

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 1

December 2013

A Few Words from the Council

PLEASE VOTE! The mailing of the By-Law proxies and related materials was sent in the second week of December to all 2013 members in good standing. Please look for our 9"x12" manila envelope and respond promptly to help bring this critical initiative to a conclusion. We thank you and send best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Winter Meetings in Chicago

The 2014 DSA Winter Meeting, affiliated with the annual MLA Convention, will take place in Chicago on Thursday, January 9 from 1:45 to 3:00 p.m., in room Chicago X at the Sheraton. Dennis Looney will lecture on "Poetics of Lynching, Fugitives from Racism: Dante, Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren."

Given that we also have business to conduct, we have called an additional Special Meeting for 3:30 p.m. on the same day in the Burnham Room (8th Floor) of the Intercontinental Chicago, 505 N. Michigan Avenue. As you may know, the MLA strictly enforces its requirement that those attending affiliated sessions be registered for the full convention. The registration fee for those who are not MLA members is substantial. Our "follow-up" meeting thus makes it possible for any DSA member to attend. The only agenda item will be the vote on the approval of the proposed By-Laws. Refreshments will be served.

2013 Annual Meeting

The Dante Society of America's 131st Annual Meeting took place on May 18, 2013, at the Longfellow House – Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge, MA. Elizabeth Wear, Site Manager, welcomed the members back to the Longfellow House.

In the course of the business meeting that followed, President Nancy Vickers thanked two Council Members who were concluding their terms of service: Peter Hawkins, who had also ably chaired the Nominating Committee, and Ron Martinez. She also noted with deep appreciation that Christopher Kleinhenz, *Dante Studies* Editor Emeritus, had recently retired from many years of arranging the Society's sessions at the

annual International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo.

Vice President Albert Ascoli then introduced a panel organized in honor of the 700th anniversary of Boccaccio's birth. "Dante and Boccaccio: Three Approaches" featured papers by Martin Eisner, Simone Marchesi, and Kristina Olson. A lively discussion followed. After adjournment, the members enjoyed refreshments in the Longfellow garden.

2014 Annual Meeting Date

The Dante Society of America will hold its 132nd Annual Meeting in Cambridge, MA on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. Ron Herzman will focus our attention on Dante pedagogy. Details will follow in the Spring Newsletter and on the "Events" page of the Website.

Spring Election Results

Last April the DSA membership elected Beatrice Arduini and Simone Marchesi to the Council for the three-year term 2013-2016. Nancy Vickers was re-elected as Acting Secretary-Treasurer and Albert Ascoli was re-elected as Vice President, both for a term of one year.

Important New Benefit for DSA Members from JSTOR

In collaboration with JSTOR, the Dante Society is pleased to offer members a discounted subscription to JPASS, a new JSTOR access plan for individuals. JSTOR (an abbreviation for "journal storage") is a digital archive established in the 1990s that provides searchable back issues of some 1500 to 2000 academic journals. This archive was previously available only to institutional subscribers.

Designed for those without institutional access to the JSTOR archival collections, JPASS is ideal for DSA members working outside of the academy. It is also valuable for faculty members at institutions with limited access to JSTOR, and for adjuncts with sporadic access to library resources. Regardless of one's institutional affiliation, JPASS serves as a personal "library card" to the rich selection of journals on JSTOR.

As part of your membership in the Dante Society, you have access to one year of JPASS for \$99—a 50% discount

on the standard rate. JPASS includes unlimited reading as well as 120 downloads of articles per year. This applies not only to *Dante Studies* but also to over 1,500 journals in the humanities, social sciences, and science.

To use your DSA member discount and sign up for JPASS, follow this custom link, which will admit you to the JPASS purchase website for society members: <http://jpass.jstor.org/?soc=DSA&mc=xqRL8FaG5e>

This link will expire in approximately three months. If you decide to purchase JPASS at a later date, contact us for a new link. If you would like to renew your JPASS next year, we will furnish a new link to guarantee your DSA discount.

To learn more and to browse the journals in the JSTOR archives, visit jpass.jstor.org.

Essay Prize Winners for 2013 and Revised Rules for 2014

The Prize Committee has completed its work and selected Kelly Leow of the University of California, Los Angeles as winner of the Dante Prize for her essay "'Come l'uom s'eterna': Poetry, Pride and Textile in the *Divine Comedy*." The Charles Hall Grandgent Award went to Joshua Reid of the University of Kentucky for his essay "Softening the Brows of Dread Renown: Rossetti's Revision of Dantean Portraiture." Special thanks are extended to Prize Committee members Dennis Looney (Chair), Vittorio Montemaggi, and Ron Herzman for their thoughtful reading and judging.

The Prize Committee has also taken up the revision of the language describing the DSA Prizes. One change of note is that the Committee has rendered identical - in all ways other than undergraduate or graduate status and length of essay - the eligibility requirements for the two prizes. Thus, international graduate students studying at universities in the United States or Canada will now be invited to submit essays. Watch the Website under "Prizes" for the revised text in early 2014.

The deadline for submissions for the 2014 competitions is June 30th.

Suggest Nominees for Officers and Councilors

We invite your suggestions for nominees to the following roles: Secretary, Treasurer, and Councilor. Please send them to one of the addresses at the bottom of this page and include a brief paragraph outlining why you believe your nominee is a strong candidate for the position. Your suggestions will be forwarded to the appropriate committee.

DSA Listserv

Our moderated list is intended for two categories of posts: the first from the Society to its members; and the second from members to their fellow members announcing their publications or events. Send submissions to dante.society@lists.berkeley.edu

Dante Sessions at Kalamazoo

The 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI on May 8-11, 2014. The Dante Society is sponsoring three sessions arranged by Alison Cornish. For information, visit <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress>

***Dante I. The Polis.** Presider: Dabney Park (Florida International University, dpark@performanceinc.net)

Alfred R. Crudale (University of Rhode Island): Ciacco, Sordello, Justinian, and the Question of Citizenship in the *Divine Comedy*.

Inga Pierson (Stanford University): Piccarda's Weakness: Freedom, Force and Femininity in Dante's *Paradiso*.

Marco Prina (University of California, Berkeley): Dante, Brunetto and the Problem of Reading: a New Interpretation of *Inferno* XV.

Sean Morgan (University of California, San Diego): The *Divine Comedy* as "Training for Death".

***Dante II: Reception, Transmission, and Context.** Presider: Nicolino Applauso (Loyola University, Maryland).

Maria Rita Traina (Università di Roma La Sapienza): Some aspects of the

so-called Cino da Pistoia's sonnets against the *Comedy*.

Janet F. van der Meulen (VU University Amsterdam): Dante across the Alps. A French Response (1319) to *Paradiso* XXX.

Anthony Nussmeier (Pennsylvania State University): Forma tractatus and forma tractandi in Dante's *De vulgari eloquentia*.

Dabney Park (Florida International University): Dante on the Poverty of Christ and the Apostles.

***Dante III: Critique, vituperium, satire, and invective.** Presider: Regina Psaki, (University of Oregon, rpsaki@uoregon.edu)

Nicolino Applauso (Loyola University, Maryland): St. Peter and the Pope on the Dung Seat: Satire, Prophecy, and Reprehension in *Paradiso* 27.

Franco Suitner (Università degli Studi Roma Tre): *L'ontoso metro dei dannati di Dante: Inf. VII.*

Maria Luisa Ardizzone (New York University): Dante's Critique of Wealth and Materialism: A Rereading of *Convivio* 4.

Ambrogio Camozzi Pistoja (Pembroke College, University of Cambridge): *Inferno* XIX. The Technical Predicaments of Satire.

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