

Dante Society Newsletter

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Spring Election Results

Last spring David Wallace was elected and Nancy Vickers was re-elected to the Council for the term 2003-2006. Richard Lansing was returned to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. During the early months of summer John Ahern was re-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 New York, on Saturday, December 28, from 10:15-11:30 p.m., in the Royal Ballroom B of the Sheraton Hotel. **Giuseppe Mazzotta**, Yale University, will speak on the topic "The Spectacle and Geometry of Justice: *Paradiso* XVIII-XX." Teodolinda Barolini will preside. Everyone is invited to attend.

DSA Annual Meeting

The Dante Society will hold its Annual Meeting on the Harvard Campus on the weekend of April 26-27, 2003. The specific time and location of the meeting will be announced in the spring Newsletter. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Dante Studies

The 2001 volume (CXIX) of *Dante Studies* is in press and should reach members by early next year. The volume for 2002 (CXX) will be sent to Fordham University Press in the spring of 2003 and is expected to be published before the close of the academic year.

Essay Prize Winners for 2002

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to **Marisa Escobar**, Columbia University, for her submission "Finding 'I' In The Place Where All Things Are: Borges' use of Dante's Epic Themes in 'El Aleph.'" The Grandgent Prize for the best essay by a graduate student went to **Patrick Gardner**, University of Notre Dame, for his essay "A People with Whom I Must Not Be: Dante's Relation to the Sodomites." Christian Moevs (chair) and Regina Psaki served as Prize Committee readers.

New Guidelines for Prize Essay Submissions

Several changes in the guidelines for the submission of both undergraduate and graduate essays in consideration for the Dante and Grandgent Prizes were approved at the

Council's October meeting. Beginning in 2003, all submissions must be made by e-mail attachment of a file in either Word or WordPerfect, to the Society's e-mail address at dsa@dantesociety.org. No hard copy will be accepted. Undergraduate essays should be no longer than 5,000 words in length, graduate essays no longer than 7,500 words in length, including bibliographies and any other material. The deadline for submission remains June 30 of each year. Faculty are asked to communicate news of these changes to their students. These changes are designed to facilitate the process of making copies available to the members of the Prize Committee, some of whom have in the past been out of the country during the summer months. Moreover, electronic submission will insure that the limits on length can be easily verified, a roughly similar length being desirable in order to create a common field of play. Finally, the new process will reduce copying and mailing expenses, for everyone involved.

DSA Receives Grant from Mellon Foundation

In May the Dante Society received a planning grant of \$43,000 from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to develop a Dante Image Archive which will support the many courses dedicated to Dante in high schools, community colleges, colleges and universities throughout North America. The Archive will consist of a broad collection of carefully chosen and edited images intended to stimulate and enrich readers of the *Comedy* at all levels.

During the next months a Planning Group, consisting of Dario Del Puppo, Trinity College (Hartford), Karl Fugelso, Towson University, and Arielle Saiber, Bowdoin College, and chaired by John Ahern, Vassar College, and vice president of the Dante Society, will develop a sample module of the Archive. It will carry out its work with the assistance of technical team at Vassar College, which is co-recipient of the grant. As it deals with issues posed by the selection, scanning, tagging and captioning of images, the Planning Group will establish editorial policy, standards and guidelines for the future Archive. It will also examine issues related to permissions and site maintenance.

The Planning Group plans to submit the sample module to the Society at its Spring meeting in Cambridge for comment and criticism which it will take into account next summer as it prepares a proposal to the Mellon Foundation for a three-year grant to establish the Archive.

It also hopes to make the module accessible to members on the Society's website: <http://www.dantesociety.org>. A questionnaire will be sent to all members early in 2003.

The grant proposal may be consulted on the web at <http://projects.vassar.edu/VCMellonDante>.

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Thirty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11, 2003. The following sessions are sponsored by The Dante Society of America. You may consult their website at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress.

Dante I: Dante's Reel Life: The Influence of the *Commedia* on Hollywood Cinema

Organizer: Caron Ann Cioffi (Independent Scholar)
Presider: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- **Caron Ann Cioffi** (Independent Scholar): "War Is Hell, with a Happy Ending: Dante and Roberto Benigni's *La vita è bella*"
- **Dennis Looney** (University of Pittsburgh): "Spencer Williams: An African American Filmmaker at the Gates of Hell"
- **Nicholas R. Havely** (University of York): "Capitalism Is Hell: Harry Lachman's *Dante's Inferno* (1935)"

Dante II: Conversion and Theological Hermeneutics in the *Commedia*

Presider: Mary A. Watt (University of Florida)

- **Christine Baur** (Fordham University): "Conversion in the *Commedia* and Its Contemporary Philosophical Significance"
- **Disa Gambera** (University of Utah): "Dante's Statius and the Conversion of Ancient Poetry"
- **Vittorio Montemaggi** (University of Cambridge): "Nulla vedere e amor mi costrinse": Toward a Theological Hermeneutics for the *Commedia*"

Dante III: New Perspectives on the *Commedia*

Presider: Caron Ann Cioffi (Independent Scholar)

- **Olivia Holmes** (Yale University): "Ulysses at the Crossroads"
- **Mary Watt** (University of Florida): "Siena, Verona, Ravenna: Plotting Dante's Iter of Purgation"

- **Louise Belvedere Caldi** (Independent Scholar): "Art as a Defense against Dante's Anti-Angevin Propaganda"

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Dante Society Newsletter

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