



R.W.E.

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Spring 1990

EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS

To Our Readers:

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. The Society was established in December 1989 to facilitate the study of Ralph Waldo Emerson by those who recognize his overriding importance in his own time and his continuing influence in ours. We welcome notes, comments, reports of research in progress, and short articles. I invite all those who are interested in Emerson to help us make this Society and its newsletter a success.

— Ralph H. Orth, President

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of THE RALPH WALDO EMERSON SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of **The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society** was called to order by Wesley T. Mott at 3:39 PM on December 29, 1989, in Suite 4066 of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Along with proposed Bylaws for the governance of the Society, advance notice of the meeting was circulated by mail to known friends of Emerson by Professor Mott; notice was also published in the October 1989 issue of *PMLA*; and the meeting time and place was announced on December 27 at the MLA session sponsored by the Thoreau Society. By universal assent of those present, Professor Mott presided over the entire inaugural meeting.

The following persons were present:

Marie Ahearn, Southeastern Massachusetts Univ.,
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

Evelyn Barish, Graduate Center and College of
Staten Island/CUNY, New York, NY 10023

Ronald A. Bosco, SUNY — Albany, Albany, NY 12222

Robert E. Burkholder, Penn State Univ., University Park,
PA 16802

Phyllis Cole, Penn State Univ. — Delaware County,
Media, PA 19063

Gary Collison, Penn State Univ. — York, York, PA 17403

Helen R. Deese, Tennessee Tech. Univ.,
Cookeville, TN 38505

Sterling F. Delano, Villanova Univ., Villanova, PA 19085

Richard Lee Francis, Western Washington Univ.,
Bellingham, WA 98226

Armida Gilbert, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

Edwin Gittleman, Univ. of Massachusetts at Boston,
Boston, MA 02125

Len Gougeon, Univ. of Scranton, Scranton, PA 18510

Peter Hawkes, East Stroudsburg Univ., East
Stroudsburg, PA 18301

T. Paul Kane, Yale Univ., New Haven, CT 06520

Michael Lopez, Michigan State Univ., E. Lansing, MI 48824

Julian Mason, UNC — Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223

Joseph McElrath, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306

Wesley T. Mott, Worcester Poly. Inst., Worcester, MA 01609

Joel Myerson, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

Michael Schuldiner, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775

Frank Shuffelton, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627

Nancy Simmons, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dan Stiffler, Randolph-Macon Women's College,
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Donald F. Warders, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66046

Sarah Wider, Colgate Univ., Hamilton, NY 13346

Wallace E. Williams, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN 47405

Douglas E. Wilson, 1404 Christine, Anniston, AL 36201

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Inaugural Meeting Minutes (continued from page 1)

A copy of the Bylaws as amended and unanimously approved at the meeting is attached. [See suggested new amendments.] The point was made early in the meeting that a constitution would have to be drafted in due course in order that the Society may apply for both state and federal tax-exempt status. It was unanimously agreed that the newly elected officers of the Society will have the responsibility to draft and circulate the document to the membership of the Society for amendment (as necessary) and approval. During the course of the meeting, the following actions, all of which pertain to the wording, interpretation or implementation of the Bylaws as they now stand, were properly moved and seconded from the floor, discussed, and unanimously approved.

1. The Society will be known as **The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society**; the Society's newsletter will be entitled *Emerson Society Papers*.
2. To the fullest extent possible, the language of both the Bylaws and the proposed constitution of the Society will be gender neutral.
3. Membership dues for the Society are set at \$10 (U.S.) per year. All those paying dues during calendar year 1990 will be known as "Founding Members" of the Society.
4. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer of the Society stand as individual offices; however, during the Society's early years, both offices will likely be held by one person.
5. The Society's Advisory Board will consist of the newsletter Editor, the Past-President, six elected members, plus an ex officio member named by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association (RWEMA). Whereas the six elected members of the Board are elected to three-year

terms with two members replaced every year, the term of the member named by the RWEMA is renewable.

The following persons, each properly nominated and consenting to the nomination, were elected the first officers of **The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society** by acclamation:

Ralph H. Orth, President
Robert E. Burkholder, President-Elect
Wesley T. Mott, Secretary
Wesley T. Mott, Treasurer

(Note: While his nomination for office was on the floor, Professor Mott turned the meeting over to Professor Bosco in order to avoid an obvious conflict of interest.) Additionally, the following persons, each properly nominated and consenting to the nomination, were elected to the Advisory Board of the Society:

Ronald A. Bosco
Phyllis B. Cole
Joel Myerson
Barbara L. Packer
David M. Robinson
Albert J. von Frank

With the unanimous consent of those present, Douglas Emory Wilson was named editor of the *Emerson Society Papers*. Professor Mott announced that the Society will sponsor two sessions at the first annual conference of the American Literature Association in May/June 1990 in San Diego; membership of the Society in the Association was unanimously approved. By consent of all present, it was determined that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Society will be in December 1990 at the MLA Convention in Chicago. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald A. Bosco
(Recorder for the Inaugural Meeting)

EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS

The newsletter of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
Published at Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Editor: Douglas Emory Wilson
Managing Editor: Wesley T. Mott
Editorial Assistant: David J. Cohen

Emerson Society Papers is published twice a year. Subscriptions, which include membership in the Society, are \$10 a year. Send checks for membership (calendar year) and back issues (\$5 each) to Wesley T. Mott, Department of Humanities, Worcester Polytechnic Inst., Worcester, MA 01609.

For future issues of *Emerson Society Papers* we solicit information about editions, publications, and research in progress on Emerson and his circle; queries and requests for information in aid of research in these fields; and significant news (promotions, transfers, retirements, deaths, etc.) of Emersonian scholars. We will also consider notes and short articles (about 4 to 5 double-spaced typewritten pages, or less) on subjects of interest to our membership. MLA style-sheet is preferred. Send manuscripts to the Editor, Douglas Emory Wilson, 1404 Christine Ave., Anniston, AL 36201.

If you have any ideas about how we can make this a more interesting and useful publication, please send your suggestions to the Editor or the Managing Editor at the appropriate address as shown above.

Emerson Society Officers

President: Ralph H. Orth
University of Vermont
President-Elect: Robert E. Burkholder
Pennsylvania State University
Secretary/Treasurer: Wesley T. Mott
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Advisory Board

Ronald A. Bosco,
State University of New York at Albany
Phyllis Cole,
Penn State—Delaware County Campus
Roger L. Gregg,
Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association
Joel Myerson,
University of South Carolina
Barbara L. Packer,
University of California, Los Angeles
David M. Robinson,
Oregon State University
Albert J. von Frank,
Washington State University
Douglas Emory Wilson,
The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Emerson Society Papers

PROSPECTS.



Status Reports on Emerson Editions

The Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson (Columbia Univ. Press), edited by Eleanor M. Tilton (six volumes, edited by Ralph L. Rusk, published in 1939). Professor Tilton reports that the first volume of the new four-volume supplement is completed and in page proof, and will soon be published. It will be numbered Volume 7 (1807-1844). These four volumes will contain all known Emerson letters, including those previously published, except for those in Rusk's volumes and in *The Correspondence of Emerson and Carlyle* (Columbia U. P., 1964), edited by Joseph Slater. Volumes 8-10 are also ready for printing and will be published as soon as the publisher's schedule permits.

The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson (Univ. of Missouri Press), edited by Albert J. von Frank et al. (Volume 1 published 1989). Volume 2, containing Sermons XLIII through XC, has had a favorable CSE inspection report and is now at the Press, being copy-edited; Professor von Frank expects publication before Christmas. This volume was edited by Andrew H. Delbanco and Teresa Toulouse. Volumes 3 and 4, edited by Ronald A. Bosco and Wesley T. Mott, respectively, are in preparation and on schedule for publication in successive years.

The Topical Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson (Univ. of Missouri Press), edited by Ralph H. Orth et al. Volume 1, edited by Susan Sutton Smith, has recently been published. Volumes 2 and 3 will be edited by Ronald A. Bosco and Glen M. Johnson, respectively. Professor Orth will give a more detailed report on this edition in the next issue of *ESP*.

The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson (Harvard Univ. Press, 1971-), edited by Joseph Slater et al. Four volumes published to date. Volume 5, *English Traits* (Philip Nicoloff, Robert E. Burkholder, and Douglas Emory Wilson, editors), has been awarded the Seal of the CSE and is ready for publication except for some informational notes. It is hoped that it will go to press in the summer of 1990. Work is progressing in various stages on Volume 6, *The Conduct of Life* (Barbara L. Packer, Joseph Slater, and D.E.W., editors); Volume 7, *Society and Solitude* (Susan Sutton Smith and D.E.W., editors); Volume 8, *Letters and Social Aims* (Ronald A. Bosco, Jean Ferguson Carr, and Glen M. Johnson, editors); and Volume 9, *Poems* (Thomas Wortham and D.E.W., editors). Plans for Volume 10, which will contain the writings published but not collected in Emerson's lifetime (Wallace E. Williams, James H. Justus, and D.E.W., editors), are not yet firm.

Other Work in Progress

Joel Myerson is editing *Emerson and Thoreau: Early Critical Responses* for publication by Cambridge University Press. He would appreciate knowing about any contemporary responses not included in *Emerson: An Annotated Secondary Bibliography*. Please send information to him at Department of English, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Merton M. Sealts, Jr., tells us that "at last my long-promised *Emerson on the Scholar* is likely to be finished by early summer 1990."

Albert J. von Frank passes along the news that Robert D. Richardson, Jr., is working on a biography of Emerson. We should like to hear more about this project.

Al von Frank himself is working on "a detailed Emerson chronology, somewhat along the lines of [The] Melville Log, but depending as much or more on paraphrase as on quotation." He is at present negotiating for a publication contract.

Nancy Craig Simmons will provide a full progress report later on her edition of *The Selected Letters of Mary Moody Emerson*. She plans to submit the manuscript (about 380 letters) to the University of Georgia Press at the end of September 1990.

The Thoreau Society is planning to sponsor a session at the 1991 MLA meeting in San Francisco in celebration of the sesquicentennial of the publication of Emerson's *Essays*. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract by 9 September to Joel Myerson, Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

ESQ Discount

Members of the RWES are eligible for a 10 percent discount on subscriptions to *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance* (or \$13.50 a year). To subscribe to *ESQ*, write to the Editors, Robert C. McLean or Albert J. von Frank, Department of English, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-5020.

American Literature Association Conference

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society will present two panels at the first annual conference of the American Literature Association in San Diego on 31 May-3 June 1990:

Session 1. Chair, Wesley T. Mott (WPI)

"Emerson Writing 'The American Plutarch,'" Ronald A. Bosco (SUNY-Albany)

"Statistics, Race, and 'Fate,'" Barbara L. Packer (UCLA)
"The Road Not Taken: From Edwards, through Chauncy, to Emerson," David M. Robinson (Oregon State Univ.)

Session 2. Chair, Len Gougeon (Univ. of Scranton)

"Greek Genius': Mary Moody Emerson and the Foreground of Transcendentalism," Phyllis Cole (Penn State—Delaware County Campus)

"Reserve Yourself for Your Own Work': Emerson, Thoreau's Arrest, and the Claims of Reform," Linck Johnson (Colgate Univ.)

These panels are the first activity officially sponsored by the RWES, which at its organizational meeting unanimously voted to join the Association. Abstracts of papers will be published in the Fall issue of *ESP*.

Founding Members

Marie L. Ahearn	Julian Mason
Linda Allardt	Shirley J. Mott
Margaret Emerson Bancroft	Theodore W. Mott
Pedro Beade	Wesley T. Mott
J. Delores Bird	Joel Myerson
Ronald A. Bosco	Ralph H. Orth
Robert E. Burkholder	Barbara L. Packer
Kenneth Walter Cameron	Thomas Pribek
Eric W. Carlson	Robert D. Richardson, Jr.
Ann Claveaux	David M. Robinson
Phyllis B. Cole	Rev. J. Frank
Helen R. Deese	Schulman (Britain)
David Emerson	Merton M. Sealts, Jr.
Mary H. Emerson	Frank Shuffelton
Benjamin F. Fisher IV	Nancy C. Simmons
Armida Gilbert	Gayle L. Smith
Shoji Goto (Japan)	James T. F. Tanner
Len Gougeon	Catherine Thompson
Julie Greenblatt	Rev. Emerson McLean
Roger L. Gregg	Thompson, Jr.
Linck C. Johnson	Eleanor M. Tilton
Lewis Leary	Alexander Trofimov (USSR)
Kent P. Ljungquist	Albert J. von Frank
Paul McCarthy	Douglas Emory Wilson
Sanford E. Marovitz	Barbara Wojtusik
	Thomas Wortham

Acknowledgments

Several individuals and institutions generously shared advice and resources that were indispensable in making the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society a reality. Special thanks go to John L. Idol and Julian Mason, of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, and Kent P. Ljungquist, of the Poe Studies Association, for valuable advice on organizational matters; Joel Myerson, for early and continual counsel and for hosting the organizational meeting; and Ronald A. Bosco, for recording minutes of that meeting.

The Research Development Council of Worcester Polytechnic Institute awarded a grant to establish the Society's newsletter, and the Department of Humanities has given much material support. Kevin Smith helped with promotion; Michael Sherman, of University Publications, provided design expertise; and David J. Cohen has greatly assisted with production. Marcia E. Moss, Curator, Concord Free Public Library, kindly granted permission to reproduce the photograph of Emerson.

— Wesley T. Mott