

Notes from the President

The year 2001 has proven to be very successful for the SSLA, despite events that have conspired to bring about our early demise. For the bad news is that in 2001 we have lost all University of Sydney financial support for our ventures, and we have lost our regular seminar venue to the 'refurbishment' of the Sydney University Main Quadrangle. Efforts are currently underway, however, to secure new funding, and a new meeting place. With or without success in these efforts, the SSLA will return in 2002 with new conferences and a new edition (vol. 12) of this journal.

The good news is that our intellectual and aesthetic endeavours have been well attended and well appreciated this year. SSLA was proud to hold two conferences again this year, the first in June, when we were delighted to have as special guest Professor Richard Wollheim (University of California, Berkeley), and the second, a more pluralistic conference of the sort SSLA is famous for in September (see notices of the conferences below). Our Wednesday evening seminars were a delicious blend of poetry and philosophy as we heard from Kendall Walton, Judith Beveridge, Martin Harrison and Robert Gray. The level of interest and discussion at the conferences and seminars left no doubt in my mind that SSLA is fulfilling its function as a vehicle for intense interest in art, literature and philosophy.

In 2001 SSLA has also cemented its position among the leading world aesthetics organisations. Our foundation president, Dr. Catherine Runcie, was elected first vice-president of the International Aesthetics Association. This is the first time a member of our society has held a position in the IAA. We have also received notice in the websites and newsletters of the American Society of Aesthetics, the Italian Association for Aesthetics (AISE) and the Korean Society for Aesthetics.

I should like to acknowledge especially Professor Grazia Marchianó, of the AISE, for her support in the common aim of AISE and SSLA to promote transcultural aesthetics, so greatly needed in these times of suspicion and intolerance. Together with Professor Raffaele Milani, Professor Marchianó has edited and published *Frontiers of Transculturality in Contemporary Aesthetics*, a beautiful volume of the papers presented in Bologna, 2000, at the conference which SSLA had a small part in helping to convene.

(For information on the conference and proceedings see:
www.unibo.it/transculturality)

Finally, on behalf of the SSLA, I would like to pay my respects to Professor Hou Weirui. Professor Weirui passed away this year and this year and will be fondly remembered by the SSLA for his delightful paper 'Bamboo Or Mushroom: Imagery In Chinese Poetry And Its Translation', presented in June 1997 in Sydney at the Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics. This paper, along with the rest of the conference proceedings, may be found at the SSLA website.

SSLA Calendar of Events 2001

Understanding Life and Art

June 21-23

Richard Wollheim in Australia

(Abstracts and Newsletter by Lloyd Reinhardt available at the SSLA Website)

June 21: "Art" (venue: Withdrawing Room, Holme Bld)

Richard Wollheim

Terry Smith University of Sydney, Power Institute

Adrian Heathcote University of Sydney

June 22: "Emotion" (venue: Badham Room, Holme Bld)

Richard Wollheim

Paul Griffiths University of Pittsburgh

Paul Redding University of Sydney

June 23: "Psychoanalysis" (venue: Withdrawing Room, Holme Bld)

Richard Wollheim

Russell Grigg Deakin University

Tamas Pataki University of Melbourne

SSLA Colloquium

September 27-28, 2001

Thursday, 27 September

Vrasidas Karalis (Sydney)

"The Aesthetics of Terror in modern Gnosticism: the exegesis of evil in the work of C.G. Jung and Philp K. Dick"

Chair: Edward Crangle

Heather Johnson (Sydney)

"The building of modernism: architectural influences on early Australian modernist artists"

Chair: Michael Hill

John Bacon (Sydney)

"The Poet Amongst the Pigeons"

Chair: Jean Barrett

Literature and Aesthetics

James Acheson (Canterbury, NZ)

"Thesis and Antithesis in Malcolm Bradbury's *The History Man*"

Chair: Catherine Runcie

John Nijjem, (Sydney)

"Hamlet and the Art of Acting"

Chair: Irene Sarrinikolaou

4.15 Eugenio Benitez (Sydney)

"Kant, Pessoa, Plato: Three ways of doing Aesthetics"

Chair: Mairead Costigan

Friday, 28 September

9.30 Catherine Runcie (Sydney)

"On Metonymy and Symbol: Seamus Heaney and W. B. Yeats"

Chair: David Brooks

10.45 Ben Waters (Sydney)

"Toward a Field-Theoretic Model of the Artwork"

Chair: Lloyd Reinhardt

11.45 Greg Melleuish (Wollongong)

"The Master and the Disciples: A. R. Chisholm, Randolph Hughes and Carl Kaeppel on Christopher Brennan"

Chair: Jerry Wilkes

2.00 Patricia Rovik, (Sydney)

"The Libyan Athene"

Chair: Eugenio Benitez

3.15 Jennifer Nevile, (UNSW)

"Dance and Humanist Culture in Fifteenth-Century Italy"

Chair: Heather Johnson

4.15 Jean Philippe Deranty (Sydney)

"The materiality of the letter: on Ranciere and the contradictions of literature"

Chair: Mc Gannahan Skjellyfelty

Evening Seminars

Kendall Walton, *Empathy in the Arts: Fiction, Painting and Music*

Judith Beveridge, *Metaphor and Attention*

Martin Harrison, *A Critical Space: The Tenth Muse and Recent Poetry*

Robert Gray, *The Relationship of Ethics to Aesthetics*

SSLA sincerely thanks all the presenters and chairpersons, who made our conferences and seminars possible.

Eugenio Benitez
5 November 2001

1

LITERATURE and AESTHETICS

Edited by Eugenio E. Benitez and C. A. Runcie



Literature and Aesthetics is the Journal of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics. Each issue includes creative work as well as critical discussion. In line with the objectives of the Society, the Journal aims to promote the study of all the arts. It encourages such study from philosophical, psychological, sociological, scientific, historical, critical and educational standpoints.

The Society invites membership applications
and/or Journal subscriptions:

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