At the upcoming 2012 Modern Language Association Convention in Seattle (5–8 January), the John Donne Society will sponsor two sessions on Donne, one in collaboration with the International Spenser Society and the other under its own auspices.

45. Spenser, Donne, and the Work of Poetry

In collaboration with the International Spenser Society

Thursday, 5 January, 1:45–3:00 p.m., 619, WSCC

Presiding: Sean H. McDowell, Seattle Univ.

Speakers: Judith H. Anderson, Indiana University; Theresa M. DiPasquale, Whitman College; Heather Dubrow, Fordham University; Anne Lake Prescott, Barnard College; Melissa E. Sanchez, University of Pennsylvania

A conversation about the poetic relations between Edmund Spenser and John Donne. The focus will be on comparing the poet’s attitudes toward the work of poetic making and the shaping of poetic fictions to structure knowledge, perception, and experience; their trans-formations of inherited poetic genres and poetic traditions; and their understanding of the moral or reformative work of poetry.

239. Revising Donne

Friday, 6 January, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 310, WSCC

Presiding: Margaret A. Maurer, Colgate University


2. “Revising Donne in Manuscript and Print,” Tracy McLawhorn, Texas A&M University

Update on the 27th Donne Conference in Leiden

Plans are taking final shape for the 27th John Donne Conference, 26 – 29 June, 2012, in Leiden, the historic city that Donne visited as part of the Doncaster embassy to Holland in 1619–1620. Rich in the history both of Protestantism and of the formation of the Netherlands as a nation-state, Leiden is an ideal setting for us to continue our ongoing conversations about Donne, not only because of Donne’s brief connection with it, but also because it was an important place for other important seventeenth-century English writers as well, especially Richard Crashaw and Sir Thomas Browne. The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Leiden in the Scaliger Institute (http://scaligerinstitute.leidenuniv.nl).

The program committee, chaired by JDS President Raymond-Jean Frontain, is nearly finished with its deliberations, and notifications about the status of submissions should go out in early January. The main base of accommodations for conference attendees will be the Golden Tulip Leiden Centre (http://www.goldentulipleidencentre.nl/) and the Tulip Inn Leiden Centre (http://www.tulipinnleidencentre.nl/). Both hotels are within walking distances of the Scaliger Institute (approx. 10–15 minutes walk). The price per room is €105 (Tulip) and €125 (Golden Tulip), and up to two people may share a room. Breakfast is an additional €16 per night. To obtain the conference rate, registrants must contact the chosen hotel directly and book their reservations with a special code (118618) before 1 February.

For those who may be interested in exploring a bed and breakfast instead, here is a helpful link with possibilities: http://www.bedandbreakfast.nl/plaats/Leiden/en.

Distinguished Publication Awards

The John Donne Society Awards for Distinguished Publication in Donne Studies for 2009 went to Piers Brown for “Donne’s Hawkings” (Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 49.1 [Winter 2009]: 67-86) and to Thomas Festa for “The Metaphysics of Labor in John Donne’s Sermon to the Virginia Company” (Studies in Philology 106.1 [Winter 2009]: 76-99). Congratulations for such strong work!

New Officers

At the 2011 Business Meeting of the JDS, Judith H. Anderson was elected by acclamation to serve as Second Vice President, which means she will become president in 2012. In addition, Helen Brooks, Makiko Okamura, and Peter E. McCullough have been elected to serve three-year terms (2011-2013) on the Executive Committee.
Dues Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership for 2011, you can do so at any time. Please send a check payable to the John Donne Society in the appropriate amount to:

Professor Greg Kneidel  
Department of English  
University of Connecticut--West Hartford  
85 Lawler Ave.  
West Hartford, CT 06117

The dues are: Professors, $50; Associate Professors, $40; Assistant Professors, $30; Adjuncts, Independent Scholars and Retirees, $20; and students $10. Membership includes a one-year subscription to the John Donne Journal.

2011 Officers

Raymond-Jean Frontain, President  
Anne Lake Prescott, First Vice-President  
Judith H. Anderson, Second Vice-President  
Sean McDowell, Executive Director  
Greg Kneidel, Secretary/Treasurer  
Joan Faust, Local Arrangements Chair  
Richard Todd, Local Arrangements Chair

Executive Committee

Kirsten Stirling (2009-2011)  
Anna Nardo (2009-2011)  
Mitchell Harris (2009-2011)  
Achsah Guibbory (2010-2012)  
Jeanne Shami (2010-2012)  
Kate Narveson (2010-2012)  
Helen Brooks (2011-2013)  
Peter E. McCullough (2011-2013)  
Makiko Okamura (2011-2013)  
Tom Hester (John Donne Journal)  
Gary Stringer (ex-officio)  
Brent Nelson (ex-officio)  
Eugene Cunnar (ex-officio)  
Jeffrey Johnson (ex-officio)  
Tracy McLawhorn (ex-officio)

Send any information you would like to see included in future installments of the JDS Newsletter to Sean McDowell. Here’s to a happy, healthy, productive new year for us all!