



ERIC MOTTRAM MEMORIAL CONFERENCE

Thursday 19 – Saturday 21 November 2015, Court Room, Senate House

Organisers: Amy Evans (University of Kent), Robert Hampson (Poetics Research Centre, Royal Holloway, University of London) and Jeff Hilson (Roehampton University).

This conference is organised to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Eric Mottram's death.

Eric Mottram (1924-1995), Professor of American Literature at King's College, London, was an important poet, editor, critic and teacher. He published over 160 articles and 20 critical works including a collection of essays on American culture, *Blood on the Nash Ambassador*, *Allen Ginsberg in the Sixties* and the first book-length study of William Burroughs, *The Algebra of Need*. He was, famously, a radical editor of *Poetry Review*. He also published some two dozen collections of his own poetry. Last but not least, he was the first teacher of American Studies in the University of London and co-founder of the University's Institute of United States Studies.

PROGRAMME

The conference begins on November 19 with a visit to the Eric Mottram Archive in King's College, followed by a Poetry Reading at Xing the Line. The conference itself will take place in the Court Room at the University of London Senate House on November 20 and 21.

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

13.00- 16.00 Visit to the Eric Mottram Archive at King's College London, Strand Building, WC2R 2LS

This is an opportunity for individual visits to the Archive and is not a guided group tour.

Archive booking: the reading room of the Eric Mottram Collection has been reserved for conference participants for individual research 1-4pm. Requests for material can be sent in advance to the archive librarians. Please mention the conference in your email to lianne.smith@kcl.ac.uk. A full catalogue of holdings is available at:

<http://www.kingscollections.org/catalogues/kclca/collection/m/10mo70-1/>

The archive can be found in the Strand Building of King's College, London. Please follow signs to the Liddell Hart Centre or ask at Reception. Register interest to visit the archive during this time by emailing A.Evans@Kent.ac.uk.

There will be a conference reception at the KCL Virginia Woolf Building in Kingsway.

Please meet Professor Hampson in the Virginia Woolf Building lobby at 16:00.

19.30- 21.30 **Xing the Line: Poetry Reading:** Maggie O'Sullivan and Allen Fisher



FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

10.00- 10.30 Registration: The Court Room, First Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

10.30- 11.30 Keynote Lecture

John Whiting: 'Recordings of Eric Mottram'

11.30- 11.45 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11.45- 13.00 Mottram and American Poetry

Gavin Selerie: 'Mottram and Charles Olson'

Robert Hampson: 'Mottram and Ginsberg'

Juha Virtanen: 'Mottram on poetry and performance'

13.00- 14.00 LUNCH (OWN ARRANGEMENTS)

14.00- 15.30 Workshop: Eric Mottram's *Legal Poems*

Led by Will Rowe

15.30- 16.00 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

16.00- 18.00 Mottram and British Poetry

Simon Smith: 'Interrogation Poems'

Gareth Farmer: 'Mottram and Veronica Forest-Thomson'

Geraldine Monk: 'King's Reading'

18.30- 20.00 Poetry Reading: By conference participants – and to include poems by Mottram

SATURDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

10.00- 10.30 Registration: The Court Room, First Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

10.30- 11.30 Keynote Lecture

Clive Bush: 'Eric Mottram, Muriel Rukeyser and Juhasz'

11.30- 11.45 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11.45- 12.45 Workshop: Elegy 30

Allen Fisher

12.45- 13.45 LUNCH (OWN ARRANGEMENTS)



13.45- 15.00 Mottram and American Studies

Peter Barry: 'Mottram as Educator'

Maggie Humm: 'Eric, Paul Goodman and Me: Eric as Supervisor'

Robert Vas Dias: 'Mottram and *Poetry Review*'

15.00- 15.15 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

15.15- 16.15 Workshop: *Shelter Island & the Remaining World*

Ian Brinton

16.15- 17.30 Mottram Miscellany

Frances Presley: 'Experimental poetry and feminism? Eric Mottram in London'

Peterjon Skelt: 'He has been a rover of the outer seas: paying attention with Eric Mottram'

Steven Willey: '*Girlie Poems*: Gender and Naming in the British Poetry Revival'