



March 2017 in Salzburg, Austria

Simon Edwards (May 6, 1946-April 24, 2020)

With a sad heart and deep appreciation for the support, collaboration, and friendship that Professor Simon Edwards provided us all with at the *Center for Inter-American Studies*, we want to acknowledge Simon as a scholar and teacher, a mentor and supporter, a friend and a colleague, but foremost as a wonderful human being who has enriched all our lives.

Simon was principal lecturer in English Literature at the Department of English and Creative Writing at the University of Roehampton, London. His main research interests were in eighteenth and nineteenth-century fiction: the historical novel (Scott and Cooper) and Romantic nationalism in Europe; Charles Dickens; representations of the city in English, American and European writing in relation to sexuality and ethnic identity; Dryden in relation to baroque art and architecture. He also was interested in English poetry of the late 17c as a manifestation of European baroque culture; the literature of the 'fin-de-siecle'; and mid-20c British poetry.

In the course of his career, Simon developed and taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century English, American and European Literature including some of the following topics: Literature and the City; Romanticism and the Novel; the Historical Novel; Travel Writing; Literature and Politics 1776-1832; Charles Dickens. Since his formal retirement, he continued to supervise PhD students, and the last official act was providing an examiner's report on a doctoral thesis for the University of Graz, which had become his academic home in the past decade of his life.

My first meeting with Simon Edwards took place in the Aula of the University of Graz probably in 2002, where a colleague from the English Department introduced us. At the time, I was recruiting professors in English and American Studies to teach at the University of Shkoder, Albania, within a staff development and institution building project I had initiated funded by the Soros Foundation and the Republic of Austria. As some of my colleagues at the University of Graz were hesitant to accept that invitation, the professor who introduced me to Simon suggested him, as he had extensive experience with international programs and exchanges. This was the beginning of our very close academic friendship and his involvement with the University of Shkoder, as from 2004 on he taught on a regular basis there and was involved in the curriculum development of the English and American Studies Department from 2004-2008.

It sometime seemed as if Simon had lectured everywhere in the world. He knew European universities very well, and spent time in Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Sweden, but also in the USA, for example at San Francisco State University, Stanford University, University of Hawaii. He had also established special relationships at following universities: Hokkaido University (Japan); University of the Sacred Heart (Seoul, Korea); University of Cluj-Napoca and University of Tirgu Mures (Romania) and University of Sofia (Bulgaria).

When I started developing Joint Degrees at the University of Graz in my function as a Vice Rector (1999-2011), Simon was instrumental in establishing the Joint Degree in English and American Studies, and there will be many additional stories to tell about the lives he touched through his presence in this context.

I personally will carry wonderful memories of Simon in my heart. We taught and mentored students together, went on trips to visit baroque churches, watched women's football games whenever possible, enjoyed conversations, meals, and wine together, had philosophical and personal conversations and simply shared a certain view of the world: Recognizing absurdities in institutional settings, but believing in the power of literature and art in terms of expressing all the ambivalences of our human existence. Simon will be missed, but never forgotten. Rest in Peace, dear friend!

Roberta Maierhofer



April 2018 in Rovinj, Croatia

Selected List of Publications

Simon's publications reflect his main fields of interests, the classic historical novel, its dissemination, adaptation and 'imitation' worldwide following the work of Walter Scott; Fenimore Cooper and the early American novel from Brockden Brown to Melville; Charles Dickens.

'Extensive and Peculiar: Aspects of the Literature of London', in *London in Literature*, ed. P.Weston et al (Roehampton, 1979)

'Producing Voices: the Discursive Art of Walter Scott', in *Peasants and Countrymen in Literature*, ed. K.Parkinson and M.Priestman (Roehampton, 1981)

'*David Copperfield*: the Decomposing Self', in *Centennial Review* (Michigan State University, E. Lansing, 1985) Reprinted in *New Casebooks: David Copperfield and Hard Times*, ed. J.Peck (Macmillan, London, 1995)

'Anorexia Nervosa and the Fleshpots of London: Rose and Nancy in *Oliver Twist*', in *Dickens Studies Annual*, Vol. 19 (AMS Press, New York, 1990)

'*The Bride of Lammermoor* and the Borders of Character' in *Scott in Carnival*, ed. I. Alexander and D.Hewitt (ASLS, Aberdeen, 1993)

'Rambles through the Borders: Reflections on Scottish Autonomy', in *Critical Survey*, Vol. 7, no 2 (OUP, Oxford, 1995)

'Disraeli's Enchanted Glass: Sex, Politics and Royalty in *Sybil*', in *Victorian England* ed. A. Shurbanov (Sofia, 1996)

'Nation and State' in *Romantic Period Writings: 1798-1830*, ed. Z. Leader and I. Haywood (Routledge, London, 1998)

'Scott, Vasov and the Gypsy Question', in *Seventy Years of English and American Studies in Bulgaria*, ed. Z.Catalan, C.Stamenov, E.Pancehva (Sofia, 2000)

'Dryden's Baroque: Nature, Power and Utopia', in *Dryden and the World of Neoclassicism*, ed. W.Gortschacher and H. Klein (Stauffenburg Verlag, Tubingen, 2001)

'The Geography of Violence: Historical Fiction and the National Question', in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, Vo.I 34, no 2 (Brown University, Providence, RI, 2001)

'Walter Scott: *Old Mortality* and the Future of Terror', in *Triade 8: Ecosse des Highlands: Mythes et Realite*, ed. B.Sellin (Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique, Brest, 2003)

'*Bushido*: Romantic Nationalism in Japan', in *Nitobe Inazo: from Bushido to the League of Nations*, ed. T.Nagao (Hokkaido UP, 2006)

'Home and Away with Walter Scott', in *Approaches to Teaching Scott's Waverley Novels*, ed. E. Gottlieb and I.Duncan (Modern Language Association, New York, 2009)

'Between Sofia and London', in *English Studies on this Side: Post-2007 Reckonings* ed. S.Gupta and M.Katsarska (Plovdiv UP, 2009)

'Widening Participation and the Recession', in *American, British and Canadian Studies*, vol.11 (Lucian Blaga UP, Sibiu, 2010)



April 2018 in Rovinj, Croatia

We are so saddened to learn of Simon's death. We are grateful to have known him. A great great reader, lover of texts, ideas, people, cigarettes, wine, food, fellowship, solitude. He was as spirited a talker as a listener. He was as prickly as he was soft. A deep thinker with a big heart.

I am grateful that, as he told us when we enjoyed a meal together in London, he was cared for by his family, companion, and beloved son. He felt loved. He was loved. There was a bit of time for love to come to the fore.

Cheryl Lester and Philip Barnard (University of Kansas, Lawrence, US)



December 2018 in London