

*The Espalier, Time Importuned, Opus 7, Rainbow, Whether a Dove or Seagull, Boxwood, King Duffus, Twelve Poems, Collected Poems, Selected Poems, Lolly Willowses, Mr Fortune's Maggot, The True Heart, Summer Will Show, After The Death of Don Juan, The Corner that Held Them, The Flint Anchor, The Maze, Some World Far From Ours and 'Stay Corydon, Thou Swain', Elinor Barley, A Moral Ending, The Salutation, More Joy in Heaven, The Cat's Cradle Book, A Garland of Straw, The Museum of Cheats, Winter in The Air, A Spirit Rises, Sketches from Nature, A Stranger with a Bag, Swans on an Autumn River, Two Conversation Pieces, The Innocent and The Guilty, Kingdoms of Elfin, Scenes of Childhood, One Thing Leading to Another, Selected Stories, Somerset, Jane Austen, T.H.White, A Biography, Letters, The Diaries of Sylvia Townsend Warner, The Espalier, Time Importuned, Opus 7, Rainbow, Whether a Dove or Seagull, Boxwood, King Duffus, Twelve Poems, Collected Poems, Selected Poems, Lolly Willowses, Mr Fortune's Maggot, The True Heart, Summer Will Show, After The Death of Don Juan, The Corner that Held Them, The Flint Anchor, The Maze, Some World Far From Ours and 'Stay Corydon, Thou Swain', Elinor Barley, A Moral Ending, The Salutation, More Joy in Heaven, The Cat's Cradle Book, A Garland of Straw, The Museum of Cheats, Winter in The Air, A Spirit Rises, Sketches from Nature, A Stranger with a Bag, Swans on an Autumn River, Two Conversation Pieces, The Innocent and The Guilty, Kingdoms of Elfin, Scenes of Childhood, One Thing Leading to Another, Selected Stories, Somerset, Jane Austen, T.H.White, A Biography, Letters, The Diaries of Sylvia Townsend Warner, The Espalier, Time Importuned, Opus 7, Rainbow, Whether a Dove or Seagull, Boxwood, King Duffus, Twelve Poems, Collected Poems, Selected Poems, Lolly Willowses, Mr Fortune's*

## *The Sylvia Townsend Warner Society Newsletter Number Eighteen*

*Maggot, The True Heart, Summer Will Show, After The Death of Don Juan, The Corner that Held Them, The Flint Anchor, The Maze, Some World Far From Ours and 'Stay Corydon, Thou Swain', Elinor Barley, A Moral Ending, The Salutation, More Joy in Heaven, The Cat's Cradle Book, A Garland of Straw, The Museum of Cheats, Winter in The Air, A Spirit Rises, Sketches from Nature, A Stranger with a Bag, Swans on an Autumn River, Two Conversation Pieces, The Innocent and The Guilty, Kingdoms of Elfin, Scenes of Childhood, One Thing Leading to Another, Selected Stories, Somerset, Jane Austen, T.H.White, A Biography, Letters, The Diaries of Sylvia Townsend Warner, The Espalier, Time Importuned, Opus 7, Rainbow, Whether a Dove or Seagull, Boxwood, King*

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The Society's own website is online at  
<http://www.townsendwarner.com>

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER EIGHTEEN

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS: a reminder**

If you haven't yet paid for 2009, please send your subscription to Judith Bond, 26 Portwey Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8RF. The cost for UK members remains unchanged at £10, while the rate for overseas members is \$25. Cheques should be made payable to the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society.

### JANET MACHEN POLLOCK

Members have already been informed of the death of the Society's Patron, Janet Pollock, who died on October 10th last year. About fifteen members of the Society were present at her funeral at Salisbury Crematorium.

It could be said that without Janet's determined and enthusiastic support there would never have been a Sylvia Townsend Warner Society and she continued to give her steady support and encouragement as the Society grew. Janet was also really interested in the twice-yearly events, appearing regularly at the May lunch in the Sailor's Return with two bottles of wine. Once, after an evening meal there one moonless Saturday night, she calmly climbed into her car and drove for a mile up the unlit rough track to Chydyok, the house she leased from the Weld estate. She was well into her eighties at the time.

Janet was lively and funny and bright. She leaves a gap which can never be filled, and we will miss her.

By kind permission of Janet's son Matthew, we publish the full text of the obituary which appeared in an abridged edition in the *Guardian* of January 9th 2009:



My mother Janet Pollock who has died aged 91, qualified as a social worker when she was 55. It was one of her proudest moments; despite her keen intelligence she had little formal education but had been a voracious reader since her early childhood. Born in 1917, 8 months before the Russian Revolution, there was always something of the revolutionary about her and her passionate belief in social justice was something which became apparent in later life.

Janet's father Arthur Machen was already an established author and journalist when she was born. Her mother Purefoy had been a professional actress and they had a happy if somewhat bohemian family life with artists and writers visiting their house in Hampstead and latterly Amersham. Janet's first job was as an actress in Sir. Donald Wolfitt's Company and she worked for a season at Stratford and went on to have several minor roles in London. Her career in the theatre was interrupted by the war and in 1939 she sailed to America where she worked for the British Council in New York, returning by convoy prompted by worry for her much loved parents' health. She worked for the Red Cross in London, eventually travelling to Italy in 1945 to work at the Cine Citta refugee camp where she met my father Roy Davis who was with the Eighth Army. They married in Rome and returned to Bristol to become the proud occupants of one of Bristol's first pre-fabs.

In the early fifties she learnt to repair china and worked for Maxwell's antiques in Park Row. Next came a spell at Henbury Manor school for children with learning disabilities where amongst other things she was

responsible for school dinner money. She got round her deficiency in arithmetic by mastering the nine times table. Luckily the cost of school dinners remained at nine pence for the duration of her time there! It was a natural progression from this to work in social services and she commenced her social work training in 1970 at Bristol Polytechnic. English studies were part of the course and for one assignment in creative writing, she submitted a short story by Arthur Machen in her own name and was very satisfied with the B grade he was awarded.

Her first job as a qualified social worker was at Charlton Park School in London. In 1976 she moved to Dorset with her second husband Martin Pollock and subsequently obtained a post with Wiltshire Social Services.. During this time she received a bouquet from Marge Proops, agony aunt at the Daily Mirror, because one of her clients had written to Marge telling her of the wonderful support Janet was giving her. She relished her career in social work with children and families and managed to work on past her retirement age because of a slight adjustment she made to her date of birth on her first application form. The care and interest she gave the families she worked with was reflected in her friendships. Although often reticent about herself she loved to listen and find out about others.

After retirement she embarked on a number of volunteering projects, which included rattling tins outside Waitrose for the glaucoma association, going to yoga and art classes with young disabled people, supporting cancer patients and their carers. The writer Sylvia Townsend Warner had been her closest cousin and she was delighted to accept the role of Patron of the society formed in her memory. She loved nature and never tired of the amazing Dorset sunsets and in the mornings would often sit up in bed watching birds through her binoculars. She had sustained joy from all of the many cats that became her companions over the years.

Janet loved music and when she played either opera or jazz it was so loud that the window panes shook. She enjoyed frequent trips to the opera and loved a glass of wine and good conversation. She delighted in the very close and loving links she had with all her grandchildren.

She never lost her passionate interest in justice and played a key part in the campaign to prevent Amoco building inland oil rigs on the Dorset coast and frequently visited Greenham Common with bags of food for the women who were living there. A few days after her death when going through her phone

book next to the names of family friends I found, astonishingly, that Guantánamo Bay was listed - but sadly with no number.

She is survived by my sister Catherine and I, our partners, children and grandchild.

*Matthew Davis*

## COOKERY and BOOKS The Society's Weekend, September 2008

Working one year as sub-editor on the Good Food Guide, I necessarily acquired a vocabulary of culinary terms, some then modish, others more classic. Little did I know how handy this knowledge would turn out to be when I joined the STW Society.

As well as a love of literature, members all seem to share an enjoyment of food and drink, and our September weekend began, as our weekends usually do, with a meal - this time at Alibi, a recently-opened Dorchester restaurant. (Members will soon have eaten their way around Dorset.) Wild boar sausages proved popular, and the authors discussed included Arthur Ransome, the writers lampooned in *Cold Comfort Farm* and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Saturday morning saw us in the chandeliered spaces of Dorset County Museum's library, where Judith Bond played us an eclectic and thoughtful selection she had made of recordings of and about Sylvia and Valentine and their work. These included part of Paul Nordoff's sequence *The Lost Summer*: settings of poems written by Sylvia in 1949. Of these, I particularly liked the first, an arrangement of

*Between the blackthorn and the may  
A north wind stole my falcon away.  
Before the cuckoo changed his tune,  
For better, for worse,  
For richer, for poorer,  
Singing in his green arbour, my summer was gone.*

Judith also played some of Fraser Steele's 1978 recording of Sylvia reading

her own poems, and ended the session with the glorious 'My Spirit Sang All Day' which - although it is a setting by Gerald Finzi of a poem by Robert Bridges - has come to be associated for us with Sylvia Townsend Warner. We were, too, pleased to welcome American member Ren Dreyer, who joined us for the day and who, over lunch at the New Inn, Church Knowle, in the Isle of Purbeck, (crab sandwiches, moules marinière, roast lamb and steak), gave a fascinating account of the American presidential election. Barack Obama is actually her senator, so she is living in exciting times. Then we went to Tynham which, as committee members shamelessly confessed, has no real connection with Sylvia at all. Judith Bond saved the day by reading a letter from Lilian Bond, one of the family who owned the estate, to STW. Anyway, we all enjoyed the visit, and the weather was hot and sunny.

We explored the remains of the village, which had been part-destroyed by the military, and then re-assembled with hefty dollops of cement. Tynham House, which we reached by scrambling through Rookery Wood, is in an even worse state. Much of the damage occurred in 1968, when the house was partly demolished by the Ministry of Defence and pillaged by the aristocracy in search of architectural salvage. A partial shell is left; a beautiful ruin among the trees.

And afterwards we went to Worbarrow Bay, wide and ringed with cliffs. Several of our members were caught by the camera going for a paddle, as the sun was still hot, and the water comparatively warm.

In the evening we had our literary meal. Jenny Wildblood has been collecting recipes and other culinary references (of which there are many) from Sylvia's diaries and letters and also from her fiction. As Sylvia didn't seem to have had much of a sweet tooth, showing little interest in puddings, Jenny was obliged to invent her own - a trifle à la Lolly Willowses (with blackberries). This was delicious and was enjoyed, along with the rest of the menu, by ten members. (A description of Jenny's other experiments follows below.) We toasted New York member Jay Barksdale, who was unable to make the trip, but had kindly provided the wine.

Sunday was another wonderfully sunny day, and even warmer than the Saturday. Led by Stephen Mottram, seven of us walked along the valley in Chaldon thought by some (i.e. me) to be the setting for STW's poem 'The Green Valley'. It's a poem which precisely captures the old echoes of the

place. We walked up to Chydyok, once the home of Llewelyn Powys, and up again to the cliffs for a glimpse of the sea.



On the walk back down we stopped at the Old Barn, for a reading from Llewelyn's essay on the now almost vanished building, and moved swiftly on to the churchyard. Here verses about Granny Moxon (from STW's *Opus 7*) were read and two poems by Valentine Ackland ('When I have said "I love you"' and 'Poet'), these latter at the request of Jay Barksdale. And, finally, another meal - at the Sailor's Return - where we sat outside in the sunshine, watched by two oval-eyed feral kittens, who, no doubt, would have delighted Sylvia and Valentine as much as they did our party.

*Judith Stinton*

With thanks to Richard Searle, Stephen Mottram and Jenny Wildblood for helping to make the weekend so enjoyable.

### COOKING THE BOOKS

An intelligent, practical, curious, greedy person is bound to become some sort of a cook. The evidence is that Sylvia became a notable one; technically skilled but also imaginative, even sometimes bizarre in her ideas and combinations.

Clare Harman puts Sylvia's culinary skills down to her mother's teaching; I have to say this seems unlikely. Women of Mrs Townsend Warner's class didn't do this sort of work until the first world war started to rob them of their cooks and maids. Contrary to what the nostalgia industry tells us many women enjoyed being free of the tyranny of that awful figure "The Cook". Maybe Sylvia was taught by her mother, or maybe she found herself in London alone and poor and taught herself from books and tips from friends. The food she writes about sometimes has echoes of the grand Edwardian style of her youth - the strictest and highest of French cuisine. But the fun and interest lies in the sudden surprise when she describes combining two completely unlikely ingredients together. The snuff curry described in "One thing leading to another" is only a slight exaggeration of her usual style. Sadly I couldn't cook this, not without risking nicotine poisoning, but there are plenty of others to rouse a cook's curiosity.

These fascinating ideas pepper her books, particularly her letters. A few notes on her ability to cook a perfect steak for David Garnett are interesting, as they demonstrate technical appreciation and skill, but when I read that her house was full of the smell of gooseberry and chicken curry, I had to try and find out what that strange combination was actually like.

The ideal testers of my attempts to recreate some of Sylvia's ideas were fellow STW Society members, and luckily, it doesn't take much to persuade them to eat. So I offered to cook some of the most typical and interesting of Sylvia's inventions at the September meeting. What follows are notes on the dishes I cooked. No Delia I; these are not detailed plans of how to produce exactly the right results. Take a leaf out of Sylvia's book - be bold and make it up for yourself.

#### *Lentil and Rhubarb soup* -

One of the Invented Soups, a favourite game shared with Antonia Von Trauttmansdorff.

I just made my favourite lentil soup with a mixture of red and green lentils, onions, carrots and vegetable stock, and added a 400g tin of rhubarb for each (roughly) two pints of stock. The season meant no fresh rhubarb was available, but I'm sure fresh will give a better taste - you will probably need less as well.

#### *Chicken in Cider butter*

One of the few actual recipes, straight from Sylvia.

"For roasting or basting a chicken, render down your fat or butter with cider: about a third cider. Let it come together slowly, till the smell of cider and the smell of fat are as one. This will enliven even a frozen chicken."

I served chicken legs basted in the butter, but it does smarten up a whole chicken just as Sylvia describes.

#### *Courgettes with stock*

I didn't give this recipe time enough when I cooked it in September. I have since tried again with much better results. Here is Sylvia's description in a letter to David Garnett:

"...you might like to try my way with courgette. Scrape it and slice it as usual and put it with two-thirds good vegetable stock, one third olive oil, just enough to cover it. When it begins to cook add a handful of garden-mint, chopped roughly, and let it simmer on till it has absorbed the oily stock".

#### *Chicken and gooseberry curry*

I made a rather plain chicken curry with onions, and added a drained tin of gooseberries for each 3lb chicken meat. The result was quite rich. I look forward to making this with fresh gooseberries this summer, perhaps with coconut milk and fresh chillies - the version I made for Society members was kept mild to fit all tastes.

#### *Cabbage with sippets*

From the same letter where Sylvia told David her way with courgettes, this is her way of countering the "spinsterishness" of Brussels sprouts. This was the one thing I cooked at Eileen's house that I hadn't tried before, and it was a revelation. Sylvia made it with Brussels sprouts; until I had a Damascene moment this Christmas I hadn't eaten Brussels sprouts for 20 years, so I made it with cabbage. I'm not sure how Sylvia placed her toast on the sprouts, but I found an excuse to use that lovely word, sippet. A sippet is a little triangle of toast, easy to handle and arrange. Sylvia used proper fried bread, so I hope she forgave me my namby-pamby bowdlerisation.

Cook enough whole Brussels sprouts or shredded good green cabbage for the numbers you are feeding. Cut sippets of toast - one or two for each guest - brush lightly with oil and grill until lightly crisp. Turn sippets over, then spread the other side with a mixture of honey and mustard (half each). Grill lightly till the mixture bubbles a little. Arrange the sippets on your cabbage and serve.

I couldn't find a pudding in my Sylvia library, so I made one up.

#### *Lolly Trifle*

I have a bad habit of random cake-making, when everyone knows that cake has to be made properly with a real recipe. So I have to admit that I can't tell you how to make the cake for this trifle - it was a melting-method cake with two good spoonfuls of Chestnut jam included. I was lucky and it worked.

This was sliced, dipped in sherry and used to line the bowl. The fruit was brambles, with blackcurrant jelly to set. The trifle was finished off with custard and cream, as usual. The reference, of course, is to women being "as common as blackberries".

Thanks to everyone who overcame their misgivings and turned up and ate, and to the excellent Sous Chef who moonlights as editor of this newsletter. Biggest thanks though to Eileen who allowed me to take over her kitchen, went to the shops for all the things I had forgotten and put up with having strange requests barked at her.

I still wish I knew what snuff curry tastes like though...

#### *Jenny Wildblood*

### MAY WEEKEND 2009

#### Friday May 1st

7.30pm. Meet at Alibi, 35 Great Western Road, Dorchester. Please let Richard Searle know if you are coming. (01305 269204).

#### Saturday May 2nd

10am. AGM in the Library of Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester.

#### Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Report on proposed changes to the constitution.
5. Financial/Membership reports.
6. Programme for the rest of the year.
7. Any Other Business.

**11am. (approx)** Presentation by Judith Bond on Sylvia Townsend Warner and MI5.

**12.30pm.** Lunch at Jago's, opposite the Museum. Please let Richard Searle know if you are coming.

**2pm onwards.** Sylvia Townsend Warner and Jane Austen: a stroll around Lyme Regis. Lyme Museum (admission £3) has a small literary gallery, as well as displays of town history and some spectacular fossils. The Jane Austen walk centres on the main street and esplanade, ending of course at the Cobb. There's a good place for tea (with views) and two secondhand bookshops.

**7.30pm.** Meal. We thought that, weather permitting, we would have fish and chips...

#### **Sunday May 3rd**

**10.30am.** Meet at Granny Moxon's cottage (the thatched cottage behind the Sailor's Return) for coffee with the owners, members Penny & David Penton. Followed by a 'witch walk' around Chaldon, led by Judith Stinton

**12.15pm** Visit to Chaldon churchyard to commemorate STW's death day. (Janet's grave is next to that of Sylvia and Valentine, so we can remember her, too.)

**1pm.** Lunch in the Sailor's Return. (Again, please let Richard know if you are coming.)

**Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society held on Saturday 3rd May 2008 in the Mary Ogilvie Theatre at St Anne's College, Oxford.**

**Present:** Stephen Mottram, Eileen Johnson, Judith Bond, Judith Stinton, Richard Searle, Peter Tolhurst, Jay Barksdale, Diane Bithrey, Gill Davies, Sally Hiron, Mary Jacobs, Richard Leigh, Janet Machen, Lynn Mutti, Tess

Ormrod, Graham and Rosemary Pechey, Helen Sutherland, Jenny Wildblood, Ruth Williams.

**1. Apologies:** Winifred Johnson.

**2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM**

The Chairman pointed out that a correction had to be made to Point 7 of the AOB 2007- Jay Barksdale had in fact brought the New Yorker discs to our attention and we had purchased them. The purchase was actually detailed on the 2007 Balance sheet.

This correction made, the 2007 minutes were approved and signed.

**3. Matters Arising:** None.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman spoke first of the acquisitions made this year - the Stonor Letters and, more recently, the VA early poems and letters - and how donations from members had funded their purchase. But, with a growing number of acquisitions, he felt that the Society needed to have an Acquisitions Policy. He had written a draft policy document which the Committee had already seen, and it was hoped that we might finalise the details at the June Committee meeting. But he hoped that anyone with views or advice on the matter would contact him before June 16th. He thought that such acquisitions should be housed at the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester, if at all possible.

The VA papers, which date from 1926/7 were offered to us by Colin House, who had bought them at auction, having recognised VA's handwriting! We felt they were important enough to have, so bought them from him for £500. Judith Stinton thinks they may have belonged to Bo Foster, and is preparing an article on them for this year's Journal.

Peter Tolhurst mentioned here that the Stonor letters will also appear in the next Journal.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported a healthy balance sheet again. There had been a steady growth in membership, and even Amazon had contributed (as they ought) this year, adding £10.56 to our balance. Most of the expenditure is on the Newsletter and Journal, and Judith thanked both Judith S and Peter for their continuing efforts to keep costs down while maintaining the high standards to which we are becoming accustomed. However, postage costs

continue to rise, and Judith wondered whether routine tasks, eg reminders/thanks for subscriptions received might be done more cheaper, as well as more easily, by email.

As to our website, Judith felt that she could update the blog herself, but would like a volunteer, an IT expert, to become the Webmaster.

#### 6. Programme for the rest of 2008

We discussed briefly a likely venue. Peter offered to help if we decided on East Anglia. The Committee will discuss this further at the June meeting.

#### 7. AOB

i Peter wondered whether we should raise subscriptions. Judith B said that for the time being this was not necessary. Stephen felt that we did not want too much in the coffers, because literary societies do not exist merely to buy things.

ii Discussion ensued on having at least an inventory of what the Society holds, which Judith B said would be easy to produce at present, and Peter pointed out that indexes of articles in the journals and newsletters can be seen on our website.

iii Graham encouraged members to join the T.S.Eliot Society, recently founded.

iv Stephen thanked the Committee for all their hard work during the year.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2pm.

### Where is Sylvia?

As the new century gathers pace the guardians of our literary heritage are busy signing off the official record of the last hundred years. Although Sylvia will never be a substantial presence in twentieth century English literature, thanks to the 'assiduity' of Claire Harman, Warner's place in the standard works of reference is today more assured.

There is a brief summary of her work in the second edition of the *Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature* (1987) but the latest edition of the

*Dictionary of National Biography* (2004) carries a much fuller account, by Harman, of Warner's life and work. By 1992 there was still no sign of Warner in the second edition of the invaluable *Oxford Literary Guide to Britain* despite a sizeable entry for Chaldon Herring, devoted entirely to Theodore and Llewelyn Powys. The new illustrated edition of the guide, published last year, goes some way towards rectifying the imbalance, with the addition of a short paragraph on Warner, Ackland and David Garnett, and a new entry for Frome Vauchurch, which states that 'many of her short stories are set in the village.' Were the editors misled by the publication of Warner's *Dorset Stories* in 2006? The importance of her Norfolk connection – Winterton, Sloley and Salthouse – goes unacknowledged but for a short entry under Oby as the setting for *The Corner That Held Them*.

The response of the *Times Literary Supplement* to events in the world of publishing is, to say the least, measured. So, in January this year, it was an unexpected pleasure to read Ali Smith's lead review on Warner's *New Collected Poems* and Ackland's selected poems, *Journey From Winter*, published simultaneously in May last year. 'Unrhymed couplet', the title of Smith's article, is a reference to Robert Frost's wish not to be associated publicly with 'that couplet in England' on receiving a copy of *Whether a Dove or Seagull*, the ill-fated 'exercise in equality' dedicated to him. It also reflects what the reviewer regards as the clear inequality between the two volumes. While celebrating Warner's style and the 'haunting liminality' of her verse, Smith is forced to the conclusion, despite Frances Bingham's 'impassioned reading of Ackland's work' that 'much of Ackland's poetry is a draining experience.' With luck, members will be able to read the full version of the *TLS* review later this year in the *Journal*.  
Peter Tolhurst

### AN INCH FROM THE MILE

While searching (for something else) through one of Dorset County Museum's accession registers, I came across the following list of books, donated to the Museum by Valentine Ackland in 1960:

'The Booke of Common Prayer' (?early 17th century);

'The Genealogies Recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, by J.S.';

'The Holy Bible', 1620, including the Apocrypha;

'Two Right Profitable and Fruitfull Concordances', 1622, collected by R.F.H.;



'The Whole Booke of Psalmes: collected into English meeter, by Thomas Sternhold, John Hopkins and others', 1622.

This volume contains references to John Toogood Hodges, Surgeon and Apothecary, Maiden Newton, and to his family. Also to the Hull family circa 1717, and to Henry Punfold between 1632 and 1658, the year of his death.

Of particular interest in this list is the bible, which the register records as being found by Valentine Ackland in the Salvage Collection made during the Second World War at Dorchester. Thousands of books were used to form a 'Book Mile' as part of the war effort there. This act of patriotic vandalism appalled both Sylvia and Valentine - but particularly the latter, as she was working in the building where the books were collected. STW wrote, 'One day I found her glittering with fury. She had been visited by a breathless mother, boasting that she had carried in for salvage all the books of her fighting son'. (The incident was the starting-point for Sylvia's story, 'English Climate').

The two women managed to persuade the authorities to release some of the books. Sylvia wrote: 'Eventually, thirteen crates of books went to bombed libraries - perhaps the only significant result of our war-working careers.'

There had been some unease about destroying bibles and prayer books 'and a soothing legend was put about that these were done in a separate vat'. One bible at least escaped the destruction, and in 1948 it was rebound - 'keeping as much of the original binding as possible' - but how many rare or beautiful books were lost?

*Judith Stinton*

### ROSAMUND LEHMANN COLLOQUIUM

This conference is based on invited presentations from scholars working on Rosamond Lehmann and is open to the wider academic community. Postgraduate students are especially welcome. The event is one of a series on early twentieth century women writers held at Anglia Ruskin University and follows successful colloquia on Nancy Cunard in 2001, Storm Jameson in 2005, Sylvia Townsend Warner in 2006 and Winifred Holtby in 2007. The aim of the colloquium is to analyse the scope and importance of Lehmann's writings with an emphasis on aspects of her writing about which little has been written. In addition to papers on Lehmann's novels including

*Dusty Answer* (1927), *The Weather in the Streets* (1936) and *The Ballad and the Source* (1944) several contributors will discuss the short stories in *The Gipsy's Baby and Other Stories* (1946). The colloquium will be organised into round table sequences of informal presentations and open discussions. The Convenors will be pleased to hear from others who have worked on Lehmann and wish to speak.

Please e-mail one of the convenors explaining your interest in Lehmann if you would like to contribute or have any questions.

A programme, receipt, map of Cambridge, map of the campus and information about parking, transport and bed and breakfast will be sent on registration. Mary Joannou is Cambridge-based and is happy to answer both practical and academic enquiries about the conference. 0845 196 2049 or e-mail: [Mary.Joannou@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:Mary.Joannou@anglia.ac.uk).

**Please cut out and complete the booking slip below and send it in an envelope marked**

**'Lehmann colloquium' to**

Claire Nicholson, Conference Administrator, Room Hel 151  
Department of English, Communication, Film and Media  
Anglia Ruskin University  
East Road, Cambridge CB1 IPT.

**e-mail: [Claire.Nicholson@student.anglia.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.Nicholson@student.anglia.ac.uk)**

The English Department Administrator, Magda Generalczyk, can be contacted on Tel 0845 196 2080 or by Fax 01223 417707



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I wish to attend the Rosamond Lehmann Colloquium.

**Name** ..... [Prof/Dr/Mr/

Miss/Mrs/Ms]

**Address** .....

**e-mail** ....., **Tel.** .....

**Status** [delete] waged/ unwaged//student/invited speaker/other  
concessionary ..... [Please enclose proof of status if  
claiming a concessionary rate]

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**Disabilities, special needs, dietary requirements** [please explain what  
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and how you would like the organisers to help you]  
.....

I enclose a cheque for ..... [state amount] made out to Anglia Ruskin  
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