

H.D.

NEWSLETTER

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PREFACE

Essays in this issue of the *H.D. Newsletter* once again explore various threads of H.D.'s literary associations and intimate ties. When dealing with the "influences" upon H.D., intellectual and personal associations seem inextricably linked. H.D.'s reading or research was affected through bonds with individuals, and at the same time individuals were elected for friendship through literary predilections. Both kinds of ties form part of H.D.'s mode of poetic assimilation through "temperamental affinity."

Two essays here discuss an important aspect of H.D.'s affiliations. Rev. Henry L. Williams explores the general character of the Moravian heritage in which H.D. participated in her early years. Jane Augustine suggests the implications of this tradition as deliberately recovered by H.D. in her "Moravian" novel *The Mystery*, written in 1950-1951. In terms of this religious exploration, one sees the circularity of H.D.'s assimilation—her Moravian past disposes her to the exploration of the inner life and to visionary phenomena, leading her eventually to an acceptance of Freud; but Freud triggers the exploration of her personal and "racial memory," leading her back to Moravianism.

A similar connection between intellectual and personal ties is suggested as well in the other essays of this issue. Donna Krolik Hollenberg and Louis H. Silverstein explore H.D.'s relationship with Norman Holmes Pearson, emphasizing his "catalytic" role in her creative process; the affection and respect between H.D. and Pearson led to their discussion of H.D.'s work-in-progress. In the CONTEXTS section of this issue, Jerry Clack speculates on a possible influence in the development of H.D.'s conception of Helen, pointing to the Strauss/Hofmannsthal opera *Die ägyptische Helena*, to which H.D. may have been introduced during her stay in Vienna while in psychoanalysis with Freud. In another note, Shannon Hengen finds a poetic exploration of intimacy in the very prosody of H.D.'s tribute to Saint-John Perse in *Hermetic Definition*.

The *H.D. Newsletter* imagines itself as continuous with this cooperative or collaborative spirit. It has been our intention not to duplicate mainstream journals, but to support and extend the conversation among those interested in H.D. The *Newsletter* will continue to exist only so long as it serves this purpose. Thus, once again, we remind you that we depend entirely upon the contributions of our subscribers, financially and substantively, and that we need your continuing support. Please keep the *Newsletter* in mind if you have materials suitable to share within this conversation. Please keep us in mind, too, through your promptness in returning your renewed subscriptions.