LONDON CALLING: LAWRENCE AND THE METROPOLIS

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL D.H. LAWRENCE CONFERENCE

JULY 3-8 2017
London played a crucial role in Lawrence’s early life: he taught here, got his first literary breaks here, and even got married here in 1914. It was in London that he met the friends and patrons who launched his career and facilitated his travels, and whenever he and Frieda returned to England, it was to London that they came first.

Lawrence visited London around fifty times - for the first time in October 1908 for his interview for a teaching position in Croydon, and for the last time in September 1926. Over those eighteen years he visited or lived in London in every single year, apart from during his travels in 1920-22.

He saw the city grow from seven to eight million people, and become the metropolis we know today, with its buses, trams, private cars, bridges, Underground stations, West End theatres, and electric street lights. He knew London as it was approaching the historical peak population; this was followed by decline, and which has only just (in 2015) been exceeded.

He knew the London of the Edwardian period, of the War, and of the jazz age. He knew middle-class outer-suburban Croydon, but also some of London’s most fashionable districts, where his friends lived: Hampstead (Edward Garnett, Dollie Radford and Catherine Carswell), St. John’s Wood (Koteliansky), Mecklenburgh Square (H.D. and Richard Aldington), and Bedford Square (Lady Ottoline Morrell).

London was the legal, as well as the literary, artistic and theatrical, centre of England. In 1913 Frieda’s divorce hearing was heard there; in 1915 Lawrence was examined for bankruptcy at its High Court; in the same year *The Rainbow* was tried at Bow Street Magistrate’s Court; in 1927 *David* was produced at the Regent Theatre; in 1928 Catherine Carswell oversaw the typing of part of *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* there; in 1928 Lawrence explained ‘Why I Don’t Like Living in London’ in *The Evening News*; and in 1929 his paintings were exhibited at the Warren Street gallery and impounded.

Given his hatred of London’s intellectualism and authoritarianism, and his objections to metropolises in general, it is not surprising that much of what Lawrence writes about London is negative. But, as he admitted in 1928, ‘It used not to be so. Twenty years ago, London was to me thrilling, thrilling, thrilling, the vast and throbbing heart of all adventure.’

For such a nodal city - the world’s biggest city, the heart of the world’s biggest empire, and a centre of international modernism - it has a peripheral place in his work and in work about him. But Lawrence could not have become the person and writer he did without having known his native capital city.

The 14th International D. H. Lawrence conference will be held in London at the College of the Humanities, Bedford Square, and nearby venues. It is authorized by the Coordinating Committee for International Lawrence Conferences (CCILC) and organized in collaboration with the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America and the D. H. Lawrence Society (UK).

The conference welcomes papers on topics including but not limited to:
Lawrence’s experiences of, and/or reactions to, London and its various social groups and geographical districts
- Lawrence’s relationships with individual Londoners
- Lawrence’s interactions with London-based journals and publishers
- The suppression of *The Rainbow*
- The premiere of *David* in London
- Lawrence’s exhibition of paintings at the Warren Street Gallery
- Works written by Lawrence while he was resident in London
- Lawrence’s responses to and thoughts about cities in general

Papers are welcome from Lawrence scholars, graduate students, and the public.

Papers should last no longer than 20 minutes, and will be followed by 10 minutes of questions. They will be presented in a panel together with two other papers.

If you would like to contribute, please send an abstract of up to 500 words to the Executive Director, Dr. Catherine Brown: catherinelawrencelondon@gmail.com by midnight on 15th September 2016 (unless you are a graduate student who wishes to apply for a Graduate Fellowship, in which case please follow the alternative procedure described below). Submissions will be assessed by the Academic Program Committee detailed below, and responses will be issued by 31st October 2016.

The abstract should include the following information as part of the same file (in either MS Word or pdf format):

- Your name, postal address, telephone number, and email address
- The name of the institution (if applicable) at which you are registered
- Your CV (1 page condensed version)
- Please indicate if you need OHP or other such media equipment for your presentation.

The Conference Fee is expected to be approximately £280-320 for the week.

The Conference website may be found here: http://dhlawrencesociety.com/home/14th-international-d-h-lawrence-conference-london/

**Graduate Fellowships**

Six Graduate Fellowships are available for Graduate Fellows.

A Graduate Fellowship covers fees, and efforts will be made to make cheap accommodation available.

Graduate Fellows will be required to help with registration and other duties during the Conference.

If you would like to apply for one of these, please fill out the Graduate Fellowship Application form below, or click here [insert hyperlink].
This competition will be assessed by the Graduate Fellowships Committee chaired by Dr. Andrew Harrison. Submissions are to be sent to lawrencegraduatefellowship@aol.com by 15th September 2016.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Executive Director
Catherine Brown

Conference Treasurers
Bethan Jones and Kim Hooper

International Liaison and Assistant Treasurer
Jonathan Long

Conference Webmaster
Joseph Shafer

Conference Designer
Stephen Alexander

Conference Tour Director
Maria Thanassa

Conference Awards Organizer
President of the DH Lawrence Society of North America

Graduate Fellowships Committee Chair
Andrew Harrison

Accommodation Director
Ted Simonds

Conference Consultants
Nancy Paxton and Betsy Sargent

Academic Program Committee

International:

Australia: David Game, Christopher Pollnitz
Canada: Betsy Sargent, Laurence Steven
France: Ginette Roy
Germany: Christa Jansohn, Dieter Mehl
Italy: Simonetta de Filippis
Japan: Masashi Asai
Montenegro: Marija Krivokapic
South Korea: Doo-Sun Ryu
South Africa: Jim Phelps
Sweden: Margrét Gunnarsdóttir Champion
USA: Holly Laird, Nancy Paxton

British:

Michael Bell
Howard Booth
Catherine Brown
David Ellis
Andrew Harrison
Bethan Jones
Sean Matthews
Sue Reid
Neil Roberts
Jeff Wallace
In order to encourage the participation of younger scholars at ‘London Calling: The 14th International D. H. Lawrence Conference’ in London, the organizers are offering six Graduate Fellowships as described below. All advanced graduate students who submit abstracts for presentation at the conference are invited to apply for one of these Graduate Fellowships. Applicants should be currently enrolled in Ph.D programs, or else have recently graduated, be writing dissertations on Lawrence or related subjects(s), and have had their abstracts accepted by the London Academic Program Committee. Conference registration fees will be waived for students in receipt of these Fellowships. Fellows will be required to provide several hours of administrative assistance during the Conference. Six Graduate Fellowships will be offered, with one reserved for the Conference Webmaster (already established). The competition will be judged by a panel of international Lawrence scholars chaired by Dr. Andrew Harrison of the University of Nottingham. Final decisions will be based on the strength of the abstract, its relevance to the themes outlined in the call for papers, and the candidate’s ability to contribute skills needed by the conference organizers. To apply for one of these awards, please send the completed application form below to lawrencegraduatefellowship@aol.com by September 15th, 2016. Successful applicants will be announced by October 31st, 2016.

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

CURRENT OR MOST RECENT INSTITUTION, AND DEPARTMENT:

CURRENT OR MOST RECENT LEVEL OF STUDY:

DISSERTATION TITLE:

EXPECTED OR ACTUAL GRADUATION DATE:

RELEVANCE OF D.H. LAWRENCE TO YOUR RESEARCH:

PROPOSAL FOR PAPER AT CONFERENCE (max. 500 words):

ANY MULTIMEDIA EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PRESENTATION:

PAST EXPERIENCE OF ORGANISING/ASSISTING WITH CONFERENCES:

CONFERENCE-RELATED TASKS WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO YOU: