The Thomas Wolfe Society

One of the most prolific and poetic American writers of the twentieth century, Thomas Clayton Wolfe was born in Asheville, North Carolina, on October 3, 1900. He lived only to age 37, but he produced novels, stories, and letters that have inspired readers and influenced writers for more than 75 years.

To lose yourself in the beauty of language, to be truly moved by the written word, read Thomas Wolfe:

- Look Homeward, Angel (1929)
- Of Time and the River (1935)
- From Death to Morning (1935)
- The Story of a Novel (1936)
- The Web and the Rock (1939)
- You Can’t Go Home Again (1940)
- The Hills Beyond (1941)
- The Letters of Thomas Wolfe (1956)
- The Short Novels of Thomas Wolfe (1961)
- The Letters of Thomas Wolfe to His Mother (1968)
- The Complete Short Stories of Thomas Wolfe (1987)
- The Lost Boy (1992)
- The Party at Jack’s (1995)
- O Lost (2000)

To learn more about the Thomas Wolfe Society, visit our official Web site: www.thomaswolfe.org

Cover photo: Thomas Wolfe in New York in the 1930s. Photo courtesy of Clara Stites.

Remembering speechlessly, we seek the great forgotten language, the lost lane-end into heaven, a stone, a leaf, an unfound door... O lost, and by the wind grieved, ghost, come back again.

—Thomas Wolfe
Look Homeward, Angel
The Thomas Wolfe Society

History—Following a suggestion from Professor Duane Schneider, scholars, librarians, collectors, and admirers of Thomas Wolfe began working in 1978 to form the Thomas Wolfe Society. Efforts continued during the spring and summer of 1979, and the formation of the Society was announced in October 1979 during the Thomas Wolfe Fest at St. Mary’s College, Raleigh, North Carolina. Officers were elected in April 1980 in Asheville. Professor Schneider became the first president.

Purpose—The Thomas Wolfe Society encourages scholarly study of and general interest in Wolfe’s work and career. Through its annual meeting and its publications, the Society gives scholars, critics, teachers, students, and readers opportunities to share and gain knowledge about Wolfe’s life and works. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the Society may undertake special projects to promote its goals and purpose.

Meetings—Each May the Society meets in a place associated with Thomas Wolfe, such as Asheville and Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Cambridge, Massachusetts; and New York City. Other sites are added as appropriate, for example, the Hudson River Valley, New Orleans, Baltimore, Gettysburg, Munich, and Portland (both Oregon and Maine).

Special Publications—The Society issues an annual limited-edition publication that may contain a previously unpublished Wolfe manuscript (such as Passage to England: A Selection, 1998) or a Wolfe-related monograph (such as Aldo P. Magi’s Portraits of a Novelist: Douglas Gorsline and Thomas Wolfe, 1995).

Projects—The Society has placed commemorative plaques at one of Wolfe’s Brooklyn dwellings, at the main gate of Asheville’s Riverside Cemetery, and at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Other such projects are undertaken when appropriate.

Honors and Awards—Honors periodically presented by the Society are the Citation of Merit and the Distinguished Service Award. The Society annually awards the Zelda & Paul Gitlin Literary Prize to the author of the most outstanding scholarly article on Wolfe published during the preceding calendar year. The Richard S. Kennedy Student Essay Prize is presented annually to the graduate or undergraduate student who submits the best essay on Wolfe. Through the generosity of Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin, the Society awards the William B. Wisdom Grants in Aid of Research. These grants help cover travel and living expenses for scholars and students working in the William B. Wisdom Collection of Thomas Wolfe at Harvard’s Houghton Library. Consideration is also given to applicants using the Thomas Wolfe Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Candidates at work on Ph.D. dissertations are especially encouraged. Through the generosity of Betty A. Thompson, the Society awards the Aldo P. Magi Grants in Aid of Independent Research, which assist independent scholars in their work on Wolfe.

Journal—The Thomas Wolfe Review is the official journal of and is sponsored by the Thomas Wolfe Society. The Review carries articles and notes about Wolfe and his circle, a bibliography, and news and announcements of interest to Society members. Published twice a year from 1977 through 2000, the Review is now issued each autumn in a larger, annual edition. A subscription to the Thomas Wolfe Review is included as a membership benefit.

Membership—Any person, business, or educational institution interested in the Society’s aims may join. Members may attend meetings, participate in the Society’s activities, and run for office. They receive the Thomas Wolfe Review and all publications issued by the Society (joint memberships receive one copy of each item). The annual Proceedings features a complete membership list, photos from and a list of papers presented at the annual meeting, a Treasurer’s Report, and complete listings of the awards, meeting sites, and publications since 1980. Completed membership forms and yearly dues should be sent to:

David Strange
Thomas Wolfe Society Membership
P.O. Box 1146
Bloomington, IN 47402-1146

The Society greatly appreciates your special contributions.

Make your check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to The Thomas Wolfe Society and send it, along with your completed membership form, to TWS Membership, P.O. Box 1146, Bloomington, IN 47402-1146.