

In memoriam

Memorial services for Helen Howe, a founding member of the JJLS, and co-author of *Writings From the Handy Colony*, were held Oct. 7 in Robinson, IL.

Helen taught American literature, composition and creative writing at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson before retiring. Her husband, Tinks, was a childhood friend of James Jones. The family asks that honorariums in Helen's name be made to the JJLS. She died Oct. 1 in the New Jersey home of her daughter, Bridget. Helen made tremendous contributions to upholding the James Jones legacy and to the JJLS. The Society extends its deepest condolences to the family.

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James Jones Journal

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE.
THEY WRITE NOVELS.



Volume 19, Issue 2

Fall 2013

JJLS's Ray Elliott drills Eternity cast

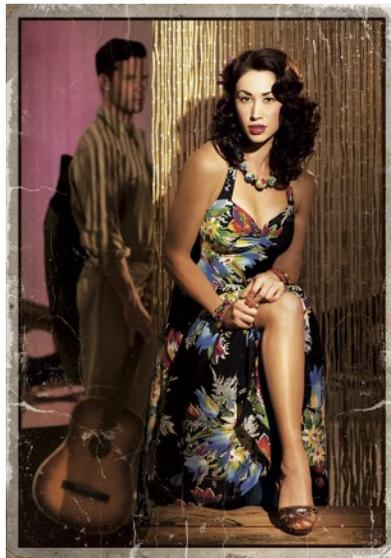


Photo by Nick Clements

By Paul Wood of the News-Gazette, Champaign, IL

Beatings, brawls and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor may seem like unlikely hooks for a musical. Nevertheless, James Jones' *From Here To Eternity* is coming to a London stage production co-written by *Lion King* co-writer Tim Rice — with some military advice from a rural Urbana man.

The play is scheduled to open Sept. 30 at the Shaftesbury Theater.

Author, Marine and military adviser Ray Elliott grew up in Crawford County, as did Jones, who also authored *The Thin Red Line*, another World War II classic. Jones saw Pearl Harbor firsthand and was wounded at Guadalcanal. He returned to Robinson

with possible post-traumatic stress disorder, Elliott says, and made some enemies in his hometown.

Elliott is the author of *Wild Hands Toward the Sky*, a post-World War II novel from the point of view of a boy whose father was a Marine killed on Guadalcanal, and *Iwo Blasted Again*, a novella about an Iwo Jima veteran and his last 36 hours. He has served as president of the James Jones Literary Society, which has members all over the world.

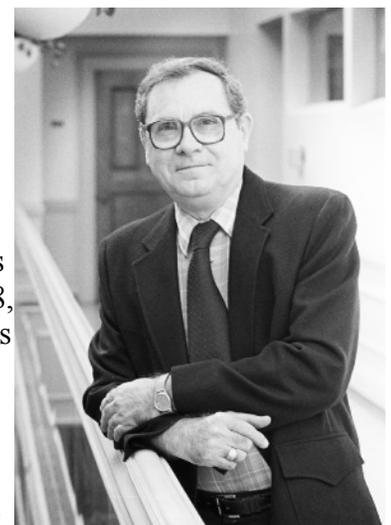
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Hendrick talk on Jones to open JJLS symposium

Dr. George Hendrick will give the inaugural address at the JJLS's bi-annual symposium with a talk, "James Jones: Censorship and His Literature and Legacy," at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, 2013. Dr. Hendrick, at right is the foremost James Jones scholar and retired University of Illinois professor.

For more on the symposium, see page 2.

For more on Hendrick's contributions to the JJLS, see page 3.



University of Illinois photo

James Jones
Journal

*A publication of the
James Jones
Literary Society*

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The James Jones Journal is published periodically to keep members and interested parties apprised of activities, projects and upcoming events of the Society; to promote public interest and academic research in the works of James Jones; and to celebrate his memory and legacy.

Submissions of essays, features, anecdotes, photographs, etc., pertaining to the author James Jones may be sent to the editor for consideration. Every attempt will be made to return material, if requested, upon submission. Material may be edited for length & accuracy. Send submissions to:
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President outlines upcoming symposium

Hello, all Jonesians,

The JJLS is gearing up for its return to Robinson after a four-year hiatus. We hope you will all come to the Quail Creek Country Club on Nov. 8 for a day-long program of presentations, readings, and banquet. On Nov. 7, the Society begins its three-day conference at Eastern Illinois University and it ends Nov. 9 with a tour of the last standing cottage at the Handy Writers Colony. Each day includes a diverse assortment of events. Please join us for any or all of them.

Thursday, Nov. 7

Eastern Illinois University James Jones WWII Chair Lecture Series

From the Sands of Iwo Jima: Two Veterans Recall Their Battle Experiences

7 p.m. — EIU Lumpkin Hall Auditorium, Charleston, IL

Panel: Ray Elliott, Moderator; Leighton Willhite,

5th Marine Tank Battalion on Iwo Jima

and Jim Baize, Navy Boatswain's Mate

who served on Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Iwo Jima

Friday, Nov. 8

James Jones Uncensored

Quail Creek Country Club, Robinson, IL

9 to 9:30 a.m. — Conference Registration

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. — **James Jones: His Literature and Letters**

Presenter: Dr. George Hendrick, foremost James Jones scholar

10:45 to 11:45 a.m. — **James Jones: His Literature & Legacy**

*Presenter: Kaylie Jones, author and founder of Kaylie Jones Books
(Special Reading by Laurie Loewenstein, author of Unmentionables)*

11:45 to 1:15 — **Lunch**

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. — **James Jones Readings, Reflections and Reminisces**

*Panel: Jerry Bayne, Moderator; Dr. Bonnie Culver, Richard King,
Dr. Warren Mason, Michael Mullen, Diane Reed and Dr. Ed Seidel*

3 to 4:45 p.m. — **James Jones Literary Society Board Meeting**

6:30 to 7 p.m. — **Banquet Reception at QCCC**

7 to 8:45 p.m. — **JJLS Dinner Banquet**

Presentations of First Novel Fellowship

and Short Story winners, plus readings.

Speaker: Dr. George Hendrick,

“Suggestions & Dreams for the Future Research of James Jones”

Saturday, Nov. 9

Remembering the Handy Writers Colony

1 to 2:30 p.m. — Marshall Public Library in Marshall, IL

Panel: Dr. Jim Turner, nephew of Lowney Handy, Moderator;

and Colony members Don Sackrider, John Bowers, Kenny Snedeker, Jon Shirota

Tour of the remaining Colony cottage plus

Ramada and Colony grounds with Kenny Snedeker assisting.

As always, every conference has folks who plan, organize, and create the backbone of its events. **Jerry Bayne, Nancy Claypool, Janelle Oxford and Diane Reed** have been the Jones' stalwarts and the planners for the 2013 event. Thank you to them. I look forward to seeing you all again at any of the venues.

All best,

Bonnie Culver, President, James Jones Literary Society

A tribute to George Hendrick: preeminent scholar

By Ray Elliott

George Hendrick has been a prime mover and shaker in the James Jones Literary Society since its formation in the early 1990s when a group of Jones enthusiasts met at the Elks Lodge in the author's Robinson, IL hometown, after the release of J. Michael Lennon's documentary *James Jones: From Reveille to Taps*.

Lennon, whom Hendrick says is the true founder of the society, had called an earlier meeting, and at a second meeting where it was suggested that the group form the James Jones Society. I always thought the place where the society formed was a bit ironic. While still in the Army, after almost five years and undoubtedly suffering from what is now called post-traumatic stress disorder, the young Jones got into a fight at the club during which the plate glass entrance door was broken. Then, after he was discharged and back in town, he and Johnny Metz, another veteran, got drunk and disorderly again and were barred from the Elks, with Jones' Uncle Charlie writing the letter.

Or maybe it was poetic justice.

Just as ironic, even ludicrous, was the name James Jones Society. Jones' friend, former Handy Writers Colony member and society board member Don Sackrider, came to a symposium in Robinson a couple of years later and said he'd been asked if the society had anything to do with the infamous, poisoned Kool-Aid-dispensing cult leader Jim Jones and the 1978 Jonestown Massacre — not with the author of the preeminent World War II novels.

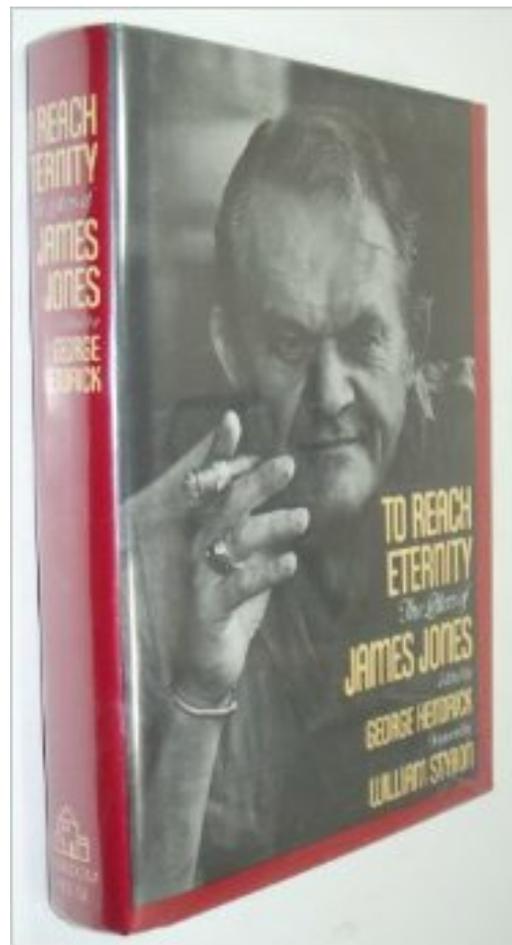
The word "literary" was quickly added to the society's name.

But initially, Sackrider, Lennon, Jones' boyhood friend Tinks Howe and his wife Helen, Lincoln Trail College instructor, Juanita Martin, Jerry Bayne, James Giles and Jan Sutter and others formed the society and elected Hendrick the first president.

Hendrick was perfect for that role. Like thousands of others, he had read *From Here To Eternity* when it was first published in 1951 and then *The Thin Red Line*, which he also taught to students in Germany in the early '60s. What had attracted him to Jones' work, he said, "was the absolute realism in which he presents Army life, something I was not familiar with since I was not in the Army. The compelling case for this is the way it was at that point in time, 1940-41."

Since then the author, scholar and University of Illinois English professor emeritus, has continued to promote the legacy of Jones as a major World War II writer who speaks for the men and women who fought and sacrificed during the war years to preserve the American way of life. Hendrick taught at a university in Frankfurt, Germany, where some of his students were using a German translation of *The Thin Red Line* because it was difficult to get American books. Hendrick met James Jones and wife Gloria in the winter of 1963-4 at a German publisher's party after Jones read the introductory parts of *The Thin Red Line* to more than 200 guests.

After the reading, Hendrick found Jones off in a study reading Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* rather than participating in the party and spoke with him for about 30 minutes, discussing Mann's work and the responses of the German students to lectures on Jones' novels. Hendrick then sent a couple of students in the U.S. Army based in Frankfurt who were auditing Hendrick's class and had crashed the party. Jones asked many questions about their Army service. He answered a few questions about his two novels, but spent much of the time talking about *Death in Venice*.



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First novel winner a study in determination

By Laurie Loewenstein

Margot Singer, the 2013 James Jones First Novel Fellow, is nothing if not tenacious. In 1985, she was the first woman business editor of *The Harvard Crimson*, a gold medalist at the British National Rowing Championships in 1986, and later left a successful 10-year career as a management consultant to become an academician and writer. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that she has spent 13 years on her novel-in-progress, *The Art of Fugue*.

“It’s had a checkered history,” she said with a laugh during a recent telephone interview. “I’ve had a number of false starts and was very near giving up. At various times, it had a different main character and a different point of view.”

Although Singer has published a number of short stories and critical essays — and won awards for them — this piece, which she wasn’t even sure was a novel, did not come easy. In fact, in 2012, Singer gave a paper titled “Novel Anxiety” at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference.

“I had hit a wall in 2005. Then I heard a story on NPR (National Public Radio) about the piano man; a man who had turned up soaking wet in England and only communicated by playing the piano. No one knew who he was. My romantic imagination took hold of this man coming out of the sea.”

A prologue describing a stranger wandering in a town on the Isle of Sheppey on the North Sea, now opens *The Art of Fugue* and is braided throughout the rest of the work.

Even with this breakthrough, Singer did not feel she had hit her stride until she had “the gift of a whole year sabbatical” in 2011-12. She is the Dominick Consolo Associate Professor of English at Denison University in Granville, Ohio,

During a writing retreat at the Ucross Ranch in Wyoming, “it all clicked into the right groove. I started to narrate from Esther and multiple third person points of view. I started to write image patterns and come up with a very broad narrative arc.”

Singer, who received the Flannery O’Conner Award for Short Fiction for “The Pale of Settlement,” and has published more than 16 short stories, has found the novel’s longer form to be difficult.

“When I write a story, I just have a couple of things to latch on to. I can hold a 20-page story in my head. The challenge of the novel was that I couldn’t keep it all in my head and working full time and having children, it was hard to keep the momentum going,” she said.

When asked to name the writers and works that she admires, Singer quickly mentions Michael Ondaatje’s *Anvil’s Ghost* (2000); Penelope Lively’s *Moon Tiger* (1987 Man Booker Prize winner) and Pat Barker’s *Ghost Road* (1995 Booker).

Singer has a Ph.D. in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Utah, a Master of Philosophy from Oxford University and a B.A. from Harvard University, where she studied history and literature.

Singer’s synopsis of *The Art of Fugue* follows:

Loosely based on the musical form of a fugue, the narrative interweaves the stories of an amnesiac musician; an old woman remembering her escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia; a university student evading daily life through urban exploration; a divorced doctor longing to know his teenage son; and a woman struggling to move beyond the death of her only child. An excerpt will be published in a future JJLS Journal.



A tribute ...

Continued from page 3

Years later, while teaching at the University of Illinois and after Jones' death in 1977, Hendrick took a trip to Robinson in the mid '80s with a cousin who wanted to go to the local historical society and went through Marshall, IL, where he remembered that Jones had connections there with the Handy Writers Colony. That trip prompted him to write Gloria and ask her permission to do a book of Jones' letters.

With a sabbatical coming up and like the true scholar he is, Hendrick and his wife, Willene, who was also his frequent collaborator, traveled to the library archives of Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield, and the Jones material housed there, to begin researching the book.

The couple also traveled to Long Island to talk with Gloria and Kaylie and visited the libraries at Yale and Princeton before heading to the University of Texas in Austin where Hendrick had earned his Ph.D. in American literature. By this time, the methodical researcher had collected much of the content and written the introduction for the book, which was later titled *To Reach Eternity, The Letters of James Jones*.

But he still had no advance from a publishing house.

He contacted a former agent who suggested he put together some representative letters and the introduction and send it out to prospective publishers. Random House offered the best contract, and Bob Loomis edited the book. Loomis had been a college classmate of William Styron at Duke University and got his friend (who had also been a friend of Jones) to write the forward. The book was published in 1989.

A few years later, Hendrick learned that the original manuscript of *From Here To Eternity* was languishing in a bank vault in Marshall and helped secure it for the University of Illinois Library. Then, one of the Robinson-based Heath Candy Company family members secured a manuscript of *The Pistol* that Jones had given to Judy Garland when she was feeling down in the dumps. That manuscript also came to the library.

Throughout his career, Hendrick has been a tireless advocate for the work of James Jones, as well as an English professor who has worked with Ph.D. candidates, and has written or edited more than 20 books about other authors and issues, including Carl Sandburg, Katherine Anne Porter, Henry David Thoreau, Mahatma Gandhi, racism and slavery, as well as more about James Jones, including *James Jones and the Handy Writers Colony* and *Writings From the Handy Colony*, both co-authored with Helen Howe and Don Sackrider.

Now well into his 80s and after losing his wife in 2010, Hendrick still rises at 4 a.m. and works daily on his trusted Remington typewriter on some piece of writing. He took Jones' unpublished first novel and worked it into a tightly edited book titled *To the End of the War*. He prepared the complete, uncensored edition of *From Here To Eternity* from the original manuscript and wrote a comprehensive afterword for the Dial Press Trade Edition published in 2012. In the true spirit of promoting the Jones legacy and continuation of his work, Hendrick donated the money from this edition to the endowment for the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Most recently, Hendrick has researched and written an article available on the James Jones Literary Society website about four generations of the James Jones family, most of whom are buried in Crawford County, IL. He's also secured copies of a number of poems, which Jones wrote during and shortly after the war, and is considering publishing them in a chap book. And he's gathered and edited for publication five of Jones' short stories written while he was stationed in Memphis where he went to the hospital after Guadalcanal and in the first months after he was discharged from the Army. The collection is tentatively titled *The True Taste of War*.

Now, before moving to Long Island, to live with his daughter Sarah and her family, Hendrick — in what he claims is his "last hurrah," — will be the keynote presenter at a Nov. 9 James Jones Literary Society conference in Robinson. The title for the address is "James Jones — His Literature and His Letters."

As a man who has done so much in the world of literature, Hendrick has few regrets. He would like to see a well-researched biography of Jones, like the one Lennon just completed on Norman Mailer.

"If I were five years younger, I would do it," Hendrick said. "But I can no longer travel to all the libraries necessary to do the job. So that will have to be done by a younger individual."

Story behind old photo: Colony's sojourn in Florida

By Ray Elliott

In Frank McShane's book, *Into Eternity: The Life of James Jones American Writer*, he includes the photo (right) of Jones and others eating spaghetti at Nettie's Place in Fort Myers Beach, FL.

But the caption under the photo says, "Unable to work in New York, Jones returned to Marshall, Illinois, where he and Lowney, shown eating spaghetti with friends, established the Handy Colony for young writers." Source: Pete Purinton.

The photo was not taken in Marshall. In a June 24, 2006, story on Jones in the *Fort Myers News-Press*, reporter Glenn Miller writes, "James Jones wasn't just another tourist when he rode over the old swing bridge, the hand-cranked one built in 1928, onto Fort Myers on Nov. 4, 1949."

The photo was taken after that and probably around the time of the publication of *From Here To Eternity* in 1951, which made Jones famous. Colony member Don Sackrider, a current James Jones Literary Society board member, was quoted in the article as saying he believed the book was finished before Jones hit the beach in Lee County, FL. At least he says he can remember Jones rehearsing his acceptance speech for the 1951 National Book Award on Fort Myers Beach.

While the time frame is a bit cloudy, there is no doubt about the fact that Jones was in Fort Myers in the late 1940s and early 1950s. I asked Tom Wood, JJLS board member and archivist at the University of Illinois at Springfield (where much Jones material is archived), to send me copies of the photos from Nettie's for my files. On a whim I sent them to John Butler, a friend who had grown up in Fort Myers after his father had been killed on Iwo Jima in 1945, to see if John could identify the others pictured.

"I don't remember Nettie's Place at Fort Myers Beach," John wrote. "I will pass this around to my longtime Italian friend, Joe D'Alessandro. We were friends from first grade on at parochial school through high school. The D'Alessandros were a well-established Italian family and had a restaurant bar in town. Joe might know about Nettie's Place."

And he did.

"I think the person eating is James Jones," D'Alessandro wrote back. "The good-looking lady in both pictures – she has a scarf around her neck – is Rosie Pacelli. Her husband, Eddie, is also in both pictures. He is standing up and a lock of his hair is on his forehead.

"There is a portly man in both pictures with dark hair and a big smile. His name is Tony Cicala. I spoke to Rosie today on the phone. She is ill with cancer. She remembers the picture and event very well. Rosie's mom was Nettie, and Tony had returned to visit Nettie and thank her for all the times she fed him (during the war) when he was stationed at Buckingham (Army Airfield 10 miles east of Fort Myers)."

And then John put me in touch with Rosie Pacelli and her daughter, Marion. It was Marion who reminded John that he should remember her mother.

"She fed him breakfast every Sunday morning after Mass when he brought the priest to the beach at the



Enjoying Nettie's spaghetti are, from left, Bob Smith, Lowney Handy, Tony Cicala, James Jones, and Eddie and Rosie Pacelli.

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Mermaid Club,” Marion said. “The priest was Father Norbet. He was a retired Benedictine monk who helped out at St Francis.”

“Jim was a cocky little fellow,” Rosie told me when I called her, “but he loved the way I made spaghetti and how I made the sauce.”

John remembered the breakfasts. And Rosie remembered that Jones and the group were there for three months or so, and some of them were at Nettie’s almost every night for spaghetti and meatballs because – not only was it good, but it was inexpensive and filling.

At the time, Rosie remembered that Lowney would bring Jones and four or five other young writers to Fort Myers Beach to write where they apparently stayed – at a place called King’s Cottage. The population of Fort Myers Beach in 1950 was 473, according to Miller’s 2006 article – which was perfect for Lowney Handy’s writing regimen for her writers.

“She was a taskmaster,” Rosie recalled. “Every morning she got all of the group up early for a run on the beach and some calisthenics. Then they wrote until lunch, then more calisthenics and more writing. Their evenings were free.”

But being free only meant that they’d go to Nettie’s to eat spaghetti and meatballs. They had no transportation to go into Fort Myers 10 miles away. Lowney had the car.

“The boys wanted to go into Fort Myers,” Rosie said. “One night in December, we were going to go to midnight Mass. The young man in the picture (Bob Smith) said he wanted to go to Mass with us. We took him, but he didn’t go to Mass. He just wanted to go to into Fort Myers.”

After the publication of *From Here To Eternity*, Jones gave her a copy and told her again that her spaghetti was the best he’d ever eaten. In the first edition, he wrote:

For Eddie and Rosie and the two Tonis —

Remembering the best spaghetti I’ve ever eaten — Moma Losanto’s, New York & all.

With best wishes,

Jim Jones

News from first novel finalists and past winners

This year’s James Jones First Novel Fellowship attracted 666 entries, almost 100 more than in 2012. The award is intended to honor the same spirit of unblinking honesty, determination and insight into modern culture exemplified by James Jones.

There were 28 finalists. This year’s honorees are:

- Winner (\$10,000) — Margot Singer, Granville, OH. *The Art of Fugue*
- Runner-up (\$750) — Timothy Brandoff, NYC, NY. *Connie Sky*
- Runner-up (\$750) — Jennifer Davis, Baton Rouge, LA. *Reckonings*
- Honorable Mention — Tamara Titus, Charlotte, NC. *Lovely in the Eye*

News of past Fellowship winners:

- Stephen Policoff’s second novel, *Come Away*, recently won the Dzanc Books Mid-Career Award and will be published by Dzanc in Fall 2014. Policoff won the Fellowship in 2000 for *Beautiful Somewhere Else* which was published by Carroll & Graf. Policoff wrote, “I was tremendously grateful for the support the JJLS gave me at a crucial moment in my writing life; I wanted the Society to know that I continue to feel that way, continue to work as a novelist and continue to appreciate what the Society does.”
- Mary Kay Zuravleff, the 1994 winner of the James Jones First Novel Award for *The Frequency of Souls* (and a lifetime member of the Society), has had her third novel, *Man Alive!* published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Bio gracefully explores Mailer's complexity, relationship with JJ

By George Hendrick

Norman Kingsley Mailer's mother, Fannie, told Peter Manso, Mailer's early biographer, that "Norman was named Nachum Malech. 'Nachum' is 'Norman.' 'Malech' is 'king' in Hebrew. We named him – he was our king." She spoke the truth; he was king of the family. Following the success of *The Naked and the Dead*, he received a literary crown. That title was threatened after the appearance of *Barbary Shore* and *The Deer Park*. Later, after he stabbed his wife, Adele, he was in exile in Bellevue, as barren as Emperor Napoleon's Saint Helena. At the time of the stabbing, he may have been mad as King Lear. Mailer made a triumphant return with *Armies of the Night* and *The Executioner's Song*. He had more wives than Henry VIII, and his ego was as large as Henry's. His sexual affairs are beyond counting. His warts were massive, but often exaggerated. A kingly literary genius, he often played the Shakespearian role of fool.

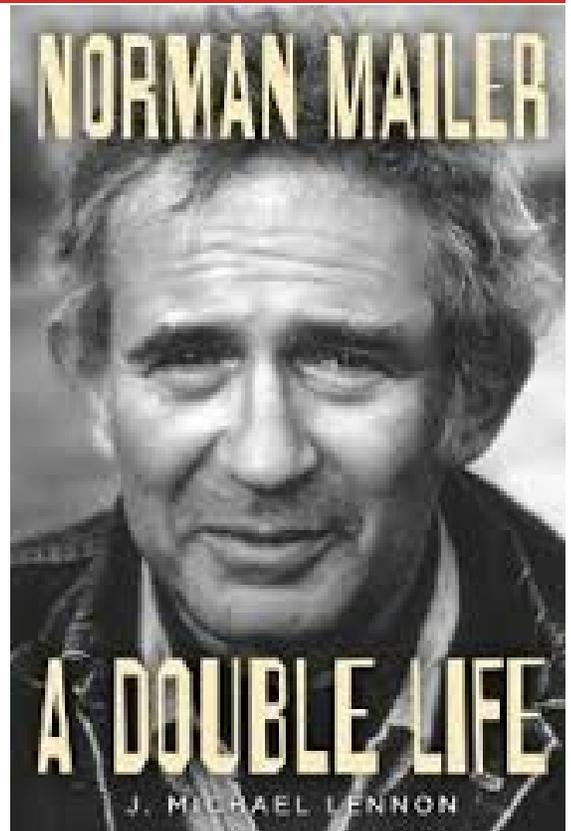
After all the gossip about Mailer, after all the literary quarrels, after his successes and failures, comes J. Michael Lennon's

Norman Mailer: a Double Life (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013), a massive, gracefully written, authorized biography. Lennon knew Mailer for many years and had access to members of the Mailer family and also interviewed Mailer's friends and foes. Lennon mastered the vast Mailer archives and presents his findings with clarity. He tells the whole story: Mailer the genius; Mailer the provocateur; Mailer seeking, as he wrote in *Advertisements for Myself*, "the murderous message of marijuana" and "the smoke of the assassins;" Mailer's troubled relationships with James Jones, William Styron, Gore Vidal, and other literary princes, themselves ready to claim the title of king; Mailer's brilliance as a journalist; Mailer the religious seeker; Mailer always in need of money; Mailer the prisoner of sex who reveals the size of his pizzle.

Readers of the "James Jones Journal" will want to add Lennon's biography to their library, for the life and times and art of Mailer reveal much about the life and times and art of James Jones. Lennon's extended account of the Mailer-Jones relationship is exemplary.

Lennon's *Norman Mailer: A Double Life* is also a reminder that a full-scale biography of James Jones, based on a close reading of his texts, interviews, and the vast primary materials at Yale, Princeton, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Springfield, is needed. The Jones biographers, MacShane and Garrett, did not make full use of the Yale, Princeton and Texas materials and the collections at Urbana-Champaign and Springfield were not available to them. Jones deserves the attention that Lennon has given Mailer.

Hendrick is a retired University of Illinois English professor and department head who served as the first president of the James Jones Literary Society and edited To Reach Eternity: The Letters of James Jones.



The Quail Creek County Club in Robinson, IL, is holding rooms from Nov. 7 through 9 for symposium attendees.

Call (800) 544-8674 for reservations.

Remembering Paris, Norman Mailer and Francis Macomber

By Jerry Bayne

We were having a fine time. No. Those words are not adequate. We were having a fabulous time ... the time of our lives! It was one of those very special slice-of-life, peak-experience-moments we cherish.

It was two days removed from the summer solstice in 2002. I was holding a cocktail in one hand and a plate of incredible hors d'oeuvres in the other. I was standing in a loose circle with good buddies in a beautiful second floor flat along Boulevard Saint-Germain on the Left Bank of Paris.

Mike Lennon, Warren Mason, Don Sackrider, Ray Elliott, Kevin Heisler and I were sharing stories about our weekend of James Jones Literary Society activities.

On Friday, June 21, in the late afternoon, we had a book signing and wine tasting reception in the Latin Quarter followed by dinner at one of Hemingway's hang outs, Brasserie Lipp. Then we went on to an abundance of street music as part of the Fête de la Musique (Paris Summer Solstice festival which felt like our NOLA Mardi Gras) on the right bank in Place des Vosges (the oldest planned square in Paris).

Saturday we had staged a very interesting and completely successful symposium at the American University. The program included a discussion of James Jones' novel set in Paris, *The Merry Month of May*, by Judy Everson, Larry Shiner, Molly Schlich and Mike Lennon. Then Norman Mailer reminisced about "James Jones in America." After lunch, Hugh Mulligan, an AP Correspondent, gave a presentation on "James Jones in Vietnam" and George Plimpton presented a program on "Memories of James Jones in Paris."

The final event of the Paris Symposium was a scripted fund-raising performance of *Zelda, Scott and Ernest* at The American Church in Paris on Quai d'Orsay. Norman Mailer, Norris Church Mailer and Plimpton read the letters of Zelda, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway. The American Church was filled to capacity and our \$25,000 goal was achieved.

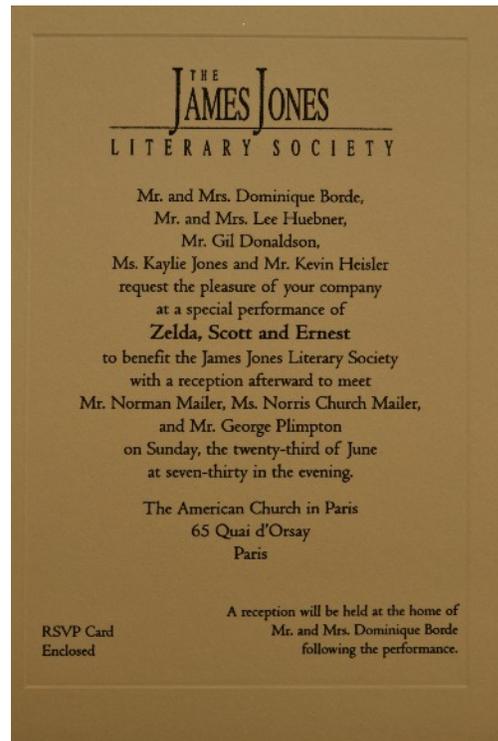
We had good reason to be celebrating. Actually, the vision for this 2002 Paris Symposium had begun in a small meeting room at a cheap motel near the Chicago O'Hare Airport during a weekend in March of 1996 at a JJLS long-range strategic planning retreat.

All of the JJLS board members had been working for years to mount this weekend in Paris. For some of us, this event was one of the most challenging we had ever attempted. I knew that each buddy had his own personal challenges and certainly a gut wrenching moment or two while completing his symposium assignment. Don took care of all the travel arrangements for the guest speakers. Warren was the money guy who had to carry the cash and sweat out all the payments. Kevin had developed the symposium business plan and Ray organized and led the travel for a large group to Paris. Mike was involved in about every aspect of the project but he was especially our go-to guy for the *Zelda, Scott and Ernest* performance. The final planning and specific assignments for the Paris Symposium took place in Maxine Zwermann's living room on Main Street in Robinson, IL in the fall of 2001.

We had good reason to be celebrating.

We were talking and laughing and sharing stories about our planning and the weekend in Paris and then our conversation veered toward literature and eventually to Ernest Hemingway. Someone started talking about one of Hemingway's terrific short story, "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber."

Someone said Hemingway was asked to select one short story for an anthology of American short story authors and he chose to submit "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber." Someone added, and knowing



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Eternity cast drilled...

Continued from page 1

Elliott looked over the script, saw early stagings and pointed out when the musical had it wrong, like saluting or calling a sergeant “sir,” as well as sharing his expertise on military insignia.

Though he spotted some mistakes, Elliott said he's enthused about the production and hopes it comes to Broadway next year.

Among the things he taught cast members was how to march and carry their arms as it would have been done in 1941.

“They picked it up pretty quick,” Elliott said. “They've been professionally trained, so they were good at learning the moves.”

Auditions ended this summer, Elliott said. Rehearsals start this month. [Since this article appeared, the show is in previews.]

“With the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the recent publication of James Jones’ uncensored *From Here To Eternity* and other of Jones’ work (University of Illinois Professor) George Hendrick is editing and is being published and the musical,” Elliott said, he believes a “re-emergence of Jones as the pre-eminent author and voice of the enlisted soldiers who fought and died in World War II to preserve our freedom will once again be recognized.”

He noted that Jones continues to influence military veterans who become writers, including Winston Groom, Larry Heinemann and Tim O'Brien.

Elliott, who has made European travels with students in tow, said he has talked with the American Council for International Studies about plans for a tour that will showcase three plays,” the author said. [See back page for details on this tour, finalized since this article appeared.]

Elliott's teaching career included a long stint at Urbana High School as an English and journalism teacher.

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Paris ...

Continued from page 9

Mike Lennon as the litterateur that I do, I think it was Mike, that while Hemingway selected the story he also said it was no better than his other short stories. Sometime later I was reading from *This Is My Best*, edited by Whit Burnett, and Hemingway did indeed write similar remarks about “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber.”

After talking about the storyline and characters, especially Wilson the safari hunter and leader, I think I asked if it was an accident that Macomber’s wife, Margot, shot him or was killing Macomber her intent? Ray turned, saying over his shoulder, “I’m going to ask Norman” and off he blasted to the dining room. We followed Ray like a train of box cars. Norman was sitting at the end of the very large dining table. Every chair was taken and people were standing shoulder-to-shoulder and butt-to-butt listening to Norman’s funny stories.

During a pause and over the voices of others I heard Ray shout to Norman, “Did Macomber’s wife intend to kill him?” In my mind’s eye I remember thinking that any person, no matter how powerful the intellect, would need to take a moment, a few seconds, to steady and to connect and reflect on such an obscure question. Not Norman. No sooner had Ray finished his question than Norman said something quite firmly and without pause like, “Of course she intended to kill him! Isn’t that consistent with Hemingway’s protagonists ... personally succeeding only to encounter disaster?”

We had good reason to be celebrating. The Paris Symposium was a wonderful experience. And Norman Mailer and Francis Macomber added a very special imagery for me.

Jerry Bayne has served three times as President of the JJLS. He was president during the 2002 Paris Symposium.



Ray Elliott, center, drills “Eternity” cast.

Military historian brings new perspective to officers

By Jason S. Ridler, Ph.D.

I am not, and have never been, a soldier. I learned at an early age that not only did I have a problem with authority (I was in a punk band for five years), my vocation was writing history and fiction. And yet, as a military historian, I found myself among soldiers, veterans, and the military way of life. I was part of the minority of civilian graduate students in the War Studies program at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). But being an outsider amongst soldiers has allowed me a unique position to help them learn; a job I've taken seriously, and joyously, for the past ten years.

Not long after 9/11, I taught at Fleet School Quebec. RMC had spearheaded the creation of the Officer Professional Military Programme to provide all officers a valuable liberal arts education that included courses on ethics, politics and government, defense economic, military law, and two history courses which I helped create. At Fleet School, I was about to teach my first onsite class about the history of technology and warfare when my class mutinied upon the second day.

They informed me that the commandant had been requested and, when he arrived, a class senior informed everyone that the class wished to take my course online while on-ship. That the compressed OPME program, crushing five fifteen week courses into nine weeks, was already incredibly demanding. Adding my intensive reading course on top of the others would be detrimental. There would be no time for anything but cursory readings. Such an approach would defeat the "spirit" of education and the program.

I had no idea they'd compressed the entire course so much, and thought the class had a valid point. The commandant then shocked me. While sympathetic, he believed they were doing okay with grades in the sixties, that when he was in Staff College he couldn't get all the reading done, and they just had to do their best, even if they couldn't get the grades they were used to. They were ordered to carry on, with special leave to be given at the end of the run.

Motivating them now was hell. How could I inspire them to do their best if they were told their best could not actually be achieved, especially when I agreed with their concerns? There was only one military attribute I thought would help me: lead by example.

I lived with my students, ate with my students, and worked hard alongside them. I held extended office hours for those who were struggling, and worked with those who wanted to do drafts so they could achieve better grades. I got them resources to do research, short-hand guides to military history so they could keep major events on their desks, created a small research library so they had material for their final paper. Every day I came to class and saw their exhausted faces, I cranked up the enthusiasm and tried to keep them not only awake, but engaged. And while I was no pushover (they smell weakness like sharks smell blood), I made sure that I was not just their leader, but their ally. I wanted them to do well. I cared about their grades. I did not want to leave anyone behind.

It was exhausting and worthwhile. The class ended with an above average grade. I discovered in that class fertile minds and cagey intellects, alongside the usual jokers and shirkers, who absorbed the material and applied it well. It would be safe to say that by the time the class ended, they were going to be able to take what we did and, I hope, find a home for that knowledge and analysis.

For ten years, I've taught soldiers, trying to convince them of the value of their profession's past, of thinking critically, challenging their minds. Every time, I think back to the first class I taught, of needing to instill in them the idea that their instructor isn't some tweedy kid who's never eaten dirt and thus has no stake or claim to their world. In the classroom, I was the leader, and they were my charge. It has been one of my greatest joys to hear that my student evaluations were always high, and, more importantly, that some of those students were inspired to continue their education and apply their experience to graduate work. The wars of tomorrow will be complex beasts, even if much of war is timeless. I hope my contribution, my "little bit," in educating soldiers will also have some staying power.

Jason S. Ridler, MA, Ph.D., is a professor at Norwich University, Northfield, VT, and an independent writer, scholar, and historical consultant.

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Ray Elliott, in conjunction with the American Council for International Studies, has organized a London Showtime tour, which will include a performance of *From Here To Eternity, The Musical*, for Feb. 24-March 4. Current prices are guaranteed for those enrolled by Nov. 1, 2013. For tour details or to enroll online, see <http://www.acis.com/tripsite/?key=RFJjUDVxSFMzOHpYQnBPYWZaTT0%3D> For questions about departure from other cities, contact ACIS Customer Services at (800) 795-0813 or Ray at rayelliott23@att.net