

THE MAILER REVIEW

EDITOR

Phillip Sipiora

DEPUTY EDITOR

Gerald R. Lucas

MANAGING EDITOR

Constance E. Holmes

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Shannon L. Zinck

James R. Miller

Raymond M. Vince

ADVISORY EDITOR

Carol Holmes

RESEARCH EDITOR

Kristine A. Wilson

EDITORIAL BOARD

J. Michael Lennon, Chair of Editorial Board (Wilkes University), Robert J. Begiebing (Southern New Hampshire University), John Whalen-Bridge (National University of Singapore), Philip Bufithis (Shepherd University), Christopher Busa (Founder and Editor of Provincetown Arts Press), Morris Dickstein (Graduate Center, City University of New York), Laura Adams Dunham (Independent Scholar), Michael Glenday (The Open University, United Kingdom), Hunt Hawkins (University of South Florida), Barry H. Leeds (Central Connecticut State University), Deborah Martinson (Occidental College), Michael Millgate (University of Toronto), Christopher Ricks (Boston University), Phillip Sipiora (University of South Florida), Thomas F. Staley (Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin), Barbara Mailer Wasserman (Memoirist).

The Mailer Review is published by The Norman Mailer Society and is co-sponsored by the University of South Florida and the Mailer Society. Yearly subscription rates: individuals, libraries, colleges, and universities in the U. S. Postal Zones, \$25 for one issue or \$40 for two issues. All foreign subscriptions, individual and institutional, are \$32 per issue or \$58 for two issues. Please contact The Mailer Review Services for subscription information, including back issues. *The Mailer Review* is available as a benefit to members of The Norman Mailer Society. For membership information, please visit our web site (www.normanmailersociety.com). *The Mailer Review* publishes articles, notes, creative works, cultural/biographical commentary, and book reviews relevant to the life and work of Norman Mailer. All critical approaches are welcome. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all quotations. An editorial committee reviews anonymously unsolicited manuscripts. Book reviews are assigned. For manuscript guidelines, see our link on the Society web page. Submissions should include an abstract and completed essay, sent as MS WORD attachments to the Editor. Authors should follow current MLA style of documentation.

ISSN 1936-4679

Copyright © 2008 The Norman Mailer Society

Cover Photo, upper right hand corner, courtesy of Judy Scheffel

Photos by progressive age: (1) Barbara Wasserman; (2 and 3) Harry Ransom Center, U of Texas;

(4) Nancy Crampton,

[Contact addresses printed in this volume are omitted.]

B E N E F A C T O R S
O F
T H E M A I L E R R E V I E W

Neil Abercrombie and Nancie Caraway (Angel)
Adelphi University (Patron)
Frederick and Nancy Ambrose (Sponsor)
Douglas Brinkley (Sponsor)
Jackson Bryer (Sponsor)
Bonnie Culver (Sponsor)
Ben Graham (Sponsor)
Wilbur F. Hayes (Patron)
Alexander Hicks (Sponsor)
Barry H. Leeds (Sponsor)
J. Michael and Donna Lennon (Angel)
David and Susan Light (Sponsor)
Jonathan Middlebrook (Patron)
Michael and Jane Millgate (Patron)
Adeline Naiman (Patron)
Bettye and Julian Newman (Patron)
Dean and Denise Pappas (Patron)
Nancy Potter (Sponsor)
E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr. (Sponsor)
Provincetown Arts Press (Angel)
Lawrence Shainberg and Vivian Bower (Angel)
Kathy and Lawrence Schiller (Angel)
Phillip and Cary Sipiora (Sponsor)
Liz Smith (Sponsor)
Marc S. Triplett (Patron)
Barbara Wasserman (Sponsor)
John Whalen-Bridge (Sponsor)
Rhoda Wolf (Patron)

Angels \$1,000 or more **Patrons** \$250 or more **Sponsors** \$100 or more

We mourn the loss of our great friend and artist

NORMAN MAILER



NORMAN MAILER, *Writer/Artist*, 1974, ink on paper, 10 1/2 x 7 3/4"

Berta Walker **GALLERY**

208 Bradford Street, Provincetown 508-487-6411
(East end of Town near Howland Street, Ample Parking)
BertaWalker@BertaWalkerGallery.com
www.BertaWalkerGallery.com

THE NORMAN MAILER SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

J. Michael Lennon, President
Barry H. Leeds, Vice-President
Marc S. Triplett, Secretary
David Light, Treasurer
Phillip Sipiora, Editor, *The Mailer Review*
Neil Abercrombie
Robert J. Begiebing
Philip Bufithis
Christopher Busa
Bonnie Culver
Ivan Fisher
Carol Holmes
Barbara Lounsberry
Gerald R. Lucas
John Buffalo Mailer
Deborah Martinson
Mark Olshaker
Lawrence Schiller
Tara Sikora
Barbara Wasserman
John Whalen-Bridge

THE MAILER REVIEW

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1 FALL 2008

CONTENTS

Abstracts

7 Reflections

- 11 Carnegie Hall Memorial
- 12 *The Time of His Time: A Celebration of the Life of Norman Mailer*
- 13 Gina Centrello
 - Remembering Norman Mailer
- 15 Charlie Rose
 - Norman at the Table
- 17 Günter Grass
 - Taking Leave of Norman
- 18 William Kennedy
 - A Late Lunch
- 20 Tina Brown
 - Tribute to Mailer
- 22 Barbara Wasserman
 - The Mystery of Norman Mailer
- 24 Sam Radin
 - Norman Mailer: A Warrior's Life
- 26 Peter Alson
 - One More for the Road
- 28 Susan Mailer
 - Tapestry
- 30 Danielle Mailer
 - Oysters
- 32 Elizabeth Mailer
 - I See You
- 35 Kate Mailer
 - The Knife's Edge

- 38 Michael Mailer
Shadow Boxing with Pop
- 41 Stephen Mailer
Channeling Norman Mailer
- 43 Maggie Mailer
Fellow Geniuses
- 45 Matthew Mailer
Blessings
- 47 John Buffalo Mailer
Our Duty
- 49 Don DeLillo
The Writer in Opposition
- 51 J. Michael Lennon
The Novel Was All
- 53 David Ebershoff
Mailer Remembered
- 55 Neil Abercrombie
Norman Mailer: Ambush at the Center
- 59 Ivan Fisher
A Night at Elaine's
- 60 Lawrence Schiller
The Boxer and the Rabbi
- 62 Sean Penn
The Towering and the Dead
- 63 Lonnie Ali
A Tribute to Norman Mailer
-

Tributes

- 67 Lynn Andriani
Norman Mailer: A Prolific Life to the End
- 69 Robert J. Begiebing
Mailer on the Eve of *Ancient Evenings*: A Memory in Six Parts
- 77 Mashey Bernstein
My Friend, Norman
- 80 John Bowers
Mailer

- 85 Jackson R. Bryer
A Generous Man
- 87 Christopher Busa
This Is a Town Worth Digging In and Fighting For
- 97 Ezra Cappell
Norman Mailer: A Man of Letters Inspired by the People of the Book
- 100 E. L. Doctorow
Two Notes on Mailer
- 103 Laura Adams Dunham
Entangled Minds: Forty Years of Encountering Norman Mailer
- 111 Dick Fontaine
The Time of His/Our Time: Chance Meetings with Norman Mailer
- 117 Richard Lee Fulgham
A Grasshopper's Lament
- 119 Michael K. Glenday
Above All, He Was Never Afraid
- 121 Lawrence Grobel
Nobel Worthy Norman Mailer
- 128 Alexander Hicks
A 25th Anniversary Toast
- 131 Eugene Cullen Kennedy
Another Look at Norman Mailer, Fascinated with God and Religion
- 135 Barry H. Leeds
The Death of Norman Mailer; The Birth of The Norman Mailer Society
- 138 Donna Pedro Lennon
Losing My Voice
- 141 Peter Levenda
In Memoriam
- 144 David Light
From a Novelist in Waiting
- 146 Deborah Martinson
Despite Our Differences
- 147 Michael Millgate
Norman Mailer: A Memorial Gesture

- 149 Stephan Morrow
 Norman Mailer: A Requiem
- 155 Julian Newman
 1972: Norman Mailer Parties with Offbeat Tampons
- 158 Mark Olshaker
 Let Me Now Praise Famous Men
- 162 Kathrin Perutz
 After Mailer: Some Recollections
- 166 Tom Piazza
 Norman Mailer: A Remembrance
- 173 Dotson Rader
 The Bishop and Norman Mailer
- 182 Lee Siegel
 Valentine's Day
- 183 Phillip Sipiora Jr.
 Norman Mailer, Baseball Man
- 185 Barbara Probst Solomon
 A Long Friendship
- 189 Richard Stratton
 Living Mailer
- 195 Gay Talese
 Chronicler of the Century Did It All
- 197 Marc S. Triplett
 The Passing of Aquarius
- 199 John Whalen-Bridge
 Q&A in 1984 with Norman Mailer
- 203 Veronica Windholz
 Reading Mailer in Brooklyn

Articles, Interviews, Miscellany

- 216 Norman Mailer
 What's Wrong with America: Five Proposals
- 219 Norman Mailer
 Acceptance Speech for National Book Foundation Award
- 221 Norman Mailer
 The Bodily Function Blues
- 224 Philip Roth
 [Norman Mailer, from *Exit Ghost*]

- 225 Robert J. Begiebing and Philip Bufithis
A Dialogue on Mailer's Novels
- 265 Christopher Hitchens
Norman Mailer: *Miami and the Siege of Chicago*
- 270 J. Michael Lennon
Norman Mailer's Best Sellers
- 272 Stephan Morrow
The Unknown and the General
- 298 Donald L. Kaufmann
Norman Mailer in "God's Attic"
- 313 Richard Stratton
Meeting Mailer
- 318 John Whalen-Bridge
"Their Humor Annoyed Him": Cavalier Wit and Sympathy for
the Devil in *The Castle in the Forest*
- 330 Walter Grünzweig
The Hitler Family: A Relational Approach to Norman Mailer
- 337 Richard Lee Fulgham
The Wise Blood of Norman Mailer: An Interpretation and
Defense of *Why Are We in Vietnam?*
- 348 Michael K. Glenday
From Monroe to Picasso: Norman Mailer and the Life-Study
- 364 Lawrence R. Broer
Identity Crisis: A State of the Union Address
- 376 Mashey Bernstein
The Heart of the Nation: Jewish Values in the Fiction of Norman
Mailer
- 385 Barry H. Leeds
He Was a Fighter: Boxing in Norman Mailer's Life and Work
- 396 John G. Rodwan Jr.
Fighters and Writers
- 407 Michael Chaiken
Author, *Auteur*: A Conversation with Norman Mailer
- 421 J. Michael Lennon
The Castle in the Forest: A Conversation with Norman Mailer
- 426 Lawrence Grobel
Norman Mailer: Stupidity Brings Out Violence in Me
- 452 David Anshen
A New Politics of Form in *Harlot's Ghost*

- 474 Neil Gordon
 On *The Armies of the Night*
478 K. D. Norris
 Exhuming Mailer's America
-

Classic Interpretation

- 483 Christopher Ricks
 Norman Mailer: *The Executioner's Song*
-

Book Reviews: On God: An Uncommon Conversation

- 494 John Bowers
 Mailer's Last Words
498 Eugene Cullen Kennedy
 You Are Too Healthy for the World
502 Phillip Sipiora
 Norman Mailer, Metaphysician at Work
-

Creative Works

- 507 Robbin A. Martinelli
 Mailer's Song
512 Daniele Pantano
 Mailer at the Théâtre Du Grand Guignol
513 Daniela Feliciani
 AmDream
-

Bibliography

- 515 J. Michael Lennon
 Norman Mailer, First Editions, 1948–2007
518 J. Michael Lennon
 Abbreviations for Works of Norman Mailer
520 Constance E. Holmes and Kristine A. Wilson
 Norman Mailer Bibliography: 2007
544 Contributors