



# *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 safe and well. We are pleased to report that the Stevens world has remained as active as ever, despite the challenges of the past year. Below are notes about recent activities, as well as some exciting events on the horizon.

**Recent events:** The Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash, organized by the Friends & Enemies of Wallace Stevens, was held virtually on Saturday, November 7. The event featured a talk by special guest speaker Alfred Corn, a video performance titled “The Blackbird” by puppeteer Blair Thomas, as well as three readings by Glen MacLeod, Karim Ahmed, and Dennis Barone.

The Stevens Society sponsored a virtual panel at the Modern Language Association convention in January 2021, organized by Stephanie Burt. The topic was “Stevens and Popular Culture.” Presentations included Kamran Javadizadeh on the place of banjos in Stevens’s poetry, Zachary Tavlin on Stevens and the operatic, and Rachel Trousdale on the poet’s “dirty jokes.” We were delighted that the panelists had the opportunity to present their work in this alternative format.

**Upcoming Events:** We are pleased to announce that the Stevens panel originally slated for the American Literature Association conference in May 2020, and later canceled due to the pandemic, will be going forward at the May 2021 meeting. The panel, organized by Hannah Simpson, will focus on Stevens’s drama, his use of speech rhetoric, and the role of walking as a performative art in his poetry, with presentations by Kathryn Mudgett, Wanyu Lin, and Ian Tan.

We would also like to draw your attention to a Call for Papers for the 2022 Modern Language Association convention. The Society is sponsoring a panel on Stevens and short literary forms, organized by Diana Leca. The panel will seek to answer the following questions: What sorts of difficulties and unexpected delights lie in short verse forms for Stevens? And what might we learn about his craft from examining his miniatures in more careful detail? Dr. Leca welcomes contributions on short poetic forms such as epigrams, light verse, fables, sonnets, and seasonal poems, as well as prose genres (marginalia, aphorisms, notes and letters). If you are interested, please send abstracts of up to 300 words and a brief biographical note to [diana.leca@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:diana.leca@keble.ox.ac.uk) by March 1, 2021.

**News about the *Journal*:** We wish to welcome Dennis Barone as the new Poetry Editor of the *Wallace Stevens Journal*. Many thanks to Jim Finnegan for serving in this function a full decade. (Indeed, Jim selected over a hundred poems during his tenure.) We are currently expanding our Editorial Board and are pleased with the enthusiastic responses so far. We hope to report on the new members in our next newsletter.

**Publications:** We look forward to the publication of *The New Wallace Stevens Studies*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press this summer. Edited by Bart Eeckhout and Gül Bilge Han, the collection will feature a diverse set of essays with the potential to launch further lines of inquiry.

**Acknowledgements:** The Society sends sincere thanks to John Serio, Honorary Editor of the *Journal* and former longstanding Society President, for his continued support of the Society's work in the years since his retirement. We also want to thank him for his recent monetary contributions, which go above and beyond what we have any right to expect. We are deeply appreciative of his exceptional generosity!


**Donations:** The Wallace Stevens Society welcomes donations in support of its work. Please contact George Burns, the Society's Treasurer (gburns6126@gmail.com), if you are interested in making a donation.

**Call for Help:** As you can see, the Stevens world is so dynamic 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