Edith Wharton
AT THE MOUNT
A Conference of The
Edith Wharton Society

June 7 - 10, 1987
Lenox, Massachusetts

Co-sponsored by The Edith
Wharton Restoration,
The Mount

In celebration of the 125th Anniversary
of the birth of Edith Wharton

PROGRAM
All major speakers and evening events will take place at The Seven Hills Inn. Sessions of short papers will be held at The Mount.

Sunday Evening, June 7th

5-6 p.m. Welcoming Cocktail Party
6-7 p.m. Dinner
7-7:30 p.m. Katherine Joslin, Iowa State Univ. Keynote Address, “Edith Wharton at 125.”
7:30-8:30 p.m. R.W.B. Lewis, Yale Univ. “Edith Wharton’s Transatlantic Crossings”
9:30-10:30 p.m. Songs from the Heart: Edith Wharton, an original film from Downtown Productions produced by John MacGruer and Mickey Friedman

Monday Morning, June 8

8-9 a.m. Breakfast
9-9:30 a.m. Thomas S. Hayes, Edith Wharton Restoration, “The Mount, Past and Present”
10-11 a.m. Guided tours of The Mount and Gardens

SESSIONS - 11:12:15 A.M.

I - EDITH WHARTON: THE ARTIST IN LIFE, THE MUSE IN FICTION. Moderator, Dale Flynn, Univ. of California, Davis DRAWING ROOM

1. “The Artist and His Muse in Wharton’s Short Stories” Dale Flynn, Univ. of California, Davis
2. “The Authorization of Self as Artist in A Backward Glance,” Jean Rohloff McRae, Univ. of Wisconsin

II - ROMANTICISM IN WHARTON Moderator, Katherine Joslin, Iowa State Univ., LIBRARY

1. “Romanticism in the Fiction of Wharton: A Concept of Continuity,” Gloria Stephenson, Univ. of Wisconsin-Platteville
2. “Romanticizing the Commonplace: The Ennobling Power of Art in Old New York,” Terri O. Matthews, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham

III - LANGUAGE AND SILENCE Moderator, Frederick P.W. McDowell, Univ. of Iowa, DINING ROOM

1. “Silence and The Age of Innocence,” Alfred Bendixen, Barnard College
2. “Speaking a Language Peculiar to the Mind: Silence and Repression in The House of Mirth and Ethan Frome,” Shirley M. Jordan, Univ. of Cincinnati
3. “The Debasement of Language and the Men of The House of Mirth,” Martha Billips Turner, Univ. of Kentucky
IV - WHARTON AND MODERNISM

Monday Afternoon, June 8

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30-2:30 p.m. Cynthia Griffin Wolff, MIT, “Hot Ethan, Cold Ethan”

SESSIONS - 3-5 PM

I SUMMER: ENTRAPMENT OR FULFILLMENT
Moderator, Kathy Fedorko, Middlesex County College

1. “The Haunted Text: Reading the Gothic Summer,” Kathy Fedorko, Middlesex County College
3. “Signs in Summer: Words and Metaphors,” Peter L. Hays, Univ. of California, Davis.

II - ITALY IN THE IMAGINATION OF WHARTON
Moderator, Eleanor Dwight, The New School

1. “Peasant Shrines and Palaces: Wharton’s Use of Italian Architecture in her Travel Writings and Fiction” (Slides to be shown), Eleanor Dwight, The New School
2. “Italy in Wharton’s Fiction,” Jane Bowers

III - SEXUALITY IN LIFE AND TEXT: THE IMPACT OF MORTON FULLERTON
Moderator, Carol Schoen, Lehman College of CUNY

1. “Unpacking her Treasures: Wharton’s Mysterious Correspondence with Morton Fullerton,” Clare Colquitt, San Diego Univ.
3. “Justice to Anna Leath: A Study in Moral Integrity in The Reef,” Moira Maynard, Queens College
4. “Asexuality and Power in The Age of Innocence,” Kathleen Pfeiffer

IV - THE ABSENT MOTHER
Moderator, Annette Zilversmit, Long Island Univ.

1. “Narcissism in The House of Mirth,” Joan Lidoff, Univ. of Texas at Austin
Monday Evening, June 8

5-6 p.m.  Cash Bar
6-7 p.m.  Dinner
7-7:30 p.m.  Margaret B. McDowell, Univ. of Iowa, “Edith Wharton’s The Old Maid: Novella/Play/Film”
7:30-9:00  *The Old Maid*, Warner Brothers’ Film of 1939 with Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins
9-9:30 p.m.  Discussion led by Margaret B. McDowell

Tuesday Morning, June 9

8-9 a.m.  Breakfast
9-10 a.m.  Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts, Univ., “Multiple Images: Wharton through the Lens of the New Literary History”

SESSIONS - 10:15-12:15 PM

I - WHARTON AND RELIGION, Moderator, Carol Singley, Swarthmore College
   DRAWING ROOM
   1. “Edith Wharton and Walt Whitman,” Carol Singley, Swarthmore College
   2. “Wharton and Catholicism: Lizzie Hazelden’s Conversion in *New Year’s Day*,” Robert K. Miller, Univ. of Wisconsin/Stevens Point
   3. “After Holbein: Wharton’s Parable of Judgment,” Lawrence Berkove, Univ. of Michigan-Dearborn

II - TEACHING WHARTON Moderator, E. Suzanne Owens, Ursuline College
   DINING ROOM
      E. Suzanne Owens, Ursuline College
   2. “Rescuing Lily: Student’s Resistance to Lily Bart as Heroine,”
      Miriam Quen Cheikin, Nassau Community College

III - THE LIMITED VISION, Moderator, Carole Shaffer-Koros, Kean College
   LIBRARY
   2. “Wharton’s Sentimentality in The House of Mirth,” Robin Beaty, Manhattan College

IV - DIVORCE, ADULTERY, AND SEXUAL TRANSGRESSIONS
   Moderator, Carol B. Sapora, Western Maryland College
   BOUDOIR
   1. “Voices in The Reef,” Carol B. Sapora, Western Maryland College
Tuesday Afternoon, June 9

12:30-1:30 p.m.  Lunch

1:30-2:30 p.m.  Marilyn French, Novelist and Critic, "Muzzled Women"

SESSIONS 3-5 PM

I - STRUCTURAL STRATEGIES: THE ART OF WHARTON, Moderator, Judith Saunders, Marist College, Library

1. "The Dynamics of Futility: Repetitive Action in Wharton's Plots," Judith Saunders, Marist College
3. "Foregrounding the Present: Wharton's Endings," Bette S. Weidman, Queens College

II - WHARTON'S GHOSTS Moderator, Alfred Bendixen, Barnard College, Drawing Room

1. "Gender Imprisonment and the Preservation of Houses in 'Mr. Jones'," Connie Johnson, Univ. of Michigan

III - THE DECORATION (AND ENCODING) OF HOUSES, Moderator, Susan Koprinke, Univ. of North Dakota, Dining Room

1. "The Decoration of Houses: A Key to Wharton's Fiction," Susan Koprinke, Univ. of North Dakota
2. "Helter Skelter: Female Sexuality and Space in Summer," Cindy Dupray, Univ. of California, San Diego
3. "From a Moment's Ornament to the Brick in the Wall: Architecture and Meaning in Wharton's Novels," Brigitte Bailey, Univ. of New Hampshire

IV - FRENCH FEMINISM AND WHARTON'S FICTION, Moderator, Constance Post, Iowa State Univ., Boudoir

1. "The Age of Innocence as Luce Irigarary's Mimesis," Linette K. Davis, Univ. of Arizona
4. "Subverting the Masculine Economy: The Age of Innocence," Nicole Hoffman, Univ. of Utah
Tuesday Evening, June 9

5:00-6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
6:00-7:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30-8:30 p.m. Judith Fryer, Univ. of Massachusetts, "Whose Body? Tableaux Vivants, Harems and Other Scenes"

Wednesday Morning, June 10

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:30-10:30 a.m. Annette Zilversmit, Long Island Univ., "All Souls': Wharton's Last Haunted House and New Directions for Criticism."
11:00-12:00 a.m. Autograph Party - Book Buying and Signing (Place to be announced)

Wednesday Afternoon, June 10

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Optional Tour of Wharton's Lenox

CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTORS

Katherine Joslin
Iowa State University
Annette Zilversmit
Long Island University, Brooklyn

Conference Committee of The Edith Wharton Society: Alfred Bendixen, Barnard College; Diane Cox; Eleanor Dwight, The New School; Kathy Fedorko, Middlesex County College; Irene Goldman, Ball State Univ.; Karin Woodruff Jackson, Westbrook College, Portland Me.; Alan Price, Pennsylvania State Univ.; Judith Saunders, Marist College; Carol Schoen, Lehman College of CUNY; Carol Singley, Swarthmore College.

Editorial Assistant, Martine Zilversmit

Conference Committee of The Edith Wharton Restoration: Thomas S. Hayes, President; Scott Marshall, Assistant Director; Joy Hayes, Administrative Assistant.

THE EDITH WHARTON RESTORATION, a non-profit organization which owns The Mount is dedicated to restoring and preserving The Mount for the public. It welcomes Friends of $25 or more to Box 974, Lenox, MA 01240.

THE EDITH WHARTON SOCIETY is presently located at Long Island University, Department of English, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Yearly membership with semi-annual newsletters is $5.

(THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION FOR HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC POLICY)