

D.H. Lawrence Society of North America

Minutes, Saturday, January 26th, 2013

(Annual Business Meeting, January 4th, 2013 MLA, Boston, 11:30 am-1:30 pm--held at Dillons, Back Bay)

Present: Holly Laird, Betsy Sargent, Joyce Wexler, Heather Lusty, Matthew Kochis, Matthew Leone, Nanette Norris, Pamela Wright

Chaired by Holly Laird, President

1. Minutes of last year's meeting have been online for one year.

2. 13th International D.H. Lawrence Conference (Betsy Sargent):

a. A companion website will be developed for this conference by a graduate student in Italy, in coordination with DHLSNA webmaster Tina Ferris. Various forms of compensation were discussed. It was agreed that the graduate student should receive \$500 for work on the website prior to the conference, followed by \$500 (to cover room and board) if he attends the conference and does additional work there; and that Tina Ferris should receive \$1300 or more (primarily for her work on the Gargnano conference website and online conference registration), to increase her compensation above what she received after the 12th International Conference in Sydney. The graduate student may, of course, also submit a paper for acceptance and request consideration for a graduate fellowship, if he wishes (see 2.b).

b. Graduate fellowships will again be offered on a competitive basis to students who have papers accepted to the conference. Each graduate fellow received a waiver of the registration fee, which included the Gala dinner. In exchange, they agreed to give 8 hours to assist the conference directors before and during the conference. Six of these fellowships were awarded. The executive board agreed that such volunteer work will depend upon what the Gargnano conference directors need; that a larger number of fellowships may be possible, given the greater general accessibility of Italy to large numbers of students, but depending upon the size of the conference budget (still to be determined); and that conference fees, including the Gala dinner meal prices, would again be covered. Nancy Paxton and Judith Ruderman, who are handling everything related to these graduate fellowships for the Gargnano conference, will work out additional details with the three co-directors of the 13th International DHL Conference and with the conference treasurer, Joyce Wexler.

c. At the request of the 2014 Conference Directors, the executive board further agreed that two fellowships should be set aside for Italian graduate students of the directors' choice. The others would be awarded, as in the past, competitively upon acceptance of their papers to the conference.

d. The application was submitted in December for use of the University of Milan conference center in Gargnano in June 2014 and that application is moving forward. We should be hearing the result soon since the deadline for 2014 applications was January 1, 2013.

e. It was further agreed that discussion of conference expenses would be postponed until we had a decision about the University of Milan conference centre in Gargnano; if we are allowed to use the conference centre, we'll need a better understanding of the overall costs involved before we can estimate conference registration fees. Nancy Paxton's budget for the Sydney conference would be circulated among the officers to help in thinking this through. While Joyce has agreed to serve as conference treasurer, the budgets for the Gargnano conference and for the DHLSNA will be kept strictly separate, as they were for the Sydney conference. The DHLSNA can pay any deposits required upfront, but will be reimbursed in full from the conference budget for such seed money.

3. 2014 and 2015 MLA:

a. 2014 MLA: Since two panels for the 2014 MLA (one “guaranteed,” the other collaborative with the Lessing Society) were posted last September on the MLA website, all that remained to decide was whether a third call for papers should be issued, as suggested the previous year, on D.H. Lawrence and Science. It was agreed not to post a third call for papers. It was further agreed that the 2014 DHLSNA dinner will be held on the Saturday evening of the conference, and Joyce Wexler volunteered to look for a suitable place in Chicago; but that we would not organize a cash bar at the MLA due to its expense and potential distraction of people from the dinner. All agreed, however, that the invitation to the Virginia Woolf cash bar extended by that Society to other author-allied organizations was very welcome and that we might approach them for a collaborative MLA panel in future years.

b. 2015 MLA: Topics not only on Lawrence and Science, but also on Lawrence and War (due to the forthcoming 1915 anniversary of *The Rainbow*), were discussed. While the executive board brainstormed briefly about how to frame these topics for maximum interest, we decided that those details should be left to be mediated by President-Elect Nancy Paxton, who will be organizing those panels. We also agreed that the H.D. society should be re-approached about their availability and interest in a collaborative panel.

4. Awards:

a. Harry T. Moore award: Nominees for this lifetime achievement award are confidential until recipients have accepted their awards. The executive board discussed the nominations that had been presented via email exchange prior to the MLA, and they agreed on their first choice. This choice will be conveyed to Paul Poplawski and the other Gargano conference directors since it is hoped that the recipient will also give a keynote address, though the executive board does not consider this a requirement for the award. The DHLSNA president will write a letter to the awardee later this spring.

b. Newly Published Scholar: Nominees for this award are similarly confidential (see 4.a). In addition to the two nominations already made, the executive board discussed what other scholarship has been produced within the past two years and whether or not any of these other publications might qualify; it was agreed that one or two recent publications in the D.H. Lawrence Review merited consideration. The executive board then agreed that most board members needed more time to look at the scholarship and make a decision. The awardee may also be asked to deliver a keynote talk, though that is not probable in this case.

c. Spilka lecture: Nominees for this award are confidential (see 4.a). The terms of this award were discussed: that the recipient is awarded a keynote by the DHLSNA at each international conference; that the lectureship constitutes this award (i.e., does not include an honorarium from the DHLSNA, but should include a \$250 honorarium from the conference budget), that if help is needed with travel, the conference budget should include some funds to put toward travel. A new nomination was then put forward for this award and briefly discussed. The executive board agreed to vote on this lectureship by email exchange after the MLA had concluded.

5. Treasurer’s report for 2012 (Joyce Wexler)--final figures will be available shortly and will be posted online; use of paypal, nonprofit status with the IRS, and our annual fees for various web domains have all complicated this process.

6. Membership: The executive board brainstormed about various ways to sustain and increase membership, including gift memberships for students; “friending” people interested in Lawrence on facebook; creating a link on the DHLSNA website to the DHL facebook page;

offering mentorship to younger scholars; pre-reviewing younger scholars' research papers; and advertising the conference graduate fellowships. Current listservs focused on Lawrence were also discussed.

7. Other Business: No further business was proposed due to the lateness of the meeting, and we adjourned.