

18th Annual Conference The Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society

Friday, April 22 through Monday, April 25, 2016

Conference Co-Directors: H. R. Stoneback (SUNY-New Paltz)
Matthew Nickel (Misericordia University)
Program Co-Chairs: Jessica M. Nickel (Misericordia University)
Daniel J. Pizappi (U. of Tennessee)
Gregory Bruno (SUNY-New Paltz)
On-site Coordinator: Leah Bayens (Saint Catharine College)

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 22

3 p.m. Arrival and check-in: Shaker Village

4:30 p.m. “Songs & Poems on the Dixie Belle”:
Meet outside Trustees building (main office where you checked in) for carpool down to riverboat landing—Dixie Belle departing @ 5 PM. Cruise and dinner on Shaker Village’s paddle-wheel riverboat, passing through the numinous Kentucky River Palisades and High Bridge country

Saturday, April 23

*Morning free to explore the historic buildings and luminous countryside of Shaker Village—
Breakfast and Lunch Saturday is **on your own***

Opening Academic Paper Sessions at Shaker Village West Lot Meeting Area A: Main Floor

Please note that the grounds of Shaker Village are extensive and the West Lot Meeting Area (site of Saturday afternoon sessions and the Saturday banquet) is a very long walk or a very short drive from the heart of the village.

1 – 2:10 p.m. **Session 1: Chair: Jessica M. Nickel**

Jane Keller (University of Baltimore): “SOMETHING OF MYSELF”: Readings from the (nearly completed!) draft of the biography of Elizabeth Madox Roberts
Bill Slavick (U. of Southern Maine): Harriette Arnow: “Probably Wrong on All Counts”
Gregory Bruno (SUNY-New Paltz): Reconciling Romantic Sentiments in *Song in the Meadow*
Victoria Prashad (SUNY-New Paltz): “The sweet soil...black earth, bitter and foul of odor”: The Psychological Self in Nature within *The Time of Man*

2:20 – 3:30 p.m.

Session 2: Chair: Gregory Bruno

Matthew Nickel (Misericordia University): “The earth abideth forever”: Ecclesiastes, Values, and Modernism

Eleanor Hough (SUNY-New Paltz): The Heart of her Hurt and the Heart of her Hate: Representations of Love and Abuse in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ *Black is My Truelove’s Hair*

Daniel J. Pizappi (U. of Tennessee): “You won’t get shed”: Kentucky Homecomings in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ *The Haunted Mirror* and Chris Offutt’s *Out of the Woods*

Jaclyn Houlahan (SUNY-New Paltz): Diony’s Journey: Exploring the Forces that Realize the Self

3:40 – 5 p.m.

Session 3: Chair: Daniel J. Pizappi

Jessica M. Nickel (Misericordia University): “Distance would still remain”: Yearning for Communion in the Works of C. E. Morgan and E. M. Roberts

Mickey D’Addario (SUNY-New Paltz): “Mind, Soul, Spirit, MYSELF”: Ellen, Diony, and Identity

Amanda Capelli (UL-Lafayette): Shadows of the Southern Renaissance: The “politics of location” in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ *My Heart and My Flesh* and Natasha Trethewey’s *Native Guard*

Donald C. Scriven (Scott Scriven & Wahoff LLP, Columbus, Ohio): More Thoughts—and a Few Tribulations—on Collecting Elizabeth Madox Roberts

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7 p.m.

Conference Banquet, Shaker Village, West Lot Meeting Area B: Ground Floor

President’s Greeting, Matthew Nickel (Misericordia University)

Award Presentations & Keynote Speaker

H. R. Stoneback (SUNY-New Paltz, Honorary President EMRS):

C. E. Morgan’s *The Sport of Kings*: A Preliminary Report with Notes on Some Personal Connections and Further Reflections on Roberts and Morgan

9 – 11:30 p.m.

After the banquet: traditional EMRS gathering & songfest at West Lot (Shaker Village)

Sunday, April 24

10 a.m.

Check-out: Shaker Village

10:30 a.m.

Convoy departs for Roncevaux Farm

12 p.m.

Reception at Roncevaux Farm

2:30 – 4 p.m.

Kentucky Writers Day: Penn’s Store, Gravel Switch, KY

Featured Poetry Reading: H. R. Stoneback, “Poems Old & New” & “A Tribute to Kentucky’s Penn Warren—the Only Writer to Win Pulitzer Prizes in both Fiction & Poetry” with readings from his work; poems by Matthew Nickel; readings by Roberts Society members from the works of EMR and RPW and *Kentucky Writers: the Deus Loci and the Lyrical Landscape* (Reading Roberts Series, 2016)

5 p.m.

Fried Chicken / Barbeque Supper in honor of the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, hosted by the City of Springfield Main Street / Renaissance Program and Mayor Wakefield at Mordecai’s Restaurant in downtown Springfield

6:30 p.m. **Tour of “Elenores,”** the Elizabeth Madox Roberts house—hosted by Joan Hamilton

7:30 p.m. Check in: Springfield Inn

Monday, April 25

Academic Paper Sessions at Saint Catharine College The Old Chapel

9:30 a.m. Welcome to Saint Catharine College and Springfield
Dr. Leah Bayens and Dr. Cindy Gnadinger, President (Saint Catharine College), Old Chapel

9:40 – 10:50 a.m. **Session 1: Chair: Matthew Nickel**

Gregg Neikirk (Westfield State U.): Play-ing in *The Great Meadow*: The Dramatic Acts of Settling Kentucky

Jared Young (Oklahoma State U.): EMR, the Naturalist: *The Time of Man* and its Transcendental Narrative

Adam Neikirk (Westfield State U.): The Idea of the Holy and ‘Holy Children’ in Roberts and Wordsworth

Gisèle Sigal (Université de Pau, France): Historicity in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ Short Stories: Insights into the Social Terrain and the Sense of Place

11 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **Session 2: Chair: Christopher Paolini**

Terry Ward Memorial Essay Prize winner:

Alexander Knowles (St. Catharine College): Proletariat Struggle in *Song in the Meadow*

Marc Cioffi (Pacific College of Oriental Medicine): The Legacy of the Pioneers: How Artists Saved the Frontier from Certain Chaos

Peter Camilleri (SUNY-New Paltz): Philosophy and Feeling and Roberts

Jane Dionne (Independent Scholar): *Not By Strange Gods*—a Book of Short Stories by Elizabeth Madox Roberts: A Teaching Guide for Understanding and Enjoyment

Lunch Break: 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:55 – 3:05 p.m.

Session 3: Chair: Goretti Vianney-Benca

Terry Ward Memorial Essay Prize runner-up:

Sara Herbert (St. Catharine College): Class Struggle in “Children of the Earth”

Nathan Lee (SUNY-New Paltz): Peasant Dreams: Storytelling Tradition at Play in *Jingling in the Wind*

James Stamant (Agnes Scott College): Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves: Liminality in *A Buried Treasure*

Zach Stewart (SUNY-New Paltz): Voices Crying in the Wilderness: Speech and Storytelling in *The Great Meadow*

3:15 – 4:25 p.m.

Session 4: Chair: Jared Young

Jessica Jones (SUNY-New Paltz): Relationships and Sense of Place in *The Time of Man*

Elizabeth F. Oxler (UL-Lafayette): The Open Boundary: Place and Space in the Fiction of Elizabeth Madox Roberts and Eudora Welty

Matt Wessels (SUNY-New Paltz): To Till the Ground from which she was Taken: Felix Culpa in *The Time of Man*

Autumn Holladay (SUNY-New Paltz): Folk and Selfhood in *The Time of Man*

4:35 – 5:45 p.m.

Session 5: Chair: James Stamant

Colleen Stewart (SUNY-New Paltz): Weaving Women into the Domestic Sphere

Damian A. Carpenter (East Tennessee State U.): Toward Communitas and Individuality: Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ Folk Heroines and the Emerging Performance of Self

Joseph Curra (SUNY-New Paltz): *The Great Meadow*: Lyricism within Mirror Imagery

Mike Marks (SUNY-New Paltz): No Machine—Just Ellen—in the Garden

6 p.m.

**Annual Graveside Roberts Memorial Reading,
Springfield Cemetery**

8 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting of EMRS, Springfield Inn

NOTE: At Shaker Village, breakfasts and Saturday lunch are on your own. Individual reservations must be made in advance for breakfast Saturday and/or Sunday morning. We are advised that breakfast on Saturday will be heavily booked and Sunday less so. Call Ann Voris @ 859-734-1548. Also call Ann to make individual lunch reservations for Saturday; but remember that our meeting sessions begin at 1PM and it will take some time to get to the meeting location, so a sit-down lunch may mean a very rushed meal. Sandwiches are available on the grounds.

Do not reserve breakfast Sunday morning unless you wake early. On Sunday, we will be checking out of Shaker Village and the convoy will depart @ 10:30 AM from the main parking lot behind the Trustees building for the reception at Roncevaux Farm. Missing the convoy will likely result in missing the reception and the following Kentucky Writers Day program at historic Penn's Store. From Penn's Store, the convoy will move to Springfield for dinner and the tour of the Roberts house (and check-in at the Springfield Inn).