

The D. H. Lawrence Society

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Edited by David Brock



D.H. Lawrence around the World: South African Perspectives. Edited by Jim Phelps and Nigel Bell. Empangeni: Echoing Green Press, 2007.

D.H. Lawrence Studies, October 2012. Edited by Michael Bell, Virginia Hyde and Nak-chung Paik. The D.H. Lawrence Society of Korea.

Review by Jonathan Long

I am reviewing these books together as I am adding them to the D.H. Lawrence Society library. They are unfortunately not widely available but should certainly be consulted.

'D.H. Lawrence around the World' is one of a number of books that look at contributions to Lawrence studies, in this case by South Africans. The book is of particular interest because of the perceived lack of participation by South Africans in conferences and of course South Africa's historical lack of involvement generally in international affairs. Fortunately editor Jim Phelps is a particular exception to this rule and has been a frequent contributor to international conferences. He is also a significant contributor to this volume.

Only this year he was in attendance at the Paris conference. Part One of 'D.H. Lawrence around the World' is an engaging retrospective, principally relating to the teaching of Lawrence in nine South African universities and his changing reputation and significance. Not surprisingly, a number of the contributors left South Africa to pursue careers abroad. Those known to readers of this newsletter include Leavisite JCF Littlewood, Christopher Heywood, HM Daleski and Mark Kinkead-Weekes (the last two Harry T Moore Award winners). Following this retrospective material, Part Two consists of reprinted articles published between 1969 and 2000, including essays by Phelps, Kinkead-Weekes and Heywood. Part Three includes a handful of new essays from current South African scholars, with Part Four containing poems by Norman Morrissey and Jim Phelps, each influenced by Lawrence. Part Five completes the book by listing articles, letters and reviews on D.H. Lawrence published in South African journals plus Masters and Doctoral dissertations/theses on D.H. Lawrence at South African universities. The editors deserve great praise for putting together such a focused collection, revealing a great commitment to Lawrence, a collection that should be consulted by all those with an interest in South Africa or Lawrence.
