

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 2

April 1997

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The 115th Annual Meeting of the Dante Society of America will be held on Saturday, May 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (reception to follow) at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, 61 Kirkland St., on the Harvard University Campus. After a brief business meeting, **Lino Pertile**, Department of Romance Languages, Harvard University, will talk about "Politics and Allegory in Dante's Letters." At the Dante Society's MLA session in December our speaker will be **Alison Cornish**, Department of Romance Languages, University of Michigan, who will speak on an aspect of Dante and the stars.

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 May 16. The returning members of the Council are Lawrence Baldassaro, Teodolinda Barolini, Kevin Brownlee, and Marguerite Chiarenza. Members of committees for 1996-1997 are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I come to the end of my second and last term as president, I should like to thank the Society for the honor and pleasure of serving it and all those who have helped me and it in any way, particularly those who have served on committees or editorial boards or participated in panels or lectured at winter MLA sessions or spring meetings. I should like to thank especially Joan Ferrante, who after concluding a brilliant presidency, was generous enough to agree to direct the

activities of the Publications Committee when it was created five years ago; Robert Hollander, who has been instrumental in the successful launch of our new electronic bulletin (EBDSA) and the setting up of our home page; Richard Lansing, who has labored untiringly since 1987 as our efficient, astute, and creative Secretary-Treasurer; and Christopher Kleinhenz, whose manifold contributions to our society have by no means been limited to editing and improving its most important product, its journal of studies on Dante. I wish also to extend our thanks to Lino Pertile and Steven Mitchell, who have so kindly facilitated the transfer of the Society's seat from CLCS to the Eliot House on the Harvard campus, a move that is scheduled to be completed by mid-June.

A critical ongoing activity is the recruitment of new members. If you can think of appropriate persons (their interest in Dante need not be professional), please send their names and addresses to the chair of the Membership Committee, Professor Marguerite Chiarenza, Department of Hispanic & Italian, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada V6T 1W5.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Meeting in May. With thanks and best wishes,

Charles Davis

Vincent Cioffari, 1905-1997.

Vincent Cioffari, past president of the Dante Society of America (1967-73), died recently at the age of 91. He was born February 24, 1905, in Calitri, educated at Cornell and Columbia, and he taught at Hunter College, the University of Iowa, and Boston

University. He was the national chairman of the Dante Centenary in 1965 and represented the Society at celebrations in Italy. He wrote on "Fortune and Fate," on Dante and his commentators, and edited Guido da Pisa's Commentary on Dante's *Inferno* for the Society. He also produced a widely-used Italian Review Grammar and a Spanish Review Grammar, and he served as a special consultant to the editorial staff of the US Armed Forces Institute in Washington during the year 1946-47. He was married to Prof. Angelina Grimaldi, who was as faithful an attendant at Dante Society meetings as her husband for several decades.

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The following additional sessions on Dante will be held at the 32nd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, on 8-11 May 1997. The sessions on "Dante and Medieval Art" and "Problems in Dante's *Inferno*" were listed in the fall Newsletter.

Problems in Dante's Divine Comedy:
Presiding: Caron Ann Cioffi,
University of California-Davis

1. "Lover, Authority, Deity: The Meaning of Beatrice's *Personae* in the *Commedia*," **Tor Torhaug**, University of Oslo (Norway).

2. "The Sexualized Body in Eden and Paradise," **Regina Psaki**, University of Oregon.

3. "Argo's Shadow and the Point of Self-Knowledge (*Pd.* 33.94-96)," **Christian Moevs**, U. of Notre Dame.

New Perspectives on Dante and the Visual Arts:

Organizer: Christopher Kleinhenz
Presiding: Regina Psaki

1. "Qui si conviene usare un poco d'arte": Examining Ekphrasis in Canto X of *Purgatorio*," **Erica Jablon**, University of Chicago.
2. "The Visual Tradition of Dante's Divine Comedy," **Christopher Kleinhenz**, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
3. "When Did Dante Get His Laurel Crown?," **Debra Pincus**, University of British Columbia.

The complete schedule of sessions of the Congress can be consulted on the Web at the following address:
<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/32congress/program/sat330.htm>

HyperDante

Seth Zimmerman, who teaches at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose, CA, offers to make a Mac disk of his *terza rima* translation of the *Inferno* freely available to any member of the Dante Society for the asking. In addition, a HyperCard translation program, called "HyperDante," contains Italian-English text and provides pedagogical accessories. He may be contacted at szlz@aol.com.

Dante Society Newsletter

The Newsletter is published by the Dante Society of America and distributed to its members. Send material for publication to the Editor, Richard Lansing, at lansing@highway1.com.

Deadlines:
October 31 and March 31



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