The Kay Boyle Society Newsletter

2013/2

* News *

Publication:


*Mosaic of Fire* examines the personal and artistic interactions of four innovative American modernist women writers--Lola Ridge, Evelyn Scott, Charlotte Wilder, and Kay Boyle--all active in the Greenwich Village cultural milieu of the first half of the twentieth century. Caroline Maun traces the mutually constructive, mentoring relationships through which these writers fostered each other’s artistic endeavors and highlights the ways in which their lives and works illustrate issues common to women writers of the modernist era.

The feminist vision of poet-activist and editor Lola Ridge led her to form friendships with women writers of considerable talent, influencing this circle with the aesthetic and feminist principles
outlined in her 1919 lecture, "Woman and the Creative Will." Ridge first encountered the work of Evelyn Scott when she accepted several of Scott's poems for publication in *Others*, and wrote a favorable review of her novel *The Narrow House*. Ridge also took notice of novice writer Kay Boyle shortly after Boyle's arrival in New York, hiring Boyle as an assistant at *Broom*. Almost a decade later, Scott introduced poet Charlotte Wilder to Ridge, inaugurating a sustaining friendship between the two.

*Mosaic of Fire* examines how each of these writers was energized by the aesthetic innovations that characterized the modernist period and how each was also attentive to her writing as a method to encourage social change. Maun maps the ebb and flow of their friendships and careers, documenting the sometimes unequal nature of support and affection across this group of talented women artists.

* C F P's *

The Kay Boyle Society panel session at the American Literature Association
25th Annual Conference

May 22-25, 2014

Hyatt Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20001

*Kay Boyle at 25*

For the 25th anniversary of the ALA, the Kay Boyle Society invites contributions on early Kay Boyle, a topic deserving close attention, as recent scholarly work indicates. We encourage papers examining Boyle’s American background — including her literary friendship with Lola Ridge, William Carlos Williams and Marianne Moore — as well as new investigation into her first novel *Process*. Boyle’s early years in France — including her collaboration to American and expatriate little journals — is also of foremost interest. The aim of this session is to shed new light on these formative years so as to show how they influenced Boyle’s decisions, as an American writer and citizen, but also as a woman. We welcome papers questioning these issues in relation with Boyle’s early prose, poetry, and letters, or with her later autobiography (*Being Geniuses Together*).

Papers proposals should be sent by January 15th to Anne Reynes-Delobel, anne.reynes@univ-amu.fr

*Other panel proposals are very welcome* (another slot can be added).
* Conferences *

**EAM 4: Utopia**, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland 29-31 August 2014
http://www.eam-europe.be/node/24

**MSA 16: Confluence and Division**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, 6-9
http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa16/

**Modernist Communities** The Inaugural International Conference of the French Society of Modernist Studies * 25-26 April 2014 * Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3), France * keynotes: Jessica Berman (University of Maryland) and Linnell Secomb (University of Greenwich)
http://www.univ-paris3.fr/modernist-communities-228294.kjsp

‘Modernism Now!’ International Conference organized by the British Association for Modernism Studies * 26-28 June 2014 * Institute of English Studies, London, UK * keynotes: Jacqueline Rose (Queen Mary, University of London) and Tyrus Miller (UC Santa Cruz)

**Journal of the Short Story in English** announces a call for papers for an upcoming special section—“**Affect and the Short Story (Cycle)**” * essays by 1 June 2014 * contact: Fiona McWilliam (Florida State University), fmm09@my.fsu.edu and Paul Ardoin (Florida State University), pa09d@my.fsu.edu

* History of the society and membership *

The Society, established in 2006 at the American Literature Conference (ALA) in San Francisco, is intended to honor and study the life and literary achievement of Kay Boyle.

The Society organizes a panel and business meeting each year at the annual ALA conference.

The Society is also an affiliate of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW).

It also encourages other scholarly activities aimed at spurring new interest in Boyle Studies.

We want to thank members for their continuing support and to invite those of you who have never joined the Society to join. Membership fees are $20.00 and checks
should be sent to Christine Hait, the current treasurer of the society, English Department, 1301 Columbia College Dr. Columbia, S.C. 29203. chrishait@columbiasc.edu

The KBS website is hosted at the Université de Fribourg, Switzerland and updated by Thomas Austenfeld:
http://homeweb1.unifr.ch/austenfe/pub/KBS/KBS.htm