

Dear fellow Donne scholars,

We invite you to attend the thirty-fifth annual John Donne Society Conference, **13 – 15 February 2020** 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.

Donne Society President Jonathan F. S. Post and the members of the program committee have assembled a rich, exciting program that showcases the variety of scholarship responsible for enlivening studies of Donne and his contemporaries today. (See the attached draft.) The conference commences on Thursday, 13 February, with a keynote address by Sophie Read (Cambridge University) on “‘Such balmes as else cure everything’: Perfumes and Spice in Donne’s Ideas of Eden.” On Friday and Saturday, there will be sessions on “Peculiar Tropes,” “Theological and Critical Conundrums,” “Unprecedented Particulars,” *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*, and “Time, Antiquity, and Friendship.” John N. Wall (NC State University) will give a presentation on “The Virtual St. Paul’s Cathedral Project,” and there will be a roundtable conversation on “Done with Donne?: Donne’s Relevance in the 21st-Century Classroom.” Incoming President Maria Salenius (University of Helsinki) will give the 2020 Presidential Address on “John Donne’s Soulscape, or A Map to God.” The conference proper (but not the festivities) will conclude with a colloquium on the poem “A Valediction: Of Weeping,” featuring presentations by Greg Kneidel (University of Connecticut, Hartford), Miriam Jacobson (University of Georgia), and James Longenbach (University of Rochester). We hope to see you there.

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

Double:	\$103 per night
Triple:	\$113
Quad:	\$123

Suites

King Suite:	\$123 per night
Double Suite:	\$123
Triple Suite:	\$133
Quad Suite:	\$143

Please note: Our guest room block will be held until 15 January 2020, 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