The Patricia Cremins Lecture

FROM THE INKWELL
TO THE INTERNET:
DICTIONARIES IN AMERICA

PETER SOKOLOWSKI
editor-at-large, Merriam-Webster

Friday, April 20, luncheon 11:30 am
lecture 1:00 pm

See page 6 for details
Edward Lear was in many respects a true Victorian eccentric. Born into an enormous family, the youngest son of fifteen surviving children, he found himself earning his own living when his father was imprisoned for debt. He took a job with the Earl of Derby, who was looking for an illustrator for a description of his private menagerie at the family seat of Knowsley Hall. To amuse the earl’s children, Lear took to writing nonsense verses, particularly short five-line poems that came to be known as limericks, and illustrating them with line drawings of a kind that children might produce. Lear’s limericks repeat as their last line a variant of the first line, but Lear’s imitators soon deviated from that form. Lear also wrote longer poems — “The Owl and the Pussy-Cat,” “The Pobble Who Had No Toes,” “The Jumblies” and numerous others. His excursions into prose included such works as “The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World” (called Violet, Slingsby, Guy and Lionel) and “The History of the Seven Families of the Lake Pipple-Popple.” He produced a series of nonsense recipes, an assortment of nonsense alphabets, nonsense botanical drawings (smalltoothcombia domestica, phatfacia stupenda, etc.), and other pieces of immortal nonsense. His chief serious contribution to the arts, however, was his work as a landscape artist. Today his works, primarily topographical paintings of locations in Italy and elsewhere, hang in many of the major art galleries (including the Yale Center for British Art).

The year 2012 is the 200th anniversary of Lear’s birth on May 12th, 1812. The Presidents’ College has decided, in its somewhat perverted wisdom, to mark the occasion with a reading of Edward Lear’s work on the University’s Community Day, Saturday, April 28. We will need readers for the occasion: see the announcement elsewhere in this issue. We’re also organizing a Limerick Competition. Here’s an occasion for the aspiring Shakespeares among us to shine. Send your limericks to pcollege@hartford.edu.

Also coming up on April 20 is a very special event: a lecture by Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster’s editor-at-large, preceded by a luncheon. This will be the occasion of the first Patricia Cremins Lecture, an event that we hope to organize every year to honor the memory of the founding director of the Presidents’ College. I have a hunch that Pat, a stickler for the English language, would have been delighted by Peter’s topic. I’m quite certain, by the way, that she would have thoroughly enjoyed our tribute to Edward Lear....

Humphrey Tonkin

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said ‘It is just as I feared!—
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard.
Upcoming Programs
Spring 2012

Wednesdays, Apr. 4, 11, 18
The Aesthetics of Dance
Stephen Pier
In this guided demonstration, Stephen Pier and members of Hartt Dances will offer an intimate view of the creation and practice of Dance, our most human art form. The presentation will include segments of current repertoire ranging from classic master works through contemporary trends and bring audience members inside the creative process as well as the education of a dancer.

Stephen Pier is Director of Dance at The Hartt School. He has served on the faculty of The Juilliard School, the Alvin Ailey School, and the Martha Graham Center. His credits as a performing artist began with the Jose Limon Dance Company where the New York press hailed him as “…one of the most gifted dancers on the modern dance scene today.” He went on to become a leading soloist with the Hamburg Ballet (Germany) and the Royal Danish Ballet. As a master teacher, he has worked with companies in Europe, America and Asia. In 2008, American Ballet Theater invited him to direct the ABT/Altria project “Voices and Visions Women Choreographers”. In 2004, Mr. Pier founded PierGroupDance to explore and collaborate with dancers and artists in various art forms. He has created over thirty works for the concert stage, opera, theater, and film. He recently completed the first in a series of dance films to the music of David Rosenmann.

FAQ:
Where do we meet?
Most courses take place in the Mortensen Library, but sometimes we must move elsewhere and can’t always secure classroom space until shortly before a program or course begins. We do our best to get the word out to participants about location before each event starts. If in doubt, call Judy Kacmarcik at 860.768.4269 or Humphrey Tonkin at 860.768.4448.

Am I Enrolled?
We try to acknowledge registrations as soon as we receive them, but we are not perfect! If you are concerned about whether we have received your registration, call Judy Kacmarcik at 860.768.4269.

Should I start reading in advance?
It’s always a good idea. The U. of Hartford Bookstore (part of the Gray Center) stocks most of the basic texts recommended by our lecturers.
FAQ:

What do I do if the University closes?
Closings are announced online at www.hartford.edu, the University’s website. You can also call the University: 860.768.4100. WTIC - 1080 AM/96.5 FM, WRCW - 100.3 FM, Channel 3 (WFSB), and WWUH - 91.3 FM announce closings. Local television stations use automated systems with limited choices for colleges and universities. So please follow up by checking www.hartford.edu or by calling 860.768.4100.

Parking on Campus
If, as a Fellow of the Presidents’ College, you have been issued a parking permit, please hang it on the inside rearview mirror of your vehicle whenever you park on campus. You may park in any legal and unreserved space in any of the faculty, student or visitor lots at any time of the day, but if you park in a student or faculty lot without displaying the permit you will be ticketed. If you run into problems or have questions, please call the Presidents’ College at 860.768.4269 or the Office of Public Safety at 860.768.7985.

Programs Continued

Thursdays, Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26
Connecticut History – An American Story
Walter Woodward & Kate Steinway
Taught by Connecticut’s State Historian and the Executive Director of the Connecticut Historical Society, this course will examine three nationally important historical themes over three weeks (April 5, 12, 19), followed by a reception and tour of the Connecticut Historical Society (April 26). Each presentation will provoke thinking about American history through the lens of Connecticut people and their experiences. The course will include a general overview followed by an in-depth examination of one aspect of the theme. Authentic examples of documents and objects, drawn from the large collection of the Connecticut Historical Society, will be used as illustrations. Participants will be encouraged to discuss and experiment with ways to “read” objects and documents as evidence. Optional readings will be provided. The sessions will be as follows: April 5: Building a Nation – Would we do it this way again? April 12: The Talents of Many – Can one person make a difference? April 19: Industry and Technology – What are the tradeoffs?

Walter Woodward, Connecticut State Historian and Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, is particularly interested in the early history of the American colonies, including such questions as witchcraft and alchemy. He is the author of Prospero’s America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture (2010).

Kate Steinway, who holds a graduate degree in art history from the University of Chicago, has been associated with the Connecticut Historical Society for the past 25 years and its director for the past five. Recently she has overseen a major refurbishment of the Society’s headquarters on Elizabeth Street in Hartford.

Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26. 4:00-5:30. $75 (Fellows, and CHS members, $60).
THREE FROM THE HARTT SCHOOL

1 Shakespeare in Hollywood  
April 12-15, 2012  
Roberts Theater, Handel Performing Arts Center  
Lights, Camera, Shakespeare! It’s 1934, and Shakespeare’s most famous fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialized on the Warner Bros. Hollywood set of Max Reinhardt’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Instantly smitten by the glitz and glamour of show biz, the two are ushered onto the silver screen to play— who else—themselves. This mischievous magic of moviedom sparkles in this hilarious comic romp.

2 Hartt Symphony Orchestra - Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz Collaborative Concert of American Music  
Friday, April 20, 2012 at 7:30 PM in Millard Auditorium

Presidents’ College celebrates the 200th birthday of Edward Lear

Did you know that the limerick was invented by the 19th-century poet and painter Edward Lear? He himself wrote dozens of limericks, along with numerous pieces of light verse (like “The Owl and the Pussycat” and “The Jumblies”) and nonsense stories. The Presidents’ College plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Edward Lear’s birth with a reading of his work at Community Day on Saturday, April 28.

We are also sponsoring a LIMERICK CONTEST with prizes for the best original limericks. To enter the contest, send us up to five original limericks before the deadline, Wednesday, April 18. All limericks received will be placed anonymously in competition and a panel of judges will select the best. Send them as Word attachments, with your name and e-mail address on the attachment, to pcollege@hartford.edu. The competition is open to all. No University of Hartford affiliation is required.

Winners will be asked to read their limericks at Community Day

We are looking for READERS for our program, which will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in front of Gengras Student Union. You can read your own or someone else’s (including Edward Lear’s!) limericks (at least five and no more than ten), or any of Lear’s works. Maximum duration: five minutes. To sign up to read, e-mail Nancy Mather at mather@hartford.edu, or just turn up on the day (we will have texts on hand).

Lear’s works are widely available on the web. We recommend http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/learwork.html.
A Luncheon and Lecture to
Celebrate the Presidents’ College

THE PATRICIA CREMINS LECTURE

Peter Sokolowski
From the Inkwell to the Internet:
Dictionaries in America
Friday, April 20, 2012

Have you ever wondered how a word gets into the dictionary? Why American English is spelled differently from British English? How dictionaries are making the transition to the Internet? The story of dictionaries in America begins with Noah Webster’s textbooks and dictionaries and continues today with some of the busiest reference sites on the Web and dictionaries made specifically for English language learners. Details about famous editions and the trends of the most looked-up words online will be discussed, with time for questions about dictionaries, definitions, and usage.

Peter Sokolowski, Editor at Large at Merriam-Webster, joined the company in 1994. He has since defined and edited entries for the best-selling Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, Merriam-Webster’s French-English Dictionary, and Merriam-Webster’s Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary. Peter represents the company in national author tours, radio and television interviews, and various presentations covering a wide range of language-related topics. His duties include hosting Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Day podcast and editing Merriam-Webster’s Open Dictionary (two popular features on the company’s free Web site Merriam-Webster.com). He also answers questions from English language learners and teachers from around the world in the Ask the Editors blog at LearnersDictionary.com and has served as pronouncer for spelling bees in the United States, Korea, and India. Peter attended the University of Paris and taught French at the University of Massachusetts while earning his M.A. in French Literature. He also maintains a busy freelance career as a musician and presents jazz programming for Western New England’s National Public Radio affiliate.

Come join us on Friday, April 20, for the first Patricia Cremins Lecture and Luncheon, a celebration of the memory of our first director and the organization she founded. Lunch in the 1877 Club will begin at 11:30 and the lecture will start at 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon and lecture $25. Sponsors ($50) and Patrons ($100) will be listed in the program.
Monday, April 30; Thursday, May 3; Monday, May 7; Thursday, May 10

Downton Abbey Revisited
Angus Trumble, Edward Gutierrez & Robert McLaughlin

The TV series Downton Abbey has taken America by storm. But what was really going on during the tumultuous years that it describes? The opulent pre-war years of the reign of Edward VII were succeeded by the disastrous carnage of the Great War—a war whose futility was only matched by the sheer courage of those who fought it and the ruined lives of those who survived. The war produced some of the greatest poetry of the century, but it also gave momentum to massive social change: Irish independence and civil war, the rise of the labor movement, the rise of the popular press—life was never the same again. Angus Trumble will explore the glamour and conspicuous consumption of the pre-war period (April 30); Edward Gutierrez will discuss the war itself (May 3); Robert McLaughlin will examine the social change accompanying it (May 10). On May 7, we will present a reading of the remarkable poetry and prose of the period. Humphrey Tonkin will provide continuity for the series.

Angus Trumble is Senior Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale Center for British Art, where he is currently preparing an exhibition on the Edwardians. A native of Melbourne, he was formerly Curator of European Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. He is the author of A Brief History of the Smile and, most recently, The Finger: A Handbook (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010).

Edward Gutierrez, winner of the Ramsey Award for Creative Excellence from the University of Hartford, worked in France as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and is currently on a Guggenheim Fellowship, writing a book tentatively titled "Sherman was Right": The Experience of AEF Soldiers in the Great War. The book studies how combat affected ordinary men and women, and the psychological changes it produced.

Robert McLaughlin’s new book Irish Canadian Conflict and the Struggle for Irish Independence 1912-1925 will be published by the University of Toronto Press this April. He teaches 20th-century history at the University of Hartford in both the College of Arts and Sciences and Hillyer College.

Apr. 30, May 3, 7, 10, 10:30-12:00. $90 (Fellows $70).
Mon. May 14, Wed. May 16, Fri. May 18
Verdi and Shakespeare: Macbeth, Othello, Falstaff
Willie Anthony Waters & Humphrey Tonkin

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) counted among his major accomplishments three operas on Shakespearean themes. His first encounter with Shakespeare came early in his career in the first version of Macbeth (1847; revised 1865), revealing an interest in dramatic intensity rather than vocal technique. Late in his life, aided by the sensitive librettist Arrigo Boito, he returned to Shakespeare for his last two operas – the grandly tragic Otello (1887) and the comic Falstaff (1893), this last based on Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor and his two Henry IV plays. Particularly in Otello, Verdi and Boito reinterpret Shakespeare in terms at once operatic and nineteenth-century, thereby exemplifying Shakespeare's extraordinary adaptability to changing times and newer media. Verdi's dream of composing a King Lear, however, remained unfulfilled. In this course, Maestro Waters and Professor Tonkin will each present a lecture on each of the three operas, over three days, and discuss their analyses with one another and with course participants.

Willie Anthony Waters is former General and Artistic Director of Connecticut Opera, and Artistic Director of Florida Grand Opera. He has been a guest conductor for numerous American and European opera companies and symphony orchestras, and various opera companies and orchestras in South Africa. In 2002, Maestro Waters debuted at New York City Opera, and in 2008 he made his debut at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin. Maestro Waters also serves as Artistic Director/Opera of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. In 2005 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Hartford. He is Music Director of Prelude to Performance, a summer training program for young singers in New York sponsored by the Martina Arroyo Foundation, and an adjunct instructor in opera at the University of Connecticut. He is a regular guest panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz and is a widely sought-after lecturer and master class clinician.

Humphrey Tonkin is Professor of the Humanities and President Emeritus at the University. A scholar of 16th and 17th-century literature, including Shakespeare, he is particularly interested in the afterlife of Shakespeare – ways in which the playwright's works have been used over the years as inspiration for the works of other authors and artists (and musicians). He teaches Shakespeare and theatre history in the Theatre Division of The Hartt School and in the English Department. He is Director of the Presidents’ College.
Mon., Wed., Fri., May 21, 23, 25
A Round-up of the US Supreme Court’s 2011 Term
Jilda Aliotta
As the 2011-2012 session of the Supreme Court comes to an end, will the result be a bang or a whimper? Professor Aliotta looks at some of the major issues surfacing during the current session, both those resolved and those still awaiting resolution.

Jilda Aliotta, a popular teacher and an exacting scholar, teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics. She has published on decision-making in the Supreme Court, women in law, and related topics. Her current research investigates the impact of women on the judiciary in the United States.

May 21, 23, 25. 5:00-6:30. $70 (Fellows $50).

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Wed. May 30; June 1, 4, 6, 8
Song in the Works of James Joyce: Dubliners and Ulysses
Kathleen McGrory
Irish ballads, folk songs, Dublin and London music hall favorites, classical, light and grand opera, bel canto, American cowboy songs, spirituals, children’s songs, nursery rhymes, Verdi, Mozart, Thomas Moore’s melodies, Irish folk songs, hymns, Percy French, Stephen Foster, Elizabethan ballads -- all these, and more, turn up in the works of James Joyce, Irish tenor. The course will look at how Joyce uses song to enrich his stories, and make ironic, humorous commentary on the people and places of Dublin and the world in two familiar works, Dubliners and Ulysses. In effect, Joyce used music as “hypertext” well before that word became a commonplace of postmodern criticism. The course will include selections from the James Joyce Cassette series, edited by Dr. McGrory.

Kathleen McGrory holds a PhD from Columbia University in comparative literature. A native of New York City, she was a Sister of Divine Compassion in New York, then professor of English and founder of the Irish Studies graduate program at Western Connecticut State University. She was Dean of Arts and Sciences and Academic Vice President at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), President of Hartford College for Women shortly before its merger with the University of Hartford, National Endowment for the Humanities fellow at Stanford University, and senior fellow at the University of Virginia’s Commonwealth Center for Literary and Cultural Change. As Executive Director of the Society for Values in Higher Education at Georgetown University, she also taught medieval literature at Georgetown. She currently teaches part-time at ECSU and is completing a book-length study of the legend of the Holy Grail.

May 30; June 1, 4, 6, 8. 10:30-12:00. $90 (Fellows $70).
TUESDAYS AT DUNCASTER
April 24, 4:45pm

Sentimental Sailors in Nineteenth Century Literature

Bryan Sinche

Lydia Sigourney, known as the Sweet Singer of Hartford, was immensely popular among lovers of popular poetry in the mid-nineteenth century. She was particularly known for her sentimental verses for and about sailors (“Out on the waters! On the deep, deep sea!”) — sailors who prefer Bibles to rum (“Messmates! Let us do without it!”) as they “dare the whelming wave.” Dr. Sinche, whose own preferences in this regard are not recorded, will introduce us to Sigourney’s poetry and the tradition that she represents.

Bryan Sinche is Associate Professor of English at the University of Hartford, where he teaches and writes about American and African American literature. He has published widely on nineteenth-century maritime texts, and this talk is drawn from his ongoing research on sailors in American literary culture.

Upcoming Tuesday at Duncaster

May 15. 4:45pm. Kathleen McGrory
Former President, Hartford College for Women

“What Is the Holy Grail and Where Can You Find It?” is the question Dr. McGrory will ask — following in the steps of many in the past, from Lancelot on. As a medievalist, she has studied the legend of the Grail and unearthed information about those who have pursued it — up to and including the novelist Dan Brown....
Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ I am currently a Fellow of the Presidents’ College
☐ I wish to become a Fellow of the Presidents’ College Spring 2012. $75
☐ Connecticut History - An American Story. $75 (Fellows, CHS members $60)
☐ I am a CHS member
☐ Aesthetics of Dance. $70 (Fellows $50)
☐ I’m interested in Prof. Reagan’s course “Refresh Your Latin” in April
☐ I’m interested in reading on Community Day, Please contact me.
☐ Inkwell to Internet (incl. lunch) $25
☐ Inkwell to Internet (incl. lunch) Sponsor. $50
☐ Inkwell to Internet (incl. lunch) Patron. $100
☐ Downton Abbey. $90 (Fellows $70)
☐ Verdi and Shakespeare. $90 (Fellows $70)
☐ US Supreme Court. $70 (Fellows $50)
☐ Song in James Joyce. $90 (Fellows $70)

(continued on side B)

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Questions? 860.768.4269 or pcollege@hartford.edu.
I plan to attend the following Tuesdays at Duncaster. No charge for Fellows who are Duncaster residents. For other Duncaster residents: $20 per lecture
For all non-residents of Duncaster, $25 including dinner

☐ Bryan Sinche (April 24)
☐ Kathleen McGrory (May 15)

Total: _____

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