

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

April 1995

Letter from the President

Dear Colleague,

The Annual meeting of the Dante Society of America will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. (reception to follow) at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, 61 Kirkland Street, on the Harvard University campus. After a brief business meeting, a lecture by Edward Peters, H.C. Lea Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, "The Shadowy, Violent Perimeter': Dante Enters Florentine Political Life," will mark the 700th anniversary of Dante's entrance into politics. A discussion will follow.

You will find enclosed a 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 for it, and return it together with the proxy statement in time to have it included in the vote count on May 20. The returning members of the Council are Albert Ascoli, Charles T. Davis, Amilcare Iannucci, and Angelo Mazzocco; the continuing Council Associate is Winthrop Wetherbee.

I should like to thank the Council for re-electing me president of the Society for a second term of three years. On behalf of the Council, I should like to say a special word of thanks to our efficient and indefatigable Secretary-Treasurer, who has not only continued to manage our routine affairs in exemplary fashion, but has also provided us with diskettes of the entire run of the American Dante Bibliographies, available now for purchase by members, and described more fully elsewhere in this newsletter. On behalf of the Council, I also wish to express my gratitude to the members of our Nominating, Prize, Publications, and

Auditing Committees, whose names are also listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are also especially proud and appreciative of the fact that the Editor and Board of Dante Studies have in recent years edited extra volumes of that periodical and brought its publication up

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is tentatively scheduled to be published in June and should reach members before the end of the month.

to date. Members should reward them by submitting more essays for their consideration. Members who use college or university libraries could render an important service to their Society if they would inquire whether these libraries have current subscriptions to Dante Studies and let us know if they do not; we fear that far too often, this is the case. It would be particularly helpful if libraries without a subscription could be urged to ask for one directly from the State University of New York Press. Otherwise, we have no way of knowing which libraries subscribe and which do not.

If members think of matters that they believe should be brought before the Council, I hope that they will take the opportunity to write to me about them. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the annual meeting in May. With best wishes,

Charles T. Davis

DSA Committees for 1994-95

Prize: Theodore Cachey, Jr. (chair) and

John Ahern.

Nominating: Susan Noakes (chair), Rachel Jacoff, Jeffrey Schnapp.

Auditing: Todd Boli (chair) and Laurie Shepard.

Publications: Charles T. Davis (*ex officio*), R. Hollander (*ex officio*), Amilcare Iannucci, Rachel Jacoff, C. Kleinhenz (*ex officio*), Richard Lansing (*ex officio*), Ricardo Quinones, Joan Ferrante (chair).

The Dante Encyclopedia

Garland Publishing, Inc., of New York is preparing *The Dante Encyclopedia* under the editorship of Richard Lansing, to be published in 1996. The volume's topical essays will present an up-to-date, systematic introduction to Dante's life, his works, and the cultural context in which his moral and intellectual imagination took shape. It will provide entries for all names in the *Divine Comedy* and the minor works and include bibliographical listings and an index.

The Dante Encyclopedia will supply, in one volume and in easily accessible fashion, information on a wide range of topics. Designed for use by undergraduates, graduates, and general readers, it will provide fundamental factual information as well as authoritative discussions on the major interpretive debates that engage the minds of contemporary Dante critics. International in scope, the project will involve the collaboration of more than 150 scholars from more than ten countries. Members of the Dante Society will receive a 20% discount off list price. The Associate Editors are Teodolinda Barolini, Joan M. Ferrante, Amilcare Iannucci, and Christopher Kleinhenz. Inquiries may be directed to the editor at:

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ADB on Disk, Volume 3

by Richard Lansing

The Society has prepared the third and final volume of the *American Dante Bibliography* on disk, for the years 1953-1969, and 1993. Disks may be ordered by sending a check with the enclosed form. The disks are expected to ship by the end of May or early June. Volumes 1 (1981-1991, with the Centennial Index 1882-1982) and 2 (1970-80, 1992) are still available. Arrangements will be made to make each successive annual bibliography available at a reasonable cost. There is no faster way to access references to studies and reviews of Dante scholarship in the American domain than by using the **ADB**. It allows for rapid search of text as well as provides a quick way to copy title-entry text for pasting into a document.

The Society encourages members who are affiliated with an academic institution to ask their departments and university libraries to consider the purchase of the **ADB on Disk** as a valuable reference tool. Orders should be sent to the home address of the Dante Society.

RMMLA Dante Sessions

by Guy Raffa

For the past three years, the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association has hosted a special Dante session at its annual conference, and a petition has been circulated to make this session a regular offering on the program. This year's session was held on 29 October in Colorado Springs, CO. Cynthia Craig, Rosetta D'Angelo, and Guy Raffa joined Ricardo Quinones in a spirited discussion of his latest book, *Foundation Sacrifice in Dante's Commedia* (Pennsylvania State

UP, 1994).

Dues for 1995: Last Call

A few members who have still to renew their membership for the coming year will find a dues form included with this mailing. Please give us your continued support and help us reduce postage costs by responding at your earliest convenience.

Renaissance Dante in Print 1472-1629

by Ted Cachey, Jr.

This exhibition presents Renaissance editions of Dante's *Divine Comedy* from the John A. Zahm, C.S.C., Dante Collection at the University of Notre Dame, together with selected treasures from The Newberry Library. The Zahm collection ranks among the top Dante collections in North America. Purchased for the most part by Zahm in 1902 from the Italian Dantophile Giulio Acquaticci, the 15th- and 16th-century imprints presented here form the heart of Zahm's collection, which totals nearly 3,000 volumes, including rare editions and critical studies from the Renaissance to the present. The nine incunable editions and nearly complete series of 16th-century imprints featured in this exhibit constitute essential primary sources for both the history of Dante's reception during the Renaissance and the early history of the printed book.

The exhibit was originally held at the Newberry Library between 15 April - 15 June 1994, and has been produced in expanded form for Internet publication by a collaboration among the William and Katherine Devers Program in Dante Studies, University of Notre Dame, the Artfl Project of the University of Chicago, and the Newberry Library. The Devers Program, the Artfl Project, and the Newberry are pleased to invite you to visit the "Renaissance Dante in Print 1472-1629" at the following URL

address:

http://tuna.uchicago.edu/Dante/Dante_Ex1.html.

[Editor's note: This is a World Wide Web site and requires the use of Mosaic or NetScape with a TCP/IP connection or equivalent for access.]

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