

Ford Madox Ford in Toulon: biography, culture and environment in the 1920s and 1930s

Ford Madox Ford was in Toulon in 1925 as he was writing *A Man Could Stand Up*, volume 3 of his First World War masterpiece, *Parade's End* (1924-1928), and again in 1926. Recent biographical excursions have begun to establish the whereabouts of the studios he and Stella Bowen found and rented, and later lent to James Joyce, for instance. Toulon was a heart of the literary and artistic Riviera in the 1920s and 1930s, and this conference proposes to explore Ford's life and work at that heart, as well as the networks he nurtured while there – with Ezra Pound, for instance, and numerous British and American expats and visitors. Other prominent writers close to Ford, like Joseph Conrad, spent time in or near Toulon, and this conference will also provide the opportunity to explore those relationships, and that location as a way of focusing on particularly important aspects of them, to do with the cultural life found in and created by traditions around food and the writers' use of the French language. As Dominique Lemarchal has recently argued in an essay on Ford and Conrad, their communication in French was a crucial element of their writing lives.



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Amphithéâtre Y.002

**UFR Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines
Campus de La Garde**



FORD MADOX FORD IN TOULON: BIOGRAPHY, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT IN THE 1920S AND 1930S

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th

Morning

Amphithéâtre Y.002, Campus de La Garde-La Valette

- 9:00** Registration and welcome
- 9:15** Opening of the conference by **Xavier Leroux**, President of the *Université de Toulon*
- 9:30** Introduction
Gérard Garcia, *Académie du Var*
"A few British and American writers in Toulon and the Var in the 1920s and 1930s"
- 10:00** Keynote Lecture
Max Saunders
"Ford in Toulon / Toulon in Ford"
Chair: **Salhia Ben-Messahel**
- 11:00** Refreshments
- 11:15** Ford: lover, inveterate kitchen gardener, Epicurean
Martin Stannard, University of Leicester
"Ford, Biala and politics"
Sara Haslam, The Open University
"A bookish conversation: Ford's dedications to Biala in his last library"
Helen Chambers, The Open University
"With plenty of garlic, olives, tomatoes, and spices': reflections on Ford's food writing"
Chair: **Dominique Lemarchal**
- 13:00** Lunch buffet

Afternoon

(reserved for conference participants)
Lycée Hôtelier Anne-Sophie Pic (Toulon)

- 15:30** Provençal Gourmet Workshop hosted by Chef **Jean Troin**
- 19:00** Dinner with the Chef, at the Workshop and after-dinner informal talk about Ford's use of French, led by **Dominique Lemarchal**

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th

Morning

Amphithéâtre Y.002, Campus de La Garde-La Valette

- 9:00** **Ford Madox Ford International Society Annual General Meeting**
- 10:00** Keynote Lecture
Laurence Davies, Glasgow University
"'Of Blood, Soil, and Salad': Ford and the Lands of France"
- 11:00** Refreshments
- 11:15** Living abroad: Ford and the French
Seamus O'Malley, Yeshiva University
"The people and le peuple of Ford Madox Ford"
Dairine O'Kelly and **Marine Bernot**, Université de Toulon
"George Moore and Ford Madox Ford: two contrasting visions of the Mediterranean"
Chair: **Max Saunders**

Afternoon

(reserved for conference participants)

- 14:30** Fordian tour of Toulon and its surroundings