



R.W.E.

SPECIAL ISSUE:

"Emerson in 2003": A Gallery of Photographs

Volume 14, Number 2

Fall 2003

EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS

Birthday Party at Bush

A season of bicentennial celebrations of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson culminated on 25 May when the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association (RWEMA) invited the public to share in the "official" birthday event—a Garden Tea Party at "Bush," the Emerson House on Cambridge Turnpike in Concord, Massachusetts (see page 12 for more photos). Ominous clouds failed to dampen the spirits of scores of visitors, who shared good food and conversation and a moving ceremony on the lawn and under sheltering tents. *ESP* is honored to present the welcoming remarks of Margaret Emerson "Bay" Bancroft, president of RWEMA and great-great-granddaughter of R. W. Emerson.



PHYLLIS COLE

Welcoming Remarks

MARGARET EMERSON BANCROFT

We are so pleased you have come to this house in Concord to celebrate the birthday of Ralph Waldo Emerson (known as Waldo), who was born in a house on Chauncy Street in Boston on May 25, 1803, 200 years ago today. We like to think a child is being born in a house or a hospital somewhere in the world today—or maybe yesterday or tomorrow—who will bring the same degree of pleasure and inspiration to a future generation of thinking people. We look around us now, and hope to see such a face in this crowd, or some other crowd. Someone who will take us to task and cause us to strive to be the best we can be, in our own day, with its own set of circumstances—who will help us to see ourselves and our world clearly, and to figure out our highest course of action and thought, on our contemporary planet, where every day is as new, and as fresh, and as full of beauty, and as weighted with history, and as fraught with troubles as any other day since the beginning of time. We know there have been hundreds of thousands of springs before this. But doesn't it seem amazing about this spring—somehow almost surreal this year—that it actually has come again: a whole new world of green leaves and lilac blossoms and gosling families and junior proms...

Anyway, on this green afternoon, we are delighted to have you all here at Bush (as this house is known), where Waldo Emerson lived for most of his life, and where, sitting in a rocking chair in his study with a writing book in his lap, he wrote most of the essays and lectures and poems and journals for which he is known.

The Elm Tree

KIMBERLY CLAIRE THIBEAULT

*Soft music hums quietly,
whispering as the wind blows on the
Aeolian Harp
swinging from the strong, powerful
limbs of the elm tree.*

*The rough bark splashes up the trunk
and spills out upon the branches
blossoming with green tear-drop leaves.*

*The neck of the Elm stands majestic
and wise*

looking out at the dark world around it.

*The music hushes the earth, waiting
for the break of a new day.*

Kimberly Thibeault's reading of her poem "The Elm Tree" was a highlight of the party at Bush. Now a fifth grader at the Thoreau School in Concord, Kim enjoys reading and began writing poetry in the first grade. She lives in Concord with her parents, a younger brother, two dogs, two cats, and two guinea pigs.

2003 EMERSON SOCIETY PATRONS

Thanks to Emerson Society members who have joined at levels above basic membership. All donations above the \$10 annual regular membership go to support the "Emerson in 2003" Bicentennial celebration held this year. Dues categories are Life (\$500), Sustaining (\$50), Contributing (\$25), and Regular (\$10). Please send check payable to The Emerson Society (U.S. dollars only) to Robert D. Habich, Secretary/Treasurer, Dept. of English, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0460.

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PROSPECTS.

RWEMA Booklet Available

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association (RWEMA) has published a special commemorative 8-page booklet—"Ralph Waldo Emerson"—for sale at the Emerson House. Written by RWEMA president Margaret Emerson Bancroft and artfully designed by her daughter Eliza, the booklet is an excellent introduction to Emerson the thinker and the man. The booklet, handsomely illustrated with historic photos, can now be obtained by mail. Send a check for \$5 plus \$1 postage for each copy—payable to the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association—to Barbara Mongan, The Emerson House, 28 Cambridge Turnpike, Concord, MA 01742.

Bicentennial Bust Offer Extended

Because so many new members joined the Emerson Society during this bicentennial year, we are extending the deadline for special orders of our Emerson busts. Until 31 December 2003, members receive discounts of about 50 percent and have their "Bronze Waldo" (as they are popularly called) individually numbered with a bicentennial inscription. For a profile of our sculptor, Steve Maddock, see *ESP*, Spring 2003, p. 3. Write him at Apishapa Studio, 9 Holiday Drive, Tijeras, NM 87059, e-mail sawe21@hotmail.com, or call 505-286-9763. For a flyer, e-mail Emerson Society president Wes Mott, wmott@wpi.edu.

"RWE in 2003" T-shirts

A few official Emerson Society bicentennial T-shirts are still in stock. Because of the limited number (one Medium and about a dozen Extra Large), please e-mail Wes Mott (wmott@wpi.edu) to check on availability. Each shirt is blue tie-dye, with "RWE in 2003" on the front, "The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society" on the back, and "R.W.E" on the left sleeve. Discounted price to members is \$12, which includes shipping.

Invitation: If you have photos of "Emerson in 2003" events—especially of Emerson Society members not pictured in this gallery—please send them to Wes Mott, Dept. of Humanities & Arts, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280. *ESP* will publish bicentennial photos in future issues as space permits.

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
Book Review Editor: T. Gregory Garvey
Editorial Assistants: Nik Waggener,
Sharon Chou, Binyam Tsegaye
Design and Production: Peggy Isaacson

Emerson Society Papers is published twice a year. Subscriptions, which include membership in the Society, are \$10 a year (students \$5). Send checks for membership (calendar year) and back issues (\$5 each) to Robert D. Habich, Department of English, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0460.

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 type-written pages, or less) on subjects of interest to our membership. MLA stylesheet is preferred. Send manuscripts to the editor, Douglas Emory Wilson, 1404 Christine Ave., Anniston, AL 36207-3924.

Review copies of books on Emerson should be sent to book review editor T. Gregory Garvey, Department of English, SUNY-Brockport, Brockport, NY 14420-2968.

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Note of Thanks— The wonderful Emerson bicentennial events highlighted in the “Gallery” were made possible by the generosity and hard work of many organizations and individuals. Several institutions dedicated to preserving, understanding, and celebrating Emerson’s writings and vision are identified below. Special thanks go to the scores of Emersonians—those acknowledged in our regular list of patrons as well as anonymous donors—whose financial support was essential to the “Emerson in 2003” activities presented by the Emerson Society.

Emerson in 2003: A Gallery of Photographs

Celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson took many forms: conferences, publications, readings, radio interviews, receptions, parties. These events occurred over many months and around the world. The Emerson Society’s official bicentennial effort—“Emerson in 2003”—was co-chaired by Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson. The photographs in the following pages include events officially presented by the society, and those in which our members took a prominent part.

—Unless otherwise credited, text and photos are by Wes Mott.

7 March— UUA Exhibit and Ceremony, Boston

More than 200 people filled the sanctuary of First and Second Church in Boston for the opening celebration of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s observance of the Emerson bicentennial (Emerson was minister of Second Church in Boston from 1829 to 1832).

The program included the opening of an Emerson exhibit by Bonnie Hurd Smith (assisted by Robert Richardson, Jr., and J. Frank Schulman), welcoming remarks from Stephen Kendrick, minister of First and Second Church, addresses by Wesley Mott and David Robinson, the debut of a newly commissioned anthem in Emerson’s honor by composer William Bolcom as performed by the Emerson Choir under the direction of Beth Norton, and songs from “An Emerson Garland: Poems and Hymns of Ralph Waldo Emerson,” edited by Leo Collins.



The UUA’s Emerson Bicentennial Committee and 7 March participants: front row, committee chair Barry Andrews, Bonnie Hurd Smith, Joan Goodwin, David Robinson; back row, Stephen Kendrick, John Hurley, Bob Richardson, Nancy Craig Simmons, Leo Collins, Wes Mott.



21 March— “Emerson in Concord”

Leslie Perrin Wilson, curator of Special Collections, prepared the Concord Free Public Library bicentennial exhibition with the assistance of Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson. At the gala opening, they stand by the portrait of Emerson painted by David Scott in Edinburgh in 1847.

2 April— “Emerson in the Twenty-First Century”

This “Bicentennial Forum” at Sackler Lecture Hall at Harvard University featured Lawrence Buell (below), Stanley Cavell, Wai Chee Dimock, and Michael Sandel.



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Distinguished Achievement Awards

In 2003 the Emerson Society presented its Distinguished Achievement Award to four institutions for their long commitment to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and for extraordinary service over many years to Emerson editors and other scholars. Honored were the Concord Free Public Library, the Houghton Library of Harvard University, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association. Photos of presentations may be found throughout the “Emerson in 2003” coverage in this issue.

24 April— Robert Pinsky Reading and Reception at Harvard



Len Gougeon and Wes Mott are greeted by the seated guest of honor at Emerson Hall.



Robert Pinsky, 1997-2000 U.S. Poet Laureate, reads from Emerson’s poetry.



The Houghton Library of Harvard University is honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award. Emerson Society president Wes Mott, left, presents a plaque to Dr. William P. Stoneman, Florence Fearing Librarian, and Leslie A. Morris, curator of manuscripts, at the Houghton.



A reception and private showing of the Emerson Bicentennial Exhibition curated by Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson followed at the Houghton Library. David Robinson, Len Gougeon, and Daniel Shealy discuss the exhibit.

25-26 April- "'Spires of Form': The Emerson Bicentennial Conference"

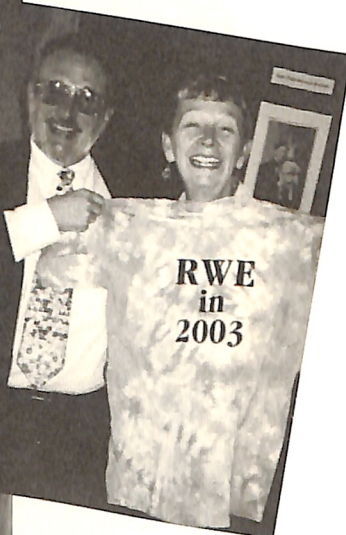
The centerpiece of the Emerson Society's "Emerson in 2003" was a major scholarly conference hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) in Boston. The 107 pre-registrants—who were joined by many late arrivals—came from as far away as Melbourne, Australia (Robyn Emerson-Gullifer), Dusseldorf, Germany (Herwig Friedl), Tübingen, Germany (Juliane Haag and Jan Stievertmann), Osaka, Japan (Yoshiko Fujita), Nagano, Japan (Yoshio Takanashi), and Tokyo, Japan (Shoji Goto). The MHS unveiled a splendid exhibit of Emerson materials, hosted a reception, and arranged a bus trip to Concord. Thirty-one speakers were featured in seven panels, and a book of conference papers is being published by the MHS.



The Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award. Margaret Emerson (Bay) Bancroft, president of the RWEMA, receives a plaque from Ron Bosco.



At a reception and private showing of the MHS bicentennial Emerson exhibit, Susan Belasco, Bob Hudspeth, and Linck Johnson share a light moment, and Joel Myerson and Greta Little unveil the official Emerson Society bicentennial T-shirt.



The Massachusetts Historical Society was honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award. William M. Fowler, Jr., president of the MHS, receives a plaque from Joel Myerson.



Break between panels.



Harry Orth, Sandy Mott, and Ghita Orth at a banquet for conference panelists given by the MHS.



Conference panelists gather on the grand staircase at the MHS.



Participants mingle on the second morning.

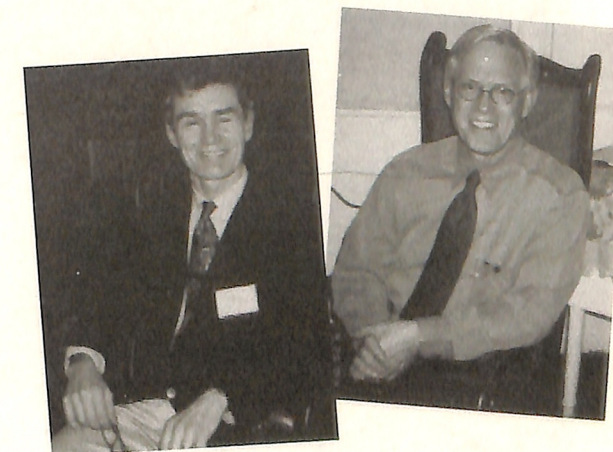


The Concord Free Public Library was honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award. Barbara Powell, director of the CFPL, receives a plaque from Wes Mott.



The final panel.

That afternoon, a rainy bus trip to Concord was brightened by the hospitality of the Concord Free Public Library, the Emerson House, and the Concord Museum.



The RWEMA opened the Emerson House for a special tour for conference attendees. Rich Higgins enjoys sitting in Emerson's study rocker; the Rev. Barry Andrews tries out Emerson's favorite chair.



In the dining room, Dan Emerson, seated, with Wes Mott, Emerson documentary filmmaker Jean Mudge, and Bay Bancroft.



Dan Emerson with Deborah and Len Gougeon



Barry and Linda Andrews by the toy house that, according to tradition, Henry Thoreau made for the Emerson children.



Enjoying the concluding reception hosted by the Concord Museum are Len Gougeon and Gustaaf Van Cromphout ... and Rick Delano, Todd Richardson, and Bob Burkholder.



2003 Annual Meeting

President Wes Mott presided over the 2003 annual meeting of the Emerson Society at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 23 May 2003. Officers were elected or reelected: President-Elect Sarah Ann Wider, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Habich, Editor of *ESP* Doug Wilson, and new Advisory Board members Linck Johnson and Susan Belasco.

Doug Wilson reported on *Collected Works*, and Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson reported on the highly successful events of the Emerson Bicentennial and on the rollout of the Society's Web site, www.emersonsociety.org. In recognition of their leadership and hard work, Wes Mott presented Ron and Joel with plaques.

Phyllis Cole reported on Jean Mudge's documentary film on Emerson, after which the membership of the Society voted to provide Dr. Mudge with a \$2,500 subvention.

Also discussed were a planned conference in England in 2006, the composition of the Distinguished Achievement Award committee, and future Society projects after the bicentennial year has ended.

Bob Habich noted that as of May 2003 Society membership totals 204 and the Society's assets total at least \$37,874 (depending upon the maturity value of two CDs); of this amount, \$16,000 is dedicated to supporting the Emerson 2003 conference. The Secretary/Treasurer's Report for 2003 may be obtained by request from Professor Habich, Department of English, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0460 or via e-mail: rhabich@bsu.edu.

22-24 May— ALA: Panels, Annual Meeting, Bicentennial Dinner

The Emerson Society annually holds its board meeting and business meeting during the American Literature Association conference, where the society also presents two panels. This year the fourteenth annual ALA conference met at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Mass. Following are abstracts from panels presented by The Emerson Society on 23 and 24 May.

SESSION I: Emerson's New Publication:

The Later Lectures

Chair, Sarah Ann Wider (*Colgate University*)

New Prospects: Obligations to the Rhetorical Mr. Emerson

ROGER THOMPSON, *Virginia Military Institute*

Using the *Later Lectures* as a starting point, this paper maps Emerson's conception of rhetoric and eloquence. Rhetoric and eloquence are central to Emerson's conception of language, and the *Later Lectures* provide some of Emerson's most extended discussions of how rhetoric functions in a civil society. To understand Emerson as rhetorician, however, we must use new heuristics for uncovering Emerson's vision of eloquence.

First, we must examine Emerson in terms of rhetorical history. While literary and philosophical history provide a rich background for Emerson's language theory, Emerson's rhetorical theory is marked by dialogue with a long, Platonic rhetorical tradition and a confrontation with eighteenth-century belletrism that has as yet received little critical attention. Second, we must have a clear understanding of Emerson's audiences. Recent critical work has already resulted in contested versions of who Emerson's audiences were and how they received Emerson's lectures.

These versions could be greatly revised with a clear sense of the rhetorical expectations of his audiences: what were the standards of rhetoric that audiences were educated in and what were the rhetorical customs of the locations of Emerson's speeches. No matter where Emerson lectured, his goal remained the same: to communicate the divine through a hope for "ecstasy and eloquence." This hope for ecstasy and eloquence is at the heart of Emerson's vision of rhetoric, indeed his vision of language, and it is through the later lectures that we see how Emerson attempts to realize that hope. The impact of this hope, however, requires a reconfiguration of critical study to include a clear sense of rhetorical education in nineteenth-century America.

"The Rule of Life": Emerson's Summing Up

ELIZABETH ADDISON, *Western Carolina University*

In Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson's newly published two-volume edition of Emerson's later lectures, the last lecture included is "The Rule of Life." In this lecture, recovered from a bewildering manuscript, Emerson sums up two threads in his thought that, though disparate, he always considered together. These are nature and spirit—the unity of nature's laws and the spiritual primacy of individual perception and humility—and he had sounded them as keynotes in a famous letter he wrote to Benjamin Peter Hunt in 1835 and in his little book *Nature*, published in 1836. "The Rule of Life" sounds them again in 1867, couching them here as science and religion; the laws of one could be objectively demonstrated, Emerson says, but the laws of the other could be apprehended only in a perception of "the Divine Presence which rushes through all his pragmatic straws." The process of Quaker waiting is one of Emerson's primary models for spiritual perception,

and in this lecture he gathers references to Quaker words and perceptions he had recorded in his journal over many years. A comparison of this newly recovered text of the lecture given in 1867 with the letter and book of the mid-1830s shows that his emphasis on natural history and on reform—the subjects of many scholarly studies in recent years—are embraced at each end of his active writing career by these twin enthusiasms for what he considered necessary truths, inarguable laws. The lecture, which had never before been published, confirms that Quaker ideas were not casual for Emerson, but causal: that the model he drew from Quakers in the early 1830s was a durable model, one that could and did run from the beginning of his writing and speaking career to the end.



Lingering after the Emerson Society's annual board meeting on 22 May are board members Roger Thompson, president-elect Phyllis Cole, secretary-treasurer Bob Habich, program co-chairs Elizabeth Addison and Sarah Wider, and Susan Roberson. Also with the group was Alan Hodder (inset).



ESP editor Doug Wilson and board member Gayle Smith

Style and Substance in Two Introductory Lectures: 'The Powers and Laws of Thought' and 'Powers of the Mind'

GAYLE L. SMITH, *Penn State Worthington Scranton*

The texts now available to us in *The Later Lectures of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, edited by Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson, give us fresh insights into Emerson's ideas, structures, and style. With "The Powers and Laws of Thought" Emerson introduced the lecture series *Mind and Manners of the Nineteenth Century* from 1848 through 1850 and with "Powers of the Mind" Emerson opened the philosophical lectures within the *Natural Method of Mental Philosophy* series of 1858. Because these lectures were designed to introduce audiences to his theory of the mind, a topic that demanded Emerson's attention at least since he was writing *Nature* and would continue to do so almost to the end of his lecturing career, they invite our close attention to the relationships between his theory and the ways in which he appeals to his own listeners' minds and feelings. Clearly, Emerson knew he had to overcome a significant amount of reluctance to hear about metaphysics even as he set out to affirm the naturally profound intellectual capacities of ordinary people.



Twenty-four friends—including Jane and Al von Frank, Helen Deese, Joe Thomas, Elizabeth Addison, and Doug Wilson—surprised Joel Myerson at a retirement dinner at the Samraat Indian Restaurant on Massachusetts Avenue.

Early in each lecture he sets himself apart from the distant, rigid metaphysicians his listeners would likely reject, first by declaring his modest, personal goal of making "sketches" toward a plan for laws of the intellect and later by simply "reporting" his "emphatic experiences" (*LL* 1: 139; 2: 69). In each lecture he emphasizes how much he shares his listeners' sentiments.

Structural and stylistic choices work in different ways in each lecture to make his message persuasive. The first person, casual, conversational tone he adopts as he opens the first series is unassuming, the voice of someone simply sharing experiences and thoughts. He moves from "I" to "we," assuming and perhaps forging a sense of agreement. He also asks his listeners many questions; some are the questions he says he would ask his friends in earnest conversation about their intellectual lives. Choices like these make the lecture itself feel more like one side of a dynamic conversation.

In "Powers of the Mind" he also creates a casual, free-flowing voice that reflects his insistence on attending to the irregular experiences that affect him most intensely rather than those that tend to support any given theory of mind. Here he also uses images that portray the true metaphysician as a necessary guide through the wilderness of thought, variously depicted as a forbidding mountain and a dangerous lake. These metaphors not only help him to appeal to skeptics; they also reinforce the idea of a deep connection between nature and mind. Lastly, his own personal experience, his intimacy with his audience, and his spontaneous sounding syntactic structures convey his readiness to guide others on this ecstatic quest.

SESSION II: EMERSONIAN PROSPECTS: THE THIRD CENTURY.

CHAIR, ELIZABETH ADDISON (*Western Carolina Univ.*)

Contemporary Intersections: Emerson & Feminism

SUSAN FIELD, *New Mexico Tech*

Emerson has much to teach us about receptivity, patience, desire, relational difference, and the "true romance" between us and the world. These ideas are particularly accessible through the account of relational difference and desire provided by contemporary feminism. Emerson conceived knowledge as "original relation" with the universe in terms of "the intersubjective view" suggested by Jessica Benjamin. He took the "dizzying, precipitous flights" described by Helene Cixous to pursue a "new love" that "dares for the other" and shared Adrienne Rich's view that staying "cognizant" requires having "some part of us always out beyond ourselves."

This paper examines Emerson's remarks on the loss of his son Waldo and Audre Lorde's remarks about her breast cancer (of which she died in 1992). While profound differences loom between Emerson and Lorde across chasms of race and sex, sexuality and political



Joel Myerson arrived with Ron Bosco and, after dinner, reminisced about the many scholarly collaborations he has created for more than three decades as the central figure in the study of American Transcendentalism.

activism, era and temperament, the astonishing similarities in their language, emotions, philosophical creativity, and purpose suggest a fertile confluence. Both writers use the raw and bewildered entries in their journals to build a public critique of American loss, of the American promise not realized, in their public versions: Emerson's "Experience," written two years after Waldo's death, and Lorde's *The Cancer Journals*, written 18 months after her mastectomy.

Though Emerson and Lorde rarely occupy the same academic course syllabus or article, reading them side by side, thinking of them as speaking to each other, as speaking in harmony to us, reveals ways



At the Emerson Society's annual meeting at 8 a.m. on 23 May, Joel Myerson and Ron Bosco received bicentennial T-shirts and plaques "in recognition of outstanding leadership" as co-chairs of "Emerson in 2003."

in which Emerson extends his pragmatic romanticism and his particular experience across years and race and sex to Lorde to create a context for her work and grounds for her meaning. Lorde shines a "quality of light" on Emerson that illuminates his appreciation of the rich fact of relational difference. Certainly together they create important footing for us as we face the innavigable seas that divide us today, and perhaps their responses to loss can bring us somewhat closer to transforming "genius into practical power."

"Waves of Mutation" and the Thoreauvian Plank: Emerson, Poetry, Postmodernity

SAUNDRA MORRIS, *Bucknell University*

I enact ways of reading Emerson's texts sympathetic with politicized, postmodern concerns; explore connections in his texts between aesthetics and political praxis; and illustrate the importance and pleasure of reading his poetry and prose together. The title alludes to Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government": "If I have unjustly wrested a plank from a drowning man, I must restore it to him though I drown myself." I consider, especially in Emerson's poetry, that figure of drowning in resonance with the trope of the "waves of mutation" in his original verse essay epigraph "Illusions." The generally neglected epigraphs paradigmatically illustrate both postmodern destabilizations and the crucial connection between Emerson's poetry and prose. The epigraph "Illusions" and its companion essay probe yet celebrate the threatening delight of inevitable perpetual change.

Next, I turn to what I call an "ethical aesthetics"—or, conversely, an "aesthetic ethics." The conjunction of social/political justice and poetry are at the heart of Emerson's texts. I treat the Channing

"Ode" in *Poems*, and go on to emphasize the significant and overlooked relevance of the May-Day volume as a whole to the U. S. Civil War, asking us to read it with Melville's *Battle-Pieces* and Whitman's *Drum Taps*. I suggest that in their refusal to dichotomize political liberation and aesthetic practice, and representation of justice in economic terms, Emerson's poems attest to impulses in forms of Transcendentalism and idealism (as well as post-

modernity) necessarily liberationist, with material ramifications, indicated by Emerson's powerful influence on radical political activists then and now.

My concluding emphasis is on the value for our time of Emerson's blessing of the "waves of mutation," a phrase that sounds as threatening as might "postmodernity." I challenge us to imagine our postmodern condition as leading us to understand ourselves as inevitably but also happily contingent, relational, and non-universalized subjects. Emerson's texts demand beautiful politics (of justice and love) and of our aesthetics, ethical praxis. Such is the mandate at the end of the Divinity School "Address"—that of relating "duty," "beauty," and "joy."

Emerson as Private Intellectual

MARK BAUERLEIN, *Emory University*

Emerson inspired Irving Howe, one of the most important public intellectuals in the U.S. in the twentieth century. Howe's "This Age of Conformity" echoes Emerson not only in its title but in its sentiments. Howe criticized the academy for rewarding conformity; as Emerson "knew," Howe writes, "once an intellectual group hardens into a sect, the result can only be disaster." The intellectual must be "ready to stand alone, curious, eager, skeptical," particularly in relation to the academy and its collective trends.



Between sessions—Roger Thompson, Sandy Petrulonis, Laura Dassow Walls, Joe Thomas.

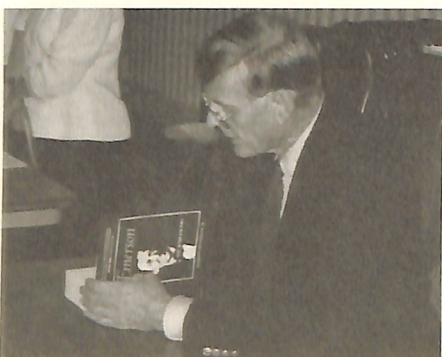


Sarah Wider, standing left, chaired the first Emerson Society ALA panel, with (seated) Gayle Smith, Elizabeth Addison, and Roger Thompson. Susan Field, standing right, spoke at the second panel (with Mark Bauerlein and Sandra Morris), chaired by Elizabeth Addison.

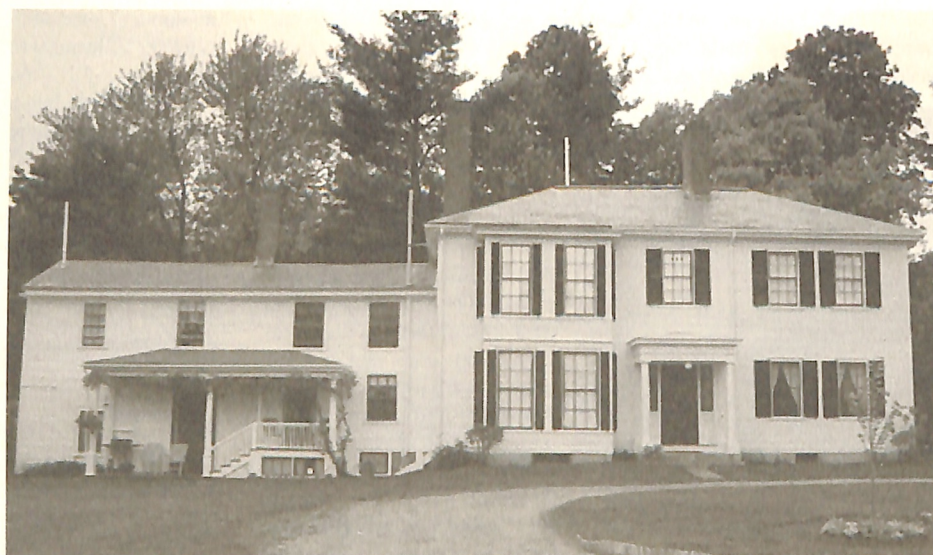


On the evening of 23 May, 26 Emersonians gathered for the Emerson Society's official bicentennial dinner at the Legal Seafoods Restaurant in Kendall Square, where Wes Mott led a birthday toast to Waldo.

**25 May– Garden
Tea Party at Bush**
(from page 1)



Barry Andrews signs his biography
EMERSON: THE MIND ON FIRE at First Parish
Church just before the birthday party.



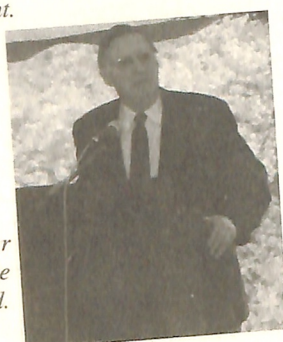
Barry Andrews



Partygoers assemble under the tent.



Bob Richardson and Rich Higgins chat.



Joe Wheeler
represents the
Town of Concord.

Phyllis Cole



Barry Andrews, Phyllis Cole, Malcolm Ferguson, Helen Deese.

Linda Andrews

25 May– Emerson in Japan

The English Literary Society of Japan had a panel discussion, "Nature's (1836) Presence—Celebrating Emerson's Bicentennial," at the society's 75th general meeting (on Emerson's birthday) at Seikei University in Tokyo. Pictured are moderator Ichiro Hayashi and panelists Masahiko Narita, Yoshio Takanashi, Hisayo Ogushi, and Koji Oi.



Izumi Ogura

An Emerson Bibliography, 2002

DAVID M. ROBINSON
Oregon State University

New scholarly works on Emerson and Transcendentalism from 2002, including items missed in the 2001 bibliography (ESP 13, ii [2002]:6-7). Readers should also consult the periodic Thoreau bibliographies in the Thoreau Society Bulletin, and the chapter "Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller and Transcendentalism" in the annual American Literary Scholarship (Duke University Press).

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Bromwich, David. "The American Psychosis." *Raritan* 21, iv: 33-63. [Emersonian individualism and American culture]
Buell, Lawrence. "Emersonian Anti-Mentoring: From Thoreau to Dickinson and Beyond." *MQR* 41:347-60. [Emerson-Thoreau relationship]
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Cavanaugh, Cynthia A. "The Aeolian Harp: Beauty and Unity in the Poetry and Prose of Ralph Waldo Emerson." *RMRL&L* 56:25-35. [Emerson's Aesthetics]
Chapman, Mary. "The Economics of Loss: Emerson's 'Threnody.'" *ATQ* 16:73-87. [Reading of "Threnody"]
Crain, Caleb. "A Star Is Born." *NYRB* 49, May 23, 2002:70-73. [Fuller's career and Transcendentalism]
Crane, Gregg D. *Race, Citizenship, and Law in American Literature*. Cambridge. [Emerson's articulation of a "higher law" theory in the antislavery debate]
DeLombard, Jeannine. "'Eye-Witness to Cruelty': Southern Violence and Northern Testimony in Frederick Douglass's 1845 Narrative." *AL* 73 [2001]: 245-75. [Compares Emerson and Douglass]

- Elbert, Monika M. "Striking a Historical Pose: Antebellum Tableaux Vivants, Godey's Illustrations, and Margaret Fuller's Heroines." *ESQ* 75:235-74. [Fuller and popular images of women]
Field, Peter S. *Ralph Waldo Emerson: The Making of a Democratic Intellectual*. Rowman & Littlefield. [Emerson as lecturer and public intellectual]
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Gac, Scott. "The Eternal Symphony Afloat: The Transcendentalists' Quest for a National Culture." *ATQ* 16: 151-64. [Music as a model for culture]
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Gilmore, Paul. "'The Poetical Side of Existence': Margaret Fuller, Early Mass Culture, and Aesthetic Transcendence." *ESQ* 47 [2001]: 59-87. [Fuller and 19th Century culture]
Grodzins, Dean. *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*. North Carolina. [Parker's development as a Transcendentalist]



Our bibliographer, David Robinson, and friend John Adams at Faneuil Hall, Boston.

Jim Manley

May– Emerson in Malta



Melvyn Hopper

Sporting an official "Emerson in 2003" T-shirt, Jayne Gordon—executive director of the Thoreau Society and a former member of the Emerson Society advisory board—visited Malta 170 years after Emerson arrived there at the start of his European trip following his resignation of his pastorate at Second Church in Boston.

- Henry, Brian. "Emersonian Transition in James Tate's *The Lost Pilot*." *IowaR* 32:154-63. [Emerson and a Tate poem]
Hurth, Elisabeth. "'The High Priest of Pessimism': Emerson and Schopenhauer." *ESQ* 47 [2001]:213-40. [Schopenhauer's reception in New England]
Kateb, George. "A Glance at Democratic Individuality." *IHN* 24:38-46. [Emersonian individualism and the 1960s democratic movements]
Labriola, Patrick. "Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*: Puritan Typology and German Idealism." *CS* 10:125-33. [Emerson and Schelling]

Larson, Kerry. "Justice to Emerson." *Raritan* 21, iii:46-67. [Emerson on justice]

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Mariani, Giorgio. "The (Mis)Fortune of Emerson in Italy." *Anglistica* 6:103-32. [Emerson in Italian criticism]

Martinez, Carlo. "'The Aroma of Personality': The Sage of Concord and the Master." *Anglistica* 6:155-70. [Emerson as an example to Henry James]

McMurray, Price. "'Love Is As Much Its Demand, As Perception': Hawthorne's 'Birth-mark' and Emerson's 'Humanity of Science.'" *ESQ* 47 [2001]:1-31. [Emerson and Hawthorne's "The Birthmark"]

Mitchell, Gillian A. M. "'A Path to Life' or 'A Way of Life': The Contrasting Approaches of Emerson and Thoreau to the Natural World." *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies* 6, ii [2000]:27-33. [Compares environmental views]

Murphy, Michael. "'We dive & reappear in new places': Emerson, Proust, and the Nature of Memory." *EJAC* 21,ii:74-85. [Emerson as an influence on Proust]

Pace, Joel and Chris Koenig-Woodyard. "Coleridge and Divine Providence: Charles King Newcomb, Rhoda Newcomb, and Ralph Waldo Emerson." *WC* 32 [2001]: 138-41. [Transcendentalist reception of Coleridge]

Parrish, Tim. *Walking Blues: Making Americans from Emerson to Elvis*. Massachusetts [2001]. [Emerson as cultural catalyst]

Pearson, John H. "Constance Fenimore Woolson's Critique of Emersonian Aesthetics." Pp. 51-65 in *Constance Fenimore Woolson's Nineteenth Century: Essays*. Ed. Victoria Brehm. Wayne State [2001]. [Woolson and Emerson]

Rhu, Lawrence F. "*King Lear* in Their Time: On Bloom and Cavell on Shakespeare." Pp. 227-46 in *Harold Bloom's Shakespeare*. Ed. Christy Desmet and Robert Sawyer. Palgrave [2001]. [Recent Emersonian readings of Shakespeare]

4 June- Emerson Down Under



Emerson Society life member John Ford, left, and Ian M. Johnstone celebrate Emerson's birthday as well as the publication of Mr. Johnstone's feature article, "A sage for all ages," in the Sydney, Australia, *Daily Telegraph*.

Rundle, Margaret. "The Road Not Taken?: Points of Intersection and Deflection in Carlyle and the American Transcendentalists." *Carlyle Studies Annual* 20 [2001-2002]:59-72. [Transcendentalists and Carlyle]

Samuels, Robert. "Emerson, Lacan, and Zen: Transcendental and Postmodern Conceptions of the Eastern Subject." Pp. 157-67 in *Postmodernity and Cross-Culturalism*. Ed. Yoshinobu Hakutani. Fairleigh Dickinson. [Emerson, Lacan, Zen]

Continued on page 16

28 June- "Emerson and the Examind Life"

Sponsored by the Philosophy Foundation of Waltham, Mass., in partnership with WGBH Forum Network, this free, public event attracted 500 to Faneuil Hall in Boston. Presently available for viewing on www.wgbh.org/forum, it was also filmed by C-Span 2 and can be seen on www.BookTV.org.



Jim Manley, webmaster of www.rwe.org, and Barbara Solowey.



Meta Cushing and Edie Murphy, event coordinators.



Presenters at Faneuil Hall: Robert Pinsky, who read from Emerson's essays, Richard Geldard and David M. Robinson.

10-13 July- "Thoreau and the Emersonian Influence"

The Thoreau Society dedicated its 2003 Annual Gathering in Concord, Mass., to this Emerson-bicentennial theme.



As its annual contribution to the Thoreau Society's rich four-day program, the Emerson Society presented a panel discussion "Intertextuality: Emerson and Thoreau in Dialogue" at the Masonic Temple on 11 July. Pictured, seated, are panel chair Elizabeth Addison and Sarah Wider and, standing, Carolyn Maibor, Janet Beck, and Gayle Smith.



Barbara Wojtusik, one of twenty who shared in reading Emerson's eulogy for Thoreau from the steps of First Parish Church on the afternoon of 12 July.



"Emerson in 2003" co-chair Ron Bosco also serves as president of the Thoreau Society. He stands in front of the pulpit of the First Parish Church with his wife, Bernadette, following his presidential address on 12 July.



Emersonians and Thoreauvians gather after the reading: Debra Kang Dean, Suzie Carlisle, Jayne Gordon, Brad Dean, Peggy Brace, Joel Myerson, Dick Schneider, Len Gougeon, Phyllis Yachimski, Bob Galvin, Laura Dassow Walls.



On 13 July, sixty gathered in the Great Hall of the Thoreau Institute across from Walden Pond in Lincoln, Mass., for the final session of the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, a discussion of "Emerson, Thoreau, and Transcendentalism," with Rick Delano as moderator, Wes Mott on Emerson, and Mike Berger on Thoreau.

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(Continued from page 14)

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- Sklansky, Jeffrey. *The Soul's Economy: Market Society and Selfhood in American Thought, 1829-1920*. North Carolina. [Emerson, Fuller, and market society]
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Help with ESP's Checklist of "Emerson in 2003" Items

Ralph Waldo Emerson is a national icon, and the bicentennial of his birth was observed not only in scholarly conferences and in formal public events but throughout the popular print and electronic media as well. *ESP* seeks your help in identifying items about the 2003 Emerson celebration in magazines, newspapers, TV, radio, and the Internet for a checklist that will be published in the Spring 2004 issue. This feature will continue to appear in *ESP* as long as more items are identified.

All contributors will be acknowledged in *ESP*. Please send items to Wes Mott, Department of Humanities & Arts, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280 (wmott@wpi.edu), taking care to supply such details as section/page numbers, dates, and Web addresses if they are not apparent. We are interested in different versions of syndicated items. Besides publishing the checklist in *ESP*, originals and copies will be deposited in the Emerson Society Collections at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln, Mass. Researchers during the tricentennial will be grateful for our efforts!



Birthday cake at Bush, 25 May 2003.

BARRY ANDREWS