

Iris Murdoch to give Elliott Lecture

April 2, 1984

British novelist Iris Murdoch is scheduled to deliver the third annual Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture Thursday, April 19, at the University of California, San Diego.

The Elliott lecture, which is free and open to the public, is presented by the UCSD Department of Literature. It will be held at 8 p.m. in Peterson Hall on the Third College campus. Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the hall off of North Torrey Pines Road.

Murdoch, considered one of the half-dozen most distinguished living English novelists, is also widely known as a philosophical essayist, dramatist and poet. Her literary honors include appointment as a commander of the Order of the British Empire, membership in the Irish Academy, honorary membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters and prizes for her works of fiction.

Among Murdoch's novels are "The Philosopher's Pupil" (1983), "Nuns and Soldiers" (1980), "The Sacred and the Profane" (1974), "The Black Prince" (1973) and "A Fairly Honorable Defeat" (1970). She also wrote "Bruno's Dream" (1969), "The Unicorn" (1963), "A Severed Head" (1961), "The Bell" (1958), "The Flight from the Enchanter" (1956) and "Under the Net" (1954).

Her first and perhaps best-known book was a 1953 philosophical study, "Sartre: Romantic Rationalist." Murdoch's essays have appeared widely in United States and British literary periodicals.

A native of Ireland, Murdoch was educated in England and took her B.A. at Oxford University's Somerville College in 1942. She later studied philosophy at Cambridge, then served as fellow and university lecturer in philosophy at St. Anne's College, Oxford, from 1948 to 1963. From 1963 to 1967, Murdoch was lecturer at London's Royal College of Art.

The Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture series is made possible by gifts from colleagues and friends of Elliott, a professor of English literature who died in 1981 while hiking in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Elliott, one of the founders of the UCSD Department of Literature, joined the university faculty in 1964 and served as chairman of the literature department from 1968 through 1971.

For more information contact the Department of Literature 452-3214 or Paul W. West 452-3120

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