GEORGE R. HAVENS

MEMORIAL LECTURE
AND AWARDS

Department of
Romance Languages and Literatures
The Ohio State University
GEORGE REMINGTON HAVENS

Born on Shelter Island, New York, in 1890, George Remington Havens received his B.A. from Amherst in 1913 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins in 1917. Before his tenured appointment in French in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University (1919-1961), Professor Havens had already taught at the Riverview Military Academy of Poughkeepsie, the Mt. Vernon Collegiate Institute of Baltimore, and Indiana University.

During his career at Ohio State, he served as visiting professor on the faculties of Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Chicago, the University of California, and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, he was awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Michigan in 1959 and The Ohio State University in 1965. Part of the latter citation read: “A stalwart champion of higher education and academic excellence, he has made many contributions as scholar, teacher, director, counselor, and animator of productive research. He has provided sound judgment, resourcefulness, and unflagging energy as a leader at the departmental, college, and university levels. The Graduate School, the University Library, and the University Press are greatly indebted to him for his ceaseless, ardent, and cogent efforts in their behalf.”

From his forward-thinking comparative doctoral thesis, The Abbé Prévost and English Literature, to his careful chronicling of the history of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures in 1969, George Havens' scholarship was both comprehensive and thorough. He significantly influenced the continuous advance in research dealing with the French Enlightenment during the last half of the twentieth century. Perhaps best known for The Age of Ideas: From Reaction to Revolution in Eighteenth-Century France, he also wrote books, articles, critical editions, and reviews on Prévost, Rousseau, Diderot, Voltaire, Beaumarchais, and Montesquieu. Actively involved

for many years in the Modern Language Association, he compiled, jointly with Donald F. Bond, the first critical bibliography of French eighteenth-century literature.

One of the earliest American scholars to have works printed by the Revue d'histoire littéraire de la France and the Revue de littérature comparée, Professor Havens is not only heralded as a pioneer in literary scholarship and research, but as a great teacher and a man whose modesty and sound judgment caused him to be held in high esteem by his students, colleagues, and friends.

GEORGE R. HAVENS MEMORIAL AWARDS AND LECTURES

In September 1978, a bequest from the estate of Dr. George Remington Havens, professor emeritus of French at The Ohio State University, provided for an annual George R. Havens Memorial Award. This prize is given to the author(s) of the best article(s) and/or best book(s) written on French literature or language by members of the teaching staff of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. The winners for the year 1983 were:

Micheline Besnard


Robert Cottrell


Beginning with the 1984-1985 academic year, the George R. Havens Memorial Prize will be awarded every two years rather than annually. In alternate years, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures will sponsor a George R. Havens Memorial Lecture with income from Professor Havens’ generous bequest.

ROBERT DARLTON
Lecturer

Robert Darlton is Professor of History at Princeton University where he has taught since 1968. He received his B.A. at Harvard, a B.Phil. and a D.Phil. from Oxford, and was employed as a newspaperman for the New York Times before entering academe. In addition to numerous articles, mainly on eighteenth-century subjects, Professor Darlton has written Mesmerism and the End of the Enlightenment in France, The Business of Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopedia, 1775-1800, and The Literary Underground of the Old Regime, nominated for an American Book Award in 1983. His latest collection of essays, The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History, has been selected as an offering by several major book clubs. His lecture, “Toward a History of Reading,” will find its focus in the eighteenth century, combining aspects of literature, history, and bibliography to define readership in the Enlightenment. A workshop on the following day will center on pirate publishing and the clandestine book trade in the eighteenth century.

Robert Darlton is one of the most prominent historians of his generation. He has introduced with grace and assuredness the traditions of French historiography, especially of the so-called “Annales school,” to the American public. He has also established himself as one of the most prolific and influential historians of the book and of publishing now writing in English. He is a cultural historian par excellence, challenging us to re-read the history we thought we knew so well.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Ohio State University's department of Romance languages and literatures has named two professors as the winners of the 1984 George R. Havens Memorial Prize for scholarship in French.

The two recipients are Professor Robert D. Cottrell, 4465 Loos Circle E. (43214), and Associate Professor Micheline Besnard, 645 Neil Ave.

The department will host a reception to honor the current and past recipients of the Havens prize on June 8 at 5 p.m. in the Faculty Club.

The prize is given to the author or authors of the best article and the best book on French literature or language by a member of the teaching staff of the department of Romance languages. The selection is made by a committee appointed by the department's chairperson.

Established in 1978 with a bequest from George Remington Havens, professor emeritus of French at Ohio State, the prize has been given annually.

In the future, however, the prize will be awarded every two years. In the alternate year, the department will sponsor a George R. Havens Memorial Lecture.
Cottrell and Besnard will share the 1984 prize for the best article. No book award will be given.

Cottrell, who won the book award last year, will receive the 1984 prize for his article, "Croisement chiasmatique dans le premier 'Essai' de Montaigne" published in Bulletin de la Société des Amis de Montaigne.

A former chairperson of the department, Cottrell has been an Ohio State faculty member since 1968.

Besnard, who has received the award for best article twice before, was honored for her article, "Nimroud ou Orphée: Josephine Peladan et la société decadente" in Romantisme.

She first came to Ohio State as a visiting professor in 1977. At spring commencement, she will be one of eight faculty members to receive the 1984 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Robert Darnton, author of "The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History," will deliver the first George Havens Memorial Lecture at Ohio State University on Oct. 16.

The lecture, sponsored by the department of Romance languages and literatures, will be given at 4 p.m. in room 14 of University Hall, 230 N. Oval Mall.

Darnton, a history professor at Princeton University, will speak on "Toward a History of Reading." The lecture will focus on 18th century literature, history and bibliography to define readership in the Enlightenment.

A workshop with Darnton on Oct. 17 will center on pirate publishing and the clandestine book trade in the 18th century.

Darnton is a cultural historian. He believes that historians would better understand the past if they looked at history in the way anthropologists look at different cultures rather than to assume people in the past thought and felt as people do today.

Darnton uses that approach in his most recent book, "The Great Cat Massacre." He tries to discover how the people, from peasants to intellectuals, understood their world by analyzing texts from the 18th century.

In the book, Darnton examines an account by printer Nicolas Contat of a ritual slaughter of neighborhood cats by apprentices
and journeymen at a print shop. The apprentices think it is very funny and re-enact the killing many times.

People today would not joke about the cruelty to animals and it is that inability to understand the humor that separates us from people of that period, according to Darnton.

Darnton turned to other French literature of that time to try to find the humor in the massacre in order to better understand the artisanal culture of the 18th century.

An expert on 18th century France, Darnton received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and bachelor of philosophy and doctor of philosophy degrees from Oxford University. He has taught at Princeton University since 1968 and was a reporter for the New York Times prior to that.


The memorial lecture honors the late George R. Havens, a professor of French at Ohio State from 1919 until he retired in 1961. A bequest from Havens' estate in 1978 was used to provide an annual George R. Havens Memorial Award for the Romance languages faculty members who wrote the best article and the best book on French literature or language.

Beginning this year, however, the George R. Havens Prize will be awarded every two years. In the alternate years, the department will sponsor the memorial lecture.

Robert Darnton will be available for interviews. To arrange an interview, contact JoAnn Recker, coordinator of Romance language programs, at 422-2650 or 422-5842.
Written by Leisa McKenzie.