

ROBINSON JEFFERS NEWSLETTER

Number 8

Robinson Jeffers Committee  
Occidental College  
September, 1964

Dear Members and Friends:

This has been a most productive summer, good newswise.

First in importance, Ted Lilienthal has persuaded the San Francisco Public Library to celebrate the opening of their new Rare book Room on October first with an exhibition of the works and manuscripts of Jeffers. This will draw good publicity and a large attendance. The announcement reads: "The Frances & Theodore Lilienthal collection of the works of Robinson Jeffers, including first editions and manuscripts, will be exhibited in the Rotunda (second floor) of the San Francisco Public Library from September 26 to October 30, 1964. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sponsored by The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library."

Another Robinson Jeffers Council member, James D. Hart, plans to edit and publish the correspondence of Jeffers and George Sterling. He needs your help in locating missing letters from Sterling. If you have information on these, please write Professor Hart at the Department of English, University of California at Berkeley.

Professor Hart also writes that he has seen the proofs of the Sierra Club publication and that it is beautiful. We hope to give you the publication date in our next letter.

Ann Ridgeway and Father Robert Brophy, who have both done extensive work visiting libraries across the country to list Robinson Jeffers letters and manuscripts, visited us this summer. Also Madame Helena Berger of Bordeaux, France, who was at Occidental College this summer gathering material for her thesis.

These are three dedicated and intelligent young persons for whom we should all be most grateful. The results of their efforts will probably be more practical and fruitful than all the rest of us put together.

Madame Berger told us of the work of Czeslaw Milosz of the Department of Slavic Literature at Berkeley who is translating Robinson Jeffers into Polish.

A charming addition to collection of Californiana is a reprint from The California Librarian of an address given by Lawrence Clark Powell, called "The Lure of California." Again he pays tribute to Jeffers: "As Dana is the prose master of the coast, so is Jeffers the poet laureate. In him the Lord gave us a poet to match our coast. In the power and beauty of his vision, and in the noble clarity of his language, Robinson Jeffers is our supreme poetic spokesman."

Lee and Donnan Jeffers and their four children are on their way to Ireland where they have rented a house for a year. Donnan completed the work of connecting Tor House with his own house, and it has been rented to friends who will, we have been assured, cherish it.

Eva Hesse writes from Munich that she is deep in work on her next Jeffers volume and has completed the translation of THE FALL OF AN AGE. She also mentions Frederic Carpenter's useful little book." Eva needs help in identifying "the mountain sun-cup Tassajara." I've been unsuccessful in finding it listed in the botanical books at hand. The flora and fauna of California is the biggest stumbling block for Jeffers' translators.

Tyrus Harmsen is making inquiry about having our Newsletter copyrighted.

We hope to include a collection of personal anecdotes and appraisals of Jeffers and/or his work from authoritative sources - - you! This should also make our Newsletter of far greater interest and value, not only to members of our Committee, but to collectors, teachers, and librarians.

Dame Judith Anderson is again ensconced on her beautiful hill-top at Carpenteria after a visit to London where she made a recording of Rex Warner's adaptation of MEDEA. She was deeply disappointed to be unable to use Jeffers' MEDEA.

Please send us your news and your Jeffers reminiscences.

Sincerely,

Melba Berry Bennett,  
Chairman