

ROBINSON JEFFERS NEWSLETTER

Number 1

November 19, 1962

SOMETHING NEW

In order to keep members of the Committee and National Council informed of developments, this is the first of a proposed series of newsletters to be issued on an occasional basis.

DINNER AND EXHIBITION, November 8, 1962.

In attendance for the opening of the present special Jeffers exhibition in Mary Norton Clapp Library were Mr. and Mrs. Donnan Jeffers, Mrs. Jehanne Carlson, and Mr. Theodore M. Lilienthal from northern California. On loan from Tor House through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers, is the Jo Davidson bronze bust of Robinson Jeffers. Also shown is Jeffers' diploma from Occidental College; first and foreign editions; letters, manuscripts, and photographs. The exhibition will continue through the month of November.

Following dinner in Freeman College Union, the objectives of the Committee, as presented by Mrs. Frank H. Bennett, Chairman, were received with warm approval by all those present. For the benefit of those persons receiving this newsletter as the first mailing about the Committee, these objectives may be summarized as follows:

1. Establish a center for bibliographical inquiries and studies at Occidental College Library, which already has an excellent Jeffers Collection; and strengthening of these materials by further acquisitions of manuscripts, letters, etc.
2. Encourage the compilation and publication of a major Jeffers bibliography. To commission such a work and to underwrite its publication will call for approximately \$7,500.
3. Encourage the publication of Jeffers' complete works, also in great demand by teachers and students.
4. Possible establishment of a Robinson Jeffers Memorial Lecture series, dependent upon raising a capital sum of \$150,000.

* *

The present constituency of the National Council was announced as follows:

Merle Armitage
Eric Barker
Dr. John W. Caughey
Bennett Cerf
Babette Deutsch
Robert O. Dougan
Dr. Fraser Drew
Dr. Richard Ellmann
Hannah D. French
Donald C. Gallup
Col. Allen Griffin
Dr. Gilbert Highet

William R. Holman
Dr. Hamilton Jeffers
Dr. Joseph Wood Krutch
The Rev. William Turner Levy
Oscar Lewis
The Rev. Benjamin Miller
Fr. William J. Monihan
Maud Oakes
Rollo Peters
W. W. Robinson
James Rorty
Dr. C. Easton Rothwell
Lloyd Tevis

It was also announced that in the spring of 1963 Random House will publish Jeffers' last poems.

The evening's program, received enthusiastically by all those present, included readings from Jeffers' poetry by Dr. Janet Bolton and Mr. Leland Roloff; they were preceded by a most illuminating address on Jeffers by Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell. The remarks of Dr. Powell will be available in published form later in the year and distributed to Committee and Council members.

SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions have been received and are under consideration by the Executive Committee, who would like to have an expression of opinion from you.

1. Changes Committee's name. Several persons have questioned the use of the word "recognition", thinking it may sound apologetic or perhaps lend to a misunderstanding of the Committee's objectives. Please let us have your suggestions on this point. Would "Robinson Jeffers Committee" suffice?

2. Dr. Gilbert Highet suggests that colleges and universities be encouraged to set up lectures and discussion groups on Robinson Jeffers in the spring of 1963 and make tape recordings for FM stations in their areas.

3. Reverend William Turner Levy proposes a regularly issued Newsletter to contain queries, editorials, and reviews; also, a volume of essays about Jeffers and his poetry.

4. Exhibitions. Word has been received that the San Francisco Public Library and the Grolier Club have in mind Jeffers exhibitions in their future plans. Exhibits in the spring of 1963 can be coordinated with lectures as proposed under item 2 above.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Two meetings of the Committee are planned in the near future. In southern California the Committee will meet at Occidental College, Tuesday, Nov. 27. Plans have tentatively been made for a Carmel meeting of northern California Committee members on December 7 at 2:00 p.m.

HELP ON MAILING LIST

In order to contact as many interested persons as possible all members of the Committee and Council are urged to send the Secretary the names and addresses of any persons, institutions, publications and/or organizations which ought to receive future mailings. Address all correspondence to: Tyrus G. Harmsen, Secretary-Treasurer.