

LAWRENCE AND DOROTHY MORLAND

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John Martin, the great book collector and long-time publisher of the Black Sparrow Press, recently acquired a fascinating copy of the so-called Paris Popular Edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1929). As you can see from the photographic reproduction opposite, Lawrence inscribed the book in a very large, bold hand with underlining flourishes to

Dorothy Morland
from D. H. Lawrence
at Bandol
& good luck to both of us

Lawrence gave this copy of *Lady Chatterley* to the wife of the pulmonary specialist Dr Andrew Morland, who examined Lawrence in Bandol on 20 January 1930. This startling, poignant inscription may well have been the last that Lawrence ever wrote. The inscription also points to Lawrence's brief connection with Dorothy Morland in the final weeks of his life.

The Morlands had been planning a trip to the south of France for January 1930. Dorothy Morland was herself suffering from tuberculosis. Mark Gertler had met Dr Morland during a brief stay at Mundesley Sanatorium in Norfolk. Gertler and S. S. Koteliensky asked Morland if he would stop off in Bandol to examine Lawrence. After examining Lawrence, Morland recommended bed rest and transfer to a small sanatorium; on 6 February Lawrence became an unhappy patient at Ad Astra in Vence.

On 25 February Morland wrote Gertler about Lawrence's condition: "Both lungs appear to be affected with moderate severity but it is his general condition which is causing the greatest amount

of anxiety; his appetite is poor & he does not seem to be responding to treatment". Morland hoped that Lawrence "would consent to come to Mundesley" but realized that Lawrence might be "too ill to travel".¹ Morland didn't expect Lawrence to die five days later on 2 March.

In the last few years a small but important, previously unpublished Morland archive, for many years "lying unregarded in the Nottinghamshire archives", finally came to light.² These items include two letters from Lawrence to Dr Morland and two to his wife Dorothy; a professional letter to Morland from one of the two doctors in charge of Ad Astra, written about a month after Morland had examined Lawrence; a brief letter from Frieda to Morland postmarked 2 March, thanking Morland but also informing him that Lawrence had died; and Dorothy Morland's typed, three-paragraph account of the time she spent with Lawrence during her several days in Bandol. *JDHLS* published all the letters as well as Dorothy Morland's narrative in the first two numbers of Volume 1 (2006 and 2007). Volume 1, Number 1 of *JDHLS* also includes David Ellis's short essay interpreting the significance of the four new Lawrence letters.³

Dorothy Morland's account of her time with Lawrence, apparently written for the biographical record, is a touching document. The Morlands arrived at the Villa Beau Soleil in Bandol on 19 January 1930 as "the sun was setting over the sea". "The glow of the sun made [Lawrence's] beard look redder than it really was and his bright blue blazer was brilliant". Frieda had gone into Toulon with her sister Else, so Lawrence prepared the tea. Dorothy noticed that "he was neat and quick in the kitchen and tea and buns appeared rapidly". The Morlands and Lawrence gossiped about London friends. Later the Morlands persuaded the old gardener to tether his goat in the Lawrences' garden and to provide milk – highly recommended for tuberculosis patients – for Lawrence. Dorothy Morland observed that milk was "very hard to come by in the South of France". She was sceptical of Frieda's performance as nurse: "Frieda's attitude was that of a large healthy woman who

thought that most illnesses should be cured by a mixture of willpower, exercise, such as swimming at 6am and the application of various current fads like adopting a salt free diet".⁴

The Morlands were in Bandol for a few days. While Frieda took Andrew Morland "out on one or two expeditions", Dorothy, the "TB patient" who was tired from the journey, "stayed at the villa with Lawrence". "The fact that we were both suffering from the same complaint was a big bond between us and I enjoyed some long talks with him".⁵

Dorothy very briefly describes the two letters Lawrence sent her after she had left Bandol for Menton, where she was staying with friends. These letters are clearly responses to letters she wrote him. "I'm sorry spring makes you sad", he wrote on 12 February. "I love it, if only I am well".⁶ She closes her narrative with the reflection that she had

only known him for a few days but he was someone who made immediate contact cutting through the usual slow preliminaries of forming a friendship. I felt his death quite deeply.⁷

The letter that Andrew Morland wrote Gertler on 25 February 1930 reports that Dorothy would be "seeing [Lawrence] in about a weeks [*sic*] time" so that she could tell her husband "how the land lies".⁸ But Lawrence's death prevented that visit from taking place.

On 30 January Lawrence wrote Andrew Morland, thanking him for his advice, "which I can see is sound". He added:

I should like to give you a signed copy of the first edition of *Lady Chatterley* – if you'd care for it. I can get a copy from Florence. But where shall I send it? – to Mrs Morland? What is her address in Mentone [*sic*]? (7L 631)

He offered Morland this valuable gift because the doctor would not accept a fee (7L 650).

On 12 February Lawrence wrote Dorothy that he was “ordering you a first edn. of *Lady C.* to smuggle into England for your husband”.⁹ In the note Frieda wrote Andrew Morland immediately after Lawrence’s death, she again referred to this promised copy of the Florence first edition of *Lady Chatterley*: “There’s a *Lady C* for you, that I’ll send to your wife who sent us the last flowers he saw”.¹⁰

This copy of the Florence signed, limited first edition of *Lady Chatterley* is not the inscribed copy of the novel that has made its way to John Martin’s Lawrence collection. As noted above, the *Lady Chatterley* Lawrence inscribed to Dorothy Morland is a copy of the Paris Popular Edition. Edward Titus, the publisher of that edition, had visited Lawrence just before the arrival of the Morlands on 19 January. One can speculate that Titus left copies of his edition of *Lady Chatterley* with Lawrence, and that Lawrence inscribed and gave one to Dorothy Morland during their “long talks” at the Hotel Beau Soleil.

The inscribed copy of the Paris Popular Edition of *Lady Chatterley* that Lawrence gave to Dorothy Morland doesn’t add a great deal to the biographical record. Still, the personal quality of the inscription confirms Dorothy’s sense that a “bond” – who can say how “big”? – had formed between them. Lawrence, who went to his grave denying that tuberculosis had killed him, may well have “resisted” Dorothy Morland’s assertion that they were suffering from “the same complaint”.¹¹

But surely one of the topics of their conversations was the pulmonary diseases they were fighting. Surely he was reaching out to the appealing, sympathetic young woman – married for not much more than two years – who was already struggling with a lung problem. Did he tell Dorothy about Gertie Cooper, his next-door neighbour in Eastwood, and her family? Gertie’s mother had died of tuberculosis, Gertie’s four sisters had died of tuberculosis (one at the age of 17), and Gertie, who also suffered from tuberculosis, had had a lung removed in 1926.¹²

By mid-January 1930 Lawrence weighed less than 45 kilograms. He was growing increasingly despondent: on 14 February he wrote Caresse Crosby from Ad Astra, "I have been losing weight badly, so there is not much left of me, and soon I too should be a goner" (7L 647). "Do hope you're well – I'm not", he wrote Dorothy Morland on 23 February.¹³ His wishing good luck to "both of us" in the *Lady Chatterley* inscription must have been a restrained *cri de coeur* from a man who realized that he soon might indeed be a "goner".

Lawrence's extra-large lettering in his inscription suggests defiance – or perhaps false bravado. But of course the inscription brought Lawrence no luck at all: he would be dead in six weeks. Dorothy Morland was "lucky". No doubt it helped to be married to a tuberculosis specialist and to be able and willing to follow his instructions. The Morlands would have two children, a boy and a girl. Andrew Morland died in 1957.¹⁴ In June 1967 Dorothy Morland wrote George Zytaruk that "meeting Lawrence was a memorable experience as I was just married, very young and had T.B. myself – there was an instant rapport between us".¹⁵ I am sure that she treasured her inscribed copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* for the rest of her life.

¹ George J. Zytaruk, 'The Last Days of D. H. Lawrence: Hitherto Unpublished Letters of Dr Andrew Morland', *DHLR*, 1.1 (1968), 44-50, 47.

² David Ellis, 'The Last Days of D. H. Lawrence: Four New Letters', *JDHLS*, 1.1 (2006), 139-47, 140.

³ See *ibid.*

⁴ Dorothy Morland, Untitled personal narrative included in James T. Boulton, 'Further Letters of D. H. Lawrence', *JDHLS*, 1.2 (2007), 19-21, 20.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 20-21.

⁶ James T. Boulton, 'Further Letters of D. H. Lawrence', *JDHLS*, 1.1 (2006), 31.

⁷ Dorothy Morland, Untitled personal narrative, 21.

⁸ George J. Zytaruk, 'The Last Days of D. H. Lawrence: Hitherto Unpublished Letters of Dr Andrew Morland', 47-8.

⁹ James T. Boulton, *JDHLS*, 1.1 (2006), 31.

¹⁰ James T. Boulton, *JDHLS*, 1.2 (2007), 19.

¹¹ David Ellis, *Death & the Author: How D. H. Lawrence Died, and Was Remembered* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008), 92.

¹² John Worthen, *D. H. Lawrence: The Early Years, 1885-1912* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991), 6.

¹³ James T. Boulton, *JDHLS*, 1.1 (2006), 32.

¹⁴ George J. Zytaruk, 'The Last Days of D. H. Lawrence: Hitherto Unpublished Letters of Dr Andrew Morland', 44-5.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 46.