To Our Readers:

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. The Society was established in December 1989 to facilitate the study of Ralph Waldo Emerson by those who recognize his overriding importance in his own time and his continuing influence in ours. We welcome notes, comments, reports of research in progress, and short articles. I invite all those who are interested in Emerson to help us make this Society and its newsletter a success.

—Ralph H. Orth, President

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of THE RALPH WALDO EMERSON SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society was called to order by Wesley T. Mott at 3:39 PM on December 29, 1989, in Suite 4066 of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Along with proposed Bylaws for the governance of the Society, advance notice of the meeting was circulated by mail to known friends of Emerson by Professor Mott; notice was also published in the October 1989 issue of PMLA; and the meeting time and place was announced on December 27 at the MLA session sponsored by the Thoreau Society. By universal assent of those present, Professor Mott presided over the entire inaugural meeting.

The following persons were present:

Marie Ahearn, Southeastern Massachusetts Univ., North Dartmouth, MA 02747
Evelyn Barish, Graduate Center and College of Staten Island/CUNY, New York, NY 10023
Ronald A. Bosco, SUNY—Albany, Albany, NY 12222
Robert E. Burkholler, Penn State Univ., University Park, PA 16802
Phyllis Cole, Penn State Univ. — Delaware County, Media, PA 19063
Gary Collison, Penn State Univ. — York, York, PA 17403
Helen R. Deese, Tennessee Tech. Univ., Cookeville, TN 38505
Sterling F. Delano, Villanova Univ., Villanova, PA 19085
Richard Lee Francis, Western Washington Univ., Bellingham, WA 98226
Armida Gilbert, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208
Edwin Gittleman, Univ. of Massachusetts at Boston, Boston, MA 02125
Len Gougeon, Univ. of Scranton, Scranton, PA 18510
Peter Hawkes, East Stroudsburg Univ., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
T. Paul Kane, Yale Univ., New Haven, CT 06520
Michael Lopez, Michigan State Univ., E. Lansing, MI 48824
Julian Mason, UNC—Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223
Joseph McElrath, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306
Wesley T. Mott, Worcester Poly. Inst., Worcester, MA 01609
Joel Myerson, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208
Michael Schulliner, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775
Frank Shuffelt, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627
Nancy Simmons, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061
Dan Stifler, Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, VA 24503
Donald F. Warders, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66046
Sarah Wider, Colgate Univ., Hamilton, NY 13346
Wallace E. Williams, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN 47405
Douglas E. Wilson, 1404 Christine, Anniston, AL 36201

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terms with two members replaced every year, the term of the member named by the RWEMA is renewable.

The following persons, each properly nominated and consenting to the nomination, were elected the first officers of The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society by acclamation:

1. Ralph H. Orth, President
2. Robert E. Burkholder, President-Elect
3. Wesley T. Mott, Secretary
4. Wesley T. Mott, Treasurer

With the unanimous consent of those present, Douglas Emory Wilson was named editor of the Emerson Society Papers. The Society will sponsor two sessions at the first annual conference of the American Literary Association in May/June 1990 in San Diego. A membership of the Society in the Association was unanimously approved. By consent of all present, it was determined that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Society will be in December 1990 at the MLA Convention in Chicago. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

EMERSON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Ralph H. Orth
University of Vermont
President-Elect: Robert E. Burkholder
Pennsylvania State University
Secretary/Treasurer: Wesley T. Mott
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Advisory Board

Ronald A. Bosco
University of New York at Albany
Phyllis Cole, Penn State—Delaware County Campus
Roger L. Greer
Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association
Joel Myerson
University of South Carolina
Barbara L. Packer
University of California, Los Angeles
David M. Robinson
Oregon State University
Albert J. von Frank
Washington State University
Douglas Emory Wilson, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, 1990

Emerson Society Papers is published twice a year. Subscriptions, which include membership in the Society, are $10 a year. Send checks for membership (calendar year) and back issues ($5 each) to Wesley T. Mott, Department of Humanities, Worcester Polytechnic Inst., Worcester, MA 01609.

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ESQ Discount

Members of the RWES are eligible for a 30 percent discount on subscriptions to ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance (or $13.50 a year). To subscribe to ESQ, write to the Editors, Robert C. McLean or Albert J. von Frank, Department of English, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-5020.

American Literature Association Conference

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society will present two panels at the first annual conference of the American Literature Association in San Diego on 31 May-3 June 1990:

Session 1: Chair, Wesley T. Mott (WPI)
"Statistics, Race, and 'Fate'," Barbara L. Packer (UCLA)
"The Road Not Taken: From Edwards, through Chauncy, to Emerson," David M. Robinson (Oregon State Univ.)

Session 2: Chair, Len Gougeon (Univ. of Scranton)
"Resequencing Your Own Work?: Emerson, Thoreau's Arrest, and the Claims of Reform," Linck Johnson (Colgate Univ.)

These panels are the first activity officially sponsored by the RWES, which at its organizational meeting unanimously voted to join the Association. Abstracts of papers will be published in the Fall issue of ESP.
Founding Members

Marie L. Ahearn
Linda Allardt
Margaret Emerson Bancroft
Pedro Beade
J. Delores Bird
Ronald A. Bosco
Robert E. Burkholder
Kenneth Walter Cameron
Eric W. Carlson
Ann Claveaux
Phyllis B. Cole
Helen R. Deese
David Emerson
Mary H. Emerson
Benjamin F. Fisher IV
Armida Gilbert
Shoji Goto (Japan)
Len Gougeon
Julie Greenblatt
Roger L. Gregg
Linck C. Johnson
Lewis Leary
Kent P. Ljungquist
Paul McCarthy
Sanford E. Marovitz

Acknowledgments

Several individuals and institutions generously shared advice and resources that were indispensable in making the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society a reality. Special thanks go to John L. Idol and Julian Mason, of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, and Kent P. Ljungquist, of the Poe Studies Association, for valuable advice on organizational matters; Joel Myerson, for early and continual counsel and for hosting the organizational meeting; and Ronald A. Bosco, for recording minutes of that meeting.

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—Wesley T. Mott