



The Wallace Stevens Society

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The Wallace Stevens Journal

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Dear Fellow Stevensians,

We hope that this newsletter finds you well. With spring on the horizon, we wanted to look back on some recent occurrences in the world of Stevens scholarship and announce a few upcoming events.

Recent events: On November 2, 2019, the Hartford Public Library hosted its annual Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash, featuring guest speaker Langdon Hammer. His talk, titled “The Virtual Stevens,” presented this thought-provoking argument: “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.”

On January 11, 2020, the Society sponsored a panel at the Modern Language Association convention in Seattle titled “Contemporary Poets on Wallace Stevens: An Open Conversation.” The speakers—Kate Colby, Mónica de la Torre, Aldon Lynn Nielsen, and Tyrone Williams—discussed Stevens’s poetics, addressed when they first encountered his work, and considered his significance and legacy. The panel was chaired by Al Filreis. We are delighted to announce that a video of the roundtable is also available online for free. The video can be found on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA0_Imf7n88) and on the University of Pennsylvania website (<https://media.sas.upenn.edu/file/226751>). We hope you will enjoy their discussion.

Upcoming Events: We are also pleased to announce two conference panels in the coming year.

In May 2020, the Society will sponsor a panel on Wallace Stevens and performance at the American Literature Association conference in San Diego, organized and chaired by Hannah Simpson. The speakers will be Kathryn Mudgett, Wanyu Lin, and Ian Tan. Topics will include Stevens’s drama, his use of speech rhetoric, and the role of walking as a performative art in his poetry. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an exciting discussion.

We are also happy to announce that Stephanie Burt will organize a panel on Stevens and popular culture at the Modern Language Association convention, which will be held in Toronto in January 2021. The panel will address such questions as: “Is Stevens popular? Was he ever? Do artists far from academia, or

far from the circles in which Stevens moved—songwriters, for example, or comics creators, or game designers—draw on his work, or suggest parallels with it? How did Stevens use, respond to, embrace, or distance himself from the new or popular art forms of his own day? Can they help us read him, or he them?”

Recent News: The past few months have also seen the opening of the Wallace Stevens Room, a “mini-museum” devoted to the poet’s life and work. Located in Brunswick, Maine, the room contains some of Stevens’s furniture, *objets d’art* from China, Japanese woodcuts, as well as post-impressionist paintings that he obtained from Paris. The museum hosts live music and readings of Stevens’s work on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information on how to visit the Stevens Room, please consult the museum’s website (<https://www.wallacestevensroom.org>) or contact Alison Johnson via phone (207-522-6760) or email (alisonjmcs@aol.com).

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. 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 with ideas, responses, and reflections.

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

Best,



Lisa Goldfarb
President