

Honorary Members: Bernard Bergonzi, Janice Biala, Malcolm Bradbury, A. S. Byatt, Samuel Hynes, Alan Judd, Sir Frank Kermode, John Lamb, Sergio Perosa, Ruth Rendell, Michael Schmidt, The Hon. Oliver Siskice, John Sutherland, Tony Tanner.

Executive Committee: *Chair:* Max Saunders *Treasurer:* Sara Haslam *Secretary:* Jenny Plastow

The Society continues to grow. There are now nearly 80 members. Ten countries are represented: testimony, perhaps, to Ford's vision of a 'Republic of Letters'. Plans for 1999 include the first Ford Madox Ford Lecture, and two major conferences, one in Germany and one in England. Details of all these can be found in this newsletter. We need to continue to attract members; particularly in those countries where much research remains to be done, but where Ford's profile is still curiously low: France and Germany. If you know, or know of, any writers, scholars, or translators who might be interested in Ford and the Society, please tell the Chairman or the Treasurer.

RECENT ACTIVITIES BY THE SOCIETY

In June 1998 a small gathering met at the Globe Restaurant in Henley to mark the 59th anniversary of Ford's death. The restaurant, managed by the husband of one of the Society's members, specialises in traditional French cuisine. The lunch was excellent, and splendidly Fordian, with no trace of *nouvelle* or *minceur*. Afterwards we listened to Ford's broadcast about Edward VIII. Many thanks to the Abdallas for their hospitality.

The Society was invited to stage a special Ford panel during the Twenty-Fourth Annual International Conference on Joseph Conrad, held in London from 2-4 July 1998. The Ford panel consisted of papers from Barbara Leckie (Carleton University, Ottawa) on 'Case Work: Divorce Court Journalism and Ford's *The Good Soldier*'; and from Marielle Risse (American University of Sharjah, U.A.E.) on modernism and postmodernism in *The Good Soldier*, and Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet*. The session concluded with a discussion of Ford's memoir of Conrad, led by Sara Haslam and Max Saunders. Member of the Ford Society present were very grateful to the Joseph Conrad Society (United Kingdom) for the invitation, and felt that the friendliness and co-operation augured well for the July 1999 Canterbury conference.

FORD NEWS

Two of Ford's works appeared in the list of 'One hundred best books' compiled for the New York Modern Library publishing company. *The Good Soldier* at 30, and *Parade's End* at 57. The judges were mainly American writers. Joyce scooped first and third places with *Ulysses* and *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. But then *Ulysses* also topped the *Independent's* list of the *worst* 100 books of the century. Fordians will have to decide whether they are relieved or worried their man did not figure in that one. (Sources: *Guardian*, 21 July, 1998, p. 3; *Independent*, 24 July 1998; Friday Review, p. 1.)

Jeff McCarthy's Ford Web Page now has a new addresses:
http://www.wcslc.edu/pers_pages/j-mccart/ford_page
[please note that this new address includes underscores]

Renewals of subscriptions

It was decided in our first year that members who joined before the Society's programme of activities began would not be charged for membership before January 1998. Thus subscriptions will be due for renewal by the AGM for those of you who joined before, or during, our January event last year. It would be a great help if you could send renewal cheques to the Treasurer before 9 January, please:

Dr Sara Haslam, English Department, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ. Tel: 01244 373192 E-mail: s.haslam@chester.ac.uk

THE FIRST FORD MADOX FORD LECTURE:

**'Reformations: Ford Madox Ford,
Soldiers, and Transubstantiation'**

Professor Martin Stannard

Saturday 9th January 1999: time: 4.00 p.m.

The Centre for English Studies (room 329-30)

Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London WC1.

The Society is very pleased to announce the first Ford Madox Ford Lecture, to be given by Professor Martin Stannard, on Saturday 9th January 1999. The lecture, on 'Reformations: Ford Madox Ford, Soldiers, and Transubstantiation', will take place at the Centre for English Studies (room 329-30), Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London WC1; time: 4.00 p.m. Professor Stannard will be known to Fordians as the editor of the indispensable Norton edition of *The Good Soldier*. He is Professor of Modern English Literature at the University of Leicester. The author of *Evelyn Waugh: The Early Years, 1903-1939* and *Evelyn Waugh: No Abiding City, 1939-1966* (Dent, 1986 and 1992), he has also edited *Evelyn Waugh: The Critical Heritage* (Routledge, 1984). He is currently writing the authorised biography of Muriel Spark.

Professor Stannard will be arguing that transubstantiation, or 'the changing of one substance into another', is an obsessive theme in Ford's writing: at the very heart of his literary impressionism and his cultural attitudes. To what extent did his Roman Catholicism impinge on his art? Does his work bear any relation to that of other twentieth-century Catholic novelists -- Waugh, Greene, and Spark? Why was the Reformation such an important event to Ford? And what does all this have to do with the Artists' Corps of the Queens' Westminsters? Professor Stannard will analyse *The Good Soldier* in the light of these questions.

A copy of the flyer advertising the lecture is enclosed. Please copy, display, and distribute as appropriate!

The lecture -- which it is hoped will be the first of an annual event -- has been scheduled as soon as seemed feasible after the 125th anniversary of Ford's birth, which falls on 17 December 1998. The lecture will be preceded by the First Annual General Meeting of the Society, at 2.00, also in room 329-30 of the Senate House. The draft Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

First Annual General Meeting

9 January 1999. 2.00p.m. The Centre for English Studies (room 329-30), Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London WC1. Draft Agenda:

Apologies for absence

Chairman's Annual Report

Treasurer's Annual Report.

Proposed change to constitution.

We have been advised by the Charity Commission that in order to be eligible for charitable status we need to amend our constitution. We shall vote on this at the AGM, but must give members at least three weeks notice of any proposed changes. At present the constitution defines our 'objects' as follows:

3. Objects

The objects of the Society ('the objects') shall be:

- a) to promote knowledge of and interest in the works and life of Ford Madox Ford;
- b) for such other charitable purposes as the Executive Committee shall decide from time to time.

Apparently promoting knowledge is not charitable, whereas educating the public is. It is therefore proposed that object (a) be amended to read:

'To educate the public in and to promote research into the work and life of Ford Madox Ford'.

Election to Executive Committee.

At the A.G.M. we must elect a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer; and between two and nine further members. Nominations (only of those who have agreed to stand!) to the secretary by 20 December, please: Ms Jenny Plastow, 16 Burnham Road, St Albans, HERTS, AL1 4QW.

Administrative needs: to include: editor of Newsletter; conference organiser.

Future planning (any volunteers to organise a conference in the U.S.A.?)

Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed by a meeting of the new Executive Committee, from 3.00 p.m.

Carcenet Press and The Millennium Ford: Carcanet now have eight titles in print: *The Rash Act*, *A History of Our Own Times*, *Ladies Whose Bright Eyes*, *The Ford Reader*, *The Good Soldier*, *Parade's End*, *The English Novel*, and *Selected Poems*.

Forthcoming in 1999: *Return to Yesterday*; and *War Prose*

Further titles can be bought from America over the Internet. At <http://www.amazon.com> the Ford books not available in the UK include *The Benefactor* at \$19.95, and several others.

Modernism and the Individual Talent: Re-Canonizing Ford Madox Ford (Hueffer)

Münster (Westphalia) 25-27 June 1999

Announcement and final call for papers

This promises to be a fully international gathering, with participants from Britain, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany. It is envisaged that there will be a concert-cum-reading on the evening of the 25th; papers and a translation workshop throughout the 26th, followed by a commemorative dinner; and a tour of relevant sites in Münster on the 27th, followed by lunch and a second, Münster-related reading. Abstracts (200 words) before 1 January 1999 to: Dr. Jörg W. Rademacher, Inselbogen 52, D-48151, Münster, Germany.

Joint conference on Ford, Conrad, and James: Canterbury, Kent: 8-11 July 1999

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATES FOR THIS RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE. The Conference will bring together the Joseph Conrad Society (U.K.), the Ford Society, and the Henry James Society of America. Papers are welcomed on the life and works of these three authors, either jointly or separately. A day tour of Conrad, James, and Ford houses in Kent is also planned. Please send abstracts (300 words) of any papers on Ford by 8 January 1999 to:

Dr Max Saunders, Department of English, King's College London, The Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel: 0171 873 2342 E-mail: max.saunders@kcl.ac.uk

Enquiries about registration to: Dr Keith Carabine, School of English, Rutherford College, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury CT2 7NZ, U.K.

Ford Madox Ford Annual?

The possibility of publishing a scholarly annual is being explored. Initial responses from British publishers suggest that a publisher/distributor in the U.S.A. would need to be involved. Please send any suggestions to the editor of this issue, Max Saunders: address as above.



Ford in the 1920s, by Alfred Cohen