



FRIENDS OF D.H. LAWRENCE

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MARCH 2010 • Vol. 2, no. 1

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bill Haller

Dear Friends,

This New Year I was elected to become the President of Friends of D.H. Lawrence. It is an honor and privilege to follow in the footsteps of Steve Fox and Art Bachrach who both contributed ably and considerably to our organization. It will be difficult to fill their shoes, but it is my pledge to do my very best to foster and promote the rich heritage left by D.H. Lawrence and his wife Frieda.

My interest in Lawrence has been a passion since the mid-70's when I was in the Peace Corps in Botswana, Africa where I began reading his novels. Soon I became avidly interested in Lawrence's life and read any biography that was available. After the Peace Corps, while traveling in Britain I cycled from London to Eastwood, Lawrence's birthplace. When I finished my world travels I followed Lawrence's trail to Taos. It is fair to say I sought out Taos and came to live here because of D.H. Lawrence.

Recently, one of the highlights of belonging to the Friends of D.H. Lawrence was the chance to meet with the great, great nieces and nephew of D.H. Lawrence (Claire Khuen *nee* Lawrence, Sarah, Anne, Debbie, & Mike Lawrence). It was a family reunion in Taos of the direct descendents of George Lawrence, the oldest brother of D.H. Lawrence. Claire, who organized the reunion, and her brother and sisters were eager to learn more about their great, great uncle. It was more than a joy to show them around Taos and share what I had learned through the years about D.H. Lawrence. They were incredibly kind. I was later invited to Ocala, Florida where Jan, my wife, and I met their parents Tony and Gillian Lawrence from Nova Scotia, who were visiting their daughter Claire. I had goose bumps when they insisted I sit in an antique rocker once used by D.H. Lawrence's mother, Lydia. Tony graciously shared stories of his great uncle. Also the Lawrences insisted we make a long distant phone call to England to interview Tony's sister who shared what she could remember of 'Bert'. All in all it was an experience I will always cherish.

It is exciting to anticipate the future endeavors of Friends of D.H. Lawrence. My goal is to support the preservation of the D.H. Lawrence Ranch in San Cristobal, N.M. as well as the artistic, literary heritage of D.H. Lawrence. To that end there will be lectures, readings, exhibits, tours and performances. The first event of this year will be readings entitled D.H. LAWRENCE & FRIENDS: A FESTIVAL OF NEW MEXICO WRITERS. It will take place at the Mabel Dodge Luhan House on Friday, April 9th at 7:00 pm. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Plans are in the works for the summer and fall.

In addition, it is thrilling to announce that some private funds have become available to support the renovation of the D.H. Lawrence Ranch.

We have some splendid projects underway. I look forward to this year with enthusiasm and to sharing the legacy of D.H. Lawrence with you.

In Friendship,
Bill Haller



*Anne Lawrence, Mike Lawrence, President Bill Haller,
Claire Khuen nee Lawrence*

RECOMMENDED READING

by Katherine Toy Miller

Bohemians: The Glamorous Outcasts by Elizabeth Wilson published in hardback by Rutgers University Press 2000 with photographs and illustrations. While the organizational structure causes the book's coherence to suffer, Wilson, a professor of cultural studies at the University of North London, takes on the ambitious and little-researched topic of defining Bohemian culture as it manifested in Europe and America from the mid-1800s to World War I as a response to the "iron cage" of capitalism. Mentioned are the Café Stephanie in Schwabing, the turn-of-the-nineteenth-century Bohemian district of Munich where Frieda met the colleague of Freud whose ideas she passed along to Lawrence and the liberated Countess Franziska zu Reventlow whom she may have modeled herself on; the revolutionary changes that took place in Greenwich Village which Mabel Dodge Luhan was part of; and Lawrence, Dorothy Brett, and Lady Ottoline Morrell.

Among the Bohemians: Experiments in Living 1900-1939 by Virginia Nicholson published 2002 in Great Britain and available in a paperback HarperCollins Perennial Edition 2005 with photographs and illustrations. The author, Virginia Nicholson, is the granddaughter of painter Vanessa Bell, Virginia Woolf's sister. Through her father, Quentin Bell, and her lifelong interest in her family heritage, she accessed a rich store of material related to the British Bohemian society Lawrence was marginally part of.

The book is organized in thematic chapters in which the author poses a series of questions still of interest today: Why is poverty so romantic? What is wrong with sex outside marriage? Should children be kept clean and tidy? Does one really need furniture? What do one's clothes tell people about one's beliefs? Is it possible to eat on an artist's income? Must women give all of their time to housework? How does one differentiate the true traveler from the tourist? How can one entertain with no money? Lawrence is captured in a group of visitors painting the walls of Garsington Manor for Lady Ottoline Morrell and also in his famous Café Royal debacle. Other scenes at the Café Royal reveal its larger role in the period.

As one of the young Bohemians at the Slade School of Art, Dorothy Brett appears occasionally. Others from Lawrence's circle include Rosalind Baynes Thornycroft, David Garnett, Beatrice and Gordon Campbell, Ford Maddox Ford, Mark Gertler, and John Middleton Murry as well as many bold and colorful characters outside of Lawrence's circle which enable us to see him in context.

The Hippie Narrative: A Literary Perspective on the Counterculture by Scott McFarlane available in paperback from McFarland and Company 2007. McFarlane, who credits his mother for taking him to see Jimi Hendrix, has created a well-researched and well-argued series of essays on what he sees as the significant narratives of the hippie era (1962-1976). Combining plot summaries, historical facts, and criticism he begins with the legacy of the Beats--Ginsberg, Kerouac, and Burroughs--then moves through chapters on Ken Kesey, Richard Brautigan, Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer, Kurt Vonnegut, Hunter S. Thompson, Tom Robbins, and others. The book both recalls and attempts to define the era and its significance dealing with the evolution of the drug culture, the changing status of women, and attempts to expand both literary forms and society.



Anne Lawrence, Clair Khuen nee Lawrence, President Bill Haller, Mike Lawrence, Debbie Lawrence at a Lawrence Family reunion.

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Sons & LOVERS

The Lawrence's arrived in Taos for their second stay in March 1924. Within a short time Mabel Luhan gave the present day ranch along with 160 acres located in San Cristobal to the Lawrence's.

In exchange for the ranch, Frieda Lawrence presented Mabel with the original manuscript of *Sons and Lovers*. In turn Mabel gave the manuscript to her Manhattan psychoanalyst, A.A. Brill for payment for his services. Today the original written manuscript is at the University of California, Berkeley, purchased from Dr. Brill's son in 1963 for \$17,000 ... a paltry sum for such an invaluable treasure.

Speaking of LOVERS, did you know while living in New York before Mabel moved to Taos she had a succession of husbands & lovers, including the American radical & revolutionary, John Reed? Reed wrote "Ten Days that Shook the World" and is arguably one of only two Americans buried in the Kremlin.

Other LOVERS who were also associated with the Lawrence's included: Famed mathematician & philosopher Bertrand Russell who had an on-going affair with Lady Ottoline Morrell during the era of World War I. She was married then to the British Liberal Member of Parliament, Philip Morrel.

Else Richthofen, Frieda's sister, was for many years the LOVER of Alfred Weber. Alfred's brother, Max Weber, was founder of modern sociology and public administration who was also Else's professor at Heidelberg University.

And of course Lawrence & Frieda became LOVERS during the spring of 1912. In March 1912 Lawrence met her at the house of his former teacher and head of the Department of Modern Languages at Nottingham University College, Professor Ernest Weekley, who was then married to Frieda. D.H. Lawrence went to the Weekley's to discuss the possibility of obtaining a teaching job in Germany. Professor Weekley had many German connections. In short, Lawrence came away without any job prospects but found something even more precious and valuable. He found his future wife.

by Bill Haller

TRIVIA

Who said the following?

"Lawrence was a funny little man - a sort of furious bantam surrounded by large and impressionable hens - excluding Frieda who is truly magnificent."

"Today I read from D.H. Lawrence's letters and conceived a strong impulse to write a play about him - his life in America - feel so much understanding and sympathy for him - though his brilliance makes me feel very humble and inadequate."

The answer is underlined on the back page.

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D.H. Lawrence and Friends: A Festival of New Mexico Writers



FRIENDS OF D.H. LAWRENCE

PO Box 1177 • Taos, New Mexico 87571

The Friends of D.H. Lawrence are staging a reading called "D.H. Lawrence and Friends: A Festival of New Mexico Writers,"

Friday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Mabel Dodge Luhan House at:
240 Morada Lane in Taos

The public is invited. No admission charge.
Contact for questions: 758-9539 samul@taosnet.com

Each reader will pick an author and selected passages, or a passage, from the great works of New Mexico literature and read for five to seven minutes. The idea behind "five-to-seven minutes per reader" is to keep the program moving to make it entertaining for the audience. The overall program should be about an hour long. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Some of the works to be read from may be "Death Comes For the Archbishop" by Willa Cather, which remains the all-time best-seller in New Mexico literature; "Bless me Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya; "Milagro Beanfield War" by John Nichols; "Man Who Killed the Deer" by Frank Waters; "Great River" by Paul Horgan; "Lorenzo in Taos" by Mabel Dodge Luhan and selections from the works of D.H. Lawrence. Other known writers like Tennessee Williams, who spent some time in Taos and wrote a play about Lawrence, may also be presented.

Readers who have committed so far are Roberta Meyers, David Perez, Kathy Miller, Nita Murphy, Kathleen Knoth, Bill Haller, Juan Concha, Ned Dougherty, Nancy Herrick, Ellie Behrstock and Anne MacNaughton.
John Nichols, author of "The Milagro Beanfield War," will read from his own work.

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