

Ford Madox Ford Society

Newsletter 4 - 10 May 1999

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.

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

• Recent Activities by the Society	Page 1
• Other International Ford Events	3
• Ford News	3
• Forthcoming Events	4
• Renewal of Subscriptions	9
• Future Planning	10

RECENT ACTIVITIES BY THE SOCIETY

First Annual General Meeting

January 1999. The Centre for English Studies, Senate House, University of London.

Chair's Report

At our first Annual General Meeting I was delighted to welcome members from Italy, France, Germany, Norway, and the Netherlands, as well as the UK. It is gratifying to see how international the society has become after its first year of full operations. This is reflected on the Executive Committee, which now has members from France, Germany, Italy, the UK, and the USA. So far our meetings have been in England, but we now have events planned in Germany, Finland, and Italy; and I hope these will introduce a new phase of international Ford activities.

We met between two important Ford anniversaries. 17 Dec. 1998 was the 125th anniversary of his birth in 1873. In the coming summer, we shall see the 60th anniversary of his death, on 26th June 1939. This anniversary will be marked by the conference in Münster, further details of which can be found on p. 3.

We have held events in early January in 1998 and 1999, but agreed that it could be a rash act indeed to schedule a meeting for early January 2000. Thus the next annual meeting has been moved slightly, to coincide with Ford's birthday on Friday 17 December 1999.

Robert Hampson and I have negotiated an arrangement with Macmillan, who are to publish papers from the 1996 London Ford conference, whereby the advance will be paid to the society to fund an annual essay prize. The prize will take the form of a cash sum of about £50, plus a copy of each Ford title in print published by Carcanet, who have also kindly agreed to support the prize. At the AGM it was agreed that entries for the first competition should be submitted by September, to be judged by the next AGM. For this to be feasible, the competition needs to be advertised now. Unfortunately we did not have time to draw up any rules at the AGM, so I have drafted an announcement which I hope will be acceptable for at least the first year.

It is with great sadness that we must record the death of one of our honorary members, Professor Tony Tanner, on 5th December 1998. Internationally known as one of the major critics of the novel, Tony was also a great admirer of Ford's work, and a valuable supporter of the Society. I owe him a particular debt of gratitude for his supervision of my doctoral research on Ford.

The Executive Committee decided that the size of the Society – now nearly 90 members – allowed us to nominate further honorary members. The first of these is Julian Barnes, whom I am very pleased to welcome to the Society. Mr Barnes recently recommended *The Good Soldier* in a W. H. Smith promotion, calling it 'Still one of the most underrated novels of the century. A tale of operatic passion told by a bumbler: both a technical high-wire act, and a darkly compelling story'.

At the AGM it was unnecessary to hold an election to the Executive Committee, since there were twelve nominations for up to twelve places. Dennis Brown stood down temporarily. We are very grateful to him for his work for the Society, and look forward to welcoming him back in the near future.

Elected to Executive Committee: Michela A. Calderaro, Vita Fortunati, Robert Hampson, Sara Haslam, Jenny Plastow, Roger Poole, Jörg Rademacher, Max Saunders, Paul Skinner, Nora Tomlinson, Joe Wiesenfarth, Angus Wrenn. Elena Lamberti was co-opted, in particular to help with the planning for the 2001 Bologna conference. Michela Calderaro very kindly offered to act as editor of the Newsletter, starting with this issue.

The First Ford Madox Ford Lecture

The First Ford Madox Ford Lecture, entitled "Reformations: Ford Madox Ford, Soldiers, and Transubstantiation", was given at the Centre for English Studies on Saturday, January 9th, by Martin Stannard, Professor of English Literature at the University of Leicester.

Prof. Stannard's enlightened discourse initiated a lively and passionate debate which focused on such issues as the difference between Catholicism and Protestantism in Ford's life and work, and relationship between art and life.

Prof. Stannard further argued that Ford's historical perspective was "essentially religious", and that his vision of the Reformation as a way to "a new kind of freedom" is a key element in his writings. Religious questions and Ford's re-invention of his own persona were at the core of Prof. Stannard's lecture. Departing from Arthur Mizener's often unsympathetic biography of Ford, and passing through Alan Judd's and Max Saunders's more recent works, Prof. Stannard elaborated on Ford's conversion to Catholicism and pointed out how Ford's "feeling Catholic" – or, specifically, his "being enraptured by the flesh and simultaneously tortured by it" – is reflected in his works, especially in *The Good Soldier*, and in his remaking of his own history.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORD EVENTS

Conference on Biography as Literary Genre

Tuesday 13 April the Department of Languages and Foreign Literatures of the University of Bologna, in collaboration with the British Council held a round table conference on biography as literary genre: "Blurring Borders in the Twentieth Century Biography and Fiction: Questions of 'Genre' Identity." Speakers were Vita Fortunati, Mirella Billi, Andrea Battistini, Max Saunders and Elena Lamberti.

The presentation of the new Ford Madox Ford's biography by Max Saunders (published by Oxford UP) offered an opportunity to discuss modernist and post-modernist approaches to biography as genre.

Once again, a discussion of the figure of Ford Madox Ford, versatile artist and raconteur, led to a lively debate – this time on the definition and evolution of "literary forms." If there is only a thin line dividing art from life, Ford Madox Ford has often crossed that line, both in his fiction and in his biographical writings. The problem of separating facts from what Ford would call "impressions of life" has then been approached not only in reference to Ford, but also in connection with other 20th Century writers (such as Sylvia Plath).

To draw a distinction between a plain lie, an impression, a re-invention or just a simple embellishment of reality is the difficult task of the biographer. And this is particularly true when the biographer aims not only to tell an easily-accessible story to please the public at large, but is keen on respecting the canons of a scholarly work. The discussion then focused on the similarities and differences between Italian and British culture.

In a sense the Bologna round table conference was the natural successor to the First Ford Madox Ford Lecture, posing the unanswerable questions of how we can separate art from life, where is the border and who is to tell, or question, this border.

FORD NEWS

Jeff McCarthy's Ford Web Page now has a new address:
http://www.wcslc.edu/pers_pages/j-mccart/ford_page
Ford Madox Ford Society Web Site
is to open in May at
http://www.rialto.com/fordmadoxford_society

[please note that these new addresses include underscores]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Modernism and the Individual Talent: Re-Canonizing Ford Madox Ford (Hueffer) Münster (Westphalia) 25-27 June 1999

This will be a fully international gathering, with participants from Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, and the U.S.A.. It has been timed to include the 60th anniversary of Ford's death on 26 June 1939.

Registration:

(By 1 May 1999)

*Includes the Symposium on 26 June 1999, the printed programme, a booklet featuring photographs of historical sites of Münster
(Limited numbers)*

*Concessions

DM 50,00

Concert-Reading

25 June 1999, 7.30 p.m.

DM 15,00

DM 10,00*

Public lectures

Krameramtshaus, Haus der Niederlande, 27 June 1999, 11 a.m.

DM 8,00

DM 5,00*

Excursions:

Haus Rüschaus, 25 June 1999, 2.30 p.m.

Telgte, 27 June 1999, 1.30 p.m.

DM 15,00

DM 25,00

Meals:

Alter Hof Hesselmann, 26 June 1999

Lunch, tea & coffee

DM 20,00

Ford Commemoration Dinner

Alter Hof Hesselmann, 26 June 1999, 8.30 p.m.

Includes a three-course meal and wine

(Special diets upon request. Please let us know in advance.)

DM 50,00

TOTAL DM _____

Make cheques payable to:

Literagentur Dr. Jörg W. Rademacher

or transfer to:

Dr. Jörg W. Rademacher:

Postbank Dortmund. Acc. N° 39 09 22 469. Bank Code 440 100 46.

Accommodations:

Limited private facilities

Singles only

DM 30,00

Contact:

*Dr. Jörg W. Rademacher, Inselbogen 52, D-48151 Münster
Tel./Fax. (49)-251-799-330*

Jugendgastehaus Aasse

Requires international Youth Hostel Membership Card

Two-bedded room

DM 49,50

Four-bedded room

DM 39,50

Please book as soon as possible

Tel.: (49)-251-532-470

Fax: (49)-251-521-271

Altes Gasthaus Lohmann, Mecklenbecker Strasse 345, D-48183 Münster

Single

DM 50,00

Double

DM 95,00

(Bathroom on same floor)

Near the symposium venue.

Please book as soon as possible

Tel.: (49)-251-747-5153

Fax: (49)-251-747-6585

All prices are per person per night and include breakfast.

For additional information please contact the Münster Tourist Information:

Tourist Information

Klemensstr. 10, D-48143 Münster

Tel.: (49)-251-19433 & 4922710

Fax: (49)-251-4927743

Internet: <http://www.muenster.de>

E-Mail: Amt_80@stadt-muenster.de

(They book hotel accommodation and provide list of flats and self-catering facilities which must be booked directly.)

Programme:

Friday 25 June 1999

For early arrivals

2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Excursion to Annette von Droste Hulshoff's Ruschaus

7.30 p.m.

Chamber Music: Songs and Sonnets

English/German

Recital-Reading

Works by: Thomas Moore, Ford Madox Ford (Huffer), James Joyce, G. Molyneux Palmer, Aldous Huxley, Benjamin Britten, Iain Crichton Smith

Saturday 26 June 1999

9.00 a.m.

International Symposium of the Ford Madox Ford Society to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ford's death.

9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

I. PAST AND PRESENT - POLITICS AND POETRY

Papers by Joseph J. Wiesenfarth, Michael Szczekalla (in German, abstract and translation provided), Elena Lamberti, Gene M. Moore

1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

II. ASPECTS OF PARADE'S END

A workshop on editing and translating chaired by Max Saunders.

Papers by Brian I. Groth, Michela A. Calderaro

4.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Tea and coffee break

5.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

III. FORD MADOX FORD IN HISTORICAL AND CURRENT CONTEXTS

PART I

Papers by Sara Haslam, Elizabeth M. Knottenbelt

8.00 p.m.

Ford Commemoration Dinner, Hotel Lohmann, Mecklenbeck

Sunday 27 June 1999

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

III. FORD MADOX FORD IN HISTORICAL AND CURRENT CONTEXTS

PART II

Papers by Jörg W. Rademacher (in German, abstract and translation provided), Allan Massie

1.30 p.m. - 5.30 p. m.

Excursion to Telgte, tracing Ford Madox Hueffer

English/German

Organiser: Dr. Jörg W. Rademacher, Inselbogen 52, D-48151, Münster, Germany.

Ford, Conrad, and James

Canterbury, Kent: 8-12 July 1999

The Ford Society, together with the Henry James Society (U.S.A.), has been invited to participate in the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Joseph Conrad Society (U.K.). This is going to be a very large conference. There will be around one hundred papers and talks, banquets, and a showing of at least one Conrad film. About twenty-five of the papers will deal with Ford. On Saturday 10th there will be a tour of authors' houses and other relevant sites. Please note that, due to the scale of the conference, papers have been scheduled for the morning of Monday 12th, extending the conference beyond the date previously advertised. If you haven't already received a programme, please write to Keith Carabine, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, U.K.

As you may have seen, the *Waterstone's Guide to London Writing*, published this year, not only includes an entry on Ford, but quotes him on the cover, saying: 'England is a small island. The world is infinitesimal. But London is illimitable'. The book was launched with large posters bearing this quotation from *The Soul of London*.

Ford and the City

One Day Colloquium, Ford's Birthday, 17 December 1999.

**To include the Second Ford Madox Ford Lecture (speaker and title to be announced), sponsored by the Everyman Library/Orion Books
Institute for English Studies, (room 329-30), Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London WC1.**

The precise format for this event will depend on what offers are received, but it will perhaps be similar to that for the day on Writing and Painting: in other words, a combination of lecture, papers, panel discussion, and the possibility of shorter contributions – 'postcards/snapshots from Ford's cities', for example.

Call for Papers and Other Contributions

If you would like to offer a 20 minute paper or shorter contribution, or would be interested in participating in a panel discussion; or if you would like to propose topics and speakers, please contact Dr Sara Haslam, English Department, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ, by 10 June. E-mail: s.haslam@chester.ac.uk

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*'

Unlike *The Good Soldier*, Ford's other major masterpiece, the tetralogy *Parade's End*, is still in need of scholarly editing and translating into European languages. It is increasingly being recognised as an important Modernist text, as well as one of the best works about the First World War. It is also a significant European work, treating Britain, Germany, France and Belgium.

The aim of the workshop is to establish two related long-term projects. First, a properly edited and annotated text of all four novels, as both an electronic hypertext and book version. Second, simultaneous translations of the novels into as many European languages as possible. EC funding will be sought where appropriate. The translations would be published in book form. The idea would then be to establish an electronic parallel text of the various versions, linked to the English text. Regular (probably annual) seminars are envisaged to convene the editors and translators; and thus the projects could conceivably have other academic output, such as work on the problems of literary translation/editing.

Some potential translators for several languages were identified at ESSE/4. But many more are needed, as well as scholars with experience of humanities computing. Given the scale of the work, a team of about four translators for each language might be appropriate.

The provisional programme is as follows, but may be amended in the light of the preliminary meeting on these topics at the Münster conference:

Four meetings, each of about 90 minutes-2 hours

1. Introduction. This would cater for all potential translators. I would discuss the novels in relation to Europe, sketch Ford's interest in translation and internationalism, and make the case for the projects. The aim would be to form teams committed to the projects.
2. Discussion of *Parade's End*, with particular attention to its significance for different European cultures.
3. Discussion of issues and problems in translating *Parade's End*.
4. Discussion of publishing strategies, and the formulation of a timetable for the editions and translations, and for future translation/editing seminars.

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

Please copy the following notice, and circulate it and display it as widely as possible:

Ford Madox Ford Essay Prize

Sponsored by Macmillan Press and Carcanet Press

The Ford Madox Ford Society announces a new annual prize to be awarded for an essay dealing wholly or substantially with Ford's works and/or life. The prize will consist of £50, plus a copy of each book by Ford published by Carcanet and still in print. Entries are invited from those under 30 at the closing date, or from those currently taking undergraduate or postgraduate degrees. The competition will be judged by two members of the Executive Committee of the Society, who reserve the right only to recommend an award of the prize if work of the required standard is submitted. The winning essay will be considered for publication in the Ford Society Newsletter. Essays should not exceed 5,000 words, including notes and bibliography. Two copies should be sent by 30 September 1999 to:

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

Tel: 01244 373192 E-mail: s.haslam@chester.ac.uk

RENEWALS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Last Call for anyone intending to renew their subscriptions: this is the last newsletter that will be sent out to those who have not renewed for the current year.

Rates:

Pounds sterling:

Individuals: £12; Concessions £6; Member Organisations £25

Please send Sterling cheques to:

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

Tel: 01244 373192 E-mail: s.haslam@chester.ac.uk

US Dollars:

Any category: \$25

Please send US dollar checks to:

Prof. Joe Wiesenfarth, 273 N. Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1380 USA

You may print and send the form below to the above addresses:

Ford Madox Ford Society Membership Form			
First Name _____	Last Name _____		
Category:	Individual <input type="checkbox"/>	Concessions <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Member Organisations <input type="checkbox"/>	Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
Academic institution _____			
Address _____			

Telephone _____	Fax _____		
E-Mail _____			
Total Membership Fee Enclosed _____			
Date _____	Signature _____		

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!

In January 2001 the University of Bologna, Italy, will host a conference on either 'Ford and Translation' or 'Ford and World Literature'. Programme and additional details to be announced.

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.

Michela A. Calderaro, Via Amba Aradam, 12, 30173 Mestre-Venice, Italy
Tel: 39-041-534-7801, Fax: 39-041-534-7807, Email: calder@unive.it