

T. E. Lawrence Society Symposium 2014

**St. John's College, Oxford
26-28 September 2014**

Programme

Friday 26 September

In the Footsteps of Lawrence

James Dyer with Cadet Warrant Officer Elaine Seow and Cadet Sergeant Henry Terry of 2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron Air Training Corps give an illustrated presentation of their recent expedition in Jordan.

A Lawrence-Inspired Photographic Journey through Syria and Lebanon

Philip Neale

The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion

St Peter's Players

In a first for a Society symposium, on Friday evening we will be staging a play about Lawrence in conjunction with local theatre group, St. Peter's Players. The idea of presenting a play was originally put forward by Society member Andrew Wright. Over four years he doggedly researched for a suitable play, chased up permissions and copyrights, and after a number of false starts, found a theatre group willing to perform the play at the symposium.

The Oxford Roof Climbers' Rebellion is a play by Stephen Massicotte, performed by St. Peter's Players and directed by Clare Winterbottom. Two heroes return home from the First World War. Lawrence is a leader without an army, Robert Graves is a poet who can't forget. Suffering the aftermath of war and foreseeing the dawn of new ones, the Benevolent Order of Oxford Roof Climbers lays siege to a sleepy university town. A stand against stands, a dare to end all daring, a doing that protests doings; the two haunted men, armed with a talent for practical jokes, grasp at love and dare to imagine a new world. Despite its harmless beginnings, the play brings the Arab Revolt dangerously close to the heart of Empire.

Saturday 27 September

Welcome from the chairman Philip Neale

T. E. Lawrence, Thomas Hardy and The Dynasts

Jacqueline Dillion

T. E. Lawrence wrote that it was *The Dynasts*, Thomas Hardy's epic verse drama about the Napoleonic wars, which most appealed to him. This talk will suggest why *The Dynasts*, a now largely forgotten work, particularly drew Lawrence to Hardy. It will then explore the unique

literary friendship which emerged between Lawrence, Hardy and his young wife Florence, herself an author. These three inspired each other as writers as well as individuals: the Hardys encouraged Lawrence in publishing *Seven Pillars*, and Lawrence had hoped to edit Hardy's autobiography, *The Life of Thomas Hardy*. The legacy of their literary friendship lives on and continues to inform our reading of all three authors.

Jacqueline is an American PhD student from St Andrew's University and has worked closely with both the National Trust and the Thomas Hardy Society. During her research, she became the Scholar in Residence at Max Gate, the Hardy home in Dorchester, sleeping in Hardy's bedroom and writing her paper in his study, whilst she carried out her research. Her PhD thesis has just been presented.

Arab Memoirs from the Arab Revolt

Dr. Eugene Rogan

Since the 1960s, a number of diaries and memoirs of Arab participants have been published across the Arab world to provide, in the words of Jordanian historian Suleiman Mousa, an 'Arab view' of Lawrence and the Sharifian guerrilla war against the Ottomans. This paper surveys a number of Arab accounts by participants of the Arab Revolt - from Iraq, Syria and the Hijaz - as well as some accounts by those Arabs who sided with the Ottomans in fighting the Sharifian army. These accounts balance the ideological motivation of Sharifian officers with the opportunism of the tribes they sought to recruit to their cause, and portray the British and French missions to the Hejaz more as protégés than as role models.

Eugene is no stranger to the Society symposia, having presented papers at past events, the last one being in 2010. He is a fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. He took his B.A. in economics from Columbia, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern history from Harvard. He taught at Boston College and Sarah Lawrence College before taking up his post in Oxford in 1991, where he teaches the modern history of the Middle East. He is author of *The Arabs: A History* (Penguin, 2009), which has been translated into nine languages and was named one of the best books of 2009 by *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*. His new book, *The Great War in the Middle East*, is due to be published in Autumn 2014 and we hope to have copies available at the Symposium for Eugene to sign.

Filming T. E. Lawrence

Professor James Chapman

This presentation will explore the role of film in promoting the 'legend' of T. E. Lawrence. From the travelling shows of Lowell Thomas to David Lean's magisterial epic film of 1962, film arguably did more to present the personality and exploits of 'Lawrence of Arabia' to the public than even Lawrence's own writings. The presentation will discuss the aborted attempt to film *Revolt in the Desert* following Lawrence's death, by the Anglophile Hungarian producer Alexander Korda, a project which was abandoned due to political interference from the highest levels of government.

James Chapman is Professor of Film at the University of Leicester and is the editor of the *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*. His research focuses on the histories of British cinema and television, and his books include *The British at War: Cinema, State and Propaganda, 1939-1945*, *Past and Present: National Identity and the British Historical Film* (2005), *Licence To Thrill: A Cultural History of the James Bond Films* (2007), *War and Film* (2008), *Inside the Tardis: The Worlds of 'Doctor Who' – A Cultural History* (2013), and with Nicholas J. Cull (University of Southern California), *Projecting Empire: Imperialism and*

Popular Cinemas (2009) and Projecting Tomorrow: Science Fiction and Popular Cinema (2013). He was a significant contributor to the Radio 4 programme on Lawrence, broadcast at the end of 2012.

Private Press Printing with Reference to T. E. Lawrence
Dr. Miles Wigfield

This paper will explore and define private press printing and consider to what extent Lawrence was or was not a private press printer. Writing and fine printing were two of his most enduring ambitions. In his youth, inspired by the work of William Morris, Lawrence planned with his friend Vyvyan Richards to set up a private press. He also admired and studied contemporary printers and his library contained many private press books. Lawrence's ambitions and output in relation to private press printing will be examined.

Miles Wigfield is a retired medical practitioner who founded his own small private press - The Reading Room Press - in 2002. He is an honorary member of the Society of Wood Engravers and currently chairman of the Oxford Guild of Printers.

Question and answer session with the speakers on the day's papers chaired by Philip Neale

Symposium dinner in St John's College dining hall

Our after-dinner speaker will be renowned broadcaster and best-selling author Clive Bloom.

Sunday 28 September

An 'Acute Attack of Lawrencitis': Lady Kathleen Scott's Friendship with the Lawrence Family
Alison Jolley

In 1921, Lady Kathleen Scott - widow of Antarctic explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott and by now a well-known figure in her own right as a sculptor of prominent personalities of the day - became the only female artist for whom T. E. Lawrence posed during his lifetime. Kathleen formed close friendships with many of the men she met and modelled, and Lawrence was no exception. This talk aims to give an insight into the relationship that developed between the two as he sat for her - an 'acute attack of Lawrencitis' that ended only when a critic of Lawrence planted doubts in her mind. Kathleen also became acquainted with the rest of his family, and for a brief time she lived with their mother Sarah ~ but had to move out when the two strong-minded women could not get on.

Alison Jolley's interest in the heroic age of polar exploration was sparked off by a book of Herbert Ponting's photographs of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's second Antarctic expedition. In 2010, an invitation to sail to the Antarctic with descendants of Scott's explorers on a centenary voyage led her to give up a 20-year career as a financial journalist. During the voyage, she lectured on the Manchurian ponies used in Scott's attempt on the Pole, then on return to terra firma set off for a period of travel, research and writing. In 2012, she gave a presentation to a joint meeting of the T. E. Lawrence Society and Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute on links between the lives and writings of Lawrence and Apsley Cherry-Garrard of Scott's expedition.

The Lecture League

Adam Gotch

Laurence Gotch, Adam's grandfather, worked in the EFF HQ in Cairo from 1917-1919 as a Topographical officer reporting to General Allenby. Gotch returned to Kettering in 1919 and trained as an architect in his uncle's firm. Having seen the Lowell Thomas shows in London, he decided to imitate The Uncrowned King of Arabia and started touring in Northampton. Permission had been granted by T. E. Lawrence, who allowed Gotch to copy sections of the first edition of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* for lecture notes. Laurence Gotch started touring on his own, using glass slides and maps. He joined a lecture agency named The Lecture League and toured the UK. This paper examines a key moment in 1920/1921 using five letters T. E. Lawrence sent Gotch describing the fall of Akaba, and supporting his enthusiasm to promote the Lawrence legend.

Adam Gotch studied film at the Royal College of Art, and for 30 years was the film researcher for BBC Newsnight. He is currently researching his parents' life in the British Council, which started in 1939, when they cycled from London to Athens. Their career from the 1940s to 1975 was captured on 16mm film, photographs and even sound recordings of plays they produced. He has made a 40-minute film on the British Council in Iran filmed from 1959 to 1965 by his father Paul Gotch which includes the Susa archaeological site, Persepolis and the Qashqai tribe.

Fateful Encounter: T. E. Lawrence and Lowell Thomas

Dr. Carol Lea Clark

The fateful encounter between Lawrence and the American Lowell Thomas, as well as the impact their meeting had on both their lives, is a case study in how a legend is created - something new in the early 20th century, experienced by only a few non-royals such as aviator Charles Lindberg, who found his fame a mixed blessing. The talk will be illustrated by slides to include Harry Chase photographs and artwork from Thomas's blockbuster multi-media show about Allenby and Lawrence.

Carol Lea Clark is an associate professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso, where she teaches rhetoric, non-fiction writing, and digital humanities. In 2008-09, she held a Fulbright Teaching Award in Jordan and taught American Studies and English at the University of Jordan in Amman. Dr. Clark is the author of *Clash of Eagles: America's Forgotten Expedition to Ottoman Palestine*, Lyon's Press (2012), which tells the story of America's 1848 naval expedition to explore the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The New York Public Library awarded her a short-term fellowship in 2011 to research the book. Dr. Clark earned a Ph.D. from Texas Christian University in 1993 in Rhetoric and Composition. She has also published nine textbooks and books about the internet, a variety of scholarly articles and some 50 magazine articles.

Finding Happiness: T. E. Lawrence in Carchemish

Anthony Sattin

Happiness is not always associated with Lawrence and he once said he was the most happy with his life when working in Carchemish. This paper looks at his early life as an archaeologist, the influences of Hogarth and his desire to distance himself from his mother as a young man. It also describes his pleasure gained from the responsibility and freedom in running a team of workers.

Anthony Sattin is a journalist, broadcaster and the author of several highly acclaimed books of history and travel, including *The Gates of Africa*, *Lifting the Veil* and *A Winter on the Nile*. He has been described as one of the key influences on travel writing today. His award-winning journalism on travel and books has appeared regularly in the *Sunday Times*, *Financial Times*, *Conde Nast Traveller* and publications around the world. Anthony has also written and presented on television and radio, including several high-profile documentaries for the BBC. His latest book, *Young Lawrence*, about the years TEL spent in the Middle East before World War I, will be published by John Murray in August 2014, and we hope to have copies available at the Symposium.

Question and answer session with the speakers on the day's papers chaired by Pieter Shipster

The T. E. Lawrence Society Annual General Meeting