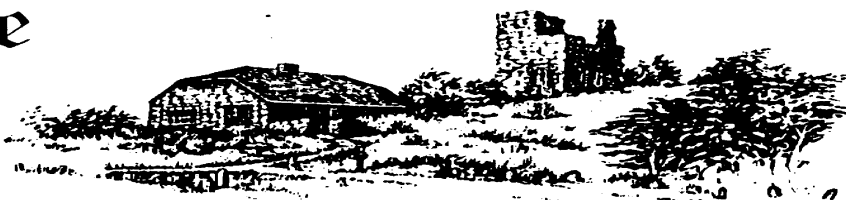


Tor House Newsletter



Spring 2022



ROBINSON JEFFERS

Tor House

GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY
May 1, 2022
2-5 pm

Live Music
Refreshments
Entertainment

Explore & Photograph
Jeffers' Hand-built Home,
Hawk Tower & Gardens
26304 Ocean view Ave
Carmel CA 831.624.1813
Admission \$20
Photography permitted
*Proof of full vaccination and
masks required indoors.*
Please No children under 10

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH M RUSSELL

Illustration by Deborah Russell at www.PeridotFineArt.com

The Point Alma Venus Manuscripts

In January, thanks to the Stanford University Press and the careful scholarship of Tim Hunt and Rob Kafka, *The Point Alma Venus Manuscripts: Preliminary Versions of The Women at Point Sur* was published. The years 1921 to 1927 were the most productive of Robinson Jeffers's career. During this period, he wrote not only many of his most well-known lyric poems but also *Tamar*, *The Tower Beyond Tragedy*, *Roan Stallion*, and *The Women at Point Sur*—the long poems that first established his reputation as a major American poet. Including an introduction, chronology, and critical afterword, the *Point Alma Venus* manuscripts gather Jeffers's four unfinished but substantial preliminary attempts at what became *The Women at Point Sur*, which Jeffers believed was the "most inclusive, and poetically the most intense" of his narrative poems. The Point Alma Venus fragments and versions shed important light on the composition and themes of *The Women at Point Sur*. Further, they likely predate other key work from this crucial period, making them a necessary context for those who wish to clarify Jeffers's poetic development and to reinterpret his practice of narrative poetry. Ultimately, they call on general and scholarly readers alike to reconsider Jeffers's place in the canon of modern American poetry.

The new addition to Jeffers scholarship is available on Amazon and other on-line vendors, and from your Tor House Bookstore, at a discount for THF members and donors. The text is also available free, with temporary sampling at the Online Digital Book Library Likosherbbq.org. Check the events page at www.torhouse.org for details about the January 27 webinar discussion of this publication and the *Travel Diaries* (see next page).

We're Back, Baby!

The Tor House Spring Garden Party 2022

Sunday, May 1st 2-5 PM at Tor House

26304 Ocean View Ave, Carmel, CA 93923, 831-624-1813

Purchase \$20 tickets at the party, cash or credit accepted.

After three years, the Garden Party has returned. Once again there will be Music, Poetry, Refreshments and the garden in full bloom. This is an opportunity to visit and take snap shots, at leisure, without a guide (though docents will be available to answer questions). Most activities will be outside.

Stay safe when visiting Tor House. Proof of Full Vaccination Required. Please mask up when indoors at Tor House. Dress in layers. Our Pacific Coast weather is fabulous, but it can be changeable.

Some views of past Garden Parties



Robinson Jeffers Family Travel Diaries: Volume One: British Isles, 1929

Tor House Press announces, with great joy and pride, the publication of the complete 1929 Travel Diaries of the Jeffers family, edited by **Deborah Sharp**, retired Tor House Trustee..

In 1954 a limited edition of the diaries, with excerpts hand-picked by the poet, was published by Ward Ritchie Press. This new edition fills in the gaps and offers the reader a unique glimpse into the life and travels of the poet, his wife, Una, and their two teen-aged sons beginning June 6, 1929 when, chickens and pigeons having been boarded out to neighbors, their friend, Jimmie Hopper, gave them a lift to the station in Monterey, past, as Una notes, “gorgeous colored acres of sweet peas and nasturtiums.” The family left at 6:42 PM on a grand six-month journey from California to rainy Montreal and then across the Atlantic to Ireland and the United Kingdom. Each member of the family kept a record of the adventure, Una almost daily, Jeffers frequently, and the twin boys, 12 years old, soon to be 13, not so much. But their parents were diligent taskmasters, and for that we are thankful. In Ireland they rented a cottage near the sea in the hamlet of Knocknacarry near the hardly larger village of Cushendall, in County Antrim, north of Belfast in what is now Northern Ireland. Once settled in, they took their newly purchased 1928 Ford Sedan and set out to explore the Emerald Isle at a time of transition, after the terrible beauty of the 1916 Easter Uprising, but long decades before the Troubles of the 1970s that left Ireland deeply scarred and sometimes divided. The volume is a treasure trove: a tour of tourist sites and places of literary pilgrimage, the family seeing, and, sometimes not seeing, the Irish people in their ordinary lives at a time when the destinations they visited were not yet scarred by international tourism – a quiet time between two periods of discord. They afterwards journeyed across the Irish Sea to, as Robin expressed it, the “Mounds of the dead. And great high cairn” of Culloden Moor, past the standing stones near Inverness, and on south into the traffic jams of London. All of it was witnessed through the discerning eyes of Una, the hawklike gaze of a major poet, off guard and with his family, and the particular interests of two preteen boys, one drawn to the natural beauty of the journey and the other entranced by the romance of Europe that would mark the rest of his life. In Dorset they mused on the burial place of Hardy, Una shopped at Yardley’s in London, and on October 7th they had tea with Virginia and Leonard Woolf (Hogarth Press being Jeffers’ British publisher). Leonard remembered the visit in his own letters saying, “We enjoyed your visit and look forward to the possibility of another. Perhaps if some day we come to America and California, you may allow us to visit you.” The visit never did happen. The Jeffers family sailed back to America, Donnan in his stateroom writing a novel (Was it completed? Is it in the Tor House archives, as are the travel diaries? What a find that would be.) In any case, the family returned home where, on December 31, 1929 Una noted, from the window of a train, that they “Awoke in a greener world; there has been one rain here northwards, though several weeks ago.” Typical Californians, longing for rain in a drought year.

A unique visit to Europe that emphasizes the human viewpoint often missing from scholarly accounts. Nothing like a diary, and certainly nothing like a diary of four diverse Americans, rambling through Europe almost a century ago. The *Robinson Jeffers Family Travel Diaries, Volume One, British Isles, 1929* is available at the Tor House Bookstore (with discount to members) and, of course, on Amazon. A treat not to be missed if you love Jeffers, if you love the British Isles, or travel or even just plain people watching. And more will follow. A Volume Two is planned. We look forward to its arrival.



NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (December 2021 – March 2022)

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS (\$250)

McCall Events, Inc
Gregory Schopen
Peter Serchuk

SPONSOR MEMBERSHIPS (\$100)

Stephen & Linda Bailey

Janet Bohannon

Eric Bolt & Georgia Hughes

Eric & Teresa Del Piero

Frankie Delpappa/ Michele Cobb

William B. Donovan

George Galakatos

Conell & Nancy Gallagher

Albert & Barbara Gelpi

Mack Arthur Gunther

Christine Hunsley

Frank & Barbara Keith

Robert & Diane Reid

Florence Snyder-Speck

Jerl Surratt

Joseph Swaminathan

Lynn Yaghoubian

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, SENIOR, STUDENT AND DOCENT MEMBERSHIPS

Robert & Melinda Armstead

Barbara Babcock

Jeff & Starr Barrow

David & Carole Brooks

Barbara Bullock-Wilson

Nancy Collins

Ollie Collins

Dale Ditsler

Thomas Doerk

Diana Dunn

Karen Dunn-Haley

Carole Erickson

Douglas Ferguson/Nancie Brown

Charles Greifenstein/Alison Hicks

Susan Groff

Julius & Peggy Guccione

Bernice N Hearn

Susan Hinde

Jerry Huling

Neal & Ash Inglenook

Lindsay & Myoung Jeffers

Darrell & Elizabeth Kastin

Robert Keats

Sheila Doyle Kiernan

Paul W. Kroll/Amy Strickland

Suzanne LaHaye

Camille & Michael Liscinsky

James & Christine Maguire

Dwight & Susan Marshall

Thomas McGovern

Lisa Meckel

Reb Monaco

Douglas & Julie Moore

Francis Olson

Vito & Deirdre Palmieri

James & Linda Paul

Arthur Paull

Justin Purtill

Charles Rodewald

Lawrence Ruth

Patricia Sanders

Peggy Schmidt

David Stanley/Elizabeth Holliday

Richard Stanley

Peter & Donna Thomas

Bradley J. Vogel

Teri D. Winton

Carol Young

William Zeigler/Jan Penney

[Please note, listings reflect only new and renewed memberships and contributions since the Winter Issue of the Newsletter. Generally, the Spring Issue lists memberships and contributions for December, January, February, and March. There are no listings in the Summer Issue because of space constraints (Poetry Prize winners are published in the Summer Issue). The Fall Issue contains memberships and contributions from April through September of any given year, and the Winter Issue lists October through November memberships and contributions.]

Save the Date: The 2022 Fall Festival in Carmel is set for the weekend of October 14-16. Check the Tor House website at www.torhouse.org for the latest details.

CONTRIBUTIONS (December 2021– March 2022)

Contribution (To \$1000)

Anonymous
Douglas Borer/Judith Stiles
Robert Kafka in Memory of Kyuja Kafka
Roderic & Peggy McMahan
Don & Laura Newmark
Gregory Schopen
Deborah Sharp
Fran Vardamis

Contribution (\$250)

Susan Lynn Day
Ingrid Deiwiks

Contributions (\$100 to \$250)

Anonymous
John & June Armstrong
Stephen & Linda Bailey
Michael & Ranjana Clark
Dale Ditsler
Margaret Eaton
William Gilly/Susan Shillinglaw
Lindsay Jeffers
Dennis King/Leona Ure
David Ligare/Gary Smith

H. Vee Mahoney
Annette Pendleton
Lee & Shirley Rosen
Timothy & Jane Sanders
Peter & Michele Serchuk
Gloria Souza/Sandie Borthwick
Francis & Leigh Toldi
JeanineTana Ziess

Contributions (to \$99)

Anonymous
David Awerbuck/Astrid Day
Anna & Emanuele Bartolini
Ben Boychuk
Barbara Bullock-Wilson
Kay Burbidge
Kurt Brux/Patricia Fashing
Patricia Busk
William & Anne Carwile
Lorna Clearbout
Tom Disher
Hugo & Karen Ferlito
Leslie Foote
Albert & Barbara Gelpi
Carole Erickson in Honor of Joyce Vandevere and Nancy McClintock
Web & Rebecca Stiles in Honor of Doug Borer
Larry Woodfill/Susan Raycraft in Honor of Moe Modena, Robert Bly & Alice Larsen

Mack Arthur Gunter
David Hemmings
Betty Matterson
Francis Olson
Larry & Connie Pettinger
Mary Pommerich
David Ohanesian/Susan Krivin
Timothy Smith/Kristin Markus
Richard Stanley
Katherine Stoner/Michelle Welsh
Beatrice Thornton
Magnus & Mary Lu Toren
Georgi Van Dam

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FOUNDATION

New Edition of *The Loving Shepherdess*: Klára Kalvas, from Prague reports that she is “honoured to introduce a new Czech-English edition of Robinson Jeffers’s *The Loving Shepherdess* translated by his life-long friend, Kamil Bednář. This beautiful book is accompanied by a preface by Lindsay Jeffers. It is a unique reminiscence of his grandfather Robinson Jeffers. Last but not least there is a detailed study - a postface by Robert Kafka describing the friendship over the ocean, and differences between the Czech and American reception of Robinson Jeffers’s work (the photo of Kamil Bednář and Donnan Jeffers in Prague is included). Its cover is an illustration painted by respected Czech artist Miloslav Moucha. It brings this little book to a higher level as an artifact. For the Czech reader *The Loving Shepherdess* is a symbol of enormous and unlimited Kindness, which is always needed, not only in this restless and hopeless world with the war in Ukraine. Kindness that may "dissolve" the misunderstandings and traumas. Kindness that is literally healing. This book wouldn’t be published without the kind contribution of the Robinson Jeffers Association. Publishing House Dauphin [website:czechlit.cz] thanks Ron Olowin, Robert Kafka, and Lindsay Jeffers for their selfless help, partnership and huge patience. Special thanks are extended to the late Robert J. Brophy for his inspiration.”

Exhibit by Artist Enrique Martínez Celaya: Following a Marathon of Exhibition Openings in Los Angeles, Artist Enrique Martínez Celaya brings “The Fire of Heaven, his Ode to Robinson Jeffers” to the Monterey Museum of Art. on May 12 through October 9, 2022. The paintings and sculpture of Enrique Martínez Celaya, inspired by and in conversation with Jeffers’ life and work, are shown alongside Jeffers’ rarely seen archival materials. Spanning two decades of the artist’s career, this exhibition demonstrates the impact and longevity of Jeffers influence on Martínez Celaya’s practice. In 2019, Enrique Martínez Celaya completed an inaugural Fellowship at Tor House and Hawk Tower. The Fire of Heaven includes paintings and works on paper created during and in response to his stay. Martínez Celaya draws from specific Jeffers writings, such as the 1928 poem, “The Summit Redwood,” which serves as the exhibition’s namesake and describes “the fire from heaven” as a force untamed and ignited at whim. This fervor and flame ebbs in and out of Martínez Celaya’s work, which includes twenty-eight original drawings, paintings, and one sculpture. The display is anchored by Jeffers’ handwritten poems, notes, and photographs, on loan from Occidental College. Grounded in the power of place and a shared pursuit for truth, this exhibition invites audiences to siphon the limitations of comparison and engage with of the elemental truths of art and existence. Preceding The Fire of Heaven, Martínez Celaya has enjoyed a significant run of showings and solo exhibitions in Southern California. Born in Cuba and raised in Spain and Puerto Rico, the California based artist now works and resides in Los Angeles. His exilic life and connection to the sea is inextricably linked to his art and a lifelong quest to crystallize and master the allusivity of life’s meaning. Regardless of theory or medium, he is a philosopher in endless search for knowledge and answers. Through religion, physics, literature, and art he has studied the interconnectivity of all things, acknowledging that no single approach on its own could suffice. Martínez Celaya supplements his art with numerous volumes of writing and literary prose and is collected and exhibited by institutions in the States and in Western and Eastern Europe. He is a Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth College, the first person to hold the position of Provost Professor of Humanities and Arts at the University of Southern California, and the first fellow of the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation.

Don’t miss this remarkable exhibition at the Monterey Museum of Art, 559 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940. The museum is opened Thursday – Saturday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. For additional details check the Tor House website or the museum’s website at www.montereyart.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

For your leisure reading pleasure.

Your editor has come across two well-reviewed books that might be of interest to fans of Carmel, pre-Jeffers, and of 20th Century poetry. One of them purports to be non-fiction. The other is a novel of suspense. Who knows, perhaps both of them are the unvarnished truth. *The Gilded Edge* by Catherine Prendergast, English Professor from Urbana, goes behind the legend and investigates the “true” story of the George Sterling generation of Carmel artists and writers. Thankfully Jeffers never appears. The well-researched novel, *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P* by Lee Kravetz, of San Francisco, moves on to New England and analyzes the lethal influence of the legendary “Mad Poet” Robert Lowell. You can probably imagine where this is going. The gossip is plausible, the famous names are named – except, mercifully, for the villain of the piece who is only identified by a pseudonym, and no, spoiler alert, it is not Ted. Here opposite coasts of the country are united in poetry, madness, addiction of one sort or another, and, to be sure, suicide. Both tales end badly. Except that all the participants in both works are dead, one wonders how the authors get away with their reshaping of reality. One also wonders what either author would do with the raw material in the *Travel Diaries*, described on page 3, or in the Collected Letters reviewed in earlier editions of this Newsletter. Nevertheless, the books are entertaining reads - except if you have to watch your blood pressure and if you’re a fan of Sylvia or of the Carmel Bohemians/Real Estate Developers. Not that that should disturb us. Jeffers was never into confessional poetry. And, as Prendergast argues, there probably aren’t any fans of George or Nora Mae left.

* * * * *

THE LAST WORD FROM JEFFERS

See page 3 to meet Jeffers, the tourist and travelling dad and husband. And then marvel at the magic Jeffers gleans from the raw material of his visit to Culloden Moor.

SHOOTING SEASON

in the north of Scotland

The whole countryside deployed on the hills of heather, an army with banners,
The beaters whoop the grouse to the butts.
Three gentlemen fling up their guns and the frightened covey is a few wings fewer;
Then grooms approach with the panniered horses.
The gray old moorland silence has closed like water and covered the gun-shots.
Wave on wave goes the moor to the great
Circle of the sky; the cairn on the slope names an old battle and beyond are
Broad gray rocks the grave-marks of clans.
Blond Celtic warriors lair in the sky-line barrows, down toward the sea
Stand the tall stones of the Danish captains.
We dead that handled weapons and hunted in earnest, we old dead have watched
Three little living gentlemen yonder
With a bitter flavor in the grin of amusement, uneasily remembering our own
Old sports and delights. It is better to be dust.

From *Descent to the Dead* (1931) Hunt II, 122.



**Robinson Jeffers
Tor House Foundation**
P.O. Box 2713 • CARMEL, CA 93921

Officers: 2020

President: Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts

Vice President: Norris Pope

Treasurer: Arthur Pasquinelli

Melinda Coffey Armstead

Board Members:

Lacy Williams Buck

Rob Kafka

John Varady

Gere diZerega

James Karman

Fran Vardamis

Vince Huth

Susan Shillinglaw

Aaron Yoshinobu

Aengus Jeffers

Alan Stacy

Trustees Emeriti:

Al Giovanni

Lynn Stralem

Lindsay Jeffers

Christopher Williams

Administrative Assistant: Melinda Bowman Manlin

Newsletter Editor: Fran Vardamis

Tor House Office (831) 624-1813

e-mail: thf@torhouse.org

website: www.torhouse.org

Office Open Mon, Tue, Thurs: 9-2

Spring 2022

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check one:

- Full-time student/TH Docent \$25.00
- Senior 30.00
- Individual 50.00
- Couple 70.00
- Sponsor 150.00
- Patron 350.00
- Lifetime 1000.00

My payment for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel/FAX: _____

e-mail: _____

Please make check payable to:
TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION
Mail to: PO Box 2713, Carmel, CA 93921
Consult Website for on-line payment

Your contribution assists in the preservation of the unique home of the poet, Robinson Jeffers, and in community outreach programs.

Membership benefits include:

- ◆ Free tours of Tor House
- ◆ 10% discount on merchandise
- ◆ Advance invitations to coming events
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter

**ROBINSON JEFFERS
TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION**

Tel: (831)624-1813

thf@torhouse.org www.torhouse.org