The Craftsman’s Memory

Professor Emeritus Stuart Levine provides an amusing tale of how to get a scholarly book into print these days – and how long it can take!

“Many years ago--perhaps in the ‘60s or ‘70s--somebody working on Melville wrote to me saying that he had been told that my History and Literature Honors Essay contained a lot of material that could be very useful in his work. Would I send a copy? I don’t remember my correspondent’s name--it wasn’t someone I knew. But I was pleased and flattered. Well, my thesis had been produced before offices had copy-machines. It had been typed by The Misses Littlefield, who had an office above Harvard Square and charged 25 cents a page plus a nickel a carbon, big money in 1954 for a document that size. All I had in Lawrence when the request arrived was the third carbon, a little fuzzy as third carbons are, but legible. Xerox machines existed by then, so, pleased that my grunt-work was going to be of use to someone, I copied the carbon, one page at a time, of course, and mailed it off. Over the years I’ve heard that the thing has circulated a bit. When Marianne Reed phoned me a couple of months ago to tell me about how heavily my pieces on KU ScholarWorks were being used, I told her about The Craftsman’s Memory. She asked to add it to KU ScholarWorks. Shortly thereafter, she emailed me to say that it was getting hits like crazy. The Melville industry is still booming, it seems! (A lot of downloads in China, for some reason.) We decided to make a paper edition available. It now is, with an appendix for truth-in-labeling that tells how it came to be, a most snazzy cover, a color portrait of Herman Melville as a young man, a photo of him as a geezer, and a shamelessly narcissistic self-portrait in watercolors of me done at about the time that I wrote my explanation of how Herman Melville’s novels of the late 1840s and early 1850s are very much present in Billy Budd in 1892.”

Publications

Carothers, James B.

Ellis, Iain

Levine, Stuart

Presentations

Rambsy, Kenton

Accepted for Publication

Bloom, Rachel

Carothers, James B.

Fitzgerald, Stephanie

Calendar

F 31 rEVOLT, an open mic and reading, benefit for Beecher’s Magazine, 8:00 pm, Frank’s North Star Tavern, 508 Locust, Lawrence.

S 1 Reading and Analysis from My Dear Boy: Carrie Hughes’s Letters to Langston Hughes, 1926-1938, as part of The Langston Hughes Creative Writing Awards Ceremony, by co-authors Edgar Tidwell, English, and Carmela Williams, English, JCCC, 7:00 pm, Lawrence Arts Center.

T 4 Environmental Rhetoric Job Presentation #3, “So Much to See, So Little to Learn: Perverting Environmental Discourse with the Wildboyz,” 4:00 pm, Big 12 Room, Kansas Union. Informal reception follows.

W 5 William S. Burroughs at 100: An Offbeat Literary Tribute, local writers (including numerous KU English representatives) read their favorite works by Burroughs, 5:30 pm, Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.

Harris, William J.

KU and Regional Events

• Latin American Seminar, “The Anti-Pedagogy of Trauma: Rethinking Post-Dictatorship Cinema,” Veronica Garibotto, Spanish and Portuguese, 31 January, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Red Hot Research, five presenters from scientific fields whose names are too long and tiresome to type, 31 January, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• CTE Mini-Workshop: Developing an Online Course from Scratch: Some Basics, with Emma Scioli, Classics; and Julie Loats, CODL, 5 February, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig.

• KU Experiential Learning Symposium, 21 February, 8:30 am-1:00 pm, Kansas Union. Event is open to faculty, staff, and students.

• Digital Humanities Seminar, “Ancient Chinese Scribal Hands: Visualizing Scribal Practices in the Fifth-Century BC Wenxian Covenant Texts,” Crispin Williams, East Asian Languages & Cultures, 6 February, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Early Modern Seminar/Latin American Seminar, “Identities in the Iberian World,” Santa Arias, Spanish & Portuguese; Irene Olivares, History; and Mart Vicente, History, 7 February, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.


• Peace, War, & Global Change Seminar, “Kim Il Sung and the Creation of the North Korean People's Army,” Youngjin Kim, Graduate Military Programs, 7 February, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.