy Vickers will preside. All MLA attendees are invited to join us.

Essay Prize Winners for 2009

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to David Ungvary of Duke University for "Ulysses and Diomedes: A Model of Unity and Duality in *Inferno* 26." The Charles Hall Grandgent Award for the best essay by a graduate student was divided between the authors of two essays judged to be of equal merit: Zakhar Ishof of Yale University for "Introduction to Poetry in the Form of Poetry: Dante Read by Mandelstam," and Maria Clara Iglesias, also of Yale University, for "The Rain of Hope: Theology and Exile in *Paradiso* 25."

Prize Committee members William Franke and Susanna Barsella (Chair) judged the essays.

The amounts are \$500. for the Dante Prize and \$750. for the Grandgent Award.

The deadline for submissions for the 2010 competitions is June 30th.

Next Annual Meeting Set for May 22

The Dante Society of America will hold its Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Please mark your calendar. Further information will follow in the Spring Newsletter and on the DSA Web site: www.dantesociety.org.

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Forty-Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western

Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 13-16, 2010. The Dante Society is sponsoring the following series of sessions, arranged by Editor Emeritus of *Dante Studies* Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison). Further information may be found at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress.

Dante I: Dante and the Philosophical/Theological Tradition

Presider and Organizer: Jason Aleksander (Saint Xavier University)

Stan Benfell (Brigham Young University): Aristotle, Augustine, and Dante on Virtue

Susan Potters (Graduate Theological Foundation): Bonaventure's Metaphysics and *Paradiso's* Angelic Hierarchy

Anne V. Sullivan (Northwestern University): The Milky Way and the Rose: Bridging the Heavens and Heaven in Dante's *Paradiso*

Dante II: Dante's Works: Editorial and Visual Contexts

Presider: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Prue Shaw and **Peter Robinson** (University College London and University of Birmingham): An Electronic Edition of Dante's *Commedia*

Jelena Todorovic (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Dante's *Vita Nova* in Its First Printed Edition

Karl Fugelso (Towson University): Dante's Words in *Commedia* Miniatures: Pictorial Textuality as Commentary on the Poet's Authority

Dante III: Dante and Nationalism

Presider and Organizer: Aida Audeh (Hamline University)

Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway University of London): The Italian National Icon: Dante between Catholicism, Laicism, and Communism

James Thomas (Independent Scholar): The Reception and Function of Dante in Occitan Literature, 1800-1860

Kathleen Verduin (Hope College): Emerson, Dante, and American Nationalism

Nick Havely (University of York): 'Altissimo poeta' and 'pacifica oriafiamma': the 1911 Milano Films 'Inferno' and Italian Nationalism

Dante IV: Illustrating Dante: Medieval and Modern

President: Fabian Alfie (University of Arizona)

Vincent Pollina (Tufts University): Visual *Contrapasso*: Illustrating *Inferno* 28

Kristina M. Olson (George Mason University): Dante's Urban American Vernacular: Sandow Birk's *Divine Comedy*

Teresa Gualtieri-Clark (Independent Scholar): Mussolini, Monsters and Mayhem: Modern Depictions of Dante's *Inferno* in Popular Media

Dante V: Dante and His Sources in the Classical and Legal Traditions

President: Stan Benfell (Brigham Young University)

Veronica Zanoni (University of Wales): Poetical Vocabulary in the *Commedia*: Dante's Emulation, Superseding and Redemption of the Classics

Francesco Aimerito (Università del Piemonte Orientale Amedeo Avogadro): Medieval Law in Dante's *Inferno*

Valerio Gigliotti (Università degli Studi di Torino): Celestine V according to Dante: Law and Literature

Dante Studies on JSTOR

Thanks to the efforts of Jan Ziolkowski, who served on the DSA Council from 2004-07, *Dante Studies* is now affiliated with the on-line periodicals service, JSTOR. Enhanced exposure and permanent archiving stand among the principal benefits.

In the past year and a half, the Secretary-Treasurer concluded the contractual arrangements, devised the presentation of the DSA and *Dante Studies* on the JSTOR Web site, and assisted with the loan or acquisition of issues dating back to the inception of the journal.

Each volume produced from 1882 to 2005 is now available through the JSTOR Arts & Sciences V Collection. Members are asked to urge their home institutions to subscribe. The use of a three-year "Moving Wall," which renders the most recent volumes inaccessible on-line, makes it imperative that print subscriptions not be discontinued when electronic access is acquired. Once a library has subscribed to *Dante Studies* through JSTOR, it may nonetheless realize a gain in shelf space by housing off-site the bound volumes of the journal from the distant past.

Links with the Longfellow Site

Thanks to the cooperation of Longfellow Site Manager Jim Shea, the Dante Society

and the Longfellow House have established reciprocal links on their Web pages. The National Historic Site has honored the DSA by listing it – alongside the Maine Historical Society and the Friends of the Longfellow House – on its "Partners" page. See <http://www.nps.gov/long/parkmgmt/partners.htm> for further information.



Membership in the Society

Even in a challenging financial climate, the DSA endeavors to be faithful to its mission. As always, it seeks to exemplify ideals of literary scholarship and to foster strong vocations for research on Dante and his works. None of this would be possible, however, without the moral and financial support of the membership.

Members of the Society are encouraged to attend the Winter and Spring Meetings, to propose papers for the DSA sessions at Kalamazoo, to offer essays for consideration by the editors of *Dante Studies* and the *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America (EBDSA)*, and, of course, to keep their dues current.

Those who are able to join as Patron Members, Life Members, or Supporting Life Members are warmly invited to do so. Contributions at these levels make it possible for the Society to continue its full range of activities while offering student memberships at a 50% discount. For categories and rates, please visit www.dantesociety.org/membership.html.

Council Members, 2009-10

Albert Ascoli
Univ. of California, Berkeley
Susanna Barsella
Fordham University
Todd Boli, Vice President
Framingham, MA
William Franke
Vanderbilt University
Victoria Kirkham
University of Pennsylvania
Giuseppe Mazzotta, *ex officio*
Yale University

Vincent Pollina, Secretary-Treasurer
Tufts University
Nancy Vickers, President
Bryn Mawr College

Board of Editors, 2009-10

Teodolinda Barolini
Columbia University
Theodore Cachey
University of Notre Dame
Alison Cornish
University of Michigan
Olivia Holmes
Binghamton University
Joseph Luzzi
Bard College
Richard Lansing, Editor
Brandeis University
Giuseppe Mazzotta, *ex officio*
Yale University
Nancy Vickers, *ex officio*
Bryn Mawr College
Heather Webb
Ohio State University
Winthrop Wetherbee
Cornell University

Nominating Committee, 2009-10

Rachel Jacoff
Wellesley College
Dana Stewart
Binghamton University
Jan Ziolkowski, Chair
Harvard University

Prize Committee, 2009-10

Albert Ascoli
Univ. of California, Berkeley
Victoria Kirkham, Chair
University of Pennsylvania

Auditing Committee, 2009-10

Todd Boli
Framingham, MA
Laurie Shepard, Chair
Boston College

DANTE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Published twice each year by the Dante Society of America and distributed to members of the Society.

P.O. Box 1558
Arlington, MA 02474-0023

www.dantesociety.org