

Loose Canons

Volume 1

Emory University English Department

November 1998

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In Future Issues:

Columns by:

- Associate Professor Lynna Williams (a writerly perspective on current events related to English)
- a current graduate student and an alumnus (e-mail hbergst@emory.edu if you're interested in writing a regular column)

Feature articles:

- innovative teaching methods
- acquisitions to Emory Libraries
- original work by alumni
- technology in the classroom

Across an Ocean of Words: Xuefei Jin's Acclaimed Writings on the Cultural Revolution in China

In June 1989, massive student demonstrations were held in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in support of democracy. The communist government sent troops in to squelch the dissent, and in the bloody melee that ensued, tanks rolled through the square and hundreds were killed. Even though the pro-democracy movement was quashed, scenes of the students' valiant struggles were beamed all over the world. One intent viewer was Xuefei Jin, a thirty-three-year-old Chinese student working on his doctoral degree in American literature at Brandeis University. Jin had originally planned to earn his Ph.D. and return to China and teach, but as he watched the events from Tiananmen Square on the television in his home in Boston, weeping at the brutal violence, he realized he could never go back.

"I never thought the government would send troops to kill students," says Jin, now an assistant professor in the English Department at Emory. "It was very traumatic for me. It's such a brutal government. I was very angry, and I decided not to return to China."

Staying in the United States meant a substantial risk for Jin. He had a secure job waiting for him in his homeland, and making a living here as a teacher and writer meant he would have to abandon the security of working in his native tongue.

"For the initial years it was like having a blood transfusion, like you are changing your blood," says Jin who still speaks with a thick accent. But his perseverance paid off. Not only did he secure a job at Emory teaching creative writing, but his fiction has recently garnered a number of important accolades. In the spring of 1997, he won the prestigious Ernest Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for First Fiction for his collection of short stories, *Ocean of Words*. "This debut book, of simple style and understated beauty," the judges commented, "is occasion for real celebration."

Frank Manley, the director of Emory's Creative Writing Program and an accomplished playwright, agrees with that evaluation. "I consider Xuefei to be not only one of the most important young American authors, but also one of the most unusual," he says. "He is the only real genius I have ever known, and, as Emerson once said of Whitman, I believe that he stands on the threshold of a truly great career."

Jin used his military experiences in China as raw material for the stories in *Ocean of Words*. Describing them as "achingly human," the *New York Times* commented that the



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The Scent of the Sun

On the rim of the bathtub
she left me a towel,
fluffy and folded,
soaked with sunlight.
I buried my face in the nap
to inhale the sun.

In my chest a world is rippling,
a world of seagulls,
fishing boats, tides, hurricanes,
pollen and bees, kids,
bacon, laughter and song.

If someone tells me again,
“The sun smells the same anywhere,”
I will say to him,
“Not in every home.”

Xuefei Jin
Facing Shadows

characters in his stories “form a group portrait that suggests how an entire people struggles to keep its basic humanity within the stiff, unnatural confines of Maoist ideology.”

While Jin admits there are elements of his life and experiences in much of his writing, he says his work is not autobiographical, a practice he tells his students puts serious constraints on a writer. “When you construct a piece of work, a novel or a story, you need a lot of drama and a message,” explains the author, who writes under the pen name Ha Jin. “But when you write an autobiographical piece, you cannot create a happening. If this has not happened, you cannot say it happened. It is not faithful to reality, and so that is the limitation. In addition to that, I want to make my work better than myself.”

Jin has received the most plaudits for his short stories, and his second volume, *Under the Red Flag*, won the coveted Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction from the University of Georgia Press. But he has also penned two volumes of poetry and is finishing up a lengthy novel, which he describes as a love story set in a Chinese military hospital. While he enjoys each of these forms of writing, Jin says practical reasons make short stories his favorite genre. “You can get into a short story and get it out easily,” he explains. “If I work on a novel, I have to immerse myself in it for a long time completely. You are just absorbed by the work, so it is a very hard process, and sometimes I don’t have the time and the leisure to do that. As for poetry, it’s pure luck. You don’t know whether this will work, and you just try and try. I abandon a lot of poems, and so I think it is a high order of writing. It’s harder and it depends on luck. Sometimes you write a poem without much effort but it works well, and sometimes you just work for months on one but it doesn’t work.”

Even though Jin misses his homeland, going back to China is not an option. “I have gone so far in English,” he says. “Language is like water. You live in it, so it would be very hard to go back.”

John D. Thomas, reprinted courtesy of *Emory Magazine*. Photo by Kay Hinton.

FROM THE CHAIR: MARGINALIA

People major in English for all sorts of reasons from a love of literature to a fear of chemistry, but one thing they all share is a habit of scribbling in the margins. You make notes of things you think might be on the test, or you make some comment in the space between the lines or in the spaces at the side of the page. Sometimes it’s just an epithet, but more often it’s a question, a correction or an evaluation, or a reasoned pondering about what is being said. Writings like these are glosses on a text, and for an English major writing in the margins is like an athlete’s training; it’s doing what comes naturally. My guess is that if Daniel had majored in English he would have first annotated parts of the writing on the palace wall before informing the king of his interpretation. Making glosses is a logical extension of a text, any text; to an English major, any text is a work in progress, just an opportunity to add your own voice in the margins.

Once when I was an undergraduate I was helping one of my professors revise a manuscript when he said something that captured this precarious instability of texts. He was trying to rewrite his dissertation for publication as a book. The subject was encomiastic poetry in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and he wanted me to understand first that the work

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Loose Canons

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY



nineteenth-century legal decisions that defined racial categories. Michael's most recent article—on the ethnography of the Ghost Dance movement of the 1890s—appeared in *American Quarterly*.



and turn-of-the-century English literature, *The Ruling Passion* (Duke, 1995) and *The Burdens of Intimacy* (Chicago, 1998). He is also the editor of *The Psychoanalysis of Race* (Columbia, 1998) and is currently writing a book on misanthropy and antisocial impulses in Victorian literature. His work this year appeared in *MLN*, *diacritics*, *Victorian Studies*, *Critique*, and the book *Quare Joyce* (University of Michigan Press), and he lectured at Penn and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Michael A. Elliott joins the English Department after having completed his Ph.D. at Columbia University in spring, 1998. His teaching interests include nineteenth-century American literature, American cultural studies, and Native American literature. Currently, Michael is working on a book-length project that traces the impact of the modern idea of "culture" upon turn-of-the-century literature and anthropology in the United States. He is also completing a study of the

Christopher Lane was educated in Britain and received his Ph.D. from the University of London. An Associate Professor of English, he teaches courses in Victorian literature, British colonial fiction, and critical theory. He previously taught for six years at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and has also held teaching appointments in London and Zimbabwe, as well as a Mellon Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of two books on Victorian

New Graduate Students 1998

Patrick William Bixby

B.A. in Psychology, UCLA
M.A. in English, California State - Long Beach

Elizabeth Brewer

B.A. in English, Middlebury College

Joanne DeLavan Reichardt

B.A., Agnes Scott College
M.A., Emory University

Katherine Elaine Ellison

B.A. in English, Indiana University

Patrick Michael Erben

English, Johannes Gutenberg University
M.A. in English, Johannes Gutenberg University

Hans-Georg Erney

English, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

Kerry Ann Higgins

B.A. in English, University of Rochester

Amaud Jamaul Johnson

B.A. in English, Howard University
M.P.S. in Africana Studies, Cornell University

Jason Bradley Jones

B.A. in English, College of William and Mary
M.A. in English, Northwestern University

Jeff Massey

B.A. in English, Bucknell University
M.A. in Classics, Washington University
M.A. in English, Bucknell University

Aimee Lynn Pozorski

B.A. in English, University of Wisconsin
M.A. in English, Marquette University

Rebecca Lynne Sutton

B.A. in English, Wheaton College

Christopher Vilmar

B.A. in Literature, University of North Florida

LORE METZGER DIES AT AGE 71

The Emory community lost one of its most beloved pioneers on January 31, 1997, when Lore, retired Candler Professor of English and Comparative Literature, died in her Decatur home of complications from breast cancer. In 1968, Lore began teaching in the College as its first female full professor. Sixteen years later, she founded the Emory Women's Caucus to address issues of equity and justice for women at Emory. She also was instrumental in developing the plan that became the Women's Studies Program. She retired from the English Department in 1992. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Lore Metzger Prize, which is awarded biennially to the best dissertation addressing literacy and social issues in Comparative Literature, English and Women's Studies. For more information, please call (404) 727-7994.

A.S. Byatt to Present Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern English

“Fathers, Forefathers, Ancestors:
The Surprising Renaissance of
the British Historical Novel”
March 28-31, 1999

A.S. Byatt describes her three-lecture series as “a kind of field study, by a practicing novelist, of ways of writing about the past which seem now possible (including history itself and historians’ attraction to ‘artistic’ methods).” “Fathers,” she explains, includes the immediate past, the war written by those born after it; “Forefathers” includes distant, imaginary and remote pasts—the pasts of 19th-century fiction seen through modern eyes, the researched novel, the exotic; “Ancestors” includes the Darwinian idea of time as a constructive force in both the narrative and the ethic of the novel.

She will be exploring the connections between the periods and subjects chosen and the sudden expansive foray into the past by contemporary British novelists, even by those who began as recorders of the domestic, and the State of England.

The lecture series will be enhanced by the presence of Philip and Belinda Haas, the producers, directors and co-writers of the film version of her novel *Angels and Insects*. There will be several screenings of the film, which the Haas’s will discuss on Monday afternoon, March 29.

More information on the Richard Ellmann Lectures will be available on the English Department web site: www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/

Allison Adams has accepted a new position in the Office of Institutional Planning and Research at Emory University. Currently she is the Assistant Editor of *Emory Magazine* and will assume her new position, Creative Director and Managing Editor of the *Academic Exchange*, on November 16, 1998. Allison is pursuing a Master’s degree in English.

Steven Anderson shared the first place prize for the English Department’s Annual Competition for Best Essay Written by an Emory Student for his essay “The Gender of Mysticism: Percival’s Sister and the Legends of Mary Magdalene.”

The Academy of American Poets Prize for Best Poetry Written by an Emory Student went to **Brendan Corcoran’s** poem “The Winter Tree.”

Chip Court presented “Neoplatonic Revision and January’s Problem of Knowing What He Sees” at the 24th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association in October, 1998.

Michele Crescenzo is the 1998 recipient of the Eustacia Vye award for her paper “Get Me Outta Here—Now: Stuck on the Heath Without Cable.”

Katherine Ellison will be presenting “Metaphysical Cobweb Problems: Reading Swift’s *A Tale of a Tub* in the Age of Aesthetic Information Theory” during the “Commentary and Composition” session of the 13th Annual DeBartolo Conference on 18th-Century Studies. The topic of this year’s conference is “Revolutions in Print.”

Patrick M. Erben will be presenting “Francis Daniel Pastorius’s Spiritual Promotion of the Pennsylvanian Landscape” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference in November. He will also present “The Tainted Utopia: German Immigrant Attitudes Toward Slavery” at the Society of Early Americanists Conference in March, 1999.

Reshmi Hebbar presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Aphra Behn Society in October, and participated on a panel mediated by Dr. Martine Brownley.

Laura Jeffries presented “Mar(ger)y: Marian Analogues for the Book of Margery Kempe” at the Southeast Medieval Association Conference in October, 1998.

Jason B. Jones presented “Culture and Crisis: ‘Tradition’ and History in the *Four Quartets*” at the annual conference of The Space Between in October, 1998. In November, 1998, he will be presenting “Oedipus Geek: Online Aggression, Pedagogy, and Psychoanalysis” at the annual conference of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society.

Patty King’s poem, “Easter Morning with the Refugees,” won first-runner-up in the 1998 Academy of American Poets Prize for Best Poetry Written by an Emory Student. Another poem, “Note to My Great-granddaughter,” was recently published in Goshen College’s *Greeting the Dawn: An Anthology of New Mennonite Writing*.

Jennifer Margulis was awarded (summer, 1998) the Emory Women’s Club Memorial Award for Graduate Research to support archival work for her dissertation. She will be presenting “Prisons of Gold Wires: Susanna Haswell Rowson’s *Slaves in Algiers*” at the Society of Early

Americanists Conference in March, 1999. "White Slaves and Swarthy Pirates: Early American Encounters with the Algerines" is forthcoming in *Eighteenth Century Novel* and the book review "The Crescent Captive" of Allan Austin's *African Muslims in Antebellum America* is forthcoming in *American Quarterly*.

Jennifer Poulos Nesbitt will present "'Good shot of white rum in that': The Cultural Imagination of *Wide Sargasso Sea*" at the International Conference on Caribbean Literature in November, 1998.

Carol Newell shared the first place prize for the English Department's Annual Competition for Best Essay Written by an Emory Student for her essay: "Between Black and White: A Thematic Study of Interracialism in The Garies and Their Friends."

Leigh Tillman Partington will be presenting "'A nation singing its heart out in the business pages': Desire, Dislocation, and Images of America in the Poetry of Derek Mahon" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Meeting in November, 1998.

Karen Poremski and her husband, Patrick, are the proud parents of Dexter James Poremski Allen, born October 20, 1998.

Bill Wandless's article, "The Scarlet Letters: Toward a More Reflective Method of Grading Process Writing," will be included in *In Our Own Voice*, a forthcoming textbook dealing with pedagogical considerations by and for graduate student teachers.

ALUMNI NEWS

Len Blanchard ('75) has recently finished *An American Passion*, a narrative of the life and death of Crazy Horse. He is now at work on a fictional project that focuses on John Quincy Adams. Len has published nearly 120 poems in some 52 literary magazines nationwide, including such regional journals as *South Carolina Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *Roanoke Review*, *Snake Nation Review*, and *Habersham Review*. He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 1996 and 1998.

Karen Bloom ('98) presented "Life After Death: The Middle-Class Widow in Eighteenth-Century Novels" at the 1998 Aphra Behn Annual Meeting. Karen is currently a visiting Assistant Professor at Emory.

Miriam Chirico ('98) delivered a paper entitled "Dramatizing Multiple Temporalities: Rhythm and Ritual in *The Family Reunion*" at the T.S. Eliot Society Annual Meeting. She has also written an article, "Female Laughter and Comic Possibilities: Wendy Wassersteins' *Uncommon Women*" that will be published in *Wendy Wasserstein: A Casebook* (Garland Press, December, 1998). Miriam is currently a visiting Assistant Professor at Emory.

Jodi Cressman ('98) has accepted a one-year visiting Assistant Professorship at the University of Utah. She will be specializing in literary theory and American modernism.

Lucy Fultz ('91) has been teaching African American literature at Rice University since graduating from Emory, and has recently been promoted to associate professor.



President Carter Visits Creative Writing Class

On October 22, President Carter led the Introduction to Creative Writing class, taught by Lynna Williams. He discussed his various books, with an emphasis on *Always a Reckoning and Other Poems*. Students were particularly interested in how he overcomes writers' block and tailors his writing for a specific audience. Carter read a number of his poems, citing the inspiration he has received from the words of Dylan Thomas, his favorite poet.

Calendar of Events

November 10, 1998 **Sebastian Barry**
Lecture 8:15 p.m.
311 Center for Library & Info. Resources

November 11, 1998 **Sebastian Barry**
Colloquium 2:00 p.m.
311 Center for Library & Info. Resources

Author of the plays *Our Lady of Sligo*; *Prayers of Sherkin*; *The Steward of Christendom*; and the novels *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty* and *The Engine of Owl-Light*.

Richard Ellmann Lectures

March 28-31, 1999

A.S. Byatt

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English Department Alumni Reception

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Recent Graduates

Karen R. Bloom

May 1998

Martine Watson Brownley, Advisor

Dissertation: *Performing Authority: The Convergence of Form in Eighteenth-Century Didactic Novels and Non-Fiction Prose*

Sylvia Anne Brown

August 1997

John E. Sitter, Advisor

Dissertation: *The Double Agency of the Clandestine in Late Seventeenth- and Early Eighteenth-Century Spy Narratives*

Zhesheng Cheng

August 1997

Walter L. Reed, Advisor

Dissertation: *Narrative Perspective and Imperial Paradox: A Study of the Colonial Novels by Joseph Conrad, E.M. Forster, D.H. Lawrence, and Joyce Cary*

Miriam Madeleine Chirico

May 1998

William Gruber, Advisor

Dissertation: *Speaking with the Dead: O'Neill, Eliot, Sartre and Mythic Revisionary Drama*

Jodi Renee Cressman

December 1997

Julie L. Abraham, Advisor

Dissertation: *The Miracle, the Marvel, and the Genius: A Study of Autobiography, Psychology and Publicity in America, 1890-1940*

William Dansby Evans

May 1998

John M. Bugge, Advisor

Dissertation: *T.S. Eliot's Harvard College Senior Year: The Medieval Curriculum*

Diana Lynn Farmer

May 1998

Ronald Schuchard, Advisor

Dissertation: *"Cries Against the Moaning of the Saint": The Tension Between Devotion and Desire in the Works of T.S. Eliot*

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Kate McPherson ('98) will deliver "Women's Lamentations in Seventeenth-Century England" as part of a special session entitled "Women, Death, and Mourning," at the MLA Conference in December, 1998. Her book, *The Reality of Breastfeeding: Reflections by Contemporary Women*, co-edited with **Amy Benson Brown** ('95) is due out at the end of October, 1998. Kate is currently a visiting Assistant Professor at Emory.

David Stevens ('97) has accepted a tenure-track position in English at Seton Hall University.

Elizabeth West ('97) has accepted a tenure-track position teaching African American literature, American literature, and Women's Studies at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

FACULTY NEWS

Jerry Beaty delivered the keynote address "The Tintinnabulation of the Bells, Bells, Bells" at the Brontë Society Meeting in Leeds, England in October, 1998. Jerry was also one of three judges of the Norton Prize for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Literature (nationwide). In 1998, the seventh edition of the *Norton Introduction to Literature* was published; Jerry is co-editor with J. Paul Hunter.

Xuefei Jin was one of six finalists for the 1998 Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize, a competition that includes both fiction and non-fiction and strives to increase understanding of the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Rim.

Walter Kalaidjian's essay "Modern Genocide and the Poetics of Memory" has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming volume of essays entitled *Modernism, Inc.* from New York University Press. Walter will be delivering a paper for the 20th-Century American Literature Division panel at the MLA Convention entitled "Holocaust Cendres: Adrienne Rich, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, and the Poetics of Traumatic Memory."

Barbara Ladd's omnibus review of Welty scholarship over the past decade (1987-1997) recently appeared in *The Mississippi Quarterly* (Fall, 1997). Barbara will be presenting "Dismantling the Monolith: Southern Frontiers—Past, Present, and Future" at the MLA Convention in December, 1998.

Frank Manley's collection of short stories, *Among Prisoners*, will be published by Coffee House Press in 1999. His short story, *Wedding in Montgomery*, appeared in the October 14, 1998, issue of *Bluemilk*, the Atlanta Journal of Visual, Literary, and Performing Artists. *Learning To Dance*, a new play by Frank, is currently being produced by Theater Emory. Performances run through November 7, 1998. The Manley Festival will include a symposium on his work and a staged reading of his play, *The Rain of Terror*, on November 1.

Jim Morey delivered a paper entitled "Chaucer's Women for Good and Ill: Eva/Ave and the Letter 'A'" at the 24th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association in October, 1998. Jim was recently promoted to associate professor, and his first book, *Middle English Biblical Literature*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

Catherine Nickerson recently finished writing her first book, *The Web of Iniquity: Detective Fiction by American Women, 1865-1935*, and has published essays in *American Literary History*, *Volume 9* and *Literature/Film Quarterly*. She has been co-director of

Emory's American studies program since 1993 and she was recently promoted to associate professor of American studies and English.

Lee Pederson has been named Charles Howard Candler Professor of English by the academic affairs committee of the Board of Trustees. He has taught courses on the English language, the



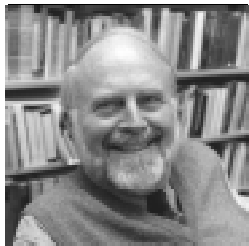
American language, Southern language and culture, the structure of modern English and other courses in linguistics. His *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States*, a seven-volume work, offers a survey of regional and social dialects in eight Southern states. He is working on linguistic atlases of the Western states and Middle Rockies and is currently at work on a history of the American Language. Lee is being featured in *From the Gulf States and Beyond: The Legacy of Lee Pederson and LAGS*, edited by Michael B. Montgomery and Thomas E. Nunnally. Published by the University of Alabama Press, this collection of ten essays describes the scope of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States* and demonstrates the application of LAGS data to redefine current linguistic boundaries.

Richard Rambuss's second book, *Closet Devotions*, was published in September, 1998, by Duke University Press.

Harry Rusche's article, "Oh for a Muse of Fire: Thomas Nast and William Shakespeare," is forthcoming on a CD ROM that deals with Thomas Nast and *Harper's Weekly*. Thomas Nast, the political cartoonist, did over a hundred cartoons that drew on Shakespeare for their attacks on nineteenth-century politicians and current events; Harry's article examines in detail some of these cartoons and why Nast turned to Shakespeare for his inspiration.

Mark Sanders, author of *Afro-Modernist Aesthetics and the Poetry of Sterling A. Brown* and *A Son's Return: Selected Essays of Sterling A. Brown*, was recently promoted to associate professor.

Ronald Schuchard has been named Goodrich C. White Professor of English by the academic affairs committee of the Board of Trustees. He teaches courses in modern British and Irish literature and is the author of numerous studies of modern authors, particularly T.S. Eliot and W. B. Yeats. His new book, *Eliot's Dark Angel*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 1999. He devotes much of his time to developing the archive of Irish literature in Special Collections and organizing the Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature (see page 4), now published by Harvard University Press. Ron has recently published "Yeats and



Spirituality" in the *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, and "Yeats in His Letters" in *Yeats Studies: The Bulletin of the Yeats Society of Japan*.

John Sitter has been invited to serve on a special MLA Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publishing. The group will convene this spring in New York and meet periodically over the next three years. John has been asked by Cambridge University Press to edit *The Cambridge Companion to 18th-Century Poetry*. The volume will comprise a dozen essays by American and British scholars on poetry and literary history from 1710 to 1790. John will contribute an introduction and a chapter on 18th-century theories of poetry. Manuscript completion is scheduled for 1999, with millennial publication to follow.

Recent Graduates

Rebecca Scott Finlayson

May 1998

Harry Rusche, Advisor

Dissertation: The Politics of Criticism: Poststructuralism and Early Modern Studies

Rebecca Jane Kalbfleisch

December 1997

Martine Watson Brownley, Advisor

Dissertation: Of Feminism Born: The Constitution of Feminist Subjectivity in the Second Wave

Kathleen Sue Kizer

May 1998

John Sitter, Advisor

Dissertation: The Gentleman's Magazine and the Marketing of Women Poets, 1731-1754

Andrew Patrick Ladd

May 1998

John M. Bugge, Advisor

Dissertation: The Gothic Arthur: A Study of the Arthurian Transformations in Geoffrey's *Historia*, Layamon's *Brut*, and the *Alliterative Morte Arthure*

Kathryn Read McPherson

May 1998

Sheila T. Cavanagh, Advisor

Dissertation: Great-Bellied Women: Religion and Maternity in Seventeenth-Century England

Laurie Ann Nardone

December 1997

Martine Watson Brownley, Advisor

Dissertation: The Body Shop: The Politics and Poetics of Transformation

Sujay Sood

December 1997

John Johnston, Advisor

Dissertation: Dharmic-ethics: The Ethical Sociality of the Self in Postmodernism and Postcolonialism

English Department Web Pages

www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/

The Emory University English Department web page includes faculty bios, information on the Graduate and Undergraduate Programs, and links to faculty-developed projects.

www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/classes/Shakespeare_Illustrated/Shakespeare.html

Created by Professor Harry Rusche, *Shakespeare Illustrated* explores nineteenth-century paintings, criticism and productions of Shakespeare's plays.

www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/LostPoets/

Also created by Professor Rusche, this site focuses on the poetry of World War I and the human cost of the war.

www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/Bahri/

Created by Professor Deepika Petraglia-Bahri, this site is a resource for students of postcolonial literature and theory, providing an introduction to major topics and issues in postcolonial studies.

www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/DRAMA/

Created for the Study of Drama course by Professor Bill Gruber, this site contains all the source material for the course, organized by historical periods: Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance and Neo-Classical.

<http://chaucer.library.emory.edu/wwrp/index.html>

The Emory Women Writers Resource Project, created by Professor Sheila Cavanagh, is a collection of edited and unedited texts by women writing in English from the seventeenth century through the nineteenth century.

was extremely important to him but also that right now he really couldn't care less about a subject that had just recently devoured five years of his life. My job was to take a scissors and cut the manuscript apart, paragraph by paragraph; his was to take the pieces and tape them in a new arrangement, adding whatever necessary phrases like "another instance of" or "if we dwell further on this point." We worked like that for the better part of an hour, cutting and pasting, neither of us saying much. Once, struck by the silent mechanization of authoring a book, he stopped his work to comment that "this book will be untouched by human minds." And he gazed around the workplace, at that point really nothing more than a factory for academic prose, with a sort of sad existential amusement, the kind one finds on the faces of the people in the long long queue for the Batman ride at Six Flags.

Theories of poetic inspiration, though they have been kicking around Western civilization for nearly three millennia, often seem completely unrelated to the hard monotonous grind of putting together a manuscript. This is one of the things you try to teach to students when you teach them to write, that inspiration is a fine thing when it comes, but that you wouldn't want to bet the farm or next term's grades on its arrival. More often than not putting together a text is a piecemeal thing, a sentence or two here, a phrase here or there, jamming things together in various arrangements until they fit. And also more often than not it's a group effort—you write a sentence or a paragraph, and your words can't help but echo in subtle ways whatever or whomever you've been reading lately. Then you show your words to somebody, and they fiddle with them, and so their words become mixed in with yours, and in the end sometimes you can't remember what parts belong to you and which ones to a dozen or more other people living and dead.

I was explaining this once years ago to my daughter, then six years old. She couldn't understand why I spent hours reading stacks of students' papers and filling the margins with my own words. Why did I have to add words where there were already so many? Why didn't I just read them? Full of my own importance, I described in detail how an English teacher graded papers. You weren't just correcting errors, I said, though that was for some reason what the rest of the world thought you were doing. You did that, sure, but that was really the least important part of it. What you were really doing was trying to help your students to become better thinkers and writers, and you did that by pointing out to them where their thinking was fuzzy or incorrect or by telling them things you knew to be useful and true.

My daughter took all this in patiently and thoughtfully. Before I handed back the papers the next day I glanced through them and discovered evidence of the hand of a second reader. There, inscribed neatly on the side of the first paper, in my daughter's handwriting, laboriously miniaturized to fit into the margins, was the piece of advice she thought fit to impart:

"Don't go barefoot when there are worms on the sidewalk."

I think her words probably did whoever read them some good. It's my hope our new newsletter does the same.

Bill Gruber