

# BULLETIN

OF

## THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BOX 6328 STATION B • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37235

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, JULY 1979

### PRESIDENT CHARLES SHATTUCK TAKES OFFICE AT SAN FRANCISCO MEETING

Outgoing President C. L. Barber announced the election of Professor Charles Shattuck, of the University of Illinois, as President for 1979. The announcement was made during the business luncheon at the seventh annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America. Newly elected Trustees for the Association are John Andrews of the Folger Shakespeare Library and Richard Van Fossen of the University of Toronto. All three officers will serve three-year terms on the Board of Trustees. In addition, Joan Hartwig of the University of Kentucky was named by the Trustees to fill a one-year term vacated by Robert Heilman (University of Washington), who resigned for reasons of health.

Held at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel on April 12-14, the annual meeting attracted some 240 Shakespeare scholars from the United States and Canada, as well as several from Europe. Special guests were Kenneth Muir, President of the International Shakespeare Association, and Werner Habicht, President of the Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft West.

Highlights of the three-day gathering included a reception at the home of the Chancellor of the University of California on the Berkeley campus and a production of *The Revenger's Tragedy*, directed by William Oliver at the University Theatre.



Kenneth Muir, President of the International Shakespeare Association, chats with C. L. Barber, President of the Shakespeare Association of America.

Audrey Stanley (University of California, Santa Cruz) brought four actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland to present a fascinating demonstration of production and rehearsal problems in *As You Like It*.

The Annual Lecture, ably delivered by G. K. Hunter (Yale University), provided a witty, iconoclastic view of "The Academic Uses of Shakespeare." Professor Hunter made devastating mock of certain questionable academic approaches to Shakespeare and suggested saner courses.

With eight major sessions of papers and ten specialized seminars, the 1979 meeting offered the broadest opportunities for participation since the week-long Washington Congress. A new feature was the President's Play Reading. Having selected *Pericles*, C. L. Barber directed some twenty or more interested readers in a round-the-circle presentation of the play. The event proved so lively that it will be repeated next year.

Despite the distance to San Francisco and the United Airlines strike, the 1979 annual meeting was almost as large as last year's record gathering in Toronto. In 1980, when the Association meets in Boston on April 3-5 at the Cambridge Hyatt, the Trustees expect an even larger attendance.



G. K. Hunter (Yale University) receives congratulations from C. L. Barber (University of California, Santa Cruz) following Hunter's presentation of the Annual Lecture.

ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN ENGLAND  
FOR 1981 WORLD CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 15 IS DEADLINE FOR PAPERS

The Shakespeare Association of America will meet jointly with the International Shakespeare Association for a World Congress, set for August 1-8, 1981, at Stratford-upon-Avon. The last Congress, held in 1976 at Washington, D.C. as part of the Bicentennial, was hosted by the American Association. Five years earlier, in 1971, the first World Shakespeare Congress was held in Vancouver. As a result of that meeting the ISA was subsequently organized.

The Trustees' decision to go to Stratford marks a departure from the tradition of spring meetings for the Shakespeare Association of America. In the view of the Trustees, such a departure is more than justified by the importance of American commitment to international cooperation among Shakespeare scholars.

The Congress is to follow a format that will incorporate many of the features of the Association's annual meeting and will thus be open to wide participation by American members. Formal letters will go out to all participants for assistance with in obtaining travel funds.

Members of the Shakespeare Association of America will no doubt wish to begin making plans now for attending the Stratford Congress. In addition to those who will already be studying in England, many others will want to take advantage of a special travel package that will include round-trip plane fare to London and accommodations the Stratford Hilton, the Congress headquarters. In order to get an estimate of attendance and to make the most convenient arrangements, we ask each member to return the questionnaire below.

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**International Shakespeare Association Congress  
Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting  
August 1-8, 1981  
Stratford-upon-Avon**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

I plan to attend the 1981 ISA Congress.     Yes     No  
 Uncertain

I would be interested in a special tour to the Congress for SAA  
Members.     Yes     No     Uncertain

Members of my family would be interested in such a tour.  
 Yes     No     Uncertain

I would prefer a trip of  one  two  three weeks  
departing \_\_\_\_\_  
and returning \_\_\_\_\_.

I would prefer to depart from  New York  Boston  
 Washington  other city (specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like a tour that includes  some nights' lodging in  
London,  some free days for travel on my own  
 other arrangements (specify).  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any member who wishes to submit a paper for the 1980 meeting in Boston should do so by September 15. Papers must be limited to a twenty-minute presentation--ten to twelve pages in length. There is no restriction on subject, since this part of the program is designed to feature the best work currently being done by the membership. In the interest of fairness no papers will be accepted from those who have been selected during the past two years, nor will more than one paper be accepted from a member.

Two copies of each paper should be sent to the SAA office (Box 6328 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235) no later than September 15. Every effort will be made to announce the selections by the first week in November.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS**

C. L. Barber, chairman of the nominating committee for next year, would like to receive suggestions for nominees from any member of the Association. In 1980 two Trustees and the President will be elected for three-year terms, with a minimum of three candidates named for each position. Professor Barber and a committee of Shakespeare Association members will present a slate to be announced in the January *Bulletin*.

Anyone with a proposal for a nominee should write directly to Professor Barber at the Department of English, College V, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

An additional candidate for any office can be placed on the ballot by a petition with 25 signatures of members in good standing. According to the Constitution, such petitions must reach the office of the Executive Secretary no later than January 1, 1980.

**SHATTUCK SELECTS MERRY WIVES FOR  
1980 READING**

The President's Play Reading, so happily initiated by C. L. Barber in San Francisco (a "rare" play--*Pericles*), will be continued in 1980 at Boston by Charles Shattuck. The play will be *The Merry Wives of Windsor*--chosen not, of course, for its rarity but for its range of fat and funny roles. Members who would like to read are invited to write to Shattuck soon, nominating themselves for the two or three parts they would most like to study up and take a crack at. There will not be time to read it all, of course, but by changing Falstaffs, Fords, and other roles from scene to scene we can probably get a lot of us into the act and stir up a good deal of innocent (and maybe not so innocent) merriment.

Would-be readers may write to President Shattuck at the Department of English, 100 English Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES PAST DUE**

Annual dues for membership in the Shakespeare Association of America are now past due. All members in arrears will be receiving a letter of reminder and a dues form shortly. Anyone who has not yet paid the required fee should do so at once in order to remain on the membership rolls and to be included in the fall Directory.

# 1980 SEMINARS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Seminars for the next annual meeting, scheduled for April 3-5, 1980, have been set and will be open for enrollment through September 15. The early enrollment will give participants more time to prepare for their seminar sessions and to complete travel plans.

Any member of the SAA may register for a seminar. Every effort will be made to give each registrant his first choice among the groups, with duplicate seminars where possible. At the end of September, after the seminar assignments are made, each participant will receive a formal letter of invitation for use in obtaining travel funds.

As in the past, the work of each seminar is directed by its chairman. All written materials are prepared and circulated in advance so that the session at the meeting can be devoted exclusively to discussion.

All members who wish to participate in a seminar should fill out the form provided and return it to the Association office no later than September 15.

## SEMINARS

1. "Shakespeare and the Popular Tradition in Comedy: From Barber to Weimann and Beyond," Jackson Cope (University of Southern California), Chairman. The seminar will discuss the achievement and future potential in applying what we know about popular folk drama and festivals, commedia dell'arte, and ritual grotesque to the form and content of Shakespearean comedy.
2. "The Textual Problem in *King Lear*," G. Blakemore Evans (Harvard University), Chairman. Among topics to be considered might be (1) the provenience of the Q1 text; (2) the relation of the First Folio text to Q1 and Q2; (3) the provenience of the First Folio text; (4) the questions raised by an eclectic text in modern editions. Suggestions for other related topics would be appreciated. Anyone who wishes to participate actively in this seminar should submit a proposal to G. Blakemore Evans, Warren House, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 02138.
3. "Shakespeare's Sense of the Ending: Reconsiderations of the Conclusions of the Tragedies," Duncan Harris (University of Wyoming), Chairman. The seminar will consider the final scenes of the tragedies, individually or in groups, as a way of approaching questions of meaning, affect, and form. The interplay of irony and convention, frustration and catharsis, irresolution and clarity are likely topics for discussion.
4. "*Measure for Measure*," Barbara Hodgdon (Drake University), Chairman. The essence of Shakespeare's style is "a roughness of style and a conscious mingling of opposites which in other terms could be called an absence of style" (Peter Brook). Because of its ambiguities, *Measure* resists cohesive treatment and continues to raise questions and issues for everyone. Papers are invited which explore difficult scenes or moments--those other than the popular scenes. Seminar discussion will focus on the shifting styles of the play in an attempt to redefine its "problematic" nature.
5. "Shakespeare and Opera," Joel Kaplan (University of British Columbia), Chairman. In this inter-disciplinary seminar in comparative theater we will examine adaptations of Shakespeare's plays for a vastly different dramatic medium. Emphasis will be on both specific adaptations and what they can tell us about the plays on which they are based, and the broader problems of dramatic and musical adaptations in general. We will focus attention upon Verdi's *Macbeth*, *Otello*, and *Falstaff* as the most memorable examples of "Shakespearean opera." But attention will also be given to Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Vaughn Williams' *Sir John in Love*, and Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.
6. "The Enclosed Theatres," John Orrell (University of Alberta), Chairman. The enclosed theaters of Shakespeare's age, though not as popular as the open-court-yard type, seem to have been more innovative and in some ways more influential, anticipating the playhouses of the Restoration. It is hoped that the seminar will be able to consider one or two papers concerning the design of examples of each of the major types: the "private" playhouses of the Blackfriars pattern, the court theaters, and the academic stages.
7. "Principles and Methodology of Shakespearean Stage History," Joseph G. Price (Pennsylvania State University), Chairman. The seminar will bring together for consultation scholars interested in the principles, methods, and resources in recording the stage history of Shakespeare's plays. Discussion will range over the various purposes and problems of the theatrical researcher, of the editor (in particular the Variorum editor), of the author who compiles an extensive stage history, of the reviewer for such journals as *SQ* and *ShS*, of the critic who turns to performance for interpretation. The focus will be on what we want to know about a Shakespearean production, whether of the eighteenth or twentieth century.
8. "The Uses and Limitations of Aristotle's *Poetics* in Interpreting Shakespeare's Tragedies," Sheldon Zitner (University of Toronto), Chairman. The seminar will focus on three aspects of the *Poetics*: conceptions of character, plot, and effect, or catharsis. Papers will be assigned in each of these areas, with experts analyzing the papers and leading discussion of the issues raised. The format should not preclude or discourage a wide variety of approaches to the *Poetics*, the plays, and later commentators.

## SEMINAR REGISTRATION

Eighth Annual Meeting — April 3-5, 1980 — Boston, Massachusetts

First choice \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice \_\_\_\_\_

Third choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Shakespeare Association of America, Box 6328 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235, by September 15.

**INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION  
INVITES MEMBERSHIP**

All members of the Shakespeare Association of America are warmly invited to become members of the International Shakespeare Association. Dues for individuals are \$5.00 yearly.

Payment of dues entitles a member to receive the Association's Newsletter with its reports of current interest, as well as to receive copies of other publications at modest rates. For example, a copy of the first ISA Occasional Lecture, *Rescuing Shakespeare*, presented in Stratford last August by Professor Maynard Mack, went free to all members. Extra copies may be obtained for \$3.00 (\$1.00 additional for payment by check, no additional charge with international money order). Members of the ISA may also obtain copies of the Washington Congress proceedings at the special price of \$9.00 per copy (payable directly to University of Delaware Press, P.O. Box 421, Cranbury, N.J. 08512).

Inquiries and dues should be sent to Dr. Levi Fox, Secretary, International Shakespeare Association, the Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

**PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS APPRECIATED**

The Trustees and the program committee wish to express thanks to all members who submitted suggestions for the 1980 meeting. As is always the case, only a limited number of speakers, topics, and ideas can be worked into the final program. However, each suggestion did receive serious consideration. The fact that so many members offered good ideas testifies to a remarkably strong interest in the Association.

Special appreciation goes to the program committee--Scott Colley (Vanderbilt University), Charles Frey (University of Washington), Carol McGinnis Kay (University of Alabama), and Trustee Jeanne Roberts (American University), who chaired the group.

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NOTICES OF WIDE GENERAL INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE *BULLETIN* OF THE SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 1.

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**EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING  
of the  
SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**April 3-5, 1980**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Cambridge Hyatt Regency**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND**

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**DATED MATERIALS ENCLOSED**