



R.W.E.

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EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS

"What we are? and Whither we tend?": The Emerson Society at 20

WESLEY T. MOTT
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

In 1841, Emerson stated that the "main interest which any aspects of the Times can have for us, is...the light which they can shed on the wonderful questions, What we are? and Whither we tend?" (CW 1:182) The "main interest" of this paper is to assess What—as an Emerson Society—we are, and Whither—as a community of Emerson scholars—we tend. First, a backward glance at how the Emerson Society came to be and what we've accomplished in twenty years.

In the beginning—July 1988—several Emerson, and a couple of Alcott, editors (Joel Myerson, Harry Orth, Ron Bosco, Al von Frank, Dan Shealy, Doug Wilson, and I) converged on the Houghton Library for two or three weeks. After nine-hour days poring over manuscripts, in conversations over coffee and other beverages, it struck us that several societies were devoted to the study of American authors (notably Melville, Hawthorne, Poe, and Twain—indeed, the venerable Thoreau Society was founded in 1941); none, however, was devoted to the figure with whom these writers creatively engaged, and without whose example and encouragement, of course, Thoreau would never have come to anything. An unspoken ideological and professional identity crisis underlay these discussions, for here were editors inclined to textual, historical, and biographical scholarship, immersed in the archival remains of great writers, at a time when our more fashionable colleagues had announced the Death of the Author as a critical construct.

The stars for an Emerson Society continued to align the next June when the Cal State Symposium on American Literature met in San Diego to form an American Literature Association (ALA), described with refreshing simplicity as "a coalition of the societies devoted to the study of American authors." Though my subsequent West Coast trips were three-day treks on Amtrak, I was then fog-bound at the Worcester airport. But Joel Myerson and others represented a prospective Emerson Society. And as we shall see, our destiny was to be closely linked with that of ALA.

First, to be a legal, functioning body, we needed a constitution and bylaws. The Emerson Society has achieved something of a reputation for order and efficiency, half a dozen newer author societies actually having consulted our founding documents. But let me come clean. I'm no lawyer, and in the fall of 1989 I corresponded with John Idol and Julian Mason of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society and talked with my WPI colleague Kent Ljungquist of the Poe Studies Association—to all of whom we owe an enduring debt of gratitude—and I shamelessly adapted their constitutions and bylaws to our needs. Kent, who was then editing the Poe newsletter, also advised in creating our newsletter; also from WPI came design expertise from the publications office, a founding grant from the Research Development Council, and the first of an annual twenty-year printing subvention from WPI provosts.

I sent proposals to the MLA for a founding panel and for a small room in which to hold our organizing meeting at the December Convention in Washington—but was told tersely that MLA was bursting with special societies and that there was no room for us. The MLA program indeed was engorged with groups whose topics have made the Convention the annual butt of ridicule in the national media, calling to mind the comic strip in which Calvin tells Hobbes, "I used to hate writing assignments, but now I enjoy them. I realized that the purpose of writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure poor reasoning, and inhibit clarity. With a little practice, writing can be an intimidating and impenetrable fog! Want to see my book report?" Hobbes reads the title: "'The Dynamics of Interbeing and Monological Imperatives in *Dick and Jane*: A Study in Psychic Transrelational Gender Modes.'" Relishing the sound of his own words read aloud, Calvin declares, "Academia here I come!" So MLA had no room for THE essential U.S. cultural figure, the focus of what Larry Buell in 1984 had termed the "Emerson Industry."

A handful of us decided to meet undercover anyway at MLA. Getting the word out required a PR campaign—

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2010 EMERSON SOCIETY PATRONS

Emerson Society members continue generously to join at various "patron" levels of membership. All donations above the \$10 annual regular membership go to support special programs of the Society. 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 Todd H. Richardson, Dept. of Literature and Languages, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Odessa, TX 79762-0001.

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EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS

The newsletter of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
Published at Ball State University

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ESP welcomes notes and short articles (up to about 8 double-spaced, typed pages) on Emerson-related topics. Manuscripts are blind refereed. On matters of style, consult previous issues. We also 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 of Emersonian scholars. Send manuscripts to the editor, Robert D. Habich, Department of English, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0460 or email rhabich@bsu.edu.

Review copies of books on Emerson should be sent to book review editor Jennifer Gurley, Department of English, Le Moyne College, 1419 Salt Springs Road, Syracuse, NY 13214-1399.

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PROSPECTS.



The Barbara Lee Packer Fellowship

Plans are under way for the creation of an endowed fellowship in memory of our friend and colleague Barbara Packer to be administered by the Emerson Society. A minimum endowment of \$50,000 will allow us to provide an annual stipend of \$2000 to support a graduate student for one month at a research library in eastern Massachusetts. This project will be the subject of discussion at the Society's meeting this May at the American Literature Association conference in Boston. Whether you plan to attend or not, you may direct questions and/or comments to Al von Frank at ajvonfrank@roadrunner.com. Pledges in any amount will be gratefully received at the same address, but no money will be collected until after the conference when a determination will be made about the project's feasibility. Early signs are encouraging. By indicating your support now, you will put us in a good position to become (to the best of our knowledge) the first American author society to sponsor this kind of fellowship.

Emerson Society Panels

Below are the rosters for Emerson Society panels at the American Literature Association annual meeting (Boston, May 26-29, 2011) and the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering (Concord, Massachusetts, July 7-10, 2011). For information about these meetings, including dates, locations, times, and registration forms, visit http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/ala2/american_literature_assoc_2011.html and <http://www.thoreausociety.org/>.

AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Emerson and Creativity I: Origins and Originality

CHAIR: Leslie Eckel, *Suffolk University*

"Silence and Speech, Things and Words: Grounding the Poet's Creativity," Elizabeth Addison, *Western Carolina University*

"Philosophy Better Than Philosophy," Shoji Goto, *Rikkyo University, Tokyo*

"Creating the Creator: Emerson's Epistemology of Form," David Greenham, *University of the West of England*

"'A Certain Uniform Tune': Emerson's Anti-Romantic Theory of Creativity," Richard Hardack, *Independent Scholar*

Emerson and Creativity II: Imagining New Futures

CHAIR: Lawrence Rhu, *University of South Carolina*

"Emerson's Pleasures of Apostasy: Creativity and the Place of Knowledge in the Early Works," Jason Berger, *University of South Dakota*

"Teaching the Soul of Poetry: How Emersonian Creativity Transforms Literary Pedagogy," Carolyn Elliott, *University of Pittsburgh* (Winner of one of the Emerson Society's 2011 Graduate Student Paper Awards)

"Emerson at the Altar: On 'Beautiful Necessity' in Art and Life," Jacob Risinger, *Harvard University* (Winner of one of the Emerson Society's 2011 Graduate Student Paper Awards)

THOREAU SOCIETY ANNUAL GATHERING

Emerson's Nature Writing

CHAIR: Sean Meehan, *Washington College*

"The Supremacy and Artistic Being of Nature," Nicholas Guardiano, *Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

"The Morning After the Deluge: Creative Instability in the Work of Ralph Waldo Emerson and J. M. W. Turner," Dominique Zino, *CUNY Graduate Center*

"The Poetic Curve of Nature: Emerson, Thoreau, and the Nature of Metonymy," Iuliu Ratiu, *Washington College*

Emerson Sightings/Citings

It is perhaps inevitable that our intrepid Emerson sleuth, **Clarence Burley**, has finally run the table and found every one of this issue's citings. Thank you, Clarence!

Two attributions to Emerson appear as chapter epigraphs in *Sandy Berger's Great Age Guide to the Internet* (Indianapolis: QUE Publishing, 2006). Chapter 4, "Exciting Things to Do on the Internet," begins with "Explore and explore. Be neither chided nor flattered out of your position of perpetual inquiry," from "Literary Ethics" (1838). A reworking of a line in "Fate" (1860), "As soon as there is life there is danger," heads up Chapter 10, "Security in Cyberspace."

The *Old Farmer's Almanac* (at 219, older than Emerson) leads off on page 1 with "The years teach much which the days never know," from "Experience" (1844).

Emerson is invoked in Derrick Jackson's column, "Get Out for a Walk" in the *Boston Globe* for January 8, 2011: "In his 1841 essay on self-reliance Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: 'The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet.' One hundred and seventy years later, with the exception of the treadmill, we remain suckers for fitness contraptions that promise maximum health with minimal use of the feet." Clarence points out that "Emerson would have howled at the toning shoe. The billowy crescent soles turn people into human rocking chairs, a most curious imagery given the decrepit cultural status of rocking chairs."

Emersoniana

A New Image of Margaret Fuller: We have had but two images of Emerson's close associate Margaret Fuller (1810-1850): an 1846 daguerreotype made in New York City by John Plumbe and an 1848 painting made in Rome by Thomas Hicks. Both are often reproduced. Now, however, we can add a third, nicely situated between the other two. In 1847, Joseph Mozier made a marble bust of Fuller when she visited him in Florence. The bust is signed and dated "Florence / 1847." It remained in the Mozier family until about 1930, when it was acquired by a dealer in New York City and eventually by the present owner, George R. Rinhart, a life member of the Emerson Society. The bust is now on long-term loan to the National Portrait Gallery.

Joseph Mozier (1812-1870) was born in Vermont but moved to Italy in 1845. Fuller praised him in her *New York Tribune* dispatches and in her private letters, but his caustic assessment of Fuller's husband, Giovanni Ossoli, led Hawthorne to defame her in his 1858 *Journal*. No matter what Mozier might have thought in the late 1850s, in 1847 he rendered a fascinating likeness of an accomplished woman. The image is published courtesy of Mr. George R. Rinhart and is provided by the National Portrait Gallery.

—Robert N. Hudspeth
Claremont Graduate University



PROSPECTS

(Continued from page 3)

Nathan Brooks Finding Aid at Concord Library: The Nathan Brooks Papers at the Concord Free Public Library document many topics, among them the place of Concord's Transcendental authors—Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott—in local life. The 1847 receipt shown here reveals Emerson's purchase of pear and apple trees from Abel Moore (of whose estate Concord lawyer Nathan Brooks was executor). The enterprising Moore (1777–1848) was a Middlesex County deputy sheriff, deputy jailer at the county jail in Concord, a real estate investor, a dealer in standing and cut wood, and the owner of a farm on Lexington Road.

Abel Moore to Emerson
May 1844 To 2 Pear Trees at - \$11.50
to 1 Apple tree - 5.55
April 1845 To 1 pear tree - 1.00
May 1845 To 21 Apple trees at 2/3 - 7.23
To list of Straws \$15.53
Sept 25 1847 10.20
Total payment 25.73
Abel Moore

Spanning 54 linear feet and encompassing more than two centuries of history, the Brooks Papers comprise one of the richest collections anywhere relating to Concord. They shed light on the professional and personal lives of Brooks (1785–1863) and of members of his immediate family; the world of his father-in-law, Concord storekeeper Tilly Merrick; the business and property interests of his Merrick and Minot in-laws in earlier times; and the social and economic history of the town throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. These papers shed light on Concordians at all levels of the economic ladder, including local black laborers and immigrant Irish workers.

In the 1780s and 1790s, Brooks's father-in-law Tilly Merrick (1755–1836) lived in Charleston, South Carolina, adapting himself fully to the Southern economy. He engaged in wholesale shipping, owned plantations, relied on slave labor, and to some extent brokered the sale of slaves, all of which activities are represented in the Brooks collection. Merrick's involvement with slavery offers insight into the later abolitionism of his daughter Mary (Mrs. Nathan Brooks). The papers of Tilly's son Augustus contain communications via medium with the spirits of his deceased parents. Edward Emerson identified Augustus as a chief local enthusiast for what his father described in *The Conduct of Life* as "the squalor of Mesmerism, the delirium of rappings, the rat and mouse revelation, thumps in table-drawers, and black art."

Presented to the Concord Free Public Library by a Brooks descendant, the Nathan Brooks Papers remained unprocessed for decades. They were partially processed by Ruth Robinson Wheeler in the 1970s and again during a federal grant project in the 1990s. Over the past seven months, I have worked on their final organization, arrangement, and description.

Readers of *ESP* may now access the results of this effort on the library's website at <http://www.concordlibrary.org/brooks.html>.

—
Curator, Concord Free Public Library

Words and Deeds

Behind the Scenes: Planning "Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe," a Conference in Florence, June 8–10, 2012

Fresh out of the hugely successful 2006 transatlanticism conference that the Hawthorne, Emerson, and Poe societies held in Oxford, several of us wanted to start planning another meeting abroad as soon as possible. The first emails in my "Florence 2012" folder date from July, 2007. They are from Phyllis Cole and Rosemary Fisk, two of the planners of the Oxford conference, in response to my "another international conference" email full of enthusiastic questions. The 2012 conference has thus been nurtured and eagerly anticipated for quite some time before the actual planning committee coalesced via the listserv Jason Courtmanche (University of Connecticut, Hawthorne Society) created February 2, 2010. The committee started with two representatives from each author society with the Hawthorne Society taking the lead role: Rosemary Fisk and Jason Courtmanche from the Hawthorne Society, Paul Lewis and Beth Sweeney from the Poe Society, and Todd Richardson and me from our own ranks. Dan Malachuk has generously taken my place as of late 2010, when I had to step down to help with a family health crisis.

For those of you have not (yet!) been involved in planning a conference, the details are many, and they always take longer to settle than you might anticipate. Via online discussions and a face-to-face meeting at the 2010 ALA meeting, we have chosen and reserved the conference site of La Pietra, a 15th century Florentine villa now owned by New York University; negotiated a contract for services with La Pietra; chosen a list of hotels and negotiated transportation to and from La Pietra with the help of La Pietra staff; settled on "Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe" as the conference title; and issued a call for papers that invites proposals for papers and panels that consider Emerson, Hawthorne, or Poe in terms of transatlantic literary culture in their era or that relate the authors to each other or their European contemporaries.

Planning is only part of a successful conference. The rest is the marvelous experience of sharing ideas and enthusiasm about Emerson, Poe, and Hawthorne with participants and presenters in such a beautiful place. Conversation is a particularly appropriate focus for a conference held in Florence, a city whose rich aesthetic drew so many nineteenth-century American writers, including Emerson and Hawthorne, into conversational gatherings, just as it draws us into what will surely also be a vibrant conversation and inspiring experience. Please share the call for papers with your colleagues. The committee looks forward to reviewing proposals and to organizing the conference program. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2011.

—Sue Dunston
New Mexico Tech

Concern for Our Japanese Members With horror and sadness, the Emerson Society has followed media reports from Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami. We are particularly concerned about the well-being of our several friends and members from Japan and have tried to reach them via email and letters. With great relief, we have heard from Ryoichi Fuji, Shoji Goto, Hideo Kawasumi, Izumi Ogura, and Yoshio Takanashi, who are safe and well. We have not been able to contact Yoshiko Fugita or Mikayo Sakuma. We hope to hear soon from these two Japanese colleagues or from any other member who has been in contact with them. Please email Wes Mott at wmott@wpi.edu.



Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe

Florence, Italy, June 8–10, 2012

*Sponsored by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society,
the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, and the Poe Studies Association*

The conference organizers are calling for proposals for papers and panels that discuss Emerson, Hawthorne, or Poe in terms of transatlantic literary culture in their era (for instance, questions of transatlantic travel, influence, slavery, the Civil War, marketing, reception, and copyright). We also welcome proposals for papers and panels that relate the three authors to each other or to their European contemporaries, as well as proposals focusing on any topic related to Emerson, Hawthorne, or Poe in these contexts.

Deadline for submission is October 1, 2011. Please submit proposals to hepflorence2012@gmail.com.

All conference participants must be members of at least one of the sponsoring author societies at the time of registration.

*Hosted by the Villa La Pietra, New York University www.nyu.edu/global/lapietra.
Accommodations are with the following hotels: Hotel Santa Maria Novella www.hotelsantamarianovella.it, Hotel L'Orologio www.hotelorologioflorence.com, Hotel Rosso 23 www.hotelrosso23.com, Hotel Universo www.hoteluniversoflorence.com, Hotel Baglioni www.hotelbaglioni.it and Hotel Helvetia & Bristol www.royaldemeure.com.*

For more information about the conference, contact Jason Courtmanche at Jason.Courtmanche@uconn.edu.

In Their Own Words...

At some 200 members, The Emerson Society is small enough to be friendly but too large for everyone to know everyone else. Below you will meet our current advisory board members, officers, committee members, and the ESP team. —Ed.



Elizabeth Addison is a Past-President of the Society and a member of the Advisory Board. She has taught American and Asian literature at Western Carolina University since 1990. Since her graduate days at Duke, she has explored various aspects of Emerson's use of Quakerism and related material. A former director of the first-year writing program and former head of the English Department, she has participated in NEH seminars on Asian Studies and Emerson. Her essays have appeared in *Studies in the American Renaissance*, *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism*. Previously she worked as a professional writer and editor. Elizabeth lives in Cullowhee, N.C.



Peter Balaam serves on the Distinguished Achievement Award committee. He is Associate Professor of English at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., where he teaches and writes on U.S. literature of the nineteenth century. Peter is the author of *Misery's Mathematics: Mourning, Compensation, and Reality in Antebellum American Literature* (Routledge, 2009).



Jessie Bray serves on the Special Awards Committee. She received her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of South Carolina-Columbia and is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at East Tennessee State University. Her dissertation, "'A More Perfect Indian Wisdom': Transcultural Exchange in the Writings of Henry D. Thoreau," charts Thoreau's ethical trajectory, demonstrating how his unpublished natural history, Indian writings, and surveys served as source matter for Thoreau's developing social and ecological conscience. Jessie's most recent article, "A New Approach to Thoreau's 'Indian Books,'" (*Documentary Editing* [v.31, 2009]) considers text as organism and explores the rhizomal overtones of Thoreau's "Indian Books."



Leslie E. Eckel is an Assistant Professor of English at Suffolk University in Boston. Born and raised near Brook Farm, Leslie announced her passion for Emerson by including a quotation from "Self-Reliance" on her high school yearbook page! Her research and teaching focus on transatlantic contexts for American literature, and she is currently completing a book titled *At Work in the World: Nineteenth-Century American Authorship and Transatlantic Vocation*. She has published articles on Emerson, Fuller, Longfellow, and Melville in *Arizona Quarterly*, *Common-place*, *Dante Studies*, and *ESQ*. With Joel Pace, Leslie recently co-edited *Boston and the New Atlantic World*, a special issue of *Symbiosis* that gathers essays from a conference that she organized in 2009. Up next: a book project on Atlantic utopias and countercultures and a reader's guide to Moby-Dick.



Len Gougeon, Ph.D., is a member of the Distinguished Achievement Award committee. He is a Distinguished University Fellow and Professor of American Literature at the University of Scranton. A Past-President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, he is the author of *Virtue's Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform* (1990, 2010), and *Emerson & Eros: The Making of a Cultural Hero* (2007). He is also the co-editor of *Emerson's Antislavery Writings* (1995, 2001). In 2008 Len received the Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. His most recent book is *Emerson's Truth, Emerson's Wisdom* (2010). Currently, he's working on a study of how relations between New England and British writers were impacted by the Civil War.



Jennifer Gurley is the Book Review Editor for *Emerson Society Papers*. An Associate Professor of English at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, she specializes in American literature and philosophy before 1900 and has secondary research and teaching interests in classical philosophy, critical theory, and the literature of nineteenth-century Mexican-American California. Her work has appeared in *American Literary Realism*, *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, and *Philosophy and Literature*. Jennifer is currently completing a book on Ralph Waldo Emerson as a devotional thinker.



Bob Habich is editor of *Emerson Society Papers* and President-Elect of the Society. He served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2002 through 2009. A Professor of English at Ball State University, he teaches American literature, literary history, research methods, and biography. Bob has written several books on Emerson and his circle, most recently *Romanticism and Transcendentalism, 1820-1865* (Facts on File, 2010) and *Building Their Own Waldos: Emerson's First Biographers and the Politics of Life-Writing in the Gilded Age* (University of Iowa Press, 2011). His current research involves literary tourism, which he thinks is a very nice gig indeed.



Peggy Isaacson handles *ESP*'s design and production. 3.14159? Peggy's initials (a little math humor). 1974? The year Peggy began working at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Through on-the-job training, she became a graphic designer/copy editor—the best of both worlds in her opinion. Peggy helps design print publications for various offices and departments across the university, and edits and proofreads raw copy, finished manuscripts, and page proofs for virtually all publications produced by the WPI Division of Marketing and Communications.



Daniel S. Malachuk serves on the Advisory Board and the Special Awards Committee and is one of our liaisons on the Florence 2012 conference committee. He teaches literature and the humanities at Western Illinois University's Quad Cities campus in Moline, Illinois; he lives across the Mississippi River in Bettendorf, Iowa, with his wife and their nine-year-old son. Dan is the author of *Perfection, the State, and Victorian Liberalism* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) and the co-editor with Alan M. Levine of *A Political Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson*, forthcoming in 2011 from University Press of Kentucky. He is currently serving on the Thoreau Society's Board of Directors.



A member of the Advisory Board, **Sandra Morris** is Professor of English at Bucknell University and co-editor with the late Joel Porte of the *Norton Critical Edition Emerson's Prose and Poetry* and *The Cambridge Companion to Emerson*. Among her publications are essays on Emerson's poetry and "Twentieth-Century American Poetry" in the 2010 *Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism*. At Bucknell she has won various teaching awards and administered the Social Justice Residential College. Beginning next year, Sandra will serve as a Mentor in the Posse Scholars Program at Bucknell, which recruits and educates underserved inner-city high school students with leadership and academic potential. She is working on a book on Emerson's poetry.



Wes Mott, Professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was the Emerson Society's first Secretary/Treasurer (1989-99) and published *Emerson Society Papers* at WPI from 1990 till 2009. Author of "The Strains of Eloquence": *Emerson and His Sermons* (1989), he edited volume 4 of *Emerson's Complete Sermons* (1992), *Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism* (1996), *Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism* (1996), and the three-volume DLB series *American Renaissance in New England* (2000-01). When not working on Emerson and the Transcendentalists, Wes usually can be found with his grandchildren at Disney World or with his many cats at home.



A member of the Advisory Board, **Bonnie Carr O'Neill** is Assistant Professor of English at Mississippi State University. In addition to her work on Fanny Fern, she has published essays on Whitman and Emerson. Bonnie is currently working on a book examining the interrelations of celebrity, reading, and authorship in the public life of the nineteenth-century United States.



Sandra Harbert Petrulionis is Professor of English and American Studies at Pennsylvania State University, Altoona. She is the author of *To Set This World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord* (2006) and is the editor of *Thoreau's Journal 8: 1854* (2002), and of the forthcoming *Thoreau In His Own Time*. With Laura Dassow Walls and Joel

Myerson, Sandra co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism* (2010). With Noelle Baker, she is currently working on a digital edition of the manuscript "Almanacks" of Mary Moody Emerson, to be published in the Brown Women Writers On-Line subscription database.



Todd H. Richardson is Secretary/Treasurer of the Emerson Society and one of our liaisons on the Florence 2012 conference committee. An Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, he teaches American literature. His work has appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism* and in such journals as the *New England Quarterly*, *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, and *Resources for American Literary Study*. Currently Todd is at work on a book project on Emerson and the construction of celebrity in nineteenth-century reform communities.



Bill Rossi compiles the annual bibliography for *ESP*. He teaches American literature at University of Oregon, where he is Professor of English and Director of Undergraduate Studies. Besides Emerson, Thoreau, and New England Transcendentalism, his research interests include literature in relation to the history of science, environmentalism, and place studies. Bill's most recent work is *Emerson and Thoreau: Figures of Friendship* (Indiana, 2010), a collection of essays by scholars of literature and philosophy, edited with John T. Lysaker.



Dieter Schulz is Professor Emeritus at Ruprecht-Karls-University of Heidelberg. After completing his studies of English and Russian at the University of Marburg, he spent three years as a postdoctoral research fellow in American Studies at Yale University. Dieter has taught at the universities of Stuttgart and Wuppertal, and has held visiting professorships at Oregon State University and the University of New Mexico. His publications include *Amerikanischer Transzendentalismus: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller* (1997) and some 15 articles on Emerson and Thoreau, specifically on the intellectual roots of Transcendentalism and its impact on 20th century developments in the arts and philosophy.



Megan Zimmerman is the editorial assistant for *Emerson Society Papers*. She is currently a senior Creative Writing major at Ball State University. Her writing has been published in online and student-produced literary magazines, and she has been a fiction editor on Ball State's national literary magazine, *The Broken Plate*. She hopes to work as a book editor in the near future. Megan loves all things Harry Potter and is a member of Ball State's Quidditch team. In her free time, she can be found in her hometown of Ft. Wayne or in a theatre.

Emerson Society Papers: Cumulative Author and Title Listing, 1990-1999

Sterling F. Delano, Villanova University (Emeritus)

Articles

Brattin, Joel J.
“Emerson’s Memory Loss, and the Writing of His Will.”
5 (Spring 1994): 4.

Burley, Clarence.
“Emerson, the Lyricist.”
8 (Spring 1997): 4-6.

Gougeon, Len.
“Emerson, Adin Ballou, and Reform.”
8 (Spring 1997): 1-3.

Gougeon, Len.
“Emerson and Brook Farm.”
3 (Spring 1992): 1-2.

Gougeon, Len.
“Emerson in the Corporate World.”
7 (Spring 1996): 8.

Gougeon, Len.
“Emerson at West Point.”
9 (Spring 1998): 1-3, 8.

Hill, Annie.
“‘The World’s Eye, The World’s Heart’: Emerson and the Continuity of Children’s Knowing.”
4 (Spring 1993): 5, 8.

Huber, J. Parker.
“John Muir and Emerson’s *Poems*.”
10 (Spring 1999): 1, 3.

Ljungquist, Kent P.
“‘Warrington’ Reviews Emerson: Some Uncollected Reviews and Notices.”
5 (Fall 1994): 1-3.

Mott, Wesley T.
“Emerson and the New Bedford Affair in Boston Newspapers.”
3 (Spring 1992): 4-5.

Mott, Wesley T.
“Emerson and the *North American Review*: New Letters.”
7 (Spring 1996): 1-3.

Mott, Wesley T.
“‘An Etching of Emerson’ (1853) and the Problem of Attribution.” 6 (Spring 1995): 1-4.

Mott, Wesley T.
“Don Henley, Walden Woods, and Emerson.”
1 (Fall 1990): 4.

Myerson, Joel.
“Emerson and the Hancock Sunday School.”
3 (Fall 1992): 7.

Myerson, Joel.
“A Glimpse of Emerson in Old Age.”
4 (Spring 1993): 8.

Nadenicek, Daniel J.
“Sleepy Hollow Cemetery: Philosophy Made Substance.”
5 (Spring 1994): 1-2, 8.

O’Keefe, Richard R.
“Scanning ‘Hamatreya’: Emerson as Miltonic Prosodist.”
3 (Fall 1992): 1-2, 7.

Posterro, Barry.
“Emerson, Relatively Speaking.”
10 (Spring 1999): 4-5.

Robinson, David M.
“An Emerson Bibliography, 1989.”
2 (Spring 1991): 5-6. (Beginning Fall 1991, the annual bibliography appears in every Fall issue of ESP.)

Ronnick, Michele Valerie.
“Seneca’s Epistle 12 and Emerson’s ‘Circles.’”
7 (Spring 1996): 4, 8.

Schulman, J. Frank.
“An English Review of Nature.”
5 (Spring 1994): 3.

Simmons, Nancy Craig.
“Thoreau as Napoleon; or A Note on Emerson’s Big, Little, And Good Endians.”
4 (Spring 1993): 1-4.

Trofimov, Alexander.
“The Impact of Emerson’s Writings in Russia.”
1 (Fall 1990): 3-4.

Trofimov, Alexander.
“Emerson Studies in the USSR.”
2 (Spring 1991): 1-2.

von Frank, Albert J.
“On a Line in ‘Boston.’”
2 (Fall 1991): 1-2.

Reviews

Barish, Evelyn.
The Roots of Prophecy. Reviewed by Robert E. Burkholder.
3 (Spring 1992): 7-8.

Burkholder, Robert E.
Review of Evelyn Barish, *The Roots of Prophecy*.
3 (Spring 1992): 7-8.

Cayton, Mary Kupiec.
Emerson’s Emergence: Self and Society in the Transformation of New England, 1800-1845. Reviewed by Susan L. Roberson.
4 (Spring 1993): 7.

Collison, Gary.
Review of Stephen Railton, *Authorship and Audience: Literary Performance in the American Renaissance*.
6 (Spring 1995): 7.

Delano, Sterling F.
Review of Len Gougeon, *Virtue’s Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform*.
2 (Spring 1991): 3-4.

Emerson, Ellen Tucker.
The Life of Lidian Jackson Emerson. Ed. Delores Bird Carpenter. Reviewed by Nancy Craig Simmons.
5 (Spring 1994): 7-8.

Emerson, Mary Moody.
The Selected Letters of Mary Moody Emerson.
Ed. Nancy Craig Simmons. Reviewed by Robert D. Richardson, Jr.
8 (Fall 1997): 8.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Vol. 1:
Ed. Albert von Frank; Vol. 2: Ed. Teresa Toulouse and Andrew Delbanco. Reviewed by Ralph H. Orth.
3 (Spring 1992): 6-7.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Vol. 3:
Ed. Ronald A. Bosco; Vol. 4: Ed. Wesley T. Mott. Reviewed by Sanford E. Marovitz.
6 (Fall 1995): 5-6.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
The Topical Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Vol. 1:
Ed. Susan Sutton Smith; Vol. 2: Ed. Ronald A. Bosco; Vol. 3:
Ed. Glen M. Johnson. Reviewed by Armida Gilbert.
6 (Fall 1995): 6.

Emerson Dictionary.
Vol. I: *Published Works*. Vol. II: *Journals*. Selected and Arranged by D. Shivaji. Reviewed by Joel Myerson.
8 (Spring 1997): 8.

Emerson and Thoreau: The Contemporary Reviews.
Ed. Joel Myerson. Reviewed by Linck C. Johnson.
7 (Spring 1996): 6-7.

Gilbert, Armida.
Review of *The Topical Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, Vols. 1-3.
6 (Fall 1995): 6.

Gougeon, Len.
Virtue’s Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform.
Reviewed by Sterling F. Delano.
2 (Spring 1991): 3-4.

Gougeon, Len.
Review of Albert J. von Frank, *The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom And Slavery in Emerson’s Boston*.
10 (Spring 1999): 7.

Hoag, Ronald Wesley. Review of Wesley T. Mott, *Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism and Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism*.
9 (Spring 1998): 4-5.

Hodder, Alan D.
Emerson’s Rhetoric of Revelation: “Nature” The Reader, and the Apocalypse Within. Reviewed by Glen M. Johnson.
5 (Spring 1994): 6.

Johnson, Glen M.
Review of Alan D. Hodder, *Emerson’s Rhetoric of Revelation: “Nature,” The Reader, and the Apocalypse Within*.
5 (Spring 1994): 6.

Johnson, Linck C.
Review of *Emerson and Thoreau: The Contemporary Reviews*.
Ed. Joel Myerson.
7 (Spring 1996): 6-7.

Lopez, Michael.
Review of Merton M. Sealts, Jr., *Emerson on the Scholar*.
5 (Spring 1994): 6-7.

Litton, Guy. Review of Albert J. von Frank, *An Emerson Chronology*.
9 (Spring 1998): 4.

Marovitz, Sanford E.
Review of *The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, Vols. 3 & 4.
6 (Fall 1995): 5-6.

Mott, Wesley T.
Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism and Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism. Reviewed by Ronald Wesley Hoag.
9 (Spring 1998): 4-5.

Mott, Wesley T.
“*The Strains of Eloquence*”: *Emerson and His Sermons*.
Reviewed by J. Frank Schulman.
2 (Spring 1991): 3.

Myerson, Joel.
Review of *Emerson Dictionary*. Vol. I: *Published Works*. Vol. II: *Journals*.
8 (Spring 1997): 8.

Newfield, Christopher.
The Emerson Effect: Individualism and Submission in America.
Reviewed by Susan Roberson.
10 (Fall 1999): 5, 8.

Orth, Ralph H.
Review of *The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. Vols 1 & 2.
3 (Spring 1992): 6-7.

Railton, Stephen.
Authorship and Audience: Literary Performance in the American Renaissance. Reviewed by Gary Collison.
6 (Spring 1995): 7.

Richardson, Robert D., Jr.
Emerson: The Mind on Fire. Reviewed by David M. Robinson.
8 (Fall 1997): 6-7.

Richardson, Robert D., Jr.
Review of *The Selected Letters of Mary Moody Emerson*.
8 (Fall 1997): 8.

Roberson, Susan L.
Emerson in His Sermons: A Man-Made Self.
Reviewed by Albert J. von Frank.
8 (Fall 1997): 7-8.

Roberson, Susan L. Review of Christopher Newfield, *The Emerson Effect: Individualism and Submission in America*.
10 (Fall 1999): 5, 8.

Robinson, David M.
Review of Robert D. Richardson, Jr. *Emerson: The Mind on Fire*.
8 (Fall 1997): 6-7.

Sealts, Merton M., Jr.
Emerson on the Scholar. Reviewed by Michael Lopez.
5 (Spring 1994): 6-7.

Schulman, J. Frank.
Review of Wesley T. Mott, “*The Strains of Eloquence*”: *Emerson and His Sermons*.
2 (Spring 1991): 3.

Simmons, Nancy Craig.
Review of Ellen Tucker Emerson, *The Life of Lidian Jackson Emerson*.
Ed. Delores Bird Carpenter.
5 (Spring 1994): 7-8.

(Continued on page 10)

Smith, Gayle L.
Review of Gustaaf Van Cromphout, *Emerson's Modernity and the Example of Goethe*.
6 (Spring 1995): 6-7.

Van Cromphout, Gustaaf.
Emerson's Modernity and the Example of Goethe.
Reviewed by Gayle L. Smith.
6 (Spring 1995): 6-7.

von Frank, Albert J.
An Emerson Chronology. Reviewed by Guy Litton.
9 (Spring 1998): 4.

von Frank, Albert J.
The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and Slavery in Emerson's Boston. Reviewed by Len Gougeon.
10 (Spring 1999): 7.

von Frank, Albert J.
Review of Susan L. Roberson, *Emerson in His Sermons: A Man-Made Self*.
8 (Fall 1997): 7-8

Miscellaneous

“Abstracts of San Diego ALA [1990] Papers.”
1 (Fall 1990): 1-2.

“Abstracts of Washington ALA [1991] Papers.”
2 (Fall 1991): 3, 7.

“Abstracts of San Diego ALA [1992] Papers.”
3 (Fall 1992): 3-4. (Session 1: “Rereading Emerson”; Session 2: “Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism: A Sesquicentennial Celebration.”)

“Abstracts of Baltimore ALA [1993] Papers.”
4 (Fall 1993): 3-4. (“Emerson and Pedagogy.”)

“Abstracts of San Diego ALA [1994] Papers.”
5 (Fall 1994): 4-5. (Session 1: “Emerson’s Social Vision.” Session 2: “Emerson in 1844: A Sesquicentennial Perspective.”)

“Abstracts of Baltimore [1995] Papers.”
6 (Fall 1995): 2-4. (Session 1: “Emerson’s Later Work.” Session 2: “Emerson in Recent Criticism.”)

“Abstracts of San Diego ALA [1996] Papers.”
7 (Fall 1996): 4-5, 8. (Session 1: “Emerson I.” Session 2: “Emerson II.”)

“Abstracts of Baltimore ALA [1997] Papers.”
8 (Fall 1997): 2-4. (Session I: “Emerson and His Lectures.” Session II: “Emerson and Nature.”)

“Abstracts of San Diego ALA [1998] Papers.”
9 (Fall 1998): 4-5. (Session I: “Teaching the Anthologized Emerson.” Session II: “Emerson and the Question of Reform.”)

“Abstracts of Baltimore ALA [1999] Papers.”
10 (Fall 1999): 4-5. (Session I: “Emerson and His Correspondence.” Session II: “Emerson and His Correspondents.”)

Barber, J. W.
See ‘Concord, Massachusetts, ca. 1840’ below.

Brattin, Joel J.
“A New Letter: Emerson Declines an Invitation.”
10 (Fall 1999): 8.

‘Concord, Massachusetts, ca. 1840.’ Image.
Drawn by J. W. Barber. Engraved by J. Downes, Worcester.
3 (Spring 1992): 5.

Dean, Bradley P.
“Emerson Concordance Now Online.”
9 (Spring 1998): 6.

Downes, J.
See ‘Concord, Massachusetts, ca. 1840’ above.

“Emerson and Carlyle at Stonehenge.” Poem.
By Richard R. O’Keefe.
2 (Fall 1991): 7.

Emerson Concordance. See Bradley P. Dean above and Michael J. Preston below.

Emerson Society:
“Constitution” and “Bylaws.”
1 (Fall 1990): 6-7.

“Emerson & Thoreau.”
2 (Fall 1991): 5. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s first annual panel at the July 1991 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Marcia Moss; Harry Orth; Nancy Simmons; Joel Myerson; Wes Mott; Len Gougeon; Bob Sattelmeyer; Brad Dean.)

“Emerson and Concord: A Sense of Place.”
3 (Fall 1992): 7. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s second annual panel at the July 1992 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Wes Mott; Bob Burkholder; Joel Myerson; Dan Shealy; Bob Gross; Jayne Gordon.)

“Emerson and Women.”
4 (Fall 1993): 2. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s third annual panel at the July 1993 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Sarah Wider; Armida Gilbert; Harry Orth; Ron Bosco.)

“Emerson and Women II.”
6 (Spring 1995): 8. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s fourth annual panel at the July 1994 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Ron Bosco; Dan Shealy; Helen Deese; Phyllis Cole.)

“Emerson and Biography.”
7 (Fall 1996): 6. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s fifth annual panel at the July 1996 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Ron Bosco, Bob Richardson, Dan Shealy.

“Two Summers in Concord: 1997—‘Transcendental Women and Biography’ and 1998—‘Emerson: Influences and Resonances.’”
9 (Fall 1998): 3. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s sixth and seventh annual panels at the July 1997 and July 1998 meeting of The Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: 1997—Daniel Shealy, Phyllis Cole, Cynthia Barton, Bruce Ronda; 1998—Len Gougeon, Phyllis Cole, Joan Goodwin, Sallee Engstrom.

“Emerson ‘Re-Formed’ in Concord.”
10 (Fall 1999): 7. (Brief notice of the Emerson Society’s eighth annual panel at the July 1999 meeting of the Thoreau Society. Includes photo of panelists: Elizabeth Addison, Joseph M. Thomas, T. Gregory Garvey, Len Gougeon.

“Emerson Programs at the MLA [1991].” By Alfred G. Litton.
2 (Fall 1991): 7.

Financials. Brief notice of annual meeting of the Emerson Society includes statement of Society’s financial health.
3 (Fall 1992): 7; 4 (Fall 1993): 2; 6 (Fall 1995): 3; 7 (Fall 1996): 8; 8 (Fall 1997): 8; 9 (Fall 1998): 2; 10 (Fall 1999): 3.

“Founding Members.”
1 (Spring 1990): [4].

“Founding Members.”
1 (Fall 1990): 8.

“Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting.”
1 (Spring 1990): 1-2.

“New Home for Emerson Society Archives: Thoreau Institute Dedicated.” By Wesley T. Mott.
9 (Spring 1998): 6.

“Tax Exempt Status Reaffirmed.”
6 (Spring 1995): 6.

Letters to the Editor. From Stephen L. Lapeyrouse:
from Evelyn Barish: 3 (Fall 1992): 8;
from Richard Lee Francis: 5 (Fall 1994): 2.

Litton, Alfred G.
See ‘Ralph Waldo Emerson Society’ above.

Litton, Guy. “Gannett’s Address at Emerson’s Ordination.”
9 (Fall 1998): 1, 8-9.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth.
See Edward L. Tucker below.

O’Keefe, Richard R.
See “Emerson and Carlyle at Stonehenge” above.

Poetry.
See “Emerson and Carlyle at Stonehenge” above.

Preston, Michael J. “Gene IreY and His [Emerson] Concordance.”
9 (Spring 1998): 7.

“The Rev. John Pierce Hears the ‘American Scholar.’”
2 (Fall 1991): 2. [Reprint from Massachusetts Historical Society *Miscellany* 47] (Summer 1991): 7.

Sealts, Merton M., Jr.
“Remarks at the Hubbell Medal Presentation.”
4 (Fall 1993): 1.

Tucker, Edward L.
“A Letter from Longfellow to William Winter.”
8 (Spring 1997): 7.

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Cameron, Kenneth Walter.
By Benjamin F. Fisher.
4 (Fall 1993): 8, 5.

Mott, Wesley T.
By Ronald A. Bosco.
10 (Fall 1999): 1.

Orth, Ralph Harry.
By Ronald A. Bosco.
7 (Fall 1996): 1-2.

Sealts, Merton M., Jr.
By David Robinson.
6 (Fall 1995): 1.

Slater, Joseph.
By Douglas Emory Wilson.
7 (Fall 1996): 1-3.

Tilton, Eleanor M.
By Nancy Craig Simmons.
4 (Fall 1993): 8.

Wilson, Douglas Emory.
By Ronald A. Bosco.
8 (Fall 1997): 1.

In Memoriam

“Allen, Gay Wilson.” By Jerome Loving.
6 (Fall 1995): 8.

“Emerson, David.” By Frank Schulman.
10 (Spring 1999): 8.

“Emerson, Frederick C.”
5 (Spring 1994): 4. (Brief notice.)

“Gohdes, Clarence L. F.” By Benjamin Fisher.
9 (Spring 1998): 7.

“Harding, Walter.” By Ronald Wesley Hoag.
7 (Fall 1996): 3.

“Johnson, Edward A.”
8 (Spring 1997): 6. (Brief notice.)

“Leary, Lewis.” By Eleanor M. Tilton.
1 (Fall 1990): 3.

“McGiffert, Arthur Cushman, Jr.” By Albert J. von Frank.
4 (Fall 1993): 7.

“Mott, Shirley Jean Hanson.” By W[esley] T. M[ott].
9 (Spring 1998): 7.

“Mott, Theodore W.” By W[esley] T. M[ott].
4 (Fall 1993): 7.

“Sheatsley, Bette Morgan.” By Nancy S. Shackford.
2 (Spring 1991): 8.

“Smith, Susan Sutton.” By Ralph H. Orth.
6 (Spring 1995): 8.

“Strauch, Carl F.” By Douglas Emory Wilson.
2 (Fall 1991): 8.

“Tilton, Eleanor M.” By Nancy Craig Simmons.
5 (Fall 1994): 8.

“Williams, Wallace E.”
By Glen M. Johnson.
1 (Fall 1990): 3.

For reasons of space, the brief entries in the regular “Prospects” section are not included in this listing. We are very grateful to Rick Delano for compiling this inventory of the first ten years of *Emerson Society Papers*. A second installment will appear in the fall 2011 issue. —Ed.

Reviews

Religion and Literature, 41.1, Spring 2009. Special Ralph Waldo Emerson Issue.

Ed. PAUL KANE. University of Notre Dame Press. 216 pp.

We like our Emerson pure. We like the philosophy without the religion, the politics without the metaphysics, the selfhood without constraints, the prose without the poetry, the late without the early writings. To such purisms this selection of essays provides a welcome corrective.

David Robinson's article, which opens the issue, demonstrates all the advantages of an integrated approach. His analysis of Emerson's religious thought may be read as a fine illustration of the need to understand its evolution in terms of his politics, his ethics and, yes, his metaphysics. Emerson's view of worship changes. His outlook becomes "resolutely post-Christian" as he moves towards a natural religion of "pure ethics" (13, 21). The ethical first principle formerly identified with a personal deity becomes in the late lectures the "moral cause of the world" (15), shorn of individual or doctrinal attributes. "Ethics has come to replace divinity as the gauge of the spiritual" (11). The moral sentiment leads the way in the political sphere as well, as Robinson shows by situating the changes in Emerson's religious philosophy in the context of the antislavery crisis. The result is an impressive synthesis that historicizes Emerson's philosophical vision without sacrificing its inherent complexities and overlappings.

Shira Wolosky seeks a unifying principle for Emerson's thought in a theory of figures, by means of which "Emerson approaches the problems of individual and society, independence and dependence, imagination and nature, self and God" (26). Figuralism may even provide a linguistic alternative to "older metaphysics" (30), though Wolosky adds that Emerson himself was "unclear as to whether language can bear this burden" (44). Wolosky's Emerson, torn between traditional forms of transcendence and a bold new poetics of contingency, embodies a post-metaphysical order struggling to be born. One might argue, however, that Wolosky's postmodern critique of metaphysics as "unchanging eternal presence" (34) is irrelevant to Emerson's dynamic philosophy of being as "onwardness." Wolosky is on much firmer ground when she applies figuralism to politics, where her analysis brings much-needed balance and subtlety to the stark oppositions sometimes made between the early and late periods.

If Emerson does not need to be saved from his metaphysics, neither does he from his religion, which Mark S. Cladis ably defends against attempts (notably by George Kateb) to dismiss it as incompatible with our democratic, secular times. Arguing that Emerson's "normative account of democracy" is "rooted in his religious perspectives" (50), Cladis singles out three virtues that define Emerson's conception of worship and provide the three "pillars of Emersonian spiritual democracy" (79): self-reliance, work, and acceptance. Though the last term sounds less Emersonian than "obedience," the choice makes good rhetorical sense in this age of strong libertarian sensibilities. A more serious objection could be leveled at Cladis's loose assimilation of Emersonian ethics—virtue as obedience to the "moral cause of the world"—to Kantian moral autonomy, which requires a noumenal realm outside the causal order of nature. Cladis seems much closer to Emerson when he argues that "power, hope, and grace" are grounded in "acceptance" (73). With this important essay, Cladis issues a formidable challenge to secularist interpreters of Emerson's thought.

To those tempted to see private inspiration and political engagement as mutually exclusive phases of Emerson's career, Johannes Voelz offers a way to overcome the opposition by re-interpreting the first term in light of C. S. Peirce's philosophy. Inspiration is "integral to language" (84) rather than merely one of its modes; and language itself, which structures selfhood as an interplay of expression and reception, is fundamentally social. Thus inspiration should not be seen as anti-social.

Rather, as comparable to Firstness, the mode of receptiveness that Peirce associated with poetry, Emersonian inspiration allows us to see "a chain of signs unfolding infinitely" which is "the immeasurable extent of sociality itself" (104, 106). Voelz's otherwise compelling argument is weakened by an exclusive emphasis on language. Isn't Emersonian inspiration also an influx of being? Isn't reception ontological as well as linguistic (or epistemological)?

We might expect that inspiration is also what draws Emerson to a poet like Hafiz. Paul Kane's elegant and persuasive essay, which rounds off this special Emerson issue, sees the attraction as less in Hafiz's "mystical ecstasy" (119) than in something akin to self-reliance. Emerson "saw much in Hafiz that he wished for in himself"—above all a skeptical mind "in the service of a deeper truth" (120). In both poets, the religious vision is inseparable from the skepticism. In making his case, Kane delivers an eloquent plea for a more even-handed approach to Emerson's poetry, which "ought not to be treated either as separate or irrelevant" (112). He deserves our thanks both for this article and for the issue as a whole.

—Joseph Urbas
Université Michel de Montaigne
Bordeaux 3

Emerson & Thoreau: Figures of Friendship.

Ed. JOHN T. LYSAKER and WILLIAM ROSSI. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010. xv + 203 pp. \$22.95, paper.

The essays assembled here, John T. Lysaker and William Rossi tell us, are situated at the intersection of "literary criticism, philosophy, biography and intellectual history" (9), an alluring overlap of disciplines they hope will help to "articulate the logic by which friendship unfolds" (1) in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. The book's introduction offers a compressed, yet somehow thorough, review of Western reflections on the notion of friendship that moves from Aristotle's discussion in the *Nicomachean Ethics* to, by way of Cicero, Aquinas, Montaigne and Coleridge, what the editors call the "nettlesome and finally sour affair" (8) of the Emerson/Thoreau relationship. Many of the essays are organized around a paradox taken to be central to that friendship, and to Transcendentalism more generally: namely, that "if a certain degree of individualism or an ability to think and act on one's own is praiseworthy, how is it that two individuals can nevertheless intertwine their lives into the kind of 'melody' that Thoreau claims friendship involves?" (9).

A first section, "Transcendental Contexts," includes a fine essay by Lawrence Buell, "Transcendental Friendship: An Oxymoron?," that tries to historicize this paradox. Buell says that his title "both is and is not meant as a rhetorical question" (17); the essay then offers some suggestive answers. A second essay, the late Barbara Packer's "Forgiving the Giver," offers a portrait of the Emerson-Carlyle-Thoreau triad. Tracing some of the historical and literary links that we've come to know from her definitive accounts of Transcendentalism, Packer uncovers the sometimes turbulent exchange of letters, book manuscripts—and, at one point, a "sac of popped corn" (41)—between the writers. Along the way we learn a lot: that the publication in Boston of Carlyle's odd novel *Sartor Resartus* was not entirely Emerson's doing; that Emerson tended to get on Carlyle's nerves; that Thoreau, who wrote rapturously about Carlyle's style in a review essay devoted to him, did not have the favor returned from Carlyle, who said of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* that it was "too Jean Paulish," i.e., too fancifully literary (41). Packer weaves these literary and historical threads around the notion of the gift, and the resentfulness that can arise from out of the fragile economy of giver and receiver.

A second section, "Emerson's 'Friendship,'" looks in more explicit detail at Emerson's own essay on the topic. A penetrating article by David Robinson claims that Emerson offers in his essay a "repudi-

ation of his own philosophy" (57). Lysaker's own fantastically original essay is devoted to the "ethical double consciousness" that stems from the thinking together of friendship and self-culture (97). Adapted from his important book, *Emerson and Self-Culture*, the essay undertakes to explore what Lysaker calls the "seek[ing of] an eloquent life...given pre-reflectively in variously minded events of native and ecstatic genius" (87). The concern with "eloquence" points to Stanley Cavell's concern with "voice" in Emerson and Thoreau, concerns that come up again in Russell Goodman's essay on the relation of "Friendship" to the theme of "skepticism."

The third part of the book, "Thoreau's Divergent Melodies," includes essays by co-editor Rossi on "Loss, Transcendental Friendship and Elegy," and a further effort at unraveling the paradoxes animating "Friendship." Alan D. Hodder nimbly navigates what he calls the essay's "dizzying oscillat[ion]...between sonorous expressions of praise for the value of friendship" and a tone more "monitory and forbidding" (130), a timbral zig-zag that might be said to animate many of Emerson's essays.

THE EMERSON SOCIETY AT 20

(Continued from page 1)

word-of-mouth, published announcements, and fliers placed at strategic locations at the major conference hotels. I will never forget (nor will they) the humiliation my teenage children, Sarah and Natt, had to endure when—already at the age when they'd rather not be seen in public with their parents—Sandy and I required them to wear Christopher Cranch "transparent eye-ball" sweatshirts—not only at the conference hotel but during their entire stay in Washington.

A surprising twenty-seven joined the clandestine founding meeting in Joel Myerson's suite, where we elected officers and an advisory board; named our newsletter and chose Doug Wilson editor; passed bylaws; established dues; charged the officers with refining the Constitution; and agreed to offer two panels at the first annual ALA conference in San Diego the next May.

I will spare the bloody details of the months-long process of incorporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and of obtaining 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS. Suffice to say that Joseph Heller doubtless based the title of his classic anti-war novel on a similar experience—for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required that an organization be able to *demonstrate tax-exempt status* in order to *incorporate* as a non-profit, while the IRS required that an organization *be incorporated* to *achieve* tax-exempt status. Ignoring this technicality, I first applied to the Massachusetts Secretary of State, and on May 30, 1990 we were officially incorporated. It was awkward that, as the society's first Secretary/Treasurer, I could take notes and write correspondence but couldn't balance my own checkbook. Fortunately, my late father, a banker and accountant, set up our society's Account Book in a form that meets stringent IRS requirements. On July 3 I mailed our application to the IRS, and after endless phone calls, revised forms, and months of silence, we were officially tax-exempt.

What have we got to show for ourselves in twenty years?

- In the Spring of 1990 we published the first issue of the semiannual *Emerson Society Papers*, a four-page account

The fourth and last section, "Giving Friendship For Life," features a masterful piece of intellectual history by James Crosswhite likening the Emerson/Thoreau relation to classical accounts of friendship, particularly in Plato's dialogues and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. The volume ends on a very strong note, with Naoko Saito's "Leaving and Bequeathing." Once again turning to the specific concerns of Stanley Cavell—here his idea of "moral perfectionism"—Saito claims that if the other somehow remains inscrutable to us, we are nevertheless involved in an ethic of constant negotiation and awareness of that other as the "essential condition...say, the criterion" (175) for a democratic moral perfectionism that cannot ever come to an end. The ambitious, future-oriented scale of Saito's essay is the perfect way to end this splendid volume, which is a substantial contribution to our understanding of the friendship between Emerson and Thoreau, and of nineteenth century literary culture more generally.

—Paul Grimstad
Yale University

of our organizational meeting, upcoming events, and list of founding members.

- Also in 1990—having been snubbed by MLA—we formally voted to join the ALA, and that May in San Diego we presented two sessions at the first annual ALA conference, which we have done every year since. We were one of 32 societies—27 of them devoted to individual authors—comprising the original ALA. We did hold our first annual meeting at the MLA convention in Chicago in December 1990 (in twelve months our membership had ballooned from 27 to exactly 127!), but we've held every other annual meeting since then during the ALA conference.
- Soon we also became a staple at the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, which is, as Emerson wrote of the Chardon Street Convention, a sort of "omnium gathering" for all shades of Transcendentalists and other odd ducks. In 1991 we staged our *first* contribution to the Thoreau Society Jubilee, a panel on "Emerson & Thoreau," at the Concord Museum. Not wanting to be embarrassed at our first appearance in Concord, we hoped to attract 30 people. But more than 200 packed the auditorium and balcony—well over the fire-code limit—and staff turned away dozens more with free museum admission as consolation. Since then, we've usually occupied the prestigious Friday evening slot at the Annual Gathering, presenting a panel, lecture, or other special program in Concord every July except in 1995, when the Thoreauvians celebrated the sesquicentennial of Henry's move to Walden.
- With founding gifts of books and other scholarly materials from the estimable Harry Orth and Mert Sealts, we established an Emerson Society archive, now housed at the Thoreau Institute's Henley Library in

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Lincoln, Massachusetts, a half mile from Walden Pond. This growing collection includes books, offprints, maps, pamphlets, materials used in preparing some Emerson editions, and business records of the society.

- We provided a subvention to Columbia University Press to prepare the cumulative index for Eleanor M. Tilton's four supplemental volumes of *The Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, and we are acknowledged in that distinguished edition.
 - We promoted and contributed funds toward publication of the first biography of Emerson in Russian, by Nikita Pokrovsky.
 - Over many months in 2003, in Concord, Cambridge, and Boston, we conducted the bicentennial observance of Emerson's birth. Led by the indefatigable Ron Bosco and Joel Myerson, the society sponsored exhibits, a lecture at Harvard by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, and a major conference at the Massachusetts Historical Society that culminated in the monumental book *Emerson Bicentennial Essays*. During the conference, on April 26, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association (RWEMA) opened the doors of the Emerson House to us, and the Concord Museum hosted us at a gala reception. (Conference goers almost didn't get from Boston to Concord that day when our bus driver made a beeline from the Mass. Historical Society to the Southeast Expressway and headed for Concord, *New Hampshire!*)
- In an email message, RWEMA president Bay Bancroft, declaring the entire Bicentennial "a true festival of minds and ideas . . . executed with great success," confessed that for her the highlight was seeing Bush on that rainy April afternoon "aglow with—positively radiating—the ardent interest and enthusiasm of our distinguished RWE Society guests, as they took dusty books off shelves, sat in the old study on parlour chairs and sofas, talked animatedly in groups, and basked in the 'freedom of the house.' It was a high moment for the old house, and one that gave all of us on the RWEMA great pleasure and satisfaction!"
- On May 25, 2003 we joined in the Emerson Family's official 200th birthday party for Waldo at Bush. This happy celebration epitomized the cordial collaboration we've enjoyed over the years with the Memorial Association, and especially the kindness and generosity of the late David Emerson and his daughter Bay Bancroft.



- Over the years we have produced a founding sweatshirt and three editions of widely noticed T-shirts featuring the Cranch "transparent eye-ball." (The refined good taste of this classic was supplanted by a more flamboyant tie-dyed product designed for the bicentennial by Joel Myerson!)
- Also in 2003, adding Webmaster to his list of titles, Joel unveiled our handsome web site, which features not only our history and programs, but also delightful Emerson ephemera and links to other Emerson resources. As of this spring, the site has had almost 40,000 hits.
- My most gratifying professional moment since our founding occurred in the Fall of 2003, when I was sharing with my dear undergraduate advisor at Boston University, Millicent Bell, my excitement about an upcoming term teaching in London. I happened then to be President of the Emerson Society, Millicent President of the Hawthorne Society. Wouldn't it be wonderful, she thought, if the societies could do something in London together on Anglo-American literature. It seemed a castle in the air, but Millicent hosted an exploratory meeting at her Boston home. Our guru Joel Myerson represented this society, and soon our Elizabeth Addison, Phyllis Cole, Jennifer Gurley, Bob Habich, and I joined the planning committee with representatives from the Hawthorne and Poe societies (coincidentally, the two who aided in our founding more than fifteen years earlier). The outcome was one of our greatest accomplishments—the conference "Transatlanticism in American Literature" at the University of Oxford in July 2006. It was the first conference planned jointly by the three societies and our first, and to date only, program outside the U.S. Forty-three Emersonians were among the 170 participants from 18 countries who presented 143 papers at 48 sessions.
- Since 1993 we've recognized Distinguished Achievement in Emerson scholarship with an award that's been presented to sixteen scholars and four institutions.

- In 2004 our Board created a Special Projects Committee to reach out to community-based projects and deserving scholars, creative artists, and innovative teachers. The next year we presented our first Graduate Student Paper Award—a way both to recognize emerging talent and to enable gifted grad students to defray the cost of presenting a professional paper at ALA—and also to enable us to engage with our future colleagues in the Emerson vineyard. It has worked, for conspicuous among our honorees are Leslie Eckel, now a tenure-track faculty member and a member of our Board, and Jessie Bray, who serves on our Special Awards Committee.

Lest this seem a self-congratulatory laundry list of Emerson Society achievements—which it most certainly is intended to be—let's return to the question, Whither we tend?

- From 27 founding members gathered in Joel Myerson's MLA suite in 1989, we have grown to a steady average of more than 200 members a year. Truly international, we have had members from 21 countries. On a chastening note, these numbers reflect a continuous influx of new members, balanced by disappointing annual attrition. We need to better retain members as well as attract new ones.
 - *ESP* has grown from a 4-page informational sheet to a 12-16-page illustrated potpourri featuring refereed scholarly articles and notes, book reviews, an annual Emerson bibliography, and abstracts of conference papers. There is, however, a downside to *ESP*. For as Joel observed a few months ago, those old conference photos give sobering evidence that some of us have, well, matured during these two decades.
 - Among his many contributions to the society, Bob Habich has brought our accounting system into the Electronic Age.
 - Our web site has just been transferred from the University of South Carolina to our new Webmaster, Amy Earhart of Texas A&M University.
 - In the wake of our pioneering Oxford conference, we've broadened our global outreach—a priority of Phyllis Cole during her presidency (2004–05). We've featured panels on Emerson in global contexts and panelists from other nations, and we've elected international Emersonians to our Board.
- Represented by Todd Richardson and Dan Malachuk, we are now preparing another joint conference with our old Hawthorne and Poe friends, to be held in Florence, Italy, on June 8-10, 2012.

- Though, in an age of sometimes nutty theory, the Emerson Society was conceived by Emersonians inclined to archival and textual scholarship, and dedicated to the proposition that literary scholarship is somehow about authors, we've always been open to all theoretical approaches—a fact reflected in the marvelous range of younger scholars who present papers, write articles and book reviews, and serve on our board and committees.

- Finally, none of these things would have come to pass without the financial generosity—as well as talents—of so many of our members. For all of our twenty years, our annual dues have remained \$10, keeping membership in reach of virtually everyone. Over the years, we've been fortunate to receive a couple of large gifts and annual subventions. But most important, scores of our members keep joining at Contributing, Sustaining, and Life levels—which is why, even with a modest dues base, we have a robust treasury that enables us to do all we do to spread the word about Emerson.

Before the Emerson Society was founded, Kent Ljungquist mused that members of author societies, and the societies themselves, reflect the character of their authors. If I can reconstruct it after twenty years, his theory went something like this: Hawthorneans are brooders, who probe one another's secret motives; "Melvillians," as they like to call themselves, are a boisterous lot who at conferences seek out cakes and ale at unsavory waterfront establishments; Poe enthusiasts peevishly cling to perceived slights and obsessively plot revenge against each other; *Thoreau Society* is an oxymoron—Thoreauvians always need something to protest yet paradoxically are content only when sauntering alone, where their colleagues are nowhere to be seen. Well, Emerson was brilliant, original, sociable, engaged with important causes, a "balanced soul," as my undergraduate American lit survey professor, Edward Wagenknecht, called him years ago. I constantly hear—both from our ranks and outsiders—that Emerson Society members are just like this. All the jokes about self-reliance aside, over twenty years we've become a community of scholars, encouraging one another's work; engaging critically but usually collegially with one another's papers, manuscripts, and publications; celebrating one another's achievements; and mourning the passing of mentors and friends. In short, we've become a sort of family.

So where do we find ourselves? In Emerson studies as in life, "All things swim and glimmer." But the Emerson Society has become stable ground—a base of professional identity, intellectual energy, and friendship—"some principle of fixture or stability," in Emerson's phrase, even in a world of endless seeking.

This essay was originally presented, in somewhat different form, at the 2010 American Literature Association meeting. —Ed.

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara L. Packer

1947-2010

It was my great good fortune to have been Barbara Packer's colleague for over thirty years. We quickly became friends after her arrival at UCLA from Yale, not only because of our admiration of Emerson and the Transcendentalists (I could never convince Barbara of the merits of William Dean Howells), but also because of our love of horses. In fact, it was only several months after our first meeting that I invited her to the stables where my partner and I kept our Arabians. Since I didn't know how accomplished a rider she was, I mentioned several times during our drive to the farm how soft our horses' mouths were. She listened, but said nothing, and once mounted a half-hour later, she proceeded very cautiously. She had been schooled in quarter horses as a girl in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California and was somewhat mystified and perhaps even a little apprehensive about the temperament of the Arabian. Unfortunately the horse we had given her quickly realized that his rider seemed unwilling to take charge, so he decided to have some fun. Barbara had no problem staying in the saddle during a series of small bucks and erratic leaps, but the color quickly disappeared from her face. My partner who was standing with me on the rail shouted out, "Take hold of the SOB." Casting aside my warnings about not over using the bit, she took firm grasp of the reins and the animal gave a start and settled down immediately. He knew he had an equestrian master on his back. Last October, when Barbara's friends gathered to celebrate her distinguished career, I was amused to find that she had out on the table, along with other mementos, a photo taken that day of her on that horse, and there was no doubt from the picture who was in charge.

It may seem odd to begin this tribute with such a story. Ordinarily one would expect a review of her scholarly achievements, but to the members of the Emerson Society all that is already well known. No one who seriously studies the writings of Emerson and his fellow transcendentalists is ignorant of her distinguished record. When her first book, *Emerson's Fall* (1982), appeared, it struck me as one of the finest interpretations of Emerson available, an assessment that was confirmed when a year later one of the external evaluators, a senior Emerson scholar of impeccable honesty who had been asked to review her work in connection with her promotion, declared that it was the best book on Emerson since O. W. Firkins' classic 1915 study (a book both Barbara

and I greatly admired). Nor did any of her subsequent work ever fail to come up to the high mark set by *Emerson's Fall*.



Nor can those who know her writings, original in their scholarship and insights, expressed with precision and elegance, wonder at her success as a teacher in the classroom, whether it be

the works of Chaucer, Milton, or the writers of the nineteenth century. She won the most distinguished teaching awards UCLA had to offer, but even more important, certainly to her, the devotion of several generations of students. As departmental chair for ten long years, I dutifully reviewed course evaluations every term. I still have preserved in my copy of one of her books a student's comment written following one of Barbara's classes: "Sensitive, intelligent, humorous, and tough, she is considerate and unyielding in her expectations of us as writers. I felt encouraged and grew as a writer in her class. She has given me access to the infinite creative space within my being. There are many professors at UCLA who teach by the precedent of their previous experiences. Prof. Packer is awake; she is in the here and now. Her enthusiasm for the subject and for the writing is infectious."

Barbara's passing on 16 December 2010 is a great loss for all of us, and it is still too early for the good memories to overshadow the grief her friends experience. But in time that will be taken care of. In the meanwhile I just want to recall the image of her strong and elegant in the saddle, fully in charge and radiant in her command.

—Thomas Wortham