

FOREWORD

I will arise & go NOW, & go to Rappallo,
Where the ink is mostly Green, & the pencils mostly Blue.
T. S. Eliot

This volume gathers papers given at the 21st Ezra Pound International Conference (4-7 July 2005), the second to be held in Rapallo. The Conference took place in the former Convent of the Clarisse, near the promenade Pound took every day as he walked along the shore or set off from his downtown attic for the hill of Sant’Ambrogio. The Conference theme, “Ezra Pound, Language and Persona,” provided an opportunity to consider some central issues raised by Pound’s work. Who speaks in the literary text? In what language(s)? Pound can be very direct, as well as devious and sly, and hide behind assumed names and masks. The papers selected for this volume among those presented at the Conference offer solid contributions and insights into these and related questions.

Among the extras offered at the Conference was a concert of music by Vivaldi, Mozart, and Pound (performed by Roberto Mazzola, violin, and Alessandro Magnasco, piano), and a poetry reading in homage to the Miglior Fabbro. A selection of poems by the writers present is included here. There

were also hikes to Poundian places: Portofino, Portovenere, Sant' Am-brogio (where we were amicably entertained by the present owners of the house where Olga Rudge lived). A brochure published for the occasion, *Tigullio Itineraries: Ezra Pound*, included a map of places in Rapallo and Zoagli associated with Pound and his circle. (A revised and enlarged version is included in the present volume.) Another memorable event was the ascent by cable car to Montallegro, which Pound often visited, and where Hemingway conferred with Edward O'Brien in 1923, thus launching his career (O'Brien being the then editor of *The Best Short Stories* series). From the church on the hilltop there is a magnificent view over the Bay of Tigullio, and many participants could realize why Pound made of the Ligurian and Mediterranean landscapes one of the major inspirations of his poetry.

The Conference was an occasion to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mary de Rachewiltz, Pound's daughter by Olga Rudge, who has always been an inspiration and friend to scholars, and deserves much gratitude for carrying with grace and conviction her responsibility of "keeper of the flame." The Conference also marked the 60th anniversary of Pound's arrest and of the writing of *The Pisan Cantos* – nadir and zenith of his trajectory as man and poet.

The editors believe the papers in this book, though only a selection from those given, worthily represent the 21st Ezra Pound International Conference. Scholars came from Europe, America, Asia, Australia and Africa, an indication that the audience for Ezra Pound's writings, more than a quarter of a century after his death, is truly international. Another significant indication is that the number of participants has grown steadily, conference by conference, every other year, since we

met in 1991 at Brunnenburg in the Italian Alps, the home of Mary de Rachewiltz. (See pp. 17-18 for a brief history of the Pound Conference.)

When we reviewed the papers, we found that they fell rather logically into the two main categories which served as our conference theme, Language and Persona. Thus the essays have been organized to reflect the topics of the Conference, with a final paper bringing the vast bibliography of works by and about Ezra Pound into current reckoning. It will be apparent to readers of the book that Pound's works embraced many languages, either by translation or quotation, and that they included an array of personalities past and present, real or mythical, which he incorporated into his poetry as masks and voices, to complement his own highly original and distinctive voice.

Pound chose to spend much of his life in Rapallo and Zoagli, where he is honored today by plaques on the houses where he lived, and by a garden (in Rapallo) and a street (in Sant'Ambrogio) in his name. The landscape and people of the region figure prominently in his poetry, and all those who attended the Conference know that Ezra Pound is appreciated in his adopted home as much as anywhere. Thus, Rapallo is still one of the best places to start on the search for Pound. At the Conference it was good to see numerous young and dedicated scholars who are full of enthusiasm and projects for another century of confrontation with the puzzles and pleasures of Ezra Pound's world.

Massimo Bacigalupo and William Pratt

Articles and Broadcasts

Devoted to the 21st Ezra Pound International Conference

- Bacigalupo, Massimo. "Ezra Pound, maestro della poesia del '900 ricordato a Rapallo da studiosi di tutto il mondo." *Il Secolo XIX* 5 July 2005: 12.
- . "History and the American Poet." *RSA* 14 (2003): 3-16.
- Bossini, Oreste. Interview with Massimo Bacigalupo, Mary de Rachewiltz and Romolo Rossi. Radio 3 Suite, Rai Radio3, 4 July 2005. 1 October 2006 <http://www.radio.rai.it/radio3/radio3_suite/>.
- Joseph, Beate. *Ezra Pound at Rapallo*. Readings by Rob McPherson. Sound engineer David LeMay. ABC Radio National, Australia. 4 October 2006.
- Kiely, Kevin. "An Irishman's Diary." *The Irish Times* 23 July 2005.

EZRA POUND CONFERENCES 1975-2007

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Conveners</i>
1	June 15-17, 1975	Orono, ME	Carroll Terrell
2	April 21-23, 1976	Sheffield	Philip Grover
3	Sept. 20-23, 1976	Keele	Richard Law
4	Sept. 9-12, 1977	London	Stephen Fender
5	March 27-30, 1979	Durham	Diana Surman
6	Aug. 21-24, 1980	Orono, ME	Carroll Terrell
7	April 11-14, 1981	Sheffield	Philip Grover
8	April 5-8, 1982	Middlesex	Marianne Korn
9	March 28-30, 1983	Reading	Lionel Kelly
10	April 16-18, 1984	York	David Moody
11	June 19-22, 1985	Orono, ME	Carroll Terrell
12	April 14-16, 1987	Oxford	Marianne Korn
13	Sept. 5-7, 1989	Essex	Jacqueline Kaye
14	July 16-18, 1991	Brunnenburg	Richard Taylor
15	July 14-16, 1993	Rapallo	Massimo Bacigalupo & William Pratt
16	July 18-21, 1995	Brantôme	Philip Grover
17	July 3-5, 1997	Brunnenburg	Richard Taylor
18	July 16-19, 1999	Beijing	Zhaoming Qian
19	July 5-8, 2001	Paris	Helène Aji, Peter Nicholls & J.-M. Rabaté
20	July 2-6, 2003	Sun Valley, IO	Hugh Witemeyer
21	July 4-7, 2005	Rapallo	Massimo Bacigalupo & William Pratt
22	June 26-29, 2007	Venice	John Gery & Rosella Mamoli Zorzi

Carroll “Terry” Franklin Terrell (1917-2003), the founder of the National Poetry Foundation and *Paideuma*, who put Orono, ME, on the map of the study of Modernism, was also the begetter of the Pound conference. When Philip Grover organized the first Pound conference in England, to do something, as an American, about the bicentenary of the

Declaration of Independence, Terry gave him his full support. The Sheffield conference was also attended by Philip's colleague, Omar S. Pound. The enthusiasm created by the Sheffield Pound conference led to a second gathering in Keele that same year. In 1977 Stephen Fender, then at UCL, took over. Terry came to most of the conferences in England and he was also responsible for the participation of Hugh Kenner (1923-2003) at many of the European Pound conferences. In Durham in 1979 we also enjoyed the presence of Basil Bunting and the actor Denis Goacher. While the conferences in England became rather smaller than at the beginning, a new era started with the Brunnenburg conference in 1991. The gatherings in Orono in 1980, 1985 and 1990 (the latter mysteriously left out of the count) were truly big events, but Brunnenburg 1991, organized by Richard Taylor, equally attracted larger numbers than the ten conferences in England. In 1991 William Pratt became the first elected Conference Secretary. He and Massimo Bacigalupo were responsible for the Rapallo conference in 1993, and again in 2005. Philip Grover put on his third conference in Brantôme in 1995, and Richard Taylor his second one at Brunnenburg in 1997, where a narrow majority voted for going to Beijing in 1999. At the Beijing Business Meeting there was a majority for Paris in 2001, although a pressure group from Hailey, Idaho, had campaigned for taking the conference to Pound's place of birth. They were successful, however, at the Paris Business Meeting, and Hugh Witemeyer was put in charge of the academic program for Sun Valley in 2003. At Rapallo 2005, where John Gery became William Pratt's successor as Conference Secretary, those who voted for Venice outvoted those who fancied a return to Brunnenburg. The 2009 Pound conference will take place in Rome.

Walter Baumann