

Honorary Members: Julian Barnes, 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 Soskice, John Sutherland, Gore Vidal.
Executive Committee: *Chair:* Max Saunders *Treasurer:* Sara Haslam *Secretary:* Jenny Plastow

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We're very pleased to welcome as a new honorary member the prolific novelist, playwright, and essayist, Gore Vidal.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ford and the City – One Day Colloquium

Ford's Birthday – 17 December 1999

[Sponsored by the Everyman Library / Orion Books]
Institute for English Studies (Room 329-30),
Senate House, University of London,
Malet St., London WC1

The Annual Ford Madox Ford Lecture will take place on 17 December 1999, on Ford's birthday, at the Centre for English Studies, University of London. This year it is taking the form of a panel discussion titled "Biographical Fabrications".

Main speakers will be Alan Judd, biographer of Ford, and David Crane, biographer of Edward Trelawny (4.15 to 5.50pm). Joe Wiesenfarth will begin the day at 10am with "A Coda for the City", a talk on Ford's poetic writing of the city, especially that in *Buckshee*. Jörg Rademacher will focus on "The Country and the City: Ford's Forays in Westphalia" (following immediately after lunch).

There will be other talks and some brief exposes (of 10 minutes or so) on "Carcassonne: Ford's Dream City", on Ford's New York, on the Paris of the *transatlantic review* and on Ford and Italian and other European towns and cities. From 5.45-6.45pm there will be a brief Executive Committee Meeting of the Ford Madox Ford Society, followed by an AGM.

Please contact Dr. Sara Haslam, English Department, University College Chester, Parkate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ, email s.haslam@chester.ac.uk, phone (01244) 375444 ex. 3156, fax (01244) 392820.

European Society for the Study of English

ESSE 5 – Conference in Helsinki

25-29 August 2000

Workshop on 'Editing and Translating Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End*'

If you would like to participate, please contact Max Saunders.

After the success of the Münster Conference, Jörg Rademacher promises a long-term programme of exciting events:

August/September 2001 - A week of cycling along the Hueffer trail in Münsterland (of particular interest to graduate students and their supervisors).

February 2002 - Third James Joyce Festival with a section devoted to Ford Madox Ford.

September 2003 - Three-day Workshop on Ford Madox Ford.

24-28 June 2004 - Five-day Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of Ford's Death.

Fordians should also mark in their calendar the date of January 2001, when the University of Bologna will organize a Ford conference likely to attract Ford lovers from around the world.

RECENT ACTIVITIES BY THE SOCIETY

Modernism and Individual Talent

Re-canonising Ford Madox Ford (Hueffer)

Münster (Westphalia)

25-27 June 1999

The conference, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Ford's death, attracted Ford enthusiasts, the local press, and some of Ford's Münster relatives. The gathering took place in three historical buildings: The welcoming event, a concert-reading, in the Rüstkammer at City Hall – where the impressive windows display the Hüffer crest; the symposium and Karlheinz Pötter's photo exhibition were set at the Alter Hof Hesselmann, a former farmhouse in Münster-Mecklenbeck, located in "Kentish surroundings" (Allan Massie's definition) which recently became a community centre; the final public lectures were given at the Krameramtshaus, now housing the Centre for Dutch studies.

The evening at City Hall began with the opening address by Marion Tüns, Mayor of Münster, who welcomed the participants and discussed the important role the Hüffers have been playing in the city since 1800.

The concert-reading featured poems by Ford, James Joyce, Aldous Huxley and Iain Crichton Smith, read by Alex Mulcahy (in English) and Cristoforo Schweeger (in German). Kirsten Naumann (soprano) and Antje Rademacher (piano) performed G. Molyneux Palmer's settings of Joyce's *Chamber Music* and Mark Asquith gave a paper on "Franz Hüffer and the Early Reception of Wagner's Aesthetics in England".

Papers offered a reading of Ford's works from different perspectives. Two historical sections, "Past and Present – Politics and Poetry" and "Ford Madox Ford in Historical and Current Contexts" framed a section wholly dedicated to *Parade's End*.

Besides enjoying the papers and the idyllic countryside, participants went on a few excursions. Haus Ruchhaus, a small castle-cum-farmhouse, long-time residence of Romantic poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff (1797-1848), welcomed early arrivals. Then there was Telgte, a town located east of Münster where Ford would often reside during his visits to Germany. A small group had a glimpse of Haus Markfort, and another almost got lost in hedge-rowed Munsterland while looking for, and eventually finding, Schloß Loburg, a castle in beaver country near the river Bever.

Jörg Rademacher, the affable host of the Münster conference, has offered to mail copies of the conference programme (including papers' abstracts) and press clippings to anyone who requests them. Please send orders with a self-addressed envelope and DM 10.00 (plus DM 2.50 postage in Europe, DM 5.00 elsewhere) to Dr. Jörg Rademacher, Inselbogen 52, D-48181 Münster, Germany.

Conference proceedings will be published by Lit Verlag (Münster, Hamburg and London) and will be available at a special discounted price of DM 30.00 plus postage.

**The 25th Anniversary Conference of
The Joseph Conrad Society (U.K.) with
The Henry James Society (U.S.A.) and
The Ford Madox Ford Society**

This was held at the Rutherford College, University of Kent at Canterbury, on 8-12 July 1999. It was a fully international event attended by contributors from fifteen countries (U.S.A., Britain, Poland, Italy, Israel, Sweden, Japan, South Africa, The Netherlands, Turkey, Canada, Greece, Belgium, Australia and France). The debate was lively and stimulating, bringing together three rival groups of scholars, and most important, encouraged the discussion of Ford's works. Publication of the proceedings is planned.

Out of 96 papers in the programme, 25 were on Ford (either exclusively or in connection with James or Conrad) with an impressive range of themes: Impressionism, the Great War, Modernism, biography and autobiography, narrative techniques, the fine arts, language and sexuality; plus two sessions devoted entirely to '*Parade's End*' and to '*The Good Soldier* and Ford's Early Fiction'. Among the many highlights we should mention Thomas Moser's impressive paper on Ford and Marwood, which opened the proceedings, and Max Saunders's discussion of Impressionist autobiography in James, Conrad and Ford. Professor Moser touched on the points of sexual passion and neurasthenia as reflected in Ford's fiction, discussing then Ford's admiration for Marwood's encyclopaedic knowledge and their lifelong, if at times troubled friendship. Besides contributions by leading Fordians, one could not but notice the participation of young Ford scholars, which is proof that the interest in Ford is growing.

Jörg Rademacher and Laura Colombino have contributed to the above reports.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ford Madox Ford's *The Inheritors*, edited by David Seed, has just been reprinted by Liverpool University Press.
- Max Saunders's "Ford Madox Ford: Further Bibliographies" is to appear in *English Literature in Transition*, 43:2 (2000).
- Ford Madox Ford, *War Prose*, ed. Max Saunders (Manchester: Carcanet 1999).
- Ford Madox Ford, *Return to Yesterday*, ed. Bill Hutchings (Manchester: Carcanet 1999).

Karlheinz Pötter's Exposition

Participants in the Münster conference were welcomed with a very attractive and original display mounted by Dr. Karlheinz Potter. It was a magnificent exhibition of art related to Ford Madox Ford's work and life. Walking through this exhibition of pictures and drawings, effectively arranged on panels, we were brought nearer to Ford's life, to the people he knew and to places he often visited.

The whole exhibit then travelled to the Canterbury Conference, where it attracted scores of scholars and visitors.

The display may be rented out for a small fee (to cover Dr. Pötter's expenses and shipping). It includes 18 panels, each numbered on the lower end with adhesive tapes in the back for easy mounting. Dr. Pötter also offers a similar exhibition devoted to James Joyce with a rich collections of photographs of places where the Joyces lived in Dublin, of portraits, of drawings, and more – a total of 40 panels.

Please contact **Dr. Karlheinz Pötter**, Rockbush 28, Tel./Fax 0251 71 72 29, or Hof Hesselman, Am Hof Hesselman 10, Tel. 71640, 48 163 Münster, Germany.

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Jeff McCarthy's Ford Web Page:

http://www.weslc.edu/pers_pages/j-mccart/ford_page

Ford Madox Ford Society Web Site:

http://www.rialto.com/fordmadoxford_society

The collaborative texts of

Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford:

<http://mindit.netmind.com/go/1/13861885/2736376>

[please note that some of these addresses include underscores]

RENEWALS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Rates:

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Please send Sterling cheques to:

Dr Sara Haslam, English Department, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ.

Tel: (01244) 375444 ex. 3157, fax: (01244) 392820 E-mail: s.haslam@chester.ac.uk

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FUTURE PLANNING

Any volunteers to organise a conference in the U.S.A. (i.e. for MLA 2000), we would like to hear from you!

Conference Abstracts

We wish to distribute among society members the abstracts from the Canterbury Conference (of papers focusing on Ford). This should be e-mailed out in May 2000 along with the next newsletter. With the generous help of Max Saunders we have assembled almost all of these abstracts. Still, if you feel you want to revise your presentation please let me know and send your new version.

We would need the authors' permission, of course. Please email me such permission to publish your abstract in the Society Newsletter. We plan to include abstracts from the 17 December event as well.
Email to: calder@unive.it

If you received this newsletter by mail, but have an e-mail address, could you please send a message to that effect to: max.saunders@kcl.ac.uk

Any material or ideas for the Ford Madox Ford Society web page or this newsletter would certainly be appreciated. Please note that our intention is to include a list of publications on Ford by Society members. Any information you can provide would be most welcome.

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