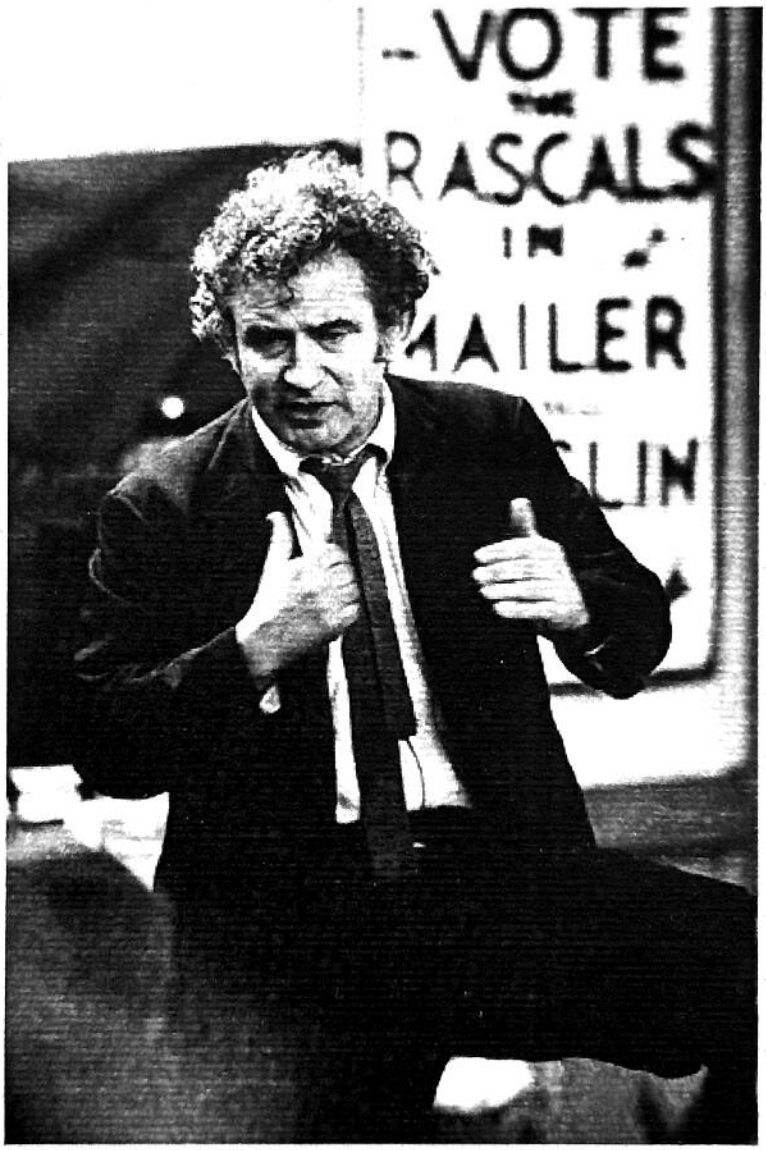
# 17th Annual Norman Mailer Conference

## *Mailer on Politics, Public Life, and Pop Culture*

## Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA



# 17th Annual Norman
# *Mailer on Politics, Publi*
Wilkes University,
October 10

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th**

9:00-10:00 **Business Meeting** (Breiseth 107)

10:15-11:15 **The Politics of American Democracy:** Bob Begiebing, "Mailer and the Founders"; Robert Saxe, "'A Little Better Than They Should Have Been': Norman Mailer and the Romance of the Kennedys"; Alex Hicks, "Norman Mailer, White Working Class Male and 'Left Conservatism'"; Moderator: Nicole DePolo (Breiseth 106)

11:30-12:30 Session #1: **Mailer in the Public Eye:** Matthew Hinton, "The Pugilist vs. The Publisher: Norman Mailer Takes On"; "Mailer and Celebrity"; Bill Lowenberg, "Mailer: A Life in Pictures"; Moderator: Robert Saxe (Breiseth 107)

Session #2: **Philosophical Foundations & Political Connections:** Raj Chandarlapaty, "The Hipster"; Alex Hicks, "Mailer's Marxist Politics"; Ann von Mehren, "*Armies of the Night,* Mitch Goodman, and the CPA"; Moderator: Jerry Lucas (Breiseth 106)

12:30-1:45 Lunch on Your Own

2:00-3:00 Session #1: **Mailer and Journalism**
Jason Mosser, "Mailer's Literary Journalism in Context"; Sal Fallica, "In the Red Light: History Biding Its Time"; Victor Peppard, "Mailer and Breslin: Champions of the Little Man and the Outlaw"; Moderator: Phil Sipiora (Breiseth 107)

Session #2: ***Of a Fire on the Moon* After 50 Years** Carol Holmes-Alpern, "*Of a Fire on the Moon*: A Retrospective"; Walter Lewallen, "That Sinking Feeling"; Moderator: Enid Stubin (Breiseth 106)

3:15-4:15 **Current Mailer Projects:** Mike Lennon; Jerry Lucas; Susan Mailer; Maggie McKinley (Breiseth 106)

4:30-5:30 **Book Reading: Susan Mailer, *In Another Place*** (Breiseth 107). *Book Signing to Follow in Weckesser Hall at Opening Reception.*

5:45-7:00 **Opening Reception** (Weckesser Hall), sponsored by Wilkes Maslow Family Creative Writing Program and the President's Office

7:00-8:00 **Tour of Mailer Reading Room and Collection** and **Dedication of Nancy Ellen Craig's Mailer Portrait** (Farley Library, 2nd Floor)

Dinner on your own

# Mailer Conference
## *c Life, and Pop Culture*
Wilkes-Barre, PA
12, 2019

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th**

9:00-10:00 **Mailer and McLuhan:** Nicole DePolo; Jerry Lucas; Sal Fallica (Breiseth 106)

10:15-11:15 **Norman Mailer and the Actor's Studio:** John Buffalo Mailer; Timothy Nolan; Mike Lennon (Breiseth 107)

11:30-12:30 Session #1: **Mailer and Violence:** Mark Olshaker; Marc Triplett; Maggie McKinley (Breiseth 106)

Session #2: **Mailer's French Connection:** Jeanne Fuchs, "Mailer in Translation"; Jason Mosser, "Mailer and Malaquais in Conversation"; Mike Lennon, "Mailer and Stendhal"; Moderator: Victor Peppard (Breiseth 107)

12:30-1:45 Lunch on Your Own; **Board Meeting & Lunch in Miller Room, Henry Student Center**

2:00-3:00 Session #1: ***Advertisements* and Influences:** Enid Stubin, "*Advertisements for Myself:* Mailer's *Workes";* Ray Vince, "Angst, Authorship, and the Critics: *Advertisements,* 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro,' and 'The Crack-Up'"; Erik Nakjavani, "Limit Situations: A Recurring Theme in Hemingway's and Mailer's Works"; Moderator: Jason Mosser (Breiseth 106)

Session #2: **Art and Criminality:** James Taylor, "Mailer and Jack Henry Abbott Revisited: Some Famous Writers and Their Convict Projects"; Phil Sipiora; "Literary Rhetoric in *The Executioner's Song*"; Edward Birzin, "Mailer and *The Faith of Graffiti*"; Moderator: Matthew Hinton (Breiseth 107)

3:45-4:45 ***The Executioner's Song:* A 40th Anniversary Panel Discussion, with featured speaker Larry Schiller**; Moderator: Mike Lennon (Breiseth 107)

5:00-6:30 Dinner on your own

7:00-9:00 **Screening of *The Executioner's Song,* followed by Q&A with Larry Schiller** (Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, South St.)



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th**

9:00-10:00: **Undergraduate Work on Mailer:** John Buffalo Mailer and Nicole DePolo (Breiseth 106)

10:15-11:30 **Two Films on Beverly Bentley:** Stephen Mailer's "Flaubrucht: A Celebration of Life" and Antonia Colodro's "Beverly"; Introduced by Stephen Mailer (Breiseth 107)

11:45-12:45 **Wilkes Readers' Theater:** *The Time of Our Time* Bonnie Culver, Wendy Hinton, Matthew Hinton, Jason Miller, Jan Quackenbush (Breiseth 106)

1:00-3:00 **Luncheon & Keynote Address:** Maggie Mailer (Henry Student Center Ballroom, 2nd Fl.)

This year's keynote address was funded by a generous donation from Mashey Bernstein.

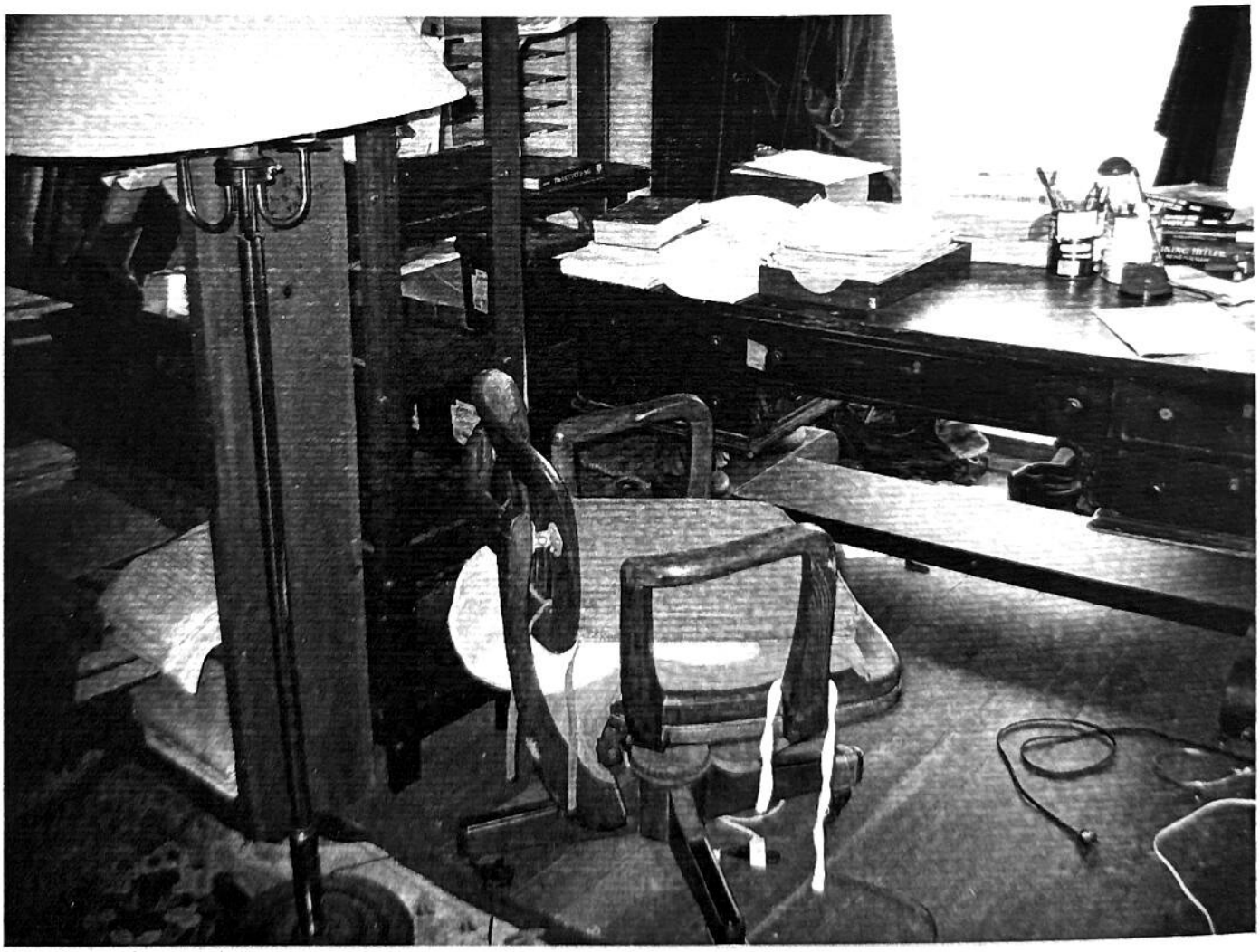


Photo Courtesy of Donna Pedro Lennon

**Bios of Presenters and Participants**
**17th Annual Norman Mailer Society Conference**
**Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA**
**October 10th-12th, 2019**

**Carol Holmes Alpern** studied Mailer under Robert Lucid, doing doctoral work at SUNY/Buffalo on *The Deer Park* with Leslie Fiedler. In July 1969, she and Lucid worked on the start of the Mailer archive in Brooklyn while Mailer was at Cape Kennedy. This January, she proofread *American Moonshot* for HarperCollins. She is on the Board of Advisers of the Earlham School of Religion.

**Robert J. Begiebing** is Professor of English Emeritus at Southern New Hampshire University and the author of nine books (criticism, journalism, memoir, and fiction), including two books on Norman Mailer.

**Mashey Bernstein**, raised in Ireland in an orthodox Jewish family completed his Ph.D on Jewish aspects of Mailer's work at the University of California Santa Barbara. At the same time he began a life long friendship and correspondence with Mailer that lasted over thirty five years. Bernstein recently retired from the Writing Program of UCSB and now pursues an interest in film.

**Edward Birzin** grew up in Brooklyn, NY. He teaches writing at a high school in the Bronx and is an adjunct at Brooklyn College. He lived in Berlin, Germany for 7 years, where he attended Freie University and did his PhD research on the invention of modern graffiti.

**Raj Chandarlapaty** has published three books, the most recent of which is *Seeing The Beat Generation* (McFarland Books). Dr. Chandarlapaty has published essays on Norman Mailer, Allen Ginsberg, James Baldwin, and Mohammed Mrabet.

**Antonia Colodro** is a Chilean-American director of photography based in New York City. With a background in photography, she first delved into film while traveling internationally for documentary films. She was selected as the cinematographer for the comedy pilot "Half-Life" for the Made in New York Series Competition, which aired on NYC Media in 2018. She holds an MFA in cinematography from the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema.

**Bonnie Culver** has had twenty plays produced including, Sniper at Center Stage, New York City and three screenplays optioned. Her one-woman show *Norris* was read at the NMS 2016 conference, and is scheduled for production at the Edgemar Center for the Arts, starring Anne Archer. She is the director/co-founder of the Wilkes U Graduate Creative Writing Program. Wilkes students and faculty have read at the annual conference since 2006.

**Nicole DePolo** is an Assistant Professor of English at Fisher College in Boston, MA. She holds a PhD in Editorial Studies from the Editorial Institute at Boston University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University. Her doctoral dissertation, *Norman Mailer's Book of the Dead,* is a critical companion to *Ancient Evenings* that includes an annotated edition of "The Book of the Gods."

**Salvatore J. Fallica** was born in Brooklyn, New York, and teaches courses in propaganda and spectacle culture in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University. He presented "Early Dylan: The Contemporary Anachronism," at the Dylan Archives in June, and is working on a text tentatively titled "Norman Mailer and Celebrity Culture." He was awarded the "Excellence in Teaching" award from the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU.

**Jeanne Fuchs** is professor emerita in the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages at Hofstra University, where she taught French and comparative literature. Her four books include a monograph on Jean-Jacques Rousseau's only novel, *La Nouvelle Héloïse*. She has published articles, mainly examining French writers: Molière, Marivaux, George Sand and Alfred de Musset and dance in film: Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly and Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire.

**Alexander Hicks** is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Emory University and author/co-author of books including *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism* (Cornell University Press, 1999) and *The Handbook of Political Sociology* (Cambridge, 2004), plus numerous papers in leading social science journals, the *Mailer Review* and *Poetics*, and was 2003-2006 inaugural co-editor of *The Socioeconomic Review* (Oxford). He exchanged several dozen letters with Norman Mailer during 1983-2006.

**Matthew S. Hinton** (MA, MFA) was born in the back seat of his great grandmother's taxi in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He is a playwright and poet, and teaches at Misericordia University. His account of getting a tattoo of Norman Mailer appears in the Summer 2018 issue of *Provincetown Arts*. He dreams in analog.

**Wendy Hinton** is a lover of theatre, music, and art. She earned her B.A. in Visual and Performing Arts at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT and went on to earn a M.S. in Organizational Management at Misericordia University. Wendy currently serves as the Director of Advancement Communications at King's College. She is Matthew Hinton's better half.

**J. Michael Lennon** is the author of *Norman Mailer: A Double Life* (2013), and *Selected Letters of Norman Mailer* (2014). He is also the editor of *Norman Mailer: The Sixties*, published by the Library of America in 2018.

**Walter Lewallen** is a lecturer at UNC-Pembroke, teaching American Literature, Contemporary Literature, and composition classes. He is currently working on a study of reading from a Buddhist perspective.

**Bill Lowenburg** is the author of *Crash Burn Love*, a monograph of photos and essays, and *The Zorki Chronicles*, a novel. Bill is also a former sparring partner and assistant trainer at the Larry Holmes Gym. His articles on boxing have appeared in several Mailer Reviews.

**Gerald R. Lucas** (@drgrlucas) teaches humanities and new media studies at Middle Georgia State University. His research and teaching interests include new media, speculative fiction, eLearning, and twentieth-century American literature. Jerry is a Professor of English and a Norman Mailer Fellow; he maintains Project Mailer, works as the Senior Media Editor of *The Mailer Review*, and edited *Norman Mailer: Works and Days* (2018)

**John Buffalo Mailer** is an award winning screenwriter, journalist, playwright, actor, and producer. He has been published in three books of collected essays, has published two plays, has had four feature screenplays produced, and has been an editor for four national magazines. He can be seen in upcoming feature films *The Second Sun, American Terrorist,* and *DieRy* (the second two of which he also wrote and produced). He is currently the Creative Director of a new Development and Production company, *Mailer Tuchman Media,* which is launching in 2019.

**Maggie Mailer** is a painter living and working in New York State. Her paintings describe landscapes which shift between abstract and narrative modes. She has received grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, A.R.T. Grant. Her work has been featured in *Art New England*, with cover stories in *The Boston Globe* and *The Los Angeles Times*. In 2002 Mailer founded the Storefront Artist Project in Pittsfield, MA, an ephemeral artist residency which served to establish transparent boundaries between the artist at work and the work and the public sphere. The project is credited with jumpstarting the revival of the city of Pittsfield, and has been used as a model for the regeneration of other cities across the country.

**Stephen Mailer** is an actor and a writer and most recently put those two practices to work in a film he also produced and directed, titled *Flaubrucht: A Celebration of Life*. He is married to actress, artist, Elizabeth Rainer, and is the proud father of "Curious" Cal (20) and "Tenacious" Teddy (16).

**Susan Mailer**, a psychoanalyst, is co-founder of the Psychoanalytic Association of Santiago where she is also a faculty member. She has a private practice and supervises in Santiago, Chile. Her memoir *In Another Place, with and without my father Norman Mailer*, has been recently published.

**Maggie McKinley** is Associate Professor of English at Harper College, where she teaches courses in composition and American literature. She is the author of *Masculinity and the Paradox of Violence in American Fiction, 1950-75* (Bloomsbury 2015) and *Understanding Norman Mailer* (U of SC Press 2017), and is currently editing *Norman Mailer in Context* and *Philip Roth in Context* for Cambridge University Press.

**Jason Miller** is a playwright in the final term of his M.A. at Wilkes University, a graduate assistant with Etruscan Press, and a marketing professional from Lehman, PA. He's facing his fear of reading in public, so try to cut him some slack.

**Jason Mosser** is a professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College who received his B.A. and M.A. from West Virginia University and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He has taught at a number of institutions during his career, including Georgia Tech, the Atlanta College of Art, and Rockford College. His publications include a book on Participatory Journalism, articles and reviews on Joan Didion, Norman Mailer, and Hunter S. Thompson, and a chapbook, *Salvage and Other Poems*.

**Erik Nakjavani** is Professor Emeritus of Humanities at the University of Pittsburgh. His life-long interests and publications have been in interdisciplinary commonalities among literary theory, psychoanalysis, and philosophy. He is currently working on an essay on sacred music and poetry. His latest publication "Norman "on Mohammad Ali: Boxing as Nonverbal Dialogue and Discourse and Bantu Philosophy" appears in *The Norman Mailer Review* (2017).

**Timothy Nolan** is an MFA candidate at the Actors Studio Drama School, a member of the Indie Theater Hall of Fame, a 2013 Indie Theater Now Person of the Year, a winner of a 2003 Fringe Festival Excellence in Playwriting award for *Acts of Contrition*, the author of a dozen plays including *Mighty Good Company*, *The Sugar Plant*, *E Minor 7th*, and *What's In A Name*, a graduate of Fordham University, and a member of the Dramatists Guild.

**Mark Olshaker** is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and author of eleven nonfiction books and five novels, including *Einstein's Brain* and *The Edge*. His books with former FBI Special Agent John Douglas, from *Mindhunter* (basis for the current Netflix series) to *The Killer Across the Table*, have sold millions of copies worldwide. *Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs*, with Dr. Michael Osterholm, was published in 2017. Olshaker is past president of the Norman Mailer Society, a director of the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation, and a life member of the Writers Guild of America.

**Victor Peppard** is Professor of Russian at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He has published on such writers as Babel, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Mailer, Nabokov, Solzhenitsyn, Olesha, and Voinovich, and on the history of Russian and Soviet sport. He has also published several short stories.

**Jan Quackenbush** is an internationally produced playwright and teaches Playwriting and Oral Interpretation in the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing. Much of his work is archived at Boston University and La Mama E.T.C., NYC. He is thrilled to be a participant in this year's Norman Mailer Conference at Wilkes University.

**Robert Francis Saxe** is Associate Professor of History at Rhodes College. He is the author of *Settling Down": World War II Veterans' Challenge to the Postwar Consensus* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2007) and co-editor of *The Underground Reader: Sources in Trans-Atlantic Counterculture,* with Jeffrey H. Jackson (Berghahn Books, 2015). He is writing a book on Mailer's political world, and has taught a history seminar based on the works of Norman Mailer several times.

**Lawrence Schiller** worked for *Life* magazine, *Paris Match*, *The Sunday Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Stern*, and *The Saturday Evening Post* as a photojournalist in the second half of the 20th Century. He published his first book, *LSD*, in 1966. Since then he has published seventeen books, including W. Eugene Smith's book *Minamata* and Norman Mailer's *Marilyn*. He collaborated with Albert Goldman on *Ladies and Gentleman, Lenny Bruce*, and also with Norman Mailer on *The Executioner's Song* as well as *Oswald's Tale*. His own books that became national bestsellers and made the *New York Times* Bestseller list include *American Tragedy*, *Perfect Murder, Perfect Town*, *Cape May Court House*, and *Into the Mirror.* He has directed seven motion pictures and miniseries for television; including *The Executioner's Song* and *Peter the Great*, which won five Emmys.

**Phillip Sipiora** is Professor of English and Film Studies at the University of South Florida. He is the author or editor of five books and has published approximately three dozen scholarly essays. He has lectured nationally and internationally on twentieth-century literature and film and is the Founding Editor of *The Mailer Review*. He is the editor of a forthcoming volume, *Ida Lupino: The Pioneering Lens* (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2019).

**Enid Stubin** is Associate Professor of English at Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York, where she teaches courses in developmental and freshman writing and literature. Her interests include seventeenth-century English literature and the intersection of writing, politics, and culture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

**James A. Taylor** has a B.A. in Philosophy from UMass-Amherst and an MLS from Emory University. He recently retired from the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System after 31 years of service. During that time, he hosted a weekly television show, interviewing hundred of authors as they passed through Atlanta on national book tours.

**Raymond Vince** has taught for two decades at USF, University of Tampa, and Hillsborough Community College, with interests in English literature, war studies, physics, and theology. His articles on Mailer, Fitzgerald, Lawrence, Hemingway, and aspects of modern physics have appeared in *The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review* and *The Mailer Review*.

**Ann Luppi von Mehren** is studying in the English Graduate Program at the University of Memphis. She reviewing a book on war and literature in the twentieth century for the Journal of Military History and writing a chapter for *Norman Mailer In Context*, edited by Magdalen McKinley.



