

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 1

November 2005

Two Join Honorary Ranks

Piero Boitani of the University of Rome and **Emilio Pasquini** of the University of Bologna have been elected honorary members of the Dante Society of America. Professors Boitani and Pasquini, whom President Mazzotta has called “two truly great Dante scholars,” join the forty-four distinguished honorees who have preceded them since 1889 and who include in their company such luminaries as Marcella Roddewig, Natalino Sapegno, Maria Corti, Giorgio Petrocchi, André Pézard, Kenelm Foster, T.S. Eliot, Gaetano Salvemini, Bruno Nardi, Étienne Gilson, Bernard Berenson, Karl Vossler, Nicola Zingarelli, Paget Toynbee, Francesco D’Ovidio, and Giosuè Carducci.

Donor Supports DSA Outreach in Argentina

Robert Frank Pence, a sustaining life member of the Dante Society and active supporter of its initiatives, has undertaken to fund the Society’s gift of books to the nascent “Casa di Dante in Latinoamérica” (Salta, Argentina). In April, the Argentine Casa’s Executive Director, **Teresa Colque**, approached the Dante Society of America with a request for tangible support for the important step that her new Dante organization represents in the “desarrollo de la cultura latinoamericana.” In response, the Casa di Dante in Latinoamérica will receive from our library such recent publications and duplicate copies of older books as are not critical to the DSA’s history or mission and might support meaningful scholarship in our new sister organization. Professor Colque’s Casa will also receive a copy of each available back issue of *Dante Studies*. The Dante Society of America sends Professor Colque and her colleagues in Argentina its best wishes for the success of their project and thanks Robert Frank Pence for his generous support.



Dante Society of America Honors Robert Hollander

At last May’s Annual Meeting, the Dante Society of America presented to **Robert Hollander** the second Charles T. Davis Award for Distinction in Dante Studies. The award honors Professor Hollander for his many contributions both as a scholar and as past President of the Society. The award plaque, bearing a gold florin and the inscription, “per esser presto / a tal querente e a tal professione,” was presented by the Society’s President, Giuseppe Mazzotta. **Kevin Brownlee** and **Teodolinda Barolini** paid tribute to Bob as a teacher, colleague, scholar, and friend. An unusually large turnout was on hand for the ceremony.

Spring Election Results

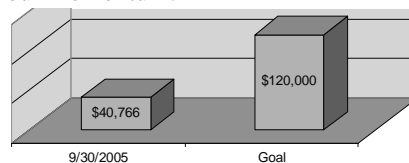
Last spring Olivia Holmes and Dana Stewart were elected to the Council for 2005-08. Todd Boli was elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for a one-year term. In May, Guy Raffa was elected Vice President of the Society by the Council, for a term of one year.

Winter Meeting

The Dante Society will meet at the 2005 MLA Annual Convention in Washington, DC, on Friday, December 30, from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., in the Georgetown East room of the Washington Hilton Hotel. **Ronald Martinez** of Brown University will speak on “The Poets and the Paternoster: Lyric and Liturgical Disciplines in Dante’s *Commedia*.” Giuseppe Mazzotta will preside. All MLA attendees are invited to join us.

Capital Campaign on Target

The Campaign for the Dante Society of America continues to make encouraging progress. At the end of our first of three years, roughly a quarter of our membership has contributed a total of \$30,582. Those dollars have in turn been matched by the pledge of our Campaign co-chairs to add one dollar for every three we raise. Thus, our grand total as of September 30 is \$40,776. We are now more than a third of the way to our \$120,000 goal. Your generous response to date is most gratifying, and we trust you will help us maintain our momentum.



In the coming weeks you will receive a letter soliciting your support. As you know, the Society is privileged to have a membership whose enthusiasm and dedication make it unique among scholarly organizations. We are a small society with a large mission, one that is critical to the future of the humanities both here and abroad. We urge those of you who have yet to contribute to do so; we ask those of you who contributed last year to equal—or even better—your gift. Only with the support of the membership can the Society sustain both a century of scholarly tradition and a contemporary commitment to promote Dante studies worldwide through new initiatives enabled by new technologies.

If you have questions about the Campaign or would like to discuss a gift, please contact your co-chairs: Teodolinda Barolini (212-854-2308, tb27@columbia.edu), Joan Ferrante (212-854-6415, jmf2@columbia.edu), and Nancy Vickers (610-526-5156, nvickers@brynmaur.edu). The Dante Society of America is a non-profit charitable organization; *all gifts are fully tax deductible*.

Next Annual Meeting Set for May 20

The DSA will hold its Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 20, 2006. Please mark your calendar. **María Rosa Menocal** (Yale University) will speak on "Dante and Islam," **Karla Mallette** (Miami University) will speak on "Muhammad in Hell," and **Greg Stone** (Louisiana State University) will speak on "Dante and Pluralism." Further information will follow in the spring Newsletter.

Worldwide Series of Dante Critical Classics to Launch

Emilio Pasquini, an honorary member of the DSA, has asked the Society to inform its members that he is launching a project, the Biblioteca Classica Dantesca, which will republish classical critical works on Dante from the 18th century to the 20th century from all over the world. Members seeking more information on Professor Pasquini's project are invited to contact him by mail at Via della Fratta 1, 40136 Bologna, Italy.

Essay Prize Winners for 2005

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to **Michael Nicholson** of the University of California, Berkeley, for "Reading Dante's Stars: An Examination of Dante's Poetics in the *Divine Comedy*." The Grandgent Award for the best essay by a graduate student went to **Zane Mackin** of Columbia University for "Saint Peter Damian: Dante's *Contemplativus militans*." Brenda Schildgen and Guy Raffa read and judged the essays.

We invited the winners to tell us about their interest in Dante. Mr. Nicholson, winner of the Dante Prize, shared the following thoughts.

"The more poetry I read by T.S. Eliot, the more I encountered Eliot's passion for Dante. I decided to sign up for a class taught by Professor Botterill on the *Inferno*. From the moment that I opened my first page, I was hooked! I simply could not put down the *Inferno*. The next semester I took another class taught by Professor

Botterill, this time on *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* (a class for which I wrote the paper that I submitted). I know I have just begun to skim the surface. Thanks for keeping the works of Dante alive for generations of readers to come!"

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Forty-First International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 4-7, 2006. The Dante Society is sponsoring the following sessions. To learn more, please go to the Kalamazoo Web site at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress.

Dante I: Art Historical Perspectives on the *Divine Comedy*

Chair: Christopher Kleinhenz (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison)

Amber A. McAlister (Univ. of Miami), "Nimrod and the Appearance of the Vernacular in the History of Man: From the Poetry of Dante to the Murals in the Chiostro Verde"

Karl William Fugelso (Towson Univ.), "Joseph Anton Koch and Romantic Echoes of *Commedia* Miniatures"

Aida Audeh (Hamline Univ.), "New Approaches to the Canonical: The Paolo and Francesca Episode in Rodin's *Gates of Hell* and Dante's *Inferno*"

Dante II: New Perspectives on the *Vita Nuova* and the *Commedia*

Chair: Nicholas R. Havelly (Univ. of York)

Jason Houston (Univ. of Oklahoma), "Boccaccio's Monument to Dante Allighieri (sic)"

Justin Steinberg (Univ. of Chicago), "On Disease, Dreams, and Allegory. Dante da Maiano in the *Vita Nuova*"

Heather Webb (Ohio State Univ.), "Embryology in *Paradiso 25*"

Dante III: Ways of Reading Dante through the Centuries

Chair: Justin Steinberg (Univ. of Chicago)

Marsha Daigle-Williamson (Spring Arbor Univ.), "Dante's Narrator: Ignored and Overlooked"

Nicholas R. Havelly (Univ. of York), "Dante and the Abbot of St. Albans: John Whethamstede (d. 1465) as Reader of the *Commedia* and *Monarchia*"

Matteo Soranzo (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), "The Reception of Dante in the Seventeenth Century"

Council Members, 2005-06

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Olivia Holmes
Giuseppe Mazzotta, President
Guy Raffa, Vice President
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Dante Society Newsletter

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