



# *The Wallace Stevens Society*

\* \* \*

## *The Wallace Stevens Journal*

Published for The Wallace Stevens Society by The Johns Hopkins University Press

October 2019

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### PRESIDENT

Lisa Goldfarb  
lisa.goldfarb@nyu.edu

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Glen MacLeod  
glen.macleod@uconn.edu

#### SECRETARY

Florian Gargaillo  
gargaillof@apsu.edu

#### TREASURER

George Burns  
gburns6126@gmail.com

#### EX OFFICIO

Editor,  
*The Wallace Stevens Journal*  
Bart Eeckhout  
bart.eeckhout@uantwerp.be

#### SOCIETY WEBSITE

wallacestevens.com

#### JOURNAL WEBSITE

www.press.jhu.edu/journals/  
wallace\_stevens\_journal

Dear Fellow Stevensians,

Now that the fall semester is under way, we write to reflect on recent events in the world of Stevens studies, and to announce several exciting new projects.

**John N. Serio Award:** First, we would like to acknowledge Sarah Kennedy, winner of the 2019 John Serio Award for her article “‘We reason of these things with a later reason’: Plain Sense and the Poetics of Relief in Eliot and Stevens” (*The Wallace Stevens Journal* 42.1). The essay offers a potent reading of “the temporal dynamics of imagination” in Eliot’s and Stevens’s late poetry and prose. Congratulations, Sarah!

**Recent events:** The past several months have seen a range of scholarly and creative events devoted to Stevens’s life and poetry.

On May 24th, the Society sponsored a panel at the American Literature Association conference in Boston on Stevens and Ralph Waldo Emerson, chaired by Glen MacLeod. The speakers—Kristen Case, Paul Kane, Ben Leubner, and Jesse Zuba—looked at a variety of ways that Stevens’s poetry has responded to this major philosopher and poet. A selection of the papers will appear in a special issue of *The Wallace Stevens Journal* on Stevens and Emerson in Spring 2020.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the second Bogliasco Seminar on Wallace Stevens, titled “Experimental Transformations,” was held at the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy. In this gathering, we departed from our usual scholarly focus, and contributors were asked to present a creative work inspired by Stevens’s poetry and submit it for discussion. The participants were Massimo Bacigalupo, George Burns, Bart Eeckhout, Lisa Goldfarb, Gül Bilge Han, Anna Jamieson, Rachel Malkin, Maureen N. McLane, Edward Ragg, Jahan Ramazani, Paul Scruby, Jane Sharpe, Tony Sharpe, and Laura Slatkin. A selection of these materials will also be included in the Spring 2020 issue of *The Wallace Stevens Journal*.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, The Huntington Library hosted a conference entitled “Sincerely Yours, Wallace Stevens.” The event invited participants to explore the rich collection of Stevens’s correspondence in the Huntington archives, and was the first such conference specifically devoted to the letters. The speakers were Charles Altieri, Milton J. Bates, Bonnie Costello, Bart Eeckhout, Al Filreis, Natalie Gerber, Lisa Goldfarb, Lee M. Jenkins, George S. Lensing, Marjorie Perloff, Edward Ragg,

Lisa M. Steinman, and Juliette Utard. The excellent presentations, which cover a wide array of topics, are slated to appear in two special issues of *The Wallace Stevens* in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

**Upcoming Events and Calls for Papers:** The next several months will prove just as fruitful for Stevens scholarship. It is our pleasure to announce the following events.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, the Hartford Public Library will host the twenty-fourth annual Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash. The guest speaker this year is Langdon Hammer, who will give a talk titled “The Virtual Stevens.” A blurb provided by the Hartford Public Library offers a suggestive preview: “Wallace Stevens’s poetry is concerned with virtual reality—not an artificial reality, but reality as it is made available through Stevens’s art, even while it escapes from his poetry, and is always behind or up ahead of what he is saying.” The presentation will be followed by a book signing, birthday cake, and champagne. We hope you will be able to attend and celebrate Stevens’s birthday with what promises to be a fascinating lecture.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Society will sponsor a roundtable discussion at the Modern Language Association convention in Seattle. Five contemporary poets will reflect on their relationship with Stevens and their understanding of his work. The speakers will be Kate Colby, Monica de la Torre, Aldon Lynn Neilson, Tyrone Williams, and Daphne Marlatt. Al Filreis will serve as chair. The Wallace Stevens Society and Kelly Writers House have worked together on this roundtable, and the event will be videotaped and made available to watch on both organizations’ websites.

The Society will also sponsor a panel titled “Wallace Stevens and Performance” at the American Literature Association conference in San Diego in May 2020. Interested parties are invited to submit a 250-300 word abstract and short biographical note to the organizer and chair of the panel, Hannah Simpson ([hannah.simpson@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.simpson@stx.ox.ac.uk)), by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Topics might include (but are not limited to): Stevens’s playwriting; his public performances of his own work; tropes of performance that recur in his poetry (the actor, the audience, musical performance, dance); theatrical forms that appear in his poetry (the soliloquy, the monologue, the dialogue); the influence of specific performance works or genres of performance on his writing, and Stevens’s own influence on other playwrights and performance artists; the intertextual invocation of Stevens or his work in performance texts; and questions of performance versus reality in Stevens’s work.

**Recent News:** Two very different messages reached us while we were finalizing this newsletter. Please note that Elliot Ephraim is currently selling a wide range of Stevensiana items (including the paintings and artworks owned by the poet, and personal copies of his books) inherited by Peter Hanchak, Stevens’s grandson. If you are interested, we invite you to consult a list of available materials at [www.elliotsbooks.com](http://www.elliotsbooks.com). At [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), you can then enter the item in question and find the price slashed by 50%.

We are sad to have to communicate the news of the sudden death of Dr. Chris Beyers to the Stevens community. A Professor of English at Assumption College, Chris was an active member of the Wallace Stevens Society for many years. He contributed to Stevens scholarship in a variety of ways: at conferences, where he was always energetic and enthusiastic, and through his original articles, which *The Wallace Stevens Journal* was fortunate to publish. Most recently, Chris worked

closely with John Serio on the corrected edition of Stevens's *Collected Poems*. We are grateful for all his contributions, and mourn his passing.

**New Publications:** This month, Gül Bilge Han released her monograph, *Wallace Stevens and the Poetics of Modernist Autonomy*, through Cambridge University Press. The book investigates “the question of autonomy in Stevens’ exploration of the aesthetic and social domains, and the vexed issue of his poetry’s relation to philosophical thinking,” specifically “by showing how multiple socio-political currents underlie and motivate Stevens’ version of autonomy.” Congratulations, Gül, on this achievement!

**Call for Help:** As you can see, the Stevens world is so active that it is quite possible we have overlooked some relevant news items. In the future, if you know of any Stevens-related events or publications that might otherwise escape our attention, please alert our secretary, Florian Gargaillo, at [gargaillof@apsu.edu](mailto:gargaillof@apsu.edu). We greatly appreciate your help.

In closing, the officers of the Wallace Stevens Society would like to thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [lisa.goldfarb@nyu.edu](mailto:lisa.goldfarb@nyu.edu) with ideas, responses, and reflections.

We wish you a happy fall and look forward to being in touch with you again soon.

Best,



Lisa Goldfarb  
President