

Dear fellow Donne scholars,

We invite you to attend the thirty-second annual John Donne Society Conference, **16 – 18 February 2017** at the Cook Conference Center on the Louisiana State University campus in Baton Rouge. The Conference is sponsored by the University of Connecticut, Seattle University, *The John Donne Journal*, and the Donne Variorum Project. Thanks to the astute leadership of Donne Society President Heather Dubrow, the efforts of the program committee, and the contributions of scholars from around the globe, we have a fine program in store. (See the attached draft.) The program will feature two thematic groupings of panels on “Critical Approaches and Controversies” and on “Donne in Dialogue,” as well as individual sessions on “Preaching and Praying” and on “Literary and Topographical Spaces.” Nigel Smith (Princeton University) will give a keynote address on “Donne and Dylan.” Incoming Donne Society President, Kirsten Stirling (Université de Lausanne, the host of the 2018 conference) will give the 2017 Presidential Address on “Donne’s Ocular Manoeuvres in the Dark.” Finally, we continue a focus to Donne’s lyric poetry with a colloquium on “The Funerall,” the 30th such colloquium to focus on the pedagogical possibilities arising from a focus on a single Donne text. In sum, the program offers something to just about anyone interested in Donne’s life and work. We hope you will attend this 32nd Annual John Donne Conference to share your thoughts and insights about Donne, his contemporaries, and his continuing impact on the world of letters.

For those who are planning to arrive on Wednesday, Heather Dubrow will be putting together an optional tour of Louisiana’s Art Deco capital on Wednesday afternoon. Those interested in going on this tour should contact Prof. Dubrow directly at hdubrow@fordham.edu.

As in the past, we will have a table available for those interested to display their recent books.

The Lod and Carole Cook Conference Center is located just off I-10 and Dalrymple Drive, overlooking the scenic University Lakes in the heart of Louisiana State University’s campus. **As in past years, you must book your room directly through the Cook Hotel. Its telephone number is 225.383.2665. Please make your reservation as early as possible and specify that you are booking for the Donne Conference. Room prices are**

Standard Rooms: 1 King or 2 Double Beds

Single/Double	\$100
3 persons	\$120
4 persons	\$130

Suites: 1 King or 2 Double Beds

Single/Double	\$120
3 persons	\$130
4 persons	\$140

The Conference Center is located at 3848 West Lakeshore Drive and features 128 luxury rooms. All suites have a kitchen and sitting room. Guests may start each day with a complimentary breakfast served in the Shaquille O'Neal Lodge. For more information on amenities, visit <http://www.thecookhotel.com/>. Because room accommodations are limited, we strongly encourage you to share a room with another person (see registration form for additional information about finding a roommate). However, if you need a single room, please **book your room with the Cook Conference Center early**. Rooms will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. In case of an overload, there are nearby motel/hotel accommodations at the Sheraton Hotel or Embassy Suites.

Normally weather is extremely pleasant in the Baton Rouge/New Orleans area at this time of year with temperatures ranging from the 50s to mid-70s. But rain also can be frequent as well.

If you fly into the Baton Rouge Airport, you may take local transportation to the Conference Center. Fares are approximately \$20.00 one-way (Mackie's Cab 225-774-9645). While attendees at past conferences sometimes have flown into New Orleans because the airport connections are more convenient, travel from New Orleans to Baton Rouge can be expensive via bus or cab.

For meals, dues, and registration fee, please fill out the enclosed registration form and mail it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to the John Donne Society to:

Gregory Kneidel
37 Steep Hollow Lane
West Hartford, CT 06107

(This change of address this year is necessary because Prof. Kneidel's university campus is in the process of moving locations.) The registration form also has instructions for paying with a credit card via PayPal.

We hope to see you in Baton Rouge in February.

Cordially,

Sean McDowell
Executive Director

Greg Kneidel
Secretary/Treasurer

Joan Faust
Local Arrangements Chair