2013 End-of-Year Newsletter

International Shaw Society

A Message from POTISS (President of the ISS)

When I reflect on the many ISS events of the past few years, I am reminded of one of Shaw’s well known quotations: “People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.” Three international conferences in three years: Whew!

Those hearty souls who were able to attend the magical “Shaw at Home” conference at Ayot St. Lawrence and London last June--and how often, frankly, do you hear anyone use “magical” to describe a scholarly conference--enjoyed pleasures intellectual, theatrical, and pastoral. After a welcoming from Alan Knight, Chairman of the Shaw Society UK, highlights included a thoughtful display in the Palladian Church where the conference was held of Shaw’s photos arranged and glossed by Alice McEwan (see Photo Gallery below), evenings of Shavian reminiscences from Richard Digby Day and Toni Kanal Green one night and the next a musical treat from Brigitte Bogar, Christopher Innes, and the

A Message from the Vice-President

When Michael O’Hara asked me to be his V-P, he set two particular goals for me: to expand and to be the “point person” for planning the “New York” conference. In addition, along with MLA (with MLA) and Chris Wixson (with MM) efforts to infuse Shaw into conferences of organizations. I have taken advantage of my position as President of NeMLA (2013-14) to enroll one of their session themes, to organize (on the New Woman and on Global Shaw) keynote speaker: David Staller, who will Classicist Shaw: On His Feet As Spokesman, whose production of You Never Can Tell (at the Public Library. Looking at New York,” I’m very pleased to announce Joan Templeton (Emerita, Long Island University) on Shaw and Ibsen at “Shaw at Home,”
Waterhouses, mother and daughter on piano and violin, a tour of London Shaw spots with Michael Sargent as tourguide, a trip to the London School of Economics (co-founded by Shaw) to hear a stirring talk by Gilbert Murray’s great-granddaughter, Polly Toynbee, performances of Mrs. Warren’s Profession by the Questors Theatre in London, of Buoyant Billions and Geneva at Ayot by Michael Friend Productions, and many wonderful talks, featuring presentations by several distinguished speakers: Ms Toynbee, Sir Michael Holroyd, Michael Billington, Stanley Weintraub, Jay R. Tunney, and, at our farewell banquet, actress Sylvia Syms, with the Joe Peck Quintent providing a jazzy ending. Remarkable, too, was Phillip Riley’s calls for a Shaw National Theatre in the UK. Special thanks are due to the National Trust, and especially to Sue Morgan, House Steward of Shaw’s Corner, Lizzie Dunford, Assistant Steward, and their wonderful staff and volunteers for making “Shaw at Home” such an amazing experience! Perhaps a bucolic bow should also be taken by the sheep whose grazing pasture we passed through on the way to the Palladian Church. And by the war horses who occasionally showed up with thirsty riders at The Brocket Arms, where some of us stayed.

We’ll never top that conference, but let’s keep trying!

Michael O’Hara
Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts
Sursa Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts
Ball State University

Above, POTISS ascends Palladian Church to fix wiring, as though it were just another stage set.

SPECIAL ACCLAMATION:
Below are the three muses of the ‘Shaw Society’ conference in Ayot St Lawrence, who did putting the UK Shaw Society together making everyone feel at home and well seen. House Steward at “Shaw’s Corner” in the Dunford, Assistant Steward, on the left, and UK liaison, on the right. Bravo!!!

SHAW IN THE THEATER IN 2013: A SAMPLER
THE SHAW FESTIVAL: Featured at the 10th Annual Symposium at the Festival was *Major Barbara* and an adaptation of *Geneva* by John Murrell retitled *Peace in Our Time*.

{Photo to the left: Nicole Underhay as *Barbara Underwood*, Hermione Somerville as *Adolphus Cusins* in *Major Barbara*. Photo}

The Shaw plays for 2014 will be *Arms and the Man* and *Fourplay*.


THE SHAW/CHICAGO THEATER COMPANY: Their 2012-13 season included *The Millionairess* and *Widowers’ Houses*. Outreach performances included *Village Wooing, Saint Joan, Shaw vs. Shakespeare, Shaw’s Women*, and *Saint Joan*. The company celebrates its 20th season with *Pygmalion* (12 Oct to 4 Nov 2013),

Please note that ShawChicago will be co-hosting the 11th *Shaw* Symposium on May 16-17, 2014, at the Chicago Cultural Center, Ruth Page Center for the Arts, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ShawChicago Theater Co. and the 10th anniversary of the ISS. See [www.shawsociety.org](http://www.shawsociety.org).
Saint Joan (1 to 24 Feb 2014), and Man and Superman (26 Apr to 19 May 2014). All productions are directed by Artistic Director Robert Scogin. For more information, go to www.shawchicago.org or write to Managing Director Tony Courier at info@shawchicago.org for all the details.
PROJECT SHAW IN NEW YORK: A momentous year for Project Shaw featured a mid-year move from the Players Club in Gramercy Space on 95th & Broadway, and a full scale production at The Pearl Theatre on 42nd St., accompanied by a spring performance of a Shakespearean Gem: "A Momentous Year for Project Shaw".

All presentations by Project Shaw are produced and directed by artistic director/founder of the Gingold Theatrical Group (GTP). Project Shaw did: Misalliance, Caesar and Cleopatra, Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Too True to be Good, On the Rocks, and Candida (see photo left of the Candida cast at The Sander & The Devil’s Disciple). Planned for 2014: Arms and the Man, The Philanderer, Heartbreak House, Getting Married, The Millionairess, and Major Barbara. For more info, visit info@gingoldgroup.com or go to www.projectshaw.com.
THE WASHINGTON STAGE GUILD: The Stage Guild’s 2013-14 season will include two parts of Back to Methuselah ("In the Beginning" and "The Gospel of the Brothers Barnabas"), dir. Bill Largess. Their “Readings Series” in 2014 will include The Doctor’s Dilemma. See www.stageguild.org for an account of their plans for the future and the opportunity to contribute to them.

PHOTO NEEDED

MICHAEL FRIEND PRODUCTIONS: This year’s production in the back yard at “Shaw’s Corner” in Ayot St. Lawrence in June (see photo left, the gang’s all there), accompanied by a “Shaw at Home” conference by a reading of Buoyant Palladian Church. For more on other productions in projection of 2014 productions, see www.mfp.org.uk
SHAW IN JAPAN: (In the photo to the right is a familiar scene from *Pygmalion*).

*Pygmalion* was produced at Shinkokuritsu Gekijo (New National Theater), Tokyo (13 November to 1 December), with Satomi Ishihara as Eliza, Takehiro Hira as Higgins, and Kazuki Kosakai as Doolittle. As every scene in the 1941 edition of *Pygmalion* was performed—including Eliza bathing (Act II), the embassy ball (Act IV), and Eliza and Freddy wandering in London (between Acts IV and V)—the play ran 3 hours and 10 minutes (including 20-minute intermission), about the same length as the September production of *Saint Joan* (see below), in which the texts were considerably abridged!

The Japanese continue their love affair with GBS. *Dear Liar* was performed in Tokyo (May 2013), with famous actress Tetsuko Kuroyanagi as Stella.
Saint Joan, starring popular musical star Rena Sasamori (who has 13 as the title role of the musical Peter Pan), was performed at Public Theater, Tokyo (5-24 September); the production also went to Performing Arts Centre, Nishinomiya (28-29 September); Toyohashi Art Theatre, Toyohashi, Aichi (5 October); and Kyoiku Bunka Kaikan, Sapporo (9 October). The last time Japan saw this work was nearly 50 years ago!

SHAW IN DUBLIN: Mrs Warren’s Profession was performed at the Gate Theatre (4 April to 11 May 2013), dir. Patrick Mason, with Sorcha Cusack (Kitty Warren) and Rebecca O’Mara (Vivie Warren). Major Barbara premiered at the Abbey Theatre (31 July to 21 Sep 2013), dir. Annabelle Comyn, with Paul McGann (Andrew Undershaft), Clare Dunne (Barbara Undershaft), Marty Rea (Adolphus Cusins), Eleanor Methven (Lady Britomart), Killian Burke (Stephen Undershaft) (see photo right).
And of course there were many other productions of Shaw’s plays around the world, and we regret that we haven’t space to mention them all.

**ISS EVENTS OF 2013**

**THE COMPARATIVE DRAMA CONFERENCE** (April 4-6, 2013), sponsored by Stevenson University in Baltimore, included Shaw Sessions by the ISS that were coordinated by Professor Tony Stafford of the University of Texas El Paso. More Shaw Sessions are scheduled for Baltimore in April of 2014 (deadline past). To submit paper proposals for 2015, write to “Tony Stafford”<tstaffor@utep.edu> by December.
THE "SHAW AT HOME" CONFERENCE IN AYOT ST. LAWRENCE / LONDON (17-22 June 2013), co-sponsored by the ISS, the Shaw Society UK, and the National Trust, was organized on the academic side by Richard Dietrich and Michael O’Hara of the ISS, all local arrangements being made by Sue Morgan, House Steward at Shaw’s Corner, Lizzie Dunford, Assistant House Steward, and Evelyn Ellis, liaison with the UK Shaw Society. See www.shawsociety.org/UK-Shaw-Conference-2013.htm for details. (Photo to the right shows a meeting on the Thames after the conference of the - ahem - Executive Committee and Laura O’Hara next to POTISS).

THE 10th ANNUAL SUMMER SHAW SYMPOSIUM (July 26-28, 2013), meeting at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and co-sponsored by the ISS and the Shaw Festival, was coordinated by Professor Brad Kent of the ISS and Suzanne Merriam for the Shaw Festival. After a Friday reception and keynote address by David Staller on ‘Shaw’s Imposing Stage Directions: To use or not to use’ came a viewing of Major Barbara at the Royal George Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
Theatre. Saturday saw papers delivered by Christopher Wixson, Shoko Matsumoto, Manisha Anand Patil, and Brigitte Bogar, followed by an Actors’ Panel on *Major Barbara* and a matinee of Shaw’s *Geneva* (in a adaptation by John Murrell retitled *Peace in Our Time – A Comedy*) at the Court House Theatre, concluding with a chat with ensemble members. Sunday featured papers by Tony Stafford, Matthew Yde, Kay Li, Mark Lepitre, Ellen Dolgin, Courtney Maika, Charles Del Dotto, John McInerney, and Al Carpenter. Chairing sessions were Richard Dietrich, Ellen Dolgin, Michael O’Hara, Christopher Wixson, and Michel Pharand. The Symposium concluded with the usual ISS Business Meeting, followed by a post-Symposium reception at the Dietrichs’ cottage, “Shaw Rendezvous.” A special thanks is due to Suzanne Merriam, Senior Manager for Education at the Festival, and her assistant Amanda Trip, for their invaluable arrangements.

**LECTURES**

— THE 49th ANNUAL SHAW SEMINAR (8-11 Aug 2013), hosted by L.W. Conolly, was held at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE CHICAGO SHAW SYMPOSIUM, co-hosted with the ShawChicago Theater Co.,
the Illinois Humanities Council, and the Literature and Languages Department at Roosevelt University,
will be held on **May 16-17, 2014**, at the Chicago Cultural Center and the Ruth Page Center for the Arts.

As this is to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the ISS, as well as the 20th Anniversary of ShawChicago,
we hope that you will make a special effort to attend.

Proposals for papers and for [ISS Travel Grants](#) should be sent to Professor Michael O’Hara
at "Michael O'Hara" <mohara@bsu.edu> by **February 1, 2014**. For details on the Chicago Symposium,
including a Call for Papers, please go to [www.shawsociety.org/Chicago-Shaw-Symposium-2014.htm](#).

In addition, read *SHAW 29* (230-238) for an account of the career of ShawChicago’s Artistic Director
Robert Scogin, which provides a good introduction to ShawChicago and Shaw in Chicago as well.
SHAW SESSION AT THE 2015 MLA CONVENTION IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, Jan 8-11, 2015: The topic for the Shaw Session at the 2015 MLA Convention is "Shaw in Theory," that is, Shaw's status as a literary and dramatic theorist (what is a "Shavian" reading text, for instance, and how portable/applicable is it as a method or school), and the use of Shaw by other literary theorists (Frederic; Stanley Cavell, Germaine Greer, etc.). The deadline for submitting abstracts to Professor Lawrence Switzky at the U. of Toronto (lawrenceswitzky@gmail.com) is March 15, 2014. If you’re new to him, please include an introductory letter and c.v.

THE 11TH ANNUAL SUMMER SHAW SYMPOSIUM at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, July 25-27, 2014, will be focussing on Arms and the Man and The Philanderer, the two Shaw plays scheduled at the Festival. Discussions of those two plays will be complemented by panels of actors/directors/designers involved in the play productions. May 1, 2014 is the deadline for submitting abstracts (300-500 words) for papers and panels and applications for Bryden Scholarships/ISS Travel Grants, which should be sent to d.a.hadfield@uwaterloo.ca as an attachment to an email. Those applying for scholarships/grants should submit additional information (see http://www.shawsociety.org/ISS-Travel-Grants-2014.htm). To register for the Symposium (which includes a ticket for the two Shaw plays) and to order tickets for other plays, call the Shaw box office at 1-800-511-7429. For registration prices and all the details of the Symposium, see www.shawsociety.org/SummerSymposium-2014.htm.

THE COMPARATIVE DRAMA CONFERENCE, probably scheduled at the end of March or early April, 2014, in Baltimore, will likely have a Shaw Session and a deadline of November 15, 2010 for submission of paper abstracts to Professor Tony Stafford of the U. of Texas El Paso (“Tony Stafford” <tstaffor@utep.edu>). The general topic is always broad enough so that almost any subject on Shaw will fit. For information about the conference and registration, see www.shawsociety.org/2014-Shaw-at-CDC.htm when it becomes available.
SHAW SESSIONS AT 2014 NeMLA (NORTHEAST MLA) AT HARRISBURG, PA, APRIL 3-6, 2014. Chaired by Ellen Dolgin, the deadline for but scheduled are two Shaw panels (on the New Woman and on Global Shaw). Additional sessions may be scheduled for 2015, and, an announcement may be forthcoming. Deadline for proposals would probably be **September 30, 2014**.

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**SHAVIANA**

— **SHAW BEHIND THE CAMERA**: To see some of the photographs from “Man & Cameraman,” a project at the London School of Economics, contents of Shaw’s approximately 20,000 photographs and negatives and 15 photograph albums, go to [http://lib-1.lse.ac.uk/archives](http://lib-1.lse.ac.uk/archives).


— **SHAW: THE ANNUAL OF BERNARD SHAW STUDIES**: On 2 December 2013, Audrey McNamara (coordinator of “G.B. Shaw: Back in Time” the 2012 Dublin Shaw conference) successfully passed the viva for her Ph.D. thesis on Shaw and Ireland, with Nelson Ritschel (author of *Socialist Provocation*) as external reader. That afternoon, they were received by Irish president Michael Higgins, to whom Nelson presented *The Annual of Bernard Shaw Studies*, volume 33 (2013).
President Higgins of Ireland,

with Nelson O`Ceallaigh Ritschel and Audrey McNamara

--SHAW 33 inaugurated the new softcover format. SHAW 34, devoted to “Shaw and Health,” is being guest-edited by Christopher Wix and will go bi-annual with SHAW 35.1 (June 2015), a theme issue devoted to “Shaw and Modernity,” guest-edited by Lawrence Switzky. Inquiries and manuscript submissions should be sent to lawrence.switzky@utoronto.ca.

SHAW ONLINE:

The Sagittarius-Orion-Shaw Digitizing Project: libra.apps01.yorku.ca/ (A Virtual Tour of Shaviana) has moved to
http://libra.apps01.yorku.ca/virtual-tour-of-shaviana/. There are two main sections: 1) an open access platform and 2) a restricted access platform accessible only on the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), which will ensure copyright restrictions. The open access platform is much enhanced. Highlights include: 1) “Who is Bernard Shaw” written by Stanley and Rodelle Weintraub; 2) a calendar of productions around the world; 3) theatre productions with links to reviews and videos of performances around the world; 4) Footsteps of Bernard Shaw showing Shaw’s world tour; 5) links to Charles Carpenter’s Shaw Bibliography; 6) virtual tours of Isidor Saslav’s Shaw collections; 7) links to Charles Carpenter’s Shaw Bibliography; 8) links to numerous electronic Shaw texts; 9) links to Shaw Festival Study Guides; and 10) other classroom resources on sp.

The restricted access platform continues to feature classroom resources, such as annotated full texts, study guides, reference materials, an annotated bibliography, and concordances and a search engine. A special feature for ISS members includes an interactive collaboration on ORION O3 at https://shaw.othree.ca/ complete with a “Fantasia for Shaw Scholars.” Among the many features are individual blogs, the Shaw Wiki, and a Shaw Forum.

**Facebook & Twitter:** Follow the International Shaw Society on Twitter and receive ISS updates on Facebook (click “Like” on the International Shaw Society Facebook page; the more “Likes,” the more notice everywhere). Write to Jean Reynolds at ballroom16@aol.com for assistance. **Google Alerts:** Visit Google Alerts on Shaw by going to www.google.com/alerts.

**ISS Homepage:** There are hundreds of pages of information about Shaw and his works on or linked from www.shawssociety.org, many updated by the Webmaster.
Shaw Bibliography: Al Carpenter’s invaluable and regularly updated *Bernard Shaw Bibliography* is at [http://harvey.binghamton.edu/](http://harvey.binghamton.edu/)

— PASSINGS of The Methuselahs:

**Sidney P. Albert**, professor emeritus of Philosophy at Cal State LA, died on 9 January 2013. He was 98. An extensive collection of the Sidney P. Albert-Bernard Shaw Collection, is now housed at Brown University, and a second collection of his waits for placement.

**Jacques Barzun**, distinguished historian, essayist, cultural gadfly and educator who helped establish the modern discipline of cultural history, died 25 October of 2012 at the age of 104.

**Isidor Saslav**, violinist and musicologist, died on 26 January 2013. He was 74. Beginning in 1960, Isidor amassed an impressive collection of 8,000 items of Shaviana that remains in his home in Overton, Texas.

**Stanley Kauffmann**, film and theater critic with *The New Republic* and an avid Shavian, died on 9 October 2013. He was 97.

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**ISS TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS FOR 2013**

Winners of Bryden Scholarships and ISS Travel Grants at the Summer Shaw Symposium at the Shaw Festival were Shoko Matsumoto of the University of London and Manisha Anand Patil of the Y.C. Institute of Science, Satara, Maharashtra India.

Winners of ISS Travel Grants at the Summer Shaw Symposium were Charles Del Dotto of Duke University, Courtney Maika of the University of...
Matthew Yde of Ohio State University.

Patil, Maika, Yde, Del Dotto, & Matsumoto receiving awards from Michael O’Hara

Winners of ISS Travel Grants to the “Shaw at Home” Conference at Ayot St. Lawrence and London were Soudabeh Ananisarab of the Université Laval, Gustavo A. Rodriguez Martin of the Universidad de Extremadura, & Biljana Vlaskovic of the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Below, in the photo on the left, is Mark Lepitre, and on the right, Soudabeh Ananisarab, and in the middle photo are Biljana Vlaskovic, Gustavo Rodriguez Martin, with Gautam Sengupta from Kolkata. Apologies for blurriness.
Anyone who’s been to Ayot St Lawrence, the tiny village just north of London in Hertfordshire where Bernard and Charlotte Shaw (1905 on) and tried to hide from their celebrity, knows that holding an international conference there would be an impossible undertaking. Only by single-lane roads, with high hedges on both sides that one has to dive into if another car approaches from the opposite direction, with ladies on horseback frequently appearing out of nowhere, this village is not designed for conferences. With nothing but a few restaurants, the only business in town, the Brocket Arms, also the only restaurant/pub in town, most conference participants would have to board B&Bs in the surrounding towns of Welwyn, Hatfield, St. Albans, etc., which would involve considerable busing, and meals would have...
in to some sort of large tent or marquee. Not possible. And yet it happened, thanks to the legerdemain and hard work of Sue Morgan, House Steward at Shaw’s Corner, and her army of able assistants and volunteers. And it happened with spectacular aplomb and success, speaker after speaker and event after event rising to the occasion. But no wonder that just a week later it seemed like a dream. Did it really happen?

Below are photos that testify that it did by showing some of the components of the village and the conference. Apologies for gaps in the sequence of events and for the personal focus. We were mostly too busy enjoying the thing to take photos. We especially regret not to work! But here’s Shaw’s Corner from the gate, but, alas, the film we made of that did not work!...
The spirit in the house was strangely quiet:

Below, the Brocket Arms, whose door Shaw occasionally did darken, but of course not to drink. Was there a “Curry Night” in Shaw’s day?
Don’t know why the pub is getting so much play here.

You can see why the Irish call this a “snug.”
Imagine a fire roaring and a warm beer on a cold
The Palladian Church in Ayot St Lawrence
getting dolled up for a Shaw conference.

Oh, get us to the church, just get us to the church.
On the walls are Shaw’s photos held by the LSE, expertly arranged and glossed by Alice McEwan!

Here’s one of Shaw’s “selfies,” not well reproduced.
One last check. Chairs must be moved to the center to create aisles by the photos on the walls:

Three who should get special credit for all they did were, in the left photo, the two Alices: Alice McEw who saw to Shaw’s photos, and Alice ?, who seems flying around everywhere, mostly assisting Lizzie on the right of the photo to the right. What a dy All under the supervision of General Sue Morgan, who had an army of volunteers from the villages
Speakers get there early:
Wonder if the church is this full on Sunday?

Spirits in the Church! Are those horns on his head?
In addition to all the wonderful speakers, we had a musical evening in remembrance of Isidor Saslav, with Brigitte Bogar singing some of the songs Shaw heard his mother sing, Christopher Innes reading from Shaw’s music criticism, and with piano and violin accompaniment and reading London friends, Elizabeth and Lucy Waterhouse.
Intermission at the concert

Most of the performers before the concert. Elizabeth Waterhouse on the right, waiting for her violinist daughter Lucy.
The marquee:

Dining in the marquee:
The usual suspects, Dick & Leonard, with Sue Morgan and the National Trust officialdom.

Shaw’s bed with a woman in it, finally!
Pubbing with Alice, Julie, and Lori

and Lizzie Dunford
take a well-deserved bow outside of Shaw’s Corn...
Before the rain fell on the just and on Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco:

Shaw’s backyard does not have a roof, and so Gus respond accordingly, as they await the start of GE.
The show did go on, as always in Shaw Bizness:

After the show, the critics met:
A toast to Laura O’Hara, for emergency nursing duties rendered.

The Brocket Arms crew, waiting for the bus to L with tour guide Michael Sargent (the tall gent near
The day in London was noteworthy for many Shavian stops, starting with the London School of Economics, for one thing to listen to Polly Toynbee lamenting the loss of the Shavian force in politics. She was introduced by the redoubtable Barbara Smoker, on the left, who was alive when Shaw was.

And a visit to RADA, the Royal Academy of Drama, which Shaw helped found and occasionally visited. There’s a GBS Theatre in the basement.
Prior to busing to Ealing to see a production of *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* by the Questor’s Community Theatre, there was a stop at 29 Fitzroy Square, where Shaw lived with his mother prior to his marriage.

The gang’s all there, or mostly. It was like herding cats!
POTISS consults the Spirit in Shaw’s hut, wondering how he’s going to top this conference.