



The Herald - Editorial

Responses to our last, April 2020 issue, were good, which makes our efforts as editors all worthwhile. Michael’s daughter, Veronica, and his brother, Anton, both emailed us to say how gratifying it was to see the tributes to Michael. Thank you, again, to our contributors for helping us to assemble such a worthwhile edition of the Herald.

There is much variety in this edition and we are encouraged by the range of continuing interest in the work of Lawrence Durrell. None of what you are able to read here would be possible without the support of the Executive Board of the International Lawrence Durrell Society so, if you are not a member of the Society, please consider joining to show your support for the society.

See: https://lawrencedurrell.org/wp_durrell/society/membership/

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A Message from the ILDS President

Dear fellow Durrellians,

You will be glad to know that OMG XXI has been rescheduled in 2022 as we hope that by then all Covid related concerns will be behind us. So our gathering at the University Toulouse Jean Jaurès should take place as planned, including the White Mice Poetry Contest organized by David Radavich and the tour of the Cathar castles. The CFP remains the same and is available on our website: https://lawrencedurrell.org/wp_durrell/cfp-toulouse

All of you who had initially sent in a proposal are invited to confirm their presence and all those who were short of time to write a paper can start now!

All enquiries about the 2022 conference should be addressed to me at:

isabelle.keller-privat@univ-tlse2.fr

In the meantime, the membership gathered for our ILDS virtual meeting on June 24th, approved the following Executive Board for 2020-2020: Isabelle Keller-Privat, President; James Decker, Vice President; Paul Lorenz, Secretary-Treasurer; elected at-large members: Peter Baldwin, Pamela Francis, Steve Moore, David Radavich, and Fiona Tomkinson. We are very thankful to all members for their trust and support and are committed to make the next two years fruitful and inspiring for Durrellian studies.

This meeting was also the occasion to celebrate our inaugural William Godshalk Prize for New Durrell Scholarship award to Athanasios Dimakis, who presented an excerpt of his prize-winning essay “‘The place is inconceivably gloomy’: Mysticism and Myth in Lawrence Durrell’s ‘Patmos’”. We hope to celebrate our Prize winner with all due libations in Toulouse and we are proud to announce that we are very much looking forward to the next harvest of Prize winners in 2022; so, please, do not hesitate to send us your submissions! All details can be accessed on https://lawrencedurrell.org/wp_durrell/durrell-prize/

The 2021 Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture Since 1900 has been cancelled, so should you hear about any conference where Durrellians can meet again before 2022, do let us know!

With all best wishes for a peaceful summer!

Isabelle Keller-Privat
3rd July 2020

Michael Haag

This generous remembrance of Michael was received from Neville Spencer Lewis after the publication of the April 2020 Herald, which was dedicated to the memory of Michael Haag.

Neville Spencer Lewis is the co-author with Michael Haag of The Guide to Greece published in 1979 by Travel Aid Services and, later, was his publishing co-director of the imprint Michael Haag Ltd.

Peter Baldwin has very kindly asked me to contribute a piece about Michael Haag, and I am delighted to have the chance to do so. Mark Ellingham, his main publisher in recent years, gave a superb eulogy at Michael's funeral (and wrote an abbreviated version for the last edition of the Herald in April), and I cannot aspire to do better than that. However I can add an account of a friendship which lasted almost 50 years.

Michael and I met in the early 1970s when he was living across the canal from me in Little Venice, London. I was working as a young barrister and Michael had already written the guides to the USA and the Mediterranean, but our meeting had nothing to do with the law or with books. I had very opportunistically agreed to become the Liberal parliamentary candidate for Paddington, whilst Michael had as opportunistically become a member of the Young Liberals despite being almost 30 years old. He had his own agenda which was to put pressure upon the Church Commissioners who owned large swathes of rented property in the area and were Michael and his wife Jane's landlords. Michael needed a larger flat for his burgeoning family, and his agitation was so effective that they were offered a large garden flat in Belsize Park. It is no coincidence that in the mid-1980's when I came to move house myself Michael persuaded me that the place to live was in the same area. And that is where I remain (albeit after further moves), and Michael was sufficiently close to my current address that when he was still mobile he would walk over for dinner.

In the February 1974 election Michael was my press agent. He had me photographed as I improbably canvassed my prospective constituents on the canal from a canoe. In the first election in February he obtained a great deal of publicity for me, and it was no fault of his that I came third in a close contest between Labour and Conservatives. It was during this period that Michael and I became good friends.

By coincidence Michael and I were then both in Greece in 1976, he working for a Greek publisher in Athens, I having left the Bar and simply wanting to live in the country with which I had fallen in love from the time I had first visited in 1962. Michael and Jane had two sparsely furnished homes, one in Athens and the other on the nearby island of Aegina. It was still possible then to live very cheaply in Greece. I spent a weekend with them on Aegina, having met up in Athens. My journal records that I was initially concerned about the difficulty of experiencing first-hand Michael and Jane's chaotic life. But I was wrong to worry, and I wrote: '.....my time was comparatively peaceful. We would straggle out of the house on Aegina with me hovering between Michael striding briskly ahead and Jane who was dawdling behind. The dysfunction seemed to worry neither of them particularly – they are secure enough in Michael's wit and intelligence, Jane's sensuality and their easy concern for their two children. I was more bothered by their domestic routine, or lack of it, which is such that on both the Saturday and Sunday we only managed to get out to eat at about 11 pm'.

We were both back in England by the following year, Michael in London and I in Wiltshire where I had the simplistic idea of becoming a farmer after the idylls of the Greek countryside. However Michael asked me if I would co-write with him a guide to Greece despite our respective limited experiences of the country. This never deterred Michael from writing well about countries foreign to him, often about places there that he had never even visited. We completed the book in a matter of months. Michael wrote the lion's share. It was later short-listed for the Thomas Cook Best Guide Book awards. Mark

Ellingham gave Michael's writing particular praise, rightly, in his eulogy. His style was distinctive. When the book was reviewed waspishly by Auberon Waugh (as was his wont) he reserved especial criticism for my contribution whilst observing that the juxtaposition of the two styles was particularly unfortunate.

Nevertheless on the strength of our mutual endeavour Michael asked me to write a travel book about the Delphi area where I had been living (eventually published as *Delphi and the Sacred Way* in 1987) and I also became a director of Michael Haag Ltd. Michael republished in the mid-1980's a number of prestigious titles which had gone out of print, as mentioned by Mark in his brief obituary in the last newsletter. Michael would commission me to borrow from the London Library, of which I was a member, a long list of titles which caught his imagination and from his reading he would harvest what he thought would find a public again. His judgment was usually good. Our 'board' meetings were conducted either in the Belsize Tavern near his flat or downstairs in a local restaurant where we would sit for hours over a single course. It was delightfully haphazard. One time we sat there discussing Michael's latest project whilst the actor Jeremy Irons was learning a script at the next table.

In the 1980s we spent a lot of time together, including holidaying in Stoupa in Greece. His determined character was exemplified by the traverse of Mount Taygetos which we did together and the story of which he tells in his blog. What he does not tell there is how he nearly killed us driving down to the Peloponnese. He was not a good driver and having been held up behind a slow lorry in the mountains he decided to overtake on the inside round a bend as the lorry pulled out to take the corner. I had to shout at him to stop the manoeuvre.

When Michael was on his travels and I was not working (by then I was back as a barrister), I would man the office which was a large shed at the bottom of the garden of his flat in Belsize Park. It was extraordinary how much Michael managed to accomplish as a sole publisher with only limited help from me. His industry was remarkable. Unfortunately, as Mark has said, the publishing business eventually failed owing to the first Gulf War.

Michael's wit was very particular to him and often heretical. When he was away in the eastern Mediterranean at one time in the early 1980s, he telexed me:

HAVE CONVERTED TO ISLAM. GOING BACK TO MECCA TOMORROW. NEVER RETURNING TO CHRISTENDOM. INSHALLAH.

MICHAEL HAJJ

His humour was spread evenly however. Thirty years later at Christmas he sent me a postcard with a photograph of The Grotto of the Nativity at Bethlehem. His message was simply: 'The very spot! Happy Christmas Michael'.

In the later 1980s Michael's life became more complicated in several respects. Following an infection he lost most of the sight in one of his eyes and this remained so for the rest of his life. Then his marriage to Jane failed, and in 1989 he married Loutfia in Alexandria, his name morphing for Islamic purposes into Karim Abdul Rahim (not that this was used, but it appealed to Michael's sense of humour). When Loutfia moved over to London, she and Michael frequently met up with myself and my second wife Anna-Liisa. Indeed they were the witnesses at our wedding in 1994 which we then all celebrated with lunch at the restaurant Byron in Downshire Hill.

Michael was increasingly involved with the past world of Alexandria, made easier by his relationship with Loutfia. He also went there of course with Eve Durrell in 1999 as he tells movingly in his blog. I was seeing less of him at this time, partly owing to my own remarriage and even work, but I was having

dinner with him on the night in December 2004 that Eve died in hospital in London. Michael had been there during the day:

‘What I do know is that Eve was headstrong, exasperating, generous and loveable. And sitting by the hospital bed, holding her hand in mine, I realised that she was also very brave. On her last day she put some lipstick on, she summoned glasses and brandy, and she raised a toast to life. I have been fortunate enough to share London and Alexandria with Eve, and she lives with me still in my memories’.

That evening Michael had told me about visiting Eve in hospital and how he was due to return there after dinner. Time went on and I reminded Michael of this as it got later and later. He was invariably late for things, but perhaps it was because he had been with her that day that he did not rush. We were still sitting over the table in his flat in Belsize Lane when the telephone rang and he heard Eve had gone.

After the publication of *Alexandria: City of Memory* in 2004 the years went by with a familiar pattern of Michael writing further books which might provide enough income to enable him to write and complete the biography on Lawrence Durrell, many of these at the instigation of Mark Ellingham first at the Rough Guides and then at Profile Books. One was *The Tragedy of the Templars* published in 2012 which he kindly dedicated to me as ‘Chevalier of the Inner Temple’ both I am sure as a mark of affection (as he inscribed) but also pointing fun at my very uncertain relationship with the Bar.

There was intermittent talk of plans to finish the Durrell book by letting the flat in London and for example going and completing it at his brother Anton’s house in the Azores. The book he wrote on the Durrells was in retrospect the last throw in that game. He told me he could now afford a year’s work on the biography. But time was, alas, already running away from him and he became increasingly infirm. I saw him for dinner in the summer of last year. When I rang another time to see if I might pay a visit he said he was too occupied either with writing or just coping (by that stage with the help of his family) to see me. I received a card at Christmas with a barely legible signature, and when I rang to speak to Michael on the 5th January it was Veronica who picked up the phone and she told me he had died earlier that day. I was totally shocked, as I had not known just how ill he was.

Michael was a one-off, probably the most extraordinary person I have known. Immensely able, very diligent, highly intelligent, yet always with his own particular point of view. I wrote this at the end of my own draft eulogy:

‘But in all this valedictory address, too little has been said about the man himself. It says nothing of the odd lifestyle which meant Michael’s hours were the reverse of most of us – he would work most of the night and only surface again in the middle of the day. He was dogged and industrious which caused him to be persistent in tracking down the minutiae of a story or event, but it would be told with immense humour and with an angle which was always novel and original. He was not conventional in any way, though he could look at times remarkably like an Englishman with a tweed jacket and Church shoes. He was a contrarian, so that whilst most of his friends in NW3 were perhaps predictably Remainers, he was an ardent Brexiteer, one suspected in part just to annoy us. He was his own man, and certainly a one-off. He will be terribly missed.’

I certainly shall miss him.

Neville Lewis, Belsize Park, London, NW3 2XR
30 April 2020



Neville Spencer Lewis and Michael Haag in Greece; 1982

© Neville Spencer Lewis

Remembering Gemma Salem

I was saddened to discover during a recent visit to the website of the French publisher Arlèa of the death of the novelist Gemma Saleem. See: <https://www.arlea.fr/Gemma-Salem-1943-2020>

Gemma was a friend and near neighbour of Larry's when he lived in Sommières and she tells of that friendship in her 2019 book *Larry: une amitié avec Lawrence Durrell* (Editions Baker Street) (see *The Herald*, December 2019, p 15). I am told that Gemma used Larry's house in route de Saussines, Sommières, as one of the settings for her 1984 novel *La Passion de Giulia* (Mercure de France).

Peter Baldwin
23 June 2020

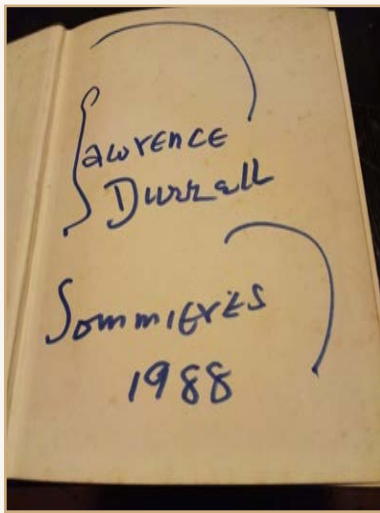
Remembering Dr. Noel Guckian

The editors of *The Herald* recently learned of the passing of Dr. Noel Guckian, British ambassador to Oman from 2005 - 2011. Dr. Guckian placed an article in the September, 2019 volume of *The Herald*. The article, titled "Nice Spirits and Olive Trees", described the house, called 'Mas Michel', where the Durrell brothers lived for a time beginning in 1958.

A brief overview of Dr. Guckian's career and subsequent retired life in Southern France (at Mas Michel) can be found online at <https://diplomatmagazine.com/from-ambassador-to-advisor/>.

Looking Back – First Encounters with Lawrence Durrell by Mitchell Robin

Mitchell Robin is, as he tells us, an unsung Canadian author presently living in Vientiane, Laos. During his sixteen years in France he breathed Durrell from every pore. This is his account of meeting Durrell.



What can be said of meeting a demi-god?

There were his eyes, of course; I was stuck and hypnotized, in awe of his hand.

It was winter. I had met Durrell once before, at a book signing in Paris but I wanted to meet with him again. For no reason. I had nothing to tell him.

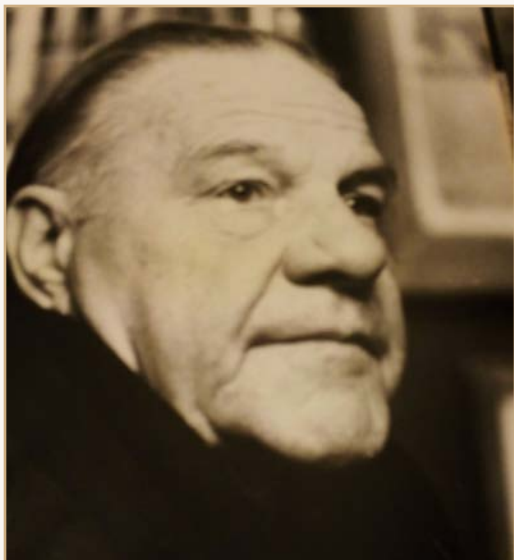
A bright day, before or just after New Year's. Christmas break in Provence if I let myself get too carried away. All the neighbours I asked pointed me in the general direction of his house [in Sommières]. They all referred to him as Larry. Ah oui, la maison de Larry... par la!

Everyone who loves Durrell knows what the house looks like. A small Provincial manoir carved out of pierre de taille. It is for sale now and you can even look at the rooms on line, something I was not privileged to do.

When he answered the door I came face to face with a clever wizened gnome. I told him I came to thank him for the countless hours I had spent reading him. "Come in", he answered, "let's have a drink".

So I was able to see a part of the house, the living room and the kitchen where we sat drinking champagne, overlooking a sloping vineyard. The clock in the kitchen ticked very loudly. The living room looked nothing like it does on the real-estate website. It was tossed and turned, books everywhere. A red cover on the sofa.

Of our conversation I will share only one thing. He told me he felt like an old boat tacking in the wind.



All photos © Mitchell Robin

Harold Hindle James: Another Inspiration Behind Scobie?

John Barnard (john@johnbarnard.me.uk)

John Barnard is a scientist who, before retirement, ran his own consultancy and software business in the field of the design of chemical informations systems.

Many authors have discussed the real-life individuals on which Durrell may have based some of the characters in the *Alexandria Quartet*, and McNiven's biography identifies Joseph "Bimbashi" McPherson (1886-1946) as the principal model for Joshua Scobie.¹ McPherson was a long-term resident of Cairo and the author of *Moulids of Egypt*, an account of traditional festivals honouring local saints. He gave a copy of this to Durrell, who explicitly acknowledged his use of it "when I needed colour for my *Alexandria Quartet*".²

McNiven notes Macpherson's "saintly and monastic nature", and his lack of the homosexual and paederastic "Tendencies" with which Scobie's more roguish character is endowed. Bowen³ has suggested that these might be provided by the journalist Michael Davidson (1897-1976), though Durrell only met him in Cyprus in the mid-1950s. I have recently examined a family suggestion that a cousin of my mother's, Squadron-Leader Harold Hindle ("Huck") James CG, OBE (1894-1969) might also have been an inspiration for aspects of Scobie's character.

James was a retired RAF officer who had served in Egypt, Arabia and Italy (where he was awarded the *Croce di Guerra*) during World War I, and as a Special Service Officer in Iraq in the 1920s.⁴ By the late 1930s he had settled in Cairo and was given a civilian role as a political liaison officer with Air HQ,



H. H. James in 1952

© courtesy of the John Barnard Collection

travelling widely throughout the Middle East. His activities as a "peripatetic outsider" generally irritated the diplomatic authorities and he was described as having "muddled up what the Embassy had told him with a great deal of tittle-tattle collected by himself, misunderstood the whole, and produced quite worthless and misleading reports".⁵ He was forced to step down in 1939, but continued to hold political discussions with a variety of Egyptians, even after World War II had broken out, implying to them that he held some sort of official position. By June 1944 the Head of Middle East Intelligence was sufficiently upset that he wrote to Sir Walter Smart (Oriental Counsellor at the British Embassy in Cairo, and a model for Mountolive⁶ in Durrell's novels) suggesting that James's "removal from the Egyptian scene would be in the public interest", adding that he was "credibly informed ... that the police have him on their records as a sexual pervert".⁷

- 1 Ian MacNiven, *Lawrence Durrell: A Biography*, London: Faber and Faber (1998), p. 255
- 2 L. Durrell, Preface to *Bimbashi McPherson: The Man Who Loved Egypt*, eds. Barry Carman and John McPherson. British Broadcasting Corporation (1985)
- 3 Roger Bowen, "Squalid with Joy: Scobie, Sex and Race in Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet*", *Journal of Homosexuality* 36 (2) 87-97 (1998); reprinted in *Literature and Homosexuality*, ed. Michael J. Meyer, Amsterdam: Rodopi (2000), *Rodopi Perspectives on Modern Literature*, 21, pp. 55-69
- 4 Richard D. Newton, *The RAF and Tribal Control: Airpower and Irregular Warfare Between the World Wars*. University Press of Kansas (2019)
- 5 Priya Satia, *Spies in Arabia: The Great War and the Cultural Foundations of Britain's Covert Empire in the Middle East*. Oxford University Press (2008), pp. 282-3
- 6 McNiven, *op. cit.*, p. 241
- 7 Letter from Brig. R.J. Maunsell to Sir Walter Smart, 9 Jun 1944. In *Activities of Squadron-Leader Hindle James. Code 16 file 1782*, National Archives FO 371/41414

Though officials in London recognised that he was a “tedious busybody” they concluded that there was really no security case for deportation. Instead the Embassy tried to persuade James to renounce all political activity as a condition for having his Egyptian visa renewed, but this only led to his complaining of victimisation to the ambassador, and to any senior RAF officer whose ear he could bend. One of the documents at the National Archives carries the laconic marginal note from a civil servant, “It looks as if S/L Hindle-James is a Cross that the Embassy will have to bear almost indefinitely.”⁸ Durrell was of course the Press Attaché at the Embassy for much of the War, and even if their paths crossed only minimally, James would probably have been the subject of Embassy gossip.



H.H. James circa 1955

© courtesy of the John Barnard collection

Whilst I have no evidence that James was a cross-dresser (as Scobie is depicted) he undoubtedly had “Tendencies”. His sister’s memoirs make an oblique reference to meeting his “special Arab servant, Mohi” on a visit in 1951,⁹ and a Scottish teacher who met him while working in Cairo for a year in the early 1960s noted that “he lived in Old Cairo in an apartment that was filled with grinning boys from dawn till dusk.”¹⁰ His private papers suggest that he “adopted” young Egyptian men from local orphanages, employing them as his personal servants, and in some cases assisting them to start businesses, as Scobie did with Abdul (*Balthazar*, Part I, Chapter II). On a more specific level, Scobie’s reference to a brother in Uganda (*Justine*, Part II) is matched by James’s brother, who was a District Commissioner in that colony, though unlike Scobie’s brother, who “fell over the falls” there, James’s lived out a happy retirement riding to hounds in rural Devon. James was an OBE (for his Iraq service), a decoration also given to Scobie, at least in the first (1957) edition of *Justine*, though it is not mentioned in the 1962 omnibus edition.¹¹ Scobie’s remark in Part I, Chapter II of *Balthazar* “Now the Egyptians don’t give a damn about a man if he has Tendencies – provided he’s the Soul of Honour, like me” echoes James’s own words “I don’t mind a fellow having his own vices – provided he manages them decently.”¹²

Family members who remember James in his later life describe him as a “Walter Mitty” character prone to exaggerating his own importance and influence (a problem also encountered by British officials in wartime Egypt), and he was an inveterate name-dropper, making much of his personal friendship with King Farouk. This also parallels Scobie’s enthusiasm for (and incompetence in) secret service matters, along with the numerous absurdities and inconsistencies in his life story¹³ which of course serve only to demonstrate his unreliability as his own chronicler.

Like any great author, Durrell probably drew on multiple real-life personalities, as well as on his own imagination, to create the characters in his novels. The correspondences between James and Scobie, coupled with the near-certainty that Durrell would have encountered James in wartime Egypt, suggest that he could have inspired Durrell with many aspects of Scobie’s character not provided by McPherson.

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8 Letter from Lord Killearn (British Ambassador in Cairo) to Air-Marshall Sir C. E. Medhurst, 14 Jan 1946. In *Activities of Squadron Leader Hindle-James. Code 16 File 322*, National Archives FO 371/53384

9 Mary Hindle Mackinnon, *For all that Time has Held*, NSW, Australia, 1993 (ISBN 0 646 14825 7), p. 71

10 Norman Lang, *The Cairo Incident*. Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania: Sunbury Press (2011) p. 3

11 C.L. Sligh, “Scobie’s OBE”, <https://lists.uvic.ca/pipermail/ilds/Week-of-Mon-20070521/001097.html>

12 H.H. James *In Remembrance of Some Tribal Wanderings on Special Service in Iraq 1924-1926: Diary with Letters and Some Verse*. Unpublished typescript, <http://www.johnbarnard.me.uk/docs/HHJ.html#a17>, p. 230

13 Capt. H. Dare, “The Quest for Durrell’s Scobie”, *Modern Fiction Studies* 10 (4) 379-83 (1964)



ILDS Mini-Minutes

ZOOM: 21 February 2020

The 21 February meeting of the ILDS Executive Board, held in Louisville, Kentucky, Vice President Pamela Francis presiding, focused on preparations for On Miracle Ground XXI, the ILDS conference planned for Toulouse, France in late May 2020. On the organizational side, procedures for electing officers to serve in the 2020-2022 term were set in motion. As for the conference program, President Isabelle Keller-Privat, unfortunately unable to attend, sent information about the plenary speakers who had agreed to come to Toulouse: Laurent Macé, FRAMESPA; Cecile Oumhani, Poet and Writer; Phillippe Hoffman, L'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes à Paris. An evening event at the Cave Poésie had also been scheduled as well as outings in the area and a banquet at La Cendrée.

The newly established Durrell Prize, made possible by the generosity of Steve Moore, was discussed and procedures reviewed for choosing yearly winning papers by emerging scholars. Steve raised the issue of an earlier proposal to name the prize after the late Durrellian, William Godshalk, and a consensus emerged in favor of “The William Godshalk Prize for New Durrell Scholarship.” Board members looked forward to the presentation of the first prize at the Toulouse Conference.

David Radavich reported that the 2019 White Mice Poetry Contest had been particularly successful having attracted the most ever entries, many of which are of high quality. The 2019 topic was “The Heavens,” a tribute to Toulouse’s aero-space industry as well as Durrell’s attraction to the theme. The winning White Mice poems are posted on <https://www.lawrencedurrell.org> and will appear in the next issue of *Deus Loci*.

As well as reports on *Deus Loci* (Anna Lillios) and *The Herald* (Peter Baldwin and Steve Moore), a proposal was accepted for ILDS participation in publishing a new edition of Durrell’s *A Key to Modern Poetry*, to be titled *A Key to British Poetry: 1890-1939*. Anthony Hirst and Peter Baldwin will edit the new book and it will be published by Colenso Books in collaboration with Delos Press. Charles Sligh will review the manuscript on behalf of ILDS. Finally, reports were given by Pamela Francis and James Clawson on the Society’s website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed—ILDS is alive and well in the online world.

Anne Zahlan

Correction:

Isabelle Keller-Privat has asked us to carry the following correction to footnote 2 to her essay ‘Durrell’s Cyprus, another Private Country’ (*The Herald*, Vol 41, September 2019, p 4):

A reader has pointed out to Isabelle a mistake in the footnote 2 that reads in the published version of her essay: “G. Seferis, Letter to E. Keeley”.

That footnote 2 should read:

“G. Seferis quoted by David Roessel in conversation with Ian MacNiven, p. 733, n134.”



ILDS Mini-Minutes

ZOOM: 27 May 2020

On Miracle Ground XXI (originally scheduled for this month in Toulouse) having been postponed, the ILDS Executive Board Society met via Zoom on 27 May 2020, President Isabelle Keller-Privat presiding. The meeting's purpose was to determine ILDS policy and actions in this time of global pandemic.

Board members agreed that the wiser course was to postpone the conference, not to next year but rather to 2022, by which time it was hoped that travel and meetings could once again occur safely. By consensus, it was decided to reschedule OMG XXI for late May 2022 in Toulouse. Isabelle indicated that she is willing to work for renewal of the elaborate system of grants secured to support the conference and, as necessary, to apply for new funding.

Since ILDS By-Laws provide for bi-yearly elections, the Board discussed various ways to choose officers and board members to serve for the 2020-2022 term. Various options having been considered, it was unanimously agreed to convene a general meeting of ILDS on the Zoom platform on Wednesday 24 June 2020. The Nominations Committee--James Gifford (chair), Peter Baldwin, and Don Kacvinsky--was authorized to prepare a slate to be presented to the membership.

The Board decided to add a program component to the 24 June general meeting, and it was agreed that Isabelle would arrange a presentation by Athanasios Dimakis, winner of this year's Durrell Prize competition for his paper, "'The place is inconceivably gloomy': Mysticism and Myth in Lawrence Durrell's 'Patmos.'"

James Decker reported on plans for ILDS participation in the 2021 "Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900"; James has issued a Call for Papers titled "Everything Miasmatic: Modernist Bodies in Sickness and Health," a topic hailed as timely by those present. The meeting concluded with updates on *A Key to British Poetry: 1890-1939*, *Deus Loci*, the ILDS Facebook page and Twitter feed, and *The Herald's* special issue commemorating the late Michael Haag.

Anne Zahlan

Deus Loci: The Lawrence Durrell Journal

Volume 16 (2017-19)

Dr. Anna Lillios, editor of *Deus Loci*, advises us regarding the contents of the next volume of *Deus Loci*, with publication expected in July or August of 2020.

Essays

- Luca Barbaglia and Bartolo Casiraghi—"Scobie's (Un)Common Usage: Myth and Irony as Tools of Epistemological Resistance"
- Christine Costanza—"The Foundling Heart: Reflections on Incest in Durrell's Justine and Mountolive"
- Athanasios Dimakis—"Orientations in Sunlight": Lawrence Durrell's Greek Visualism in Rhodes"
- Michael Haag—"The Mystery of Karm Abu Girg"
- Ian S. MacNiven—"Climax in Crete"
- Fiona Tomkinson—"Lawrence Durrell's Tibetan Exile: Connections between the Tibetan Book of the Dead and the Theme of Exile in The Alexandria Quartet"

Note

Peter Harrison—"The Last Word on the Strawberry Pink Villa"

Reviews

- David Radavich—The Fruitful Discontent of the Word: A Further Collection of Poems by Lawrence Durrell. Ed. Peter Baldwin.
- James Clawson—A Psychoanalytic Study of Lawrence Durrell's The Alexandria Quartet: Exile and Return by Rony Alfandary.
- Ian MacNiven--Lawrence Durrell's Endpapers and Inklings 1933-1988, 2 vols. Ed. Richard Pine.
- Veronica Schuder—America Abroad: An Epic of Discovery by David Radavich.
- Charles Sligh—Lawrence Durrell, The Placebo. Ed. Richard Pine and David Roessel

White Mice

David Radavich—White Mice Prize-Winning Poems, 2017-19

Bibliography

Grove Koger—Durrell Bibliography, 2007-10

Deus Loci can be ordered online at
https://lawrencedurrell.org/wp_durrell/deus-loci/

News from Richard Pine at the Durrell Library of Corfu

A NEW DEPARTURE IN DURRELL STUDIES

“Durrell Studies” series from the Durrell Library of Corfu and Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Series editor: Richard Pine

“Durrell Studies” is a new departure in the publishing of essay collections and monographs emanating from the work of the Durrell Library of Corfu, to be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Richard would like to draw attention to the fact that he is open to submissions for “Durrell Studies” - preferably Masters or PhD theses which can be edited into book form.

See: <https://durrellibrarycorfu.wordpress.com/durrell-studies/>

- C.20 – online journal

ISSUE no.3 is now published (3 June 2020). Contents include: “The Alexandria Quartet – a Reconsideration” by Frank Kersnowski

See: <https://durrellibrarycorfu.wordpress.com/2018/10/14/c-20-a-journal/>

Unique Lawrence Durrell manuscript material available for sale/ purchase.

Our attention has been brought to Catalogue 6 of London book dealer Peter Grogan. He advertises for sale:

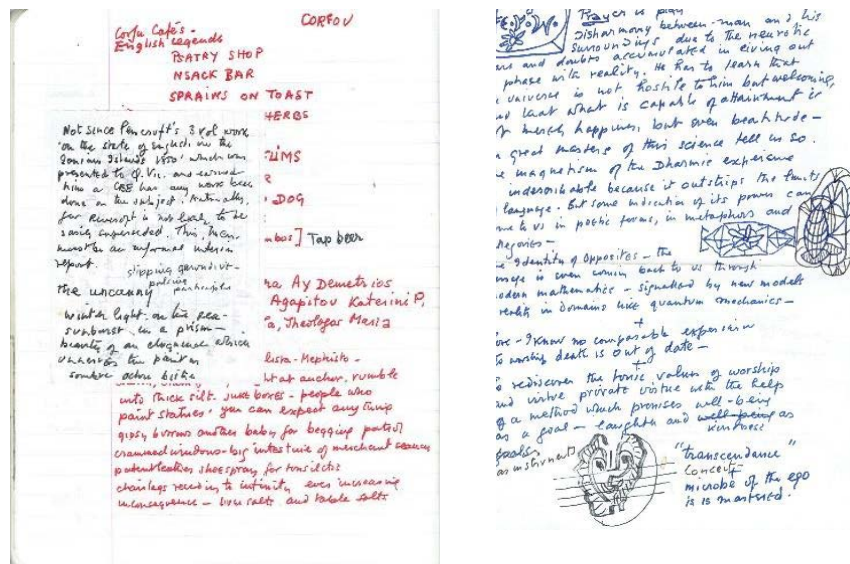
Item 33: Durrell, Lawrence. Two manuscript ‘quarry’ notebooks for ‘The Avignon Quintet and a manuscript preface. £3500.

These manuscripts were one of the lots sold at the December 2017 Sotheby’s auction.

We asked Peter for a link to his catalogue via his website, but he tells us that his web designer died taking his passwords with him to his grave. Here is a scan of the relevant page from the catalogue.

Enquiries

peter@petergrogan.com



The Herald - editorial guidelines and publication dates

The Herald is the newsletter of the International Lawrence Durrell Society [ILDS] – see: www.lawrencedurrell.org/. It will be emailed as a matter of course to all members of the ILDS. It will also be uploaded to www.lawrencedurrell.org/ for free access to any interested reader.

Should a member wish to receive a printed version of *The Herald*, they may contact the editors at newsletter.ilds@gmail.com to make the change.

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Readers are invited to contribute articles, news items, events and details of new publications by or about Lawrence Durrell for future publication in *The Herald*. Articles and contributions should, in the first instance, be limited to no more than 300 words. Unpublished photos or illustrations which may be of interest to readers of *The Herald* will also be welcome provided the editors are satisfied that appropriate copyright consents have been obtained.

Would-be contributors are advised to email the editors (newsletter.ilds@gmail.com) to discuss the scope of their contribution and its suitability for *The Herald*.

All inquiries about *The Herald* should be sent to newsletter.ilds@gmail.com

Copy date for the next edition of *The Herald* [NS] is September 15, 2020 for publication by October 15, 2020.

The views and opinions expressed in *The Herald* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the International Lawrence Durrell Society.