

Dear fellow Donne scholars,

We invite you to attend the thirty-second annual John Donne Society Conference, **14 – 16 February 2019** 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 Brent Nelson, 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.) Raymond G. Siemens (University of Victoria) will open the conference with a keynote address on “Donne in the Open: Renaissance Studies and the Renewed Promise of Digital Scholarship.” There will be a session of poster presentations and lightning talks on the digital future of Donne studies as well as other sessions on Donne’s love lyrics, the *Holy Sonnets*, the sermons and other prose, “Donne and Materiality,” the difficulties of reading Donne’s poems, and other subjects. Incoming Donne Society President, Jonathan F. S. Post (University of California, Los Angeles) will give the 2019 Presidential Address on “Feasting with St. Stephen.” Finally, the colloquium this year will address the topic, “Donne and Digital Pedagogy,” with presentations by Brooke Conti (Cleveland State University), Elizabeth N. Bobo (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), and Kirsten Stirling (Université de Lausanne). We hope you will attend.

As in the past, we will have a table available for those interested in displaying their recent books, flyers, and other items of interest.

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*

<b>Double:</b>	<b>\$103 per night</b>
<b>Triple:</b>	<b>\$113</b>
<b>Quad:</b>	<b>\$123</b>

*Suites*

<b>King Suite:</b>	<b>\$123 per night</b>
<b>Double Suite:</b>	<b>\$123</b>
<b>Triple Suite:</b>	<b>\$133</b>
<b>Quad Suite:</b>	<b>\$143</b>

**Please note: Our guest room block will be held until 13 January 2019, after which the hotel will release unbooked room to the general public. So please make your reservations before then.**

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/>. 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

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