In presenting the 1996 Distinguished Achievement Award to Ralph Harry Orth, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society recognizes the extraordinary contribution to modern scholarship of Professor Orth's devotion to teaching, writing, and editing Emerson and his works throughout his professional career. Educated in New York City elementary and high schools, Professor Orth received his B.A. from Queens College, New York, in 1956, and his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in 1960. Leaving the "Empire State" in his last year of doctoral study, Professor Orth sought out his yet-more-Yankee roots in Burlington, Vermont. Beginning his teaching career at the University of Vermont in 1959, he rose through Vermont's professorial ranks from Instructor to Full Professor, and retired in 1995 as the Frederick M. and Fannie C. P. Corse Professor of English Language and Literature. Along the way, he graced Vermont's classrooms with undergraduate and graduate courses in virtually every major field of American Literature, served as Vermont's University Scholar in 1987-88 and as Visiting Research Professor at the University of Bristol (England) in 1982 and at Stanford University in 1988, and edited or co-edited four substantial volumes of Emerson manuscripts: volume 6 of the *Journals and Miscellaneous Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson* (*JMN*) in 1966; with the late Alfred R. Ferguson, volumes 9 and 13 of the *JMN* in 1971 and 1977, respectively; and with Albert J. von Frank, Linda Allardt, and David W. Hill, the *Poetry Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson* in 1986. A Founding Member of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Professor Orth served as the first President of the Society in 1990-91.

Affectionately known as "the Chief" to many current Emersonians, Professor Orth continues to fill generously the valuable role of mentor and friend to the generation of Emerson editors and scholars who entered the profession of English Studies in the 1970s. Indeed, Professor Orth's

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role as mentor has its origin in his succeeding the late William H. Gilman in 1976 as Chief Editor of the JMN, at which time he recruited a team of new editors to assist the JMN’s few remaining seasoned editors in bringing the sixteen volumes of that edition to a successful conclusion in 1982. As preparation of the JMN drew to a close, he brought together editors he had recruited for the JMN for two large projects which, with the completion of the JMN, were yet outstanding: the aforementioned Emerson poetry notebooks edition and the Emerson topical notebooks edition. Serving as active contributor and Chief Editor to both projects, Professor Orth saw through the preparation of two substantial editions which, as reviewers have enthusiastically noted, complete the promise of Emerson editors well over a generation ago to make available for scholarly use all of Emerson’s major journals and notebooks. With the successful completion of the JMN, the weighty Poetry Notebooks volume (the Emerson scholar’s alternative to a “heavy hands” workout), and the three substantial editions which, as reviewers have enthusiastically noted, complete the promise of Emerson editors well over a generation ago to make available for scholarly use all of Emerson’s major journals and notebooks, the weighty Poetry Notebooks volume (the Emerson scholar’s alternative to a “heavy hands” workout), and the three substantial editions which, as reviewers have enthusiastically noted, complete the promise of Emerson editors well over a generation ago to make available for scholarly use all of Emerson’s major journals and notebooks, the weighty Poetry Notebooks volume (the Emerson scholar’s alternative to a “heavy hands” workout), and the three substantial editions which, as reviewers have enthusiastically noted, complete the promise of Emerson editors well over a generation ago to make available for scholarly use all of Emerson’s major journals and notebooks, the...
The response of nineteenth-century women writers, and particularly the suffragist writers, to Emerson, then, suggests another fact that has been thus far overlooked in the ongoing debate over Emerson's response to women's issues. Like Margaret Fuller before them, the suffragists saw Emerson as one who encouraged intellectual independence and honored their literary status on fully equal terms with men. They appreciated his reverence for the women and young people in his audiences and his efforts to thrust brilliant women into the national consciousness, and they encouraged Emerson to reconsider his position with regard to the abolition movement.

When Emerson considered the insurrections in light of the abolitionists he was reading that summer for inspiration for his own emancipation address, he came to understand that emancipation was the only way to stop insurrection and ensure safety for whites. Ample evidence also suggests that his reconsideration of the "representative, man," that is, the individual who radiates the values and vigor of a historical period, was a personal, deeply felt move. In his address, he applied this technique even-handedly, as much for Shakespeare, Milton, and Wordsworth as for women. Indeed, they recognized, as few contemporary readers have, Emerson's strategy in using this advanced argumentation form to secure the opposition of his opponents, then, to think of him in terms of their own choices, to incorporate his position with regard to the abolition movement.

"The wells where the coy truth lies hid": Emerson on 'Fate' and "The Rule of Life"  
RONALD A. BORCO  
University at Albany—SUNY

As he extended, unacknowledged, personal response to the dark side of the human condition which he recognized readers could draw from "Fate," Emerson's unpublished late lecture "The Rule of Life" (1867) answers "Fate" by repeating several themes from his early idealist works, particularly from "Self-Reliance" and "Circles." In "The Rule of Life," Emerson's "moral element" provides an escape from his heroes; argues conundrum between individual experience and history, and facilitates continuity; and yields inspiration—inspiration moral, inspiration political as in national, and inspiration in the spiritual sense where "anemones of virtue in peace and in private...ken [one's] heart warm...[and] happen every day." ["Never extinct," the "moral element" contributes to the melioration of the human condition—both for individuals and national cultures. Looking to the vast American landscape over which he had traveled on the lecture circuit for many years, Emerson finds that poverty and wealth are relative terms reinforced by an artificial social order, but through labor and wisdom one can distance the apparently "fate" or "death" of social order poverty with a positive one—as in someone building a new life in the American wilds. Perhaps most important of all, the "moral element" defines the need for institutions such as organized religions and for the national past which Americans were ever fascinated at not having in the nineteenth century. In his treatment of American society and politics, the lack of personal and national past enhances the freedom of the individual who lives in a kind of eternal moral now where consolation, if not answers, to the big questions of Life and death, she experience. They knew that he understood their need and right to make such decisions for themselves and would support their choice. Further, as methods of that nineteenth-century women writers are becoming cognizant, they were deeply aware of stylistic concerns. They thus comprehended Emerson's technique of laying forth all the negative sides of an idea before the positive, and they knew that this technique was finely tuned, as for much of Shakespeare, Milton, and Wordsworth as for women. Indeed, they recognized, as few contemporary readers have, Emerson's strategy in using this advanced argumentation form to try to present their opponents with the historical period which he advocated. Emerson thus justified preparing a moving, emotionally charged, pro-abolition speech, because it supported his lifelong belief in the power of the individual and coincided with his emerging concept of the representative man.

"Pierced by the Thorns of Reform": The Woman's Suffrage Movement on Emerson  
ARMED J. GILBERT  
Georgia State University

Several recent commentaries have begun to analyze aspects of Emerson's reaction to the woman's suffrage movement. These critics have generally concluded that Emerson was not a feminist in the sense in which the late twentieth century would use the term, emphasizing his apparent deep ambivalence with regard to women's issues. While this conclusion may seem obvious to contemporary readers, the issue has been made more complex by consideration of the historical context, and particularly by the fact that in Emerson's own time, many women tended to regard him as such a staunch friend of theirs. Indeed, Emerson, and particularly the suffragists themselves, were the most outspoken in their praise and gratitude to Emerson for what they perceived to be his support of women's empowerment, rights, freedom, and equality. These tributes appeared mainly in two areas: literary journals and memoirs, where well-known women writers of the period honored Emerson's influence on women's self-esteem and self-reliance, and the suffragist organ, The Woman's Journal, in which the leaders of the suffragist movement specifically addressed Emerson's role, as they saw it, in the movement's development.
Emerson's great great great granddaughter, Jennifer Emerson, with her Coach Berkeley Duffel Sac," reads the caption. Part of a series featuring "American legacies," the ad informs us on the second page that "Jennifer Emerson is studying to be a nurse practitioner and midwife in New York City. She enjoys reading, running and the great outdoors. She carries the new Coach Berkeley Duffel Sac, handmade of rugged suede and tumble-glove-finished leather..." $248. Her bags are also by Coach.

**Prospects.**

Update on Our Editor, Douglas Emory Wilson

Douglas Emory Wilson, General and Textual Editor of The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson (and Editor of this newsletter), recently had a triple coronary bypass operation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital. He had had a similar (quadruple bypass) operation in 1985. This time he also had a procedure known as a "cather ablation" to cure an aflutter of the heart. He is now recuperating at home and continuing to work on volumes 6 and 7 of the Emerson Collected Works.

**Status Report on Emerson Editions**

Joel Myerson and Ronald A. Bosco, who are editing The Later Lectures of Ralph Waldo Emerson, have found that there is more usable material in this category than they had originally realized. Of the twenty-six lectures they had planned to edit, which belong to the period before 1855, five have turned out to be less complete than they had appeared, and are not suitable for publication in their present form. On the other hand, twenty-six additional lectures, not previously identified, now appear complete enough to be transcribed and edited, and these will extend the edition up through 1867. The University of Georgia Press has granted an extension of the delivery date from September 1997 to March 1998, and the editors are confident that they can meet this schedule. They are applying to NEH for a funded extension of their grant in order to finish editing the additional lectures.

**Reference Works on Transcendentalism**

Published

Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism and Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism, both edited by Wesley T. Mott, have just been published by Greenwood Press. Emerson is the central figure in both books, to which 100 scholars—many of them Emerson Society members—contributed a total of 349 entries. A member's discount flyer is enclosed in this issue of ESP.

**Emerson and Dufel Sac**

Juliet Trofi, of the Walden Woods Project, and Bob Burkholder both bring to our attention a new two-page magazine ad featuring a fashionable young woman standing on a rock in the middle of a pond, her head tipped back rapturously, a red carrying bag held behind her back.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

**WPI Provost Continues Support of ESP**

The Emerson Society is deeply grateful to Dr. Jack Carney, the new Provost of WPI, for his three-year grant supporting partial publication costs of ESP as well as the Society's travel to the Society's annual meeting. Former Provost Diran Apelian, who has returned to teaching and research at WPI in 1989, we wish Dr. Apelian the very best in his new ventures.


- **Editions.**
  - Emerson's Antislavery Writings, Ed. Len Gougeon and Joel Myerson. Yale, 1995. [Emerson's antislavery addresses and public letters, including unpublished and newly edited material.]

- **Books.**
  - Richardson, Robert D., Jr. Emerson: The Mind on Fire. California, 1995. [Comprehensive biographical and critical study, with detailed treatment of Emerson's intellectual development and personal relationships.]

**Articles.**

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**Oregon State University**

**Emerson Society Papers**

- Zwarteveen, Christina. Feminist Conversations: Fuller, Emerson, and the Play of Reading. Cornell, 1995. [An account of Fuller's intellectual accomplishment, stressing the importance of the Fuller-Emerson relationship.]
Abstacts (Continued from page 5)

honest estimate of the manuscript into which he had poured so much of his psychic and emotional life and began rethinking his career. For Emerson either eventualiy was unsatisfactory. As he confessed in a letter to Margaret Fuller, the entire episode had proved to be "an irksome task." However, that Emerson continued to support Alcott for decades to come, in emotional, intellectual, and even material ways, is eloquent testimony to the passion with which he pursued the idea of friendship.

"Hedge's Emerson and Emerson's Hedge: Reminiscences and Recollections of a Lifelong Friendship"

Guy Litton
Texas Woman's University

Most Emersonians are aware of the early friendship between Emerson and his Unitarian friend Frederic Henry Hedge, but few have examined that friendship in detail. Though Emerson and Hedge first became acquainted in 1828, the two did not, contrary to most scholars' beliefs, suffer a "falling out" following Hedge's move to Bangor in 1836. Instead, as a wide variety of documents (from letters to minutes of club meetings to published reminiscences) amply attests, the differences in points of philosophy and theology never kept the two men from maintaining a high regard for one another. Modern scholars have overlooked this important relationship between two of the principal figures of the Transcendental movement in a way that participants in the movement never did. Caroline Dall, for example, testified to the importance of their mutual influence in observing that "the mind of New England was lightened by the thought of Emerson and the scholarship of Hedge," and in her extensive correspondence with Hedge, she had numerous opportunities to learn of the depth of the two men's regard for one another.

This paper draws upon the wealth of published and unpublished material in order to illustrate that, though Hedge always acknowledged that the "difference between us" in matters of theology was "heaven-wide," nevertheless, Hedges's admiration for Emerson and his works was such that in both public and private settings, the former was one of Emerson's most significant champions. In articles for the Christian Examiner, in Radical Club and Examiner Club meetings, and in private conversations and correspondence with scholars, literary critics, and clergy, Hedge's reminiscences and humorous anecdotes about the Concord Sage are balanced by his tireless defense of Emerson's thoughts, making Hedge one of the most influential but least acknowledged individuals to contribute to the rise of Emerson's reputation.

1996 Annual Meeting

President Ronald Bosco presided over the 1996 annual meeting of the Emerson Society in San Diego, Calif., on 1 June. Gary L. Collison and Armida Gilbert were elected to the Advisory Board. Daniel Shealy will remain as Program Chair one more year to enable the Society to establish a three-year term, with the third year a transitional year with the outgoing and incoming Program Chair—the new Program Chair is Len Gougeon. Ralph H. Orth and Joseph Slater were named recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Emerson Studies. Doug Wilson reported on the Collected Works, and Ron Bosco on the Later Lectures. Secretary/Treasurer Wes Mott reported that at the end of 1995, the Society's savings account had a balance of $5,239.69. An anonymous gift of $5,000 has been placed in a special account to be used in planning and conducting a bicentennial observance of Emerson's birth in 2003. Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for 1995 (distributed at the meeting) may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Professor Mott, Dept. of Humanities & Arts, WPI, Worcester, MA 01609-2280.

Bibliography (Continued from page 7)


