

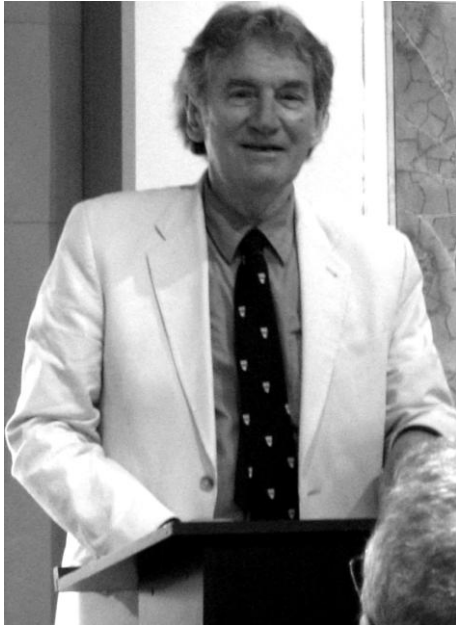
# Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 1

November 2010

## Annual Meeting, May 2010

The Dante Society of America's 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting took place on May 22, 2010, at the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dappled sunlight and pleasant temperatures prevailed throughout the event.



Site Manager and Museum Curator Jim Shea welcomed the membership to the estate of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, where the Dante Society held its inaugural gathering in 1881. After the business meeting, President Nancy Vickers introduced Professor Lino Pertile of Harvard University, a former member of the Council of the DSA (1997-2000), whose lecture on "Hell and Poetry from Dante to Primo Levi" was warmly received. Upon adjournment, refreshments were served in the pergola of Alice Longfellow's formal garden, which was then in full flower.

## Spring Election Results

Last April the membership of the Dante Society elected Peter Hawkins and Ronald Martinez to the Council for 2010-13, and re-elected Vincent Pollina to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for a one-year term. In May, Todd Boli was re-elected Vice President by the Council for a term of one year.

## Winter Meeting

The Dante Society will meet at the 2011 MLA Annual Convention in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 8, 2011, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m., at the L.A. Convention Center, Room 409A. A panel consisting of Peter Hawkins (Yale University), Guy Raffa (University of Texas-Austin), and Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin College) will discuss "Dante and the Popular Imagination." Nancy Vickers will preside. All MLA attendees are invited to join us.

## Next Annual Meeting Set for May 21

The Dante Society of America will hold its Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. William P. Caferro (Professor of History, Vanderbilt University) will address the group. Details will follow in the Spring 2011 Newsletter and on the DSA Web site: [www.dantesociety.org](http://www.dantesociety.org).

## Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Forty-Sixth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12-15, 2011. The Dante Society is sponsoring the following series of sessions, arranged by Editor Emeritus of *Dante Studies* Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison). For further information, visit [www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress](http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress).

### Dante I: Dante's Poetry: Language, Silence, Images

President: Christopher Kleinhenz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Maria Luisa Ardizzone** (New York University): The Plural Word: A Fragment of Dante's Poetics.

**Santa Casciani** (John Carroll University): Darkness of Silence: Bonaventure and Dante

**Alexa Sand** (Utah State University): Strangely Dark, Painfully Bright: The Unbearable Lightness of Seeing in *Inferno* 21 and *Paradiso* 33

**Laurence Hooper** (University of Chicago): Exile and the *Canzone* in Dante's Eden

### Dante II: Dante and Politics – Then and Now

President: Melissa Conway (University of California-Riverside)

**Thomas Renna** (Saginaw Valley State University): Empire and Augustinian Papalists

**Jason Aleksander** (Saint Xavier University): Political Authority and the Illustrious Vernacular in Dante's Political Philosophy

**Luigi G. Ferri** (John Carroll University): 'Lunga promessa con l'attender corto': Dante in Today's Italian Politics

### Dante III: Law and Legal Considerations in Dante

President: Jason Aleksander (Saint Xavier University)

**Francesco Aimerito** (Università del Piemonte Orientale Amedeo Avogadro): Medieval Law in Dante's *Purgatorio*

**Gabriella I. Baika** (Florida Institute of Technology): Pride, Wrath, and Inverted Grammar in *Inferno* 14-16

**Akash Kumar** (Columbia University): Power to Choose: Dante's Piccarda as a Repudiation of Gratian's *Decretum*

### Dante IV: Dante and Virgil: Questions of Influence

President: Vincent Pollina (Tufts University)

**Umberto Taccheri** (St. Mary's College): Textual Precedents in *Inferno* 2:10-48

**Paul V. Rockwell** (Amherst College): The Polydorus Allusion and the Question of Referentiality

**Susan Gorman** (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences): Justinian as Anchises: Allusions to the Virgilian Underworld in *Paradiso* 6

### Dante V: Hagiographical and Sacramental Approaches to Dante's *Commedia*

President: Jelena Todorovic (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Anne Schuchman** (College of Staten Island, CUNY): Dante and the Narrative of Medieval Hagiography

**Elizabeth Dolly Weber** (University of Illinois, Chicago): Connoisseurs of Sin: Virgil, Dante, and Confession in the *Commedia*

**Anne Sullivan** (Independent Scholar): The Thrill and Tenderness of Christian Rapture: Facing the Riddle of the Scorpion in Dante's *Purgatorio* 9

## Dante VI: Gender and Biology in Dante

Presider: Karina F. Attar (Queens College, CUNY)

**Seamus O'Neill** (Memorial University of Newfoundland): 'How Does the Body Depart?': A Plotinian/Porphyrion Reading of Dante's Suicides

**Christiana Purdy Moudarres** (Yale University): The Flesh and Bone of a Montefeltro: *Inferno* 27

**Sara E. Diaz** (New York University): Biccì's *Malfatata* and Forese's *Vedovella*: Sexual Honor and Masculinity in and beyond the *Commedia*



## "Dante and the Greeks"

A symposium on "Dante and the Greeks" was held in Washington, DC, on October 1–3, 2010. Co-sponsored by the DSA in collaboration with Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collection, the event was organized by Jan Ziolkowski, current Director of Dumbarton Oaks and former member of the DSA Council (2004-07).

A full-capacity crowd of 140 registered in advance to hear nineteen papers offered by leading Dantists and Byzantinists. Titles were announced in the Spring 2010 Newsletter, now posted on the "Publications" page of the DSA Web site: [www.dantesociety.org](http://www.dantesociety.org). The proceedings will appear in a special issue of *Dante Studies*.

The Fall Meetings of the Council and of the Board of Editors of *Dante Studies* were held in conjunction with the symposium. Here above, invited speakers gather with Nancy Vickers and Jan Ziolkowski at the foot of a tree whose splayed roots and spreading branches suggest the confluence and influence of cultural traditions.

## Relations with Longfellow Site Continue Strong

Even after the passing of its founding president, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, meetings of the Dante Society were held from time to time in the poet's study. In our day, the Longfellow National Historic Site generously provides a venue for the DSA's annual public gathering each May, as well as for meetings of officers. In 2008 the Society's library of historic books was donated to the Site, where it may be consulted by researchers. Reciprocal Web links appear on the "Partners"

page of the Longfellow House Web site and on the "Links" page of the DSA Web site. Next year, *Dante Studies* will publish a special issue on "Dante and Longfellow," with Giuseppe Mazzotta and Arielle Saiber as guest editors.

## Essay Prize Winners for 2010

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to William Porter (SUNY-Geneseo) for "L'Arco de lo essilio": The Nexus of History, Pilgrimage, and Prophecy in the Heaven of Mars." The Charles Hall Grandgent Award for the best essay by a graduate student went to Christiana Purdy Moudarres (Yale University) for "Devouring Selves in the Circle of Gluttony: A Gloss on the *Contrapasso* of *Inferno* 6."

Prize Committee members Albert Ascoli and Victoria Kirkham (Chair) judged the essays.

The amounts are \$500 for the Dante Prize and \$750 for the Grandgent Award. The deadline for submissions for the 2011 competitions is June 30th.

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