The Barbara Pym Society
2021 Virtual North American Conference

Videos will be posted privately on YouTube and will be available for viewing on and after the indicated dates. Links to the videos will be emailed to all BPS members, who may also submit questions in advance for the panel discussion on March 20; the Moderator will select and include members’ questions as time permits.

Monday March 15
Celia Bland: An Unsuitable Equivalence: Commonalities of Style and Theme in the Late Novels of Barbara Pym and Raymond Chandler

Celia Bland teaches poetry at Bard College in Annandale, NY, where she is the Associate Director of the Bard College Institute for Writing & Thinking. Her third collection of poetry, Cherokee Road Kill, was published in 2018. She is co-editor with Martha Collins of Jane Cooper: A Radiance of Attention (U. of Michigan, 2019). Her essay on the paintings of Colleen Randall is upcoming in the catalogue raisonné of “In the Midst of Something Splendid” at the Hood Museum, Dartmouth College.

Tuesday March 16
Christine Jacobson: Invisible Labor Made Visible: Women Bibliographers in the Novels of Barbara Pym

Christine Jacobson is an Assistant Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at Harvard’s Houghton Library. She holds an M.A. in Russian and Eurasian Studies from Harvard University and a Master of Library and Information Studies from Simmons University. She lives in Cambridge, MA with her husband Ryan and several shelves of Pym books.

Wednesday March 17
Linda McDougall: The Real World of Barbara Pym: Photos from the Pym Family Albums

Linda McDougall is a British television producer and writer. She worked as a Producer/Director for both Granada Television’s World in Action and Thames Television’s This Week and TV Eye for two decades, twice winning the Royal Television Society Award for best documentary. Since 1990 she has been making documentaries and current affairs programs for BBC, ITV, and Channel 4. She traveled around the U.K. to interview Hazel Holt, Richard “Skipper” Roberts, Francis Atkin, and others about their memories of Barbara and produced Pym documentaries including “Remembering Barbara” (2013) and “The Geography of Less Than Angels” (2017).

Thursday March 18
Dr. Cynthia Boyd: Violet Posies, Moleskin Coats, and Quince Jelly: Material Culture in the Lives of the Female Characters in An Unsuitable Attachment

Cynthia Boyd has a Ph.D. in Folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland where she is a part-time lecturer and researcher in the Department of Folklore, specializing in material culture, occupational folklore, and the decorative arts. She has published and presented papers on these and other topics in North America and the U.K. In addition, she is a copy editor and writer for the Newfoundland Quarterly magazine in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Friday March 19
Fr. Nathan Mulcock: Good in Parts: Pym’s Rather Modern Curates

Fr. Nathan Mulcock is currently a young, though not so good-looking, Assistant Curate in the Parish of St Andrew and St George, itself within the once-futuristic New Town of Stevenage in St Albans Diocese, after training at St Stephen’s House, Oxford and reading Theology at Trinity College, Oxford.

Saturday March 20
12:00 noon EDT (16:00 GMT) Winning entries from the 2021 Ellen J. Miller Memorial Short Story Competition:
- First Prize: “Jelly Selves” by Heather Burt, Vancouver, Canada
- Second Prize: “Dear Wilmet” by Camilla Zajac, Beeston, UK
- Third Prize: “Breakfast Jam” by Ali Miremadi, Wimbledon, UK

2:00 pm EDT (18:00 GMT) Live panel discussion featuring the speakers, moderated by Dr. Kathy Ackley.

3:00-3:30 pm EDT – Tea Interval

3:30 pm EDT (19:30 GMT) world premiere of An Unsuitable Attachment, a video play based on the novel by Barbara Pym, abridged and adapted by Dan DiPietro, edited and directed by Fred Stroppel, and presented by the Virtual Pym Players.