

NEWS OF PATER SCHOLARSHIP

No. 2, Summer 1978

This issue published at the Department of English
University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

Editorial Note

The first issue of NPS which reached over 100 American and British scholars and institutions has generally been welcomed, and many readers have sent news of current work on Pater and related subjects, and addresses of additional readers as well as suggestions concerning the character and aims of the newsletter. Keep the material coming! Billie Andrew Inman will compile the winter number in Arizona and contributions should be sent to her, but other communications may be sent to either of us.

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Formation of Pater Society

The formation of a Pater Society has been proposed by a group emerging from the 1977 MLA meeting in Chicago. Sharon Bassett, Alanna Brown, Billie Andrew Inman, and Gerald Monsman suggest that an initial organisational meeting for a Pater Society be held at the December 1978 MLA meeting in New York. It is hoped that a program committee will be elected to prepare a proposal for a special session on Pater for the 1979 MLA conference in San Francisco, and that the future of this newsletter can be discussed.

This group also submitted an application for a Special Session on 'The Modernity of Walter Pater: his criticism and idea of culture' for this N.Y. MLA, and planned speakers included Ian Fletcher, Franklin Court, Sharon Bassett, and Gerald C. Monsman, but the application proved (inexplicably) unsuccessful. If you are unable to attend this December 1978 MLA organisational meeting, perhaps you would send suggestions and ideas on these matters to NPS.

Recent Publications

MICHAEL LEVEY's biography, The Case of Walter Pater (Thames and Hudson, £8.50) has recently appeared. As one of the first* full-length biographies of Pater in English for over 60 years, it is of considerable importance. He has researched particularly into Pater's family background and found numerous significant facts, derived from birth and death certificates, census returns, etc. The author focuses on Pater the man as 'an actual, once living personality', and he includes the not previously reproduced pencil portrait of Clara Pater at Somerville College, Oxford. Michael Levey is the Director of the National Gallery, London.

* With Monsman's TEAS Volume. Cf NPS No.1.

THE RENAISSANCE. Pandora Books have reprinted the 1922 New Library Edition volume from the Works, with an introduction by Lawrence Evans (Academy Press Ltd., 360 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago Il 60601. paper \$5 and cloth \$7.50).

L.M. FINDLAY, 'F.T. Palgrave's Notes on Winckelmann', Victorian Studies Association Newsletter, 3 (Fall, 1977), 27-29.

J. HILLIS MILLER, 'Walter Pater: A Partial Portrait', Daedalus, 105 (Winter, 1976), 97-113.

Prose Studies, 1800-1900, edited by Philip Dodd and J.C. Hilson, is a new periodical published at the Department of English, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, U.K., which welcomes articles on Pater. The second number (February 1978) includes pieces on George Eliot's essays and reviews, 1849-1857, William Morris's propaganda style, on T.H. Huxley, and on William Morris.

E.F. BLOCK (Department of English, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233) notes that his thesis (Stanford, Jan. 1975), 'The Transition to Modernism: The Reader's Role in Selected works of Walter Pater, Arthur Symons, W.B. Yeats, and Hugo von Hofmansthal', devotes three chapters to a discussion of reader response in Pater's essays and in 'Apollo in Picardy'.

DR. GEOFFREY JOHNSTON SADOCK's dissertation 'The Ascent to Aesthetic Humanism: the Contemporary Critical Reception of Walter Pater' (DAI No.75-9232) contains a bibliography of work by and about Pater, complete up to Fall, 1973.

New Letters

CYNTHIA CIRILE (32 Pennsylvania Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y. 10707), in the course of biographical research for a dissertation on Pater, has recently discovered eleven Pater letters which do not appear in Evans--seven to Oscar Browning, one to 'Collier', one to T.H. Ward, and two to F.W. Bussell. Another cache consists of 37 letters from Richard C. Jackson to Oscar Browning. Articles will appear in due course.

Dissertations

MICHAEL GALVIN (Department of English, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, NSW 2006) reports a thesis in progress on Pater's dualisms.

Forthcoming Publications

BILLIE ANDREW INMAN announces that Walter Pater's Reading: A Bibliography of His Library Borrowings and Literary References will be published by Garland. The book will incorporate Walter Pater's Borrowings from Queens College Library, the Bodleian Library, the BNC Library, and the Taylor Institutions Library, 1860-1894 (cf. NPS No.1), and will include a list of books from Pater's personal library.

JOHN SPARROW (Beechwood House, Ifley, Oxford) is preparing an edition, with facsimiles, of the manuscript in his possession of the unfinished chapters of Gaston de Latour.

Queries

GAIL WEINBERG (6 Ash Street, Cambridge, Mass 02138, USA), who is preparing a thesis on Ruskin's responses to Renaissance art at Harvard, wants to hear from those working on Pater's art criticism, as she is engaged in comparing Ruskin's responses with Pater's.

Corrections

MARCEL FRANCON (1716 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138 USA) writes: In Gerald Monsman's Walter Pater (Boston, 1977) the account of the second emendation of the 1868 text of the Conclusion in 1873 is mistaken. Whereas Monsman writes 'The second substantive emendation is a translation in English of a passage from Victor Hugo's Les Miserables which is given a different stress in the second version', Pater was in fact translating not Les Miserables but Le dernier jour d'un condamne. Pater used the phrase 'nous sommes tous condammes' in his study of Pascal ¹ also.

Responses to NPS

BERNARD RICHARDS (Brasenose College, Oxford) suggests that NPS be more ambitious, and offers The Ruskin Newsletter as a model. 'This carries news, book reviews, and brief articles. I should think there is enough work on Pater going on in the world to support one -- though it would be in typescript, not printed'. He also advises that we form a Pater Association along the lines of the Ruskin Association.

Contact

SHARON BASSETT is in Britain for the summer working on Pater's unpublished manuscripts. Her address is obtainable from Billie Andrew Inman (see p. 1).

LAUREL BRAKE will be in London for a term until December 15th at 92 Cromwell Avenue, London, N.6.

1. See my paper 'Note sur Rousseau et l'Angleterre', ASJR, 38 (1969-71) 283-85, and my note 'Pascal and Rousseau chez Walter Pater', RoNo, XIV (1972-3), 514-16.

Recent Publications - Addendum

Richard Dellamora, 'Pater's Modernism: The Leonardo Essay', University of Toronto Quarterly, XLVII (Winter 1977/8), 135-150.