

THE NORMAN MAILER SOCIETY

C/O Humanities Division
Kirby Hall
202 South River Street
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

For further information,
Contact J. Michael Lennon,
Interim President
570-408-4522
lennon@wilkes.edu

INAUGURAL MEETING OF NORMAN MAILER SOCIETY

~~October 20, 2003~~

Nov 1, 2003

Norman Mailer has had a home in Brooklyn, N.Y. for over three-quarters of a century so The Norman Mailer Society decided that its first formal conference should be on Mailer's own turf. The Society, which was organized at a Cambridge, Massachusetts meeting in May, was established to stimulate and encourage interest in the works of Mailer, one of the most important American writers of the post-World War II period. On November 1st, The Society's first annual conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St. Several important writers and filmmakers will speak at the conference, including Gay Talese, Jason Epstein, Lawrence Schiller, Barbara Probst Solomon, Donn Pennebaker and Michael Mailer (Mailer's eldest son). The keynote luncheon speaker is Ron Rosenbaum, columnist for the *New York Observer*, author of *Explaining Hitler* and a recent profile of Mailer in the *Observer*.

Three panels on Mailer's work are scheduled, as follows:

- 10:30 Mailer and Magazines: Gay Talese (writer), Christopher Napolitano (editor, *Playboy*), Carol Polsgrove (author of history of *Esquire*), moderator Barbara Probst Solomon (editor, *The Reading Room*)
- 1:45 Mailer and Film: Donn Pennebaker (independent film-maker), Mickey Knox (veteran actor and film producer), Michael Mailer (film producer), moderator Robert F. Lucid (Mailer's authorized biographer)
- 3:15 Working with Mailer: Jason Epstein (former Editorial Director, Random House), Lawrence Schiller (Mailer's collaborator on several films and books, including *The Executioner's Song*), Ike Williams (literary agent and publishing lawyer), moderator J. Michael Lennon (Mailer's archivist, editor of *The Spooky Art*)

P.2/ Mailer Society

The panels will be preceded by a business meeting from 9-10:30, at which the Society will elect officers and a Board of Directors and approve by-laws. The luncheon, also at the Marriott, will run from noon to 1:30; Mr. Rosenbaum will speak at 12:45. Future annual conferences are contemplated in various places associated with Mailer, including Provincetown, Massachusetts, where Mailer has resided for most of every year since the mid-1980s. The Society is also considering holding scholarly meetings in conjunction with professional organizations such as the American Literature Association and the Modern Language Association.

Interested individuals may register for the conference (and/or join the Society) by visiting the conference registration desk starting at 8 a.m. or by calling David Light, Treasurer, at 860-423-7056 by October 27th. Luncheon tickets are \$45 and may also be reserved with Light. Individuals may attend the luncheon without registering for the conference. Annual Society dues are \$20, \$25/couples, \$10/students; and life memberships are \$250/person. Conference registration is \$25 before the conference and \$35 for those who register on November 1st.

Although the Society was organized only a few months ago, it has already almost 200 members. A web site, www.normanmailersociety.org is already in operation; an annual bibliography, publications and other activities to promote interest in Mailer's works are all under development.

P.2/ Mailer Society

The panels will be preceded by a business meeting from 9-10:30, at which the Society will elect officers and a Board of Directors and approve by-laws. The luncheon, also at the Marriott, will run from noon to 1:30; Mr. Rosenbaum will speak at 12:45. Future annual conferences are contemplated in various places associated with Mailer, including Provincetown, Massachusetts, where Mailer has resided for most of every year since the mid-1980s. The Society is also considering holding scholarly meetings in conjunction with professional organizations such as the American Literature Association and the Modern Language Association.

Interested individuals may register for the conference (and/or join the Society) by visiting the conference registration desk starting at 8 a.m. or by calling David Light, Treasurer, at 860-423-7056 by October 27th. Luncheon tickets are \$45 and may also be reserved with Light. Individuals may attend the luncheon without registering for the conference. Annual Society dues are \$20, \$25/couples, \$10/students; and life memberships are \$250/person. Conference registration is \$25 before the conference and \$35 for those who register on November 1st.

Although the Society was organized only a few months ago, it has already almost 200 members. A web site, www.normanmailersociety.org is already in operation; an annual bibliography, publications and other activities to promote interest in Mailer's works are all under development.