

## *Robinson Jeffers: Religious and Literary Perspectives*

*Many of the most important studies of Jeffers published over the years have treated the poet, in one way or another, as a religious figure: Robert Brophy (1973) investigated myth-ritual structures in Jeffers's narrative poems and verse dramas, and William Everson (1988) examined Jeffers's work in relation to the religious thought of Rudolf Otto; more recently, Robert Zaller (2012) has located Jeffers's conception of the literary sublime within the historical and theological context of American post-Calvinism, and George Hart (2013) explores Jeffers's "sacramental poetics." While there is widespread agreement, then, that Jeffers and his writings are in some sense "religiously" significant, there remains little to no scholarly consensus as to what it means to talk about the poet or his writings "religiously."*

*The Robinson Jeffers Association seeks participants for a panel discussion on "Robinson Jeffers: Religious and Literary Perspectives," to be held in conjunction with the American Literature Association Annual Conference in Boston, Mass., May 21-24, 2015. Participants will present a short paper (15-20 minutes) offering their own particular methodological perspective on the connections between Jeffers's poetry and religious or theological problematics. The primary aim of the discussion will be to think, collectively and self-critically, about (a) what light Jeffers scholarship may shine on the posited links between religion and literature in general as well as (b) what light the study of religion and literature, as a disciplinary model or framework, may shine on the figure of Jeffers. A*

*secondary aim will be to further the RJA's goal of increasing Jeffers's profile within the academy.*

*Richard A. Rosengarten, Associate Professor of Religion and Literature at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will respond.*

*Members interested in taking part in the panel should email Brett Colasacco ([brettc@uchicago.edu](mailto:brettc@uchicago.edu)) no later than **Monday, January 26, 2015**. Please include your full name and institutional affiliation, along with a brief statement of the substance of your proposed paper and, if possible, a tentative title.*