

# ALSC Conference 2002

Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C. • October 18-20, 2002

## Friday, October 18, 2002

2:00—4:30 p.m. **Writers' Panel** Chair: Rosanna Warren (Boston University) **Andrew Bienen, Anthony Hecht, Francine Prose**

5:00—7:00 p.m. **Reception** with an address by ALSC President James Engell

8:00—9:30 p.m. **Readings: Writers Andrew Bienen, Anthony Hecht and Francine Prose read from their own works**

- **Andrew Bienen**, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Arts at Columbia University, co-wrote *Boys Don't Cry* with Kimberly Peirce, director of the film.
- **Anthony Hecht**, Chancellor Emeritus of The Academy of American Poets and University Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University, is the author of *The Darkness and the Light*.
- **Francine Prose** is the author of ten highly acclaimed works of fiction. Her tenth and most recent novel, *Blue Angel* was a finalist for the National Book Award.

## Saturday, October 19, 2002

9:00—11:00 a.m. **The Novels of Thornton Wilder** Chair: Virgil Nemoianu (Catholic University of America)

**Lincoln Konkle**: "The Evolution Was Going On and On: *The Eighth Day* as Wilder's Affirmation of Progress"

**Christopher J. Wheatley**: "*Heaven's My Destination*: The Traveling Salesman, the Farmer's Daughter and Wilder's Religious Picaresque"

**Tappan Wilder**: "Portrait of a Winner: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*"

- **Lincoln Konkle**, Associate Professor of English at The College of New Jersey, is the author of '*Good, Better, Best, Bested*': *The Failure of American Typology in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
- **Christopher Wheatley**, Professor of English at Catholic University of America, is the author of "*Beneath Ierne's Banners*": *Protestant Irish Drama of the Restoration and Eighteenth Century*.
- **Tappan Wilder**, Honorary Chairman of the Thornton Wilder Society, is Thornton Wilder's literary executor.

9:00—11:00 a.m. **Italian Humanism** Chair: Gerald Gillespie (Stanford University)

**Giuseppe F. Mazzotta**: "Valla's Theology of Man"

**Alfonso Procaccini**: "Ficino and Galileo"

- **Giuseppe Mazzotta** is the Charles C. and Dorathea S. Dilley Professor of Italian Language and Literature at Yale University. He is the author of *Dante's Vision and the Circle of Knowledge*.
- **Alfonso Procaccini** is Professor of Italian Language and Literature at Smith College. His essays include "Alberti and the 'Framing' of Perspective," published in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

11:15 a.m.—1:00 p.m. **American Poetry Revisited: Jeffers, Frost, Moore** Chair: Lee Oser (College of the Holy Cross)

**Tim Hunt**: "Lyrical Ritual: Robinson Jeffers and the Poetics of Post-Romantic Witness"

**Emily Watts**: "Witnessing the Sun: Marianne Moore and the Prophetic Tradition"

**Marie Borroff**: "Steeple and Steeple Bush"

- **Tim Hunt**, Professor of English at Washington State University, is the author of *Kerouac's Crooked Road: Development of a Fiction*.
- **Emily Watts**, Professor of English at University of Illinois, is author of *The Businessman in American Literature* and contributing editor to *The Feminist Companion*.
- **Marie Borroff**, Sterling Professor Emeritus of English at Yale University, is author of *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevenson, and Moore*.

11:15 a.m.—1:00 p.m. **Sophocles** Chair: Sara Mack (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

**Jascha Kessler**: "Oedipus and His Discontents"

**Kirk Ormand**: "Oedipus, Zizek, Identity"

**Keri Elizabeth Ames**: "The Epiphany of the Wound: The Phenomenology of Suffering and Healing in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*"

- **Jascha Kessler**, Professor of English and Modern Literature at UCLA, has published five collections of fiction. His latest collection is *Siren Songs and Classical Illusions: 50 Stories*.
  - **Kirk Ormand**, Classicist and ex-Project Manager, teaches Classics at Oberlin College and is the author of *Exchange and the Maiden: Marriage in Sophoclean Tragedy*.
  - **Keri Elizabeth Ames** is a doctoral candidate in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Her most recent publications, "Joycean Performance: How the Muse Came to Berkeley" and "Parser's Revenge," appeared in *The James Joyce Literary Supplement*.
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1:15—3:00 p.m. **Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's "Nathan the Wise"**

**Paul D'Andrea** will present a film of his adaptation of Lessing's play (as seen on PBS)

• **Paul D'Andrea**, Robinson Professor of Theater and English at George Mason University, is author of *The Trouble with Europe*.

1:30—3:00 p.m. **Discussion Groups: Foreign Literature in Translation** Chair: Ann Schmiesing (University of Colorado, Boulder)  
(two concurrent sessions in separate rooms)

1. **Frederick Turner** will lead discussion of Hungarian poetry in translation, including poems by Deszö Kosztolányi, Attila József, and Miklós Radnóti

2. **Maryellen Mori** will lead a discussion of a short story by Kenzaburo Oe in translation

• **Frederick Turner**, Professor of Literature at the University of Texas in Dallas, is author of *The Culture of Hope: A New Birth of the Classical Spirit*.

• **Maryellen Mori**, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at Santa Clara University, recently published an article entitled, "The liminal male as liberatory figure in Japanese women's fiction," in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*.

3:00—5:00 p.m. **Humanities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** Chair: Mark Bauerlein (Emory University)

**Paul P. J. D'Andrea, Jr.**: "Why Literature Must Be Taught in Singing School"

**Scott Crider**: "Looking There: Literature and Dialectic in the Classroom"

**Bruce Gans**: "A Model for Minority and Non-Traditional Students: The Wright College Great Books Curriculum"

**Martha Witt**: "Literature and the Teacher: Against an Ascetic Ideal"

• **Paul P. J. D'Andrea, Jr.** is one of the founders of RedBrickSchool, which offers teachers a nationally accessible, Internet-based curriculum complement based on prominent primary texts found in most classrooms.

• **Scott Crider** is Associate Professor of English at University of Dallas. His recent publications include "Weeping in the Upper World: The Orphic Frame in 5.3 of *The Winter's Tale*" in *Studies in the Literary Imagination*.

• **Bruce Gans**, Associate Professor of English at Wright College, is the founder and coordinator of the "Great Books Curriculum." He is also the author of short stories, including "The Duel" and "Jak Jest Shura."

• **Martha Witt** is a doctoral candidate at Teacher's College, Columbia University. Her most recent short story, "Kinds of People," appeared in *Boulevard Magazine*.

5:30—7:00 p.m. **Members' Meeting**

7:45 p.m. Dinner, followed with an address by John Barth, Author

## Sunday, October 20, 2002

8:30—10:30 a.m. **Philosophy and Literature** Chair: Frederick Turner (University of Texas-Dallas)

**Millicent Bell**: "Shakespeare and Renaissance Skepticism: *King Lear*"

**Gerald Gillespie**: "Double Trouble, or Yes and No: Applying Cusanus to Joyce and Kafka"

**Phillip Stambovsky**: "The Phenomenology of *Sensus Numinis* in Emily Dickinson's Verse"

• **Millicent Bell** is Professor of English Emerita at Boston University. She is the author of *Meaning in Henry James*.

• **Gerald Gillespie**, Professor of German and comparative literature at Stanford University, is the editor of *Romantic Drama* and *Romantic Prose Fiction*.

• **Phillip Stambovsky** is an independent scholar currently enrolled in a graduate program at Boston College. He recently completed a book manuscript on *Literary Art and the Philosophical Imagination*.

8:30—10:30 a.m. **History and Literature** Chair: John Richetti (University of Pennsylvania)

**J. Paul Hunter**: "Literacy, Letters, Literature / Historicizing, Historiography, History"

**Lee Patterson**: "Historicism in Contemporary Medieval Literature Studies: A Dispatch from the Front"

**Michelle Fram-Cohen**: "The Historical and Fictional Levels in Victor Hugo's *Quatrevingt Treize*"

• **J. Paul Hunter**, Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago, is the author of *The Reluctant Pilgrim*.

• **Lee Patterson**, Frederick W. Hilles Professor of English at Yale University, is the author of *Negotiating the Past: The Historical Understanding of Medieval Literature*.

• **Michelle Fram-Cohen** is studying for her Ph.D. at the Union Institute. She is the author of several essays including, "Why Have Children: A Sequel to 'The Shame of not having Children'" and "Reality, Language, Translation: What Makes Translation Possible."

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