

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 1

November 1998

Spring Election Results

The newly elected Council members for the term 1998-2001 are Theodore Cachey, Jr., and H. Wayne Storey. Richard Lansing was returned to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. During the early months of summer Kevin Brownlee 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 MLA Convention in San Francisco on Sunday, December 27, from 5:15 - 6:30 p.m., in the Vanderbilt Room of the Fairmont Hotel. Steven Botterill, University of California, Berkeley, will speak on the topic "Dante and the Language of Community." A joint Cash Bar reception co-sponsored by the Dante Society and the American Boccaccio Association will take place on Tuesday evening, December 29, from 5:15-6:30 p.m., in the Squire Room of the Fairmont Hotel. Everyone is invited to attend.

Dante2000 Conference

by Teodolinda Barolini

I am very pleased to be able to provide splendid news about the continuing plans for our millennial conference devoted to Dante, **Dante2000**. Set for the weekend of April 7-9 in the spring of the year 2000—when *'l sol monterà ... 'n su con quelle stelle / ch'eran con lui quando l'amor divino / mosse di prima quelle cose belle*—, the conference will be hosted by Columbia University's Italian Academy for Advanced Study in America, situated in the historic and recently renovated Casa Italiana.

An exhibition and demonstration of new technologies applied to Dante studies, featuring the work of our

Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lansing and past President Robert Hollander, will start the proceedings, followed by sessions devoted to "Dante and Gender," "Science and Philosophy," "Material Culture," "Reception and Cultural Studies," "The Body," "Eschatology and Visions," "Dante and Ovid," and "Eros and Mysticism."

Speakers and session chairs will include John Ahern, Albert Ascoli, Zygmunt Baranski, Teodolinda Barolini, Steven Botterill, Kevin Brownlee, Ted Cachey, Alison Cornish, Robert Durling, Joan Ferrante, Warren Ginsberg, Guglielmo Gorni, Peter Hawkins, Ronald Herzman, Amilcare Iannucci, Rachel Jacoff, Christopher Kleinhenz, Ronald Martinez, Giuseppe Mazzotta, Susan Noakes, Lino Pertile, Michelangelo Picone, Regina Psaki, Wayne Storey, Nancy Vickers, and David Wallace. And, at the Saturday night Banquet, we will have the special pleasure of honoring John Freccero for the vitality and richness that he has brought to American Dante studies. As you can see from this synopsis, **Dante2000** promises to be a truly extraordinary event.

Charles T. Davis, 1929-1998

Last April shortly before the Annual Meeting, Charles Davis succumbed after a short illness. While we will remember him more fully in a commemorative tribute that will appear in the 1998 volume of *Dante Studies*, we cannot fail to record here our sense of loss and diminishment at his untimely death. He gave to our Society his deep learning and great love of our poet, but also—and perhaps even more importantly—the lesson of his own exquisite human forbearance and generosity. We miss him.

This year has been one of many losses. We wish also to remember Jean-Pierre Barricelli, Greg Lucente, Tibor Wlassics, Joseph Mazzeo, and

Gian Paolo Biasin, all members of the Society.

Membership dues for 1999

In light of increased expenses which the Society must assume for the publication of *Dante Studies*, the Council has decided that it is necessary to revise the dues structure. Last spring, SUNY Press informed the Society that it will double the fee for publication of

Revised dues structure

Membership	30.00
Sustaining Membership	50.00
Joint Membership	35.00
Student	15.00
Patron	100.00
Life*	500.00
Supporting Life**	750.00

* (350.00 before January 1, 1999)

** (500.00 before January 1, 1999)

future issues, beginning with the volume for 1997. Their decision places a special strain on the Society because the dues raised in 1997 and 1998 will not adequately cover publishing expenses for those years. We hope that our members will understand our need to increase dues.

The new dues structure remains comparable to that of other literary organizations. Student membership is increased, but the five-year limit has been removed. The Council has also decided extend a one-time offer of Life or Supporting Life membership at the present dues level, *through the end of this year*. During this period, a Life membership will continue to be \$350, and Supporting Life, \$500. Checks must, however, be postmarked no later than December 31, 1998.

Essay Prize Winners for 1997

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to Matthew Pearl, Harvard University: "Dante in Transit: Emerson's Lost Role as Dantean." There was no award in the graduate category. Alison Cornish (chair) and Steven Botterill served as Prize Committee readers.

"The World of Dante"

by Deborah Parker

"The World of Dante: A Hypermedia Archive for the Study of the *Inferno*," an interactive website, was developed under the auspices of IATH (Institute for Advanced Technologies in the Humanities, University of Virginia) in 1996-97. The major sections of the project include a visual archive of approximately 300 images (Gustave Doré's engravings, the engravings which accompanied Alessandro Vellutello's 1544 commentary to the *Divine Comedy*, maps of towns, and photographs of geographical sites and architectural and artistic structures named in the *Inferno*), the TEI-tagged Italian text of the *Inferno*, presented through Dynaweb (an SGML-aware Webserver), and a text visualization, a VRML model of the *Inferno*. The project was designed with a wide range of users in mind and is intended to facilitate the teaching and researching of the *Inferno*. The website is found at: <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/dante/>

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

by Christopher Kleinhenz

The Thirty-Fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 6-9, 1999. The following sessions are sponsored by The Dante Society of America.

Dante and the Visual Arts I

Organizer: Nicholas R. Havely

Presider: Barbara J. Watts

1. "Dante and the Tuscan Pulpit."

Christie Fengler Stephany and **William A. Stephany**, University of Vermont.

2. "Illustrating Dante's Franciscans." **Nicholas R. Havely**, University of York.

3. "The Weeping Pages: The Illustrations of Ovidian Victims in the Marciana Codex (MS it IX.276)."

Caron Ann Cioffi, University of California, Davis.

Dante and the Visual Arts II

Organizer: Christopher Kleinhenz

Presider: Nicholas R. Havely

1. "Textual Visualization and Pictorial Interpretation: Sandro Botticelli's Drawing for *Inferno* XIX and What Dante's Early Commentators Did Not Mention." **Barbara J. Watts**, Florida International University.

2. "Dante's *Inferno*: Visual Interpretations by Sixteenth-Century Painters, Stradano and Zuccaro." **Liana De Girolami Cheney**, University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

3. "Fractal Geometry as a Basis for Comparing the *Divine Comedy* and Gothic Architecture." **Kevin Marti**, University of New Orleans.

Dante

Organizer: Christopher Kleinhenz

Presider: William A. Stephany

1. "Dante and Falconry." **Teresa Gualtieri**, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2. "'Ita verborum vetus interit aetas': Latin in Dante's *Commedia*." **V. Stanley Benfell**, Brigham Young University.

3. "In the Tavern with the Gluttons:"

Durante's Comicity in the *Fiore*." **Fabian Alfie**, University of Arizona.

Dante Studies for 1997

Volume 115 for 1997 will be published by late spring or early summer of next year. The journal expects to return to a normal schedule of publication after the successive issue, Volume 116 (1998), which should be in print by the fall of 1999.

Council Members, 1998-99

Teodolinda Barolini, President

Kevin Brownlee, Vice President

Theodore Cachey, Jr.

Alison Cornish

Robert Durling

Richard Lansing, Secretary-Treasurer

Lino Pertile

H. Wayne Storey

Dante Society Newsletter

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www.princeton.edu/~dante

Deadlines: October 31 and March 31