

**Simone de Beauvoir
Studies**

**THE TALK OF THE TOWN:
BEAUVOIR AND SARTRE**

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THE TALK OF THE TOWN: BEAUVOIR AND SARTRE

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A word from your editor:

Our June 2003 conference was indeed "the talk of the town," and that "town" was Paris. This volume is a first in that all of its articles are written in French. We normally try to keep a balance between the use of French and English in the *Simone de Beauvoir Studies*, but the 2003-2004 issue is special in that it is drawing on presentations from that blockbuster eleventh international conference organized by Liliane Lazar and Sandrine Dauphin at the Maison de l'Europe in the Marais and at the Sorbonne in collaboration with Michel Rybalka and the Groupe des Études Sartiennes. We received so many excellent submissions for Volume 20 that we are already well on our way to preparing Volume 21, the 2004-2005 issue of the *Studies*.

Since the publication of Volume 19 of the *Studies*, Society members have come together on a number of occasions. During those heady days of June 2003 in Paris, the show went on despite transport strikes and heat for four full days of presentations and discussions. December 2003 found us in the surprisingly nippy climate of San Diego, California, with two sessions organized by the Society for the 2003 Modern Language Association convention. And we have just recently returned from the beauty of Monterey, California and the Pacific Ocean, where Gisèle Kapuscinski organized our very successful twelfth international conference, held at the Monterey Institute for International Studies in May 2004. We were delighted to be able to lure both Dominique Desanti and Deirdre Bair back to California as presenters, along with Society members from Sweden, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and, bien sûr, the U.S.A.

Coming up on the docket will be a session organized by the Society for the December 2004 convention of the Modern Language Association of America, which will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this year. Judy Miles is already at work planning our "lucky 13th" international conference, which is scheduled for April 2005 in Pomona, California, just north of Los Angeles, and will take advantage of the intellectual atmosphere of the five-college complex there.

Sadly, this issue also includes a memorial tribute to Society member Kate Fullbrook, whose enthusiasm and good humor graced a number of our conferences and whose research with her husband Edward has been reflected not only in several issues of the *Simone de Beauvoir Studies* but also in the creation of the Simone de Beauvoir Circle, dedicated to examining Beauvoir's contributions to philosophy in the detailed manner they well deserve. In July 2003, Kate lost a valiant battle against cancer which cut short a life of questioning, insight, energy and determination of which Simone de Beauvoir would certainly have approved.

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