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H.D.

NEWSLETTER

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Eileen Gregory, Editor



PREFACE

The *H.D. Newsletter* grew out of the activities surrounding the centennial of H.D.'s birth, celebrated in the past year or so with special conferences and journal issues devoted to her work. At these occasional gatherings many of us for the first time had the chance to share our musings on H.D., which until then had occurred in relative isolation. The generosity and congeniality of these interchanges was especially refreshing. This was fine conversation—a convergence of arcane scholarly matter, humor, gossip, personal reflection, speculation, and wonder. It is clear that H.D.'s writing, increasingly available to readers, generates a remarkable range and depth of response.

We wanted that conversation to continue—and in the aftermath of the Yale and Bethlehem celebrations in September 1986 we began to imagine a newsletter which would allow a network, a locus for the interchange of information and thought, to those engaged in research and writing about H.D. This initial issue, being sent to about a hundred subscribers, carries through with that intention. It responds to a wide-ranging and intense critical interest in H.D., and it will continue to grow.

The *Newsletter* has already exceeded the bounds originally intended. But it is still imagined to be chiefly a vehicle of interchange. We encourage anyone, working on H.D. at any stage of research or reflection, to let us know what you are doing, or to send brief notes about particular poems, images, issues, questions—anything which, were we all in one room together, you might want us to entertain. I call your attention to the regular section called CONTEXTS, notes which show H.D.'s literary, historical, or biographical connections/interweavings. Also, at this stage in commentary on H.D.'s work any information that might abbreviate or structure research efforts would be especially valuable. The *Newsletter* is a way-station: you may want to distribute here material you have already “published” within theses or dissertations; you may wish to “pre-publish” things which you intend to publish in another form at a later time. The point is to share information and ideas with others who might be exploring similar ground. Please write as well if you wish to respond to any material published in the *Newsletter*. I hope to have a LETTERS category with the second issue. Please see the NOTES for more detailed instructions and requests for submissions.

This first issue gives orientations. We begin at nebulous beginnings, in H.D. style, with a star-map of the *H.D. Newsletter* sent by Silvia, Dobson, who includes us in her practice of charting the destinies of her own and H.D.'s friends. And we begin at the beginning in other ways as well. May we prosper.