

Dorothy Richardson Scholarly Editions: Joint Advisory Board and Editorial Meeting



Monday 19 May saw the first meeting of the Advisory Board of the Dorothy Richardson Editions Project in the Research Institute for the Humanities, Keele University. The project PI, Scott McCracken, gave a presentation on the background to the project, the history of Richardson criticism in the twentieth century, and some of the editorial issues the project has already encountered.

In discussing Richardson's prominence as an avant-garde writer in the 1920s, the relative decline in her reputation after 1945, and the renewal of critical interest in the late twentieth century, Scott acknowledged the important contributions of three scholars to the Richardson revival: the late Gloria Fromm, Gillian Hanscombe (who was present), and George H. Thomson (an editor on the project and corresponding member of the Advisory Board). Scott expressed the project's gratitude for the donations of documents and research materials by Harold Fromm, Dr Hanscombe and Professor Thomson to the Richardson Society. Without the work of these scholars, Scott emphasised, the project would not have been possible.

Scott then outlined the daunting programme of work the project will undertake in the next five years, editing three volumes of Richardson's Collected Letters and seven volumes of her fiction. He gave a summary of the issues that have already emerged from preparing the copy text of, *Pointed Roofs*, the first part of Richardson's long novel, *Pilgrimage*. As an example of the kinds of new information the project has been able to uncover, he revealed new evidence about the life of Winifred Ray, to whom *Pointed Roofs* is dedicated.

Rebecca Bowler, the project Researcher, then gave a short presentation on editing Richardson's letters, which focused on Richardson's use of gaps and spaces to indicate a change of time or subject. Rebecca also explained how much we still do not know about the letters. She used Richardson's enigmatic references to the 'Burlington' as an example of the difficulties of annotation. It could refer to the Burlington Arcade, the Burlington Fine Arts Club (or, as one of the editors, Jo Winning, suggested) the Burlington Arts Magazine, or perhaps just a pub: the Burlington Arms!

After lunch, Scott gave a short tour of the Richardson Society archive, which includes copies and transcripts of Richardson's letters, signed copies of her books, items from her library, and a number of contemporary periodicals, some of which contain examples of artwork by her husband, Alan Odle.

The Advisory Board members are: Dr Daniela Caselli (University of Manchester); Dr Gillian Hanscombe; Professor Eveline Kilian (Humboldt University); Professor James McLaverty (Keele University); Professor Andrew Thacker (Nottingham Trent University); Professor George H. Thomson (Ottawa University) is one of the project editors, as well a member of the Advisory Board.

Also present were the Co-Investigators: Dr Deborah Longworth (University of Birmingham), Professor Laura Marcus (University of Oxford), Dr Jo Winning (Birbeck College); the contributing editors, Dr Howard Finn (Queen Mary College), and Dr Bryony Randall (University of Glasgow); Rebekah Lockyer, PhD student and the project administrator, Tracey Harrison.