American Branch Report 1997

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The eighth annual MLA dinner, a typically informal and festive occasion, was held at the Ristorante Amalfi in Toronto on Sunday, 28 December 1997. Present were Michael Ballin, Margaret Barfield, Nancy Cervetti, Connie Fulmer, Bonnie Gerard, Gabe Gerard, Shoshana Milgram Knapp, and Richard Maxwell. Shoshana conveyed greetings from Linda Robertson, the new coordinator of the American branch, and from Kathleen Adams.

Dinner began with a passage from Romola (Ch. 38):

‘No, friend, I am not a servant; I am a scholar.’
There are men to whom you need only say, ‘I am a buffalo,’ in a certain tone of quiet confidence, and they will let you pass.

The group discussed numerous shared enthusiams, toasted the Immortal Memory and celebrated the publication of two new books, featured at the MLA Book Exhibit: The Power of Knowledge: George Eliot and Education (Linda K. Robertson) and A Monument to the Memory of George Eliot: Edith Simcox’s Autobiography of a Shirtmaker (edited by Constance M. Fulmer and Margaret E. Barfield). Nancy Cervetti agreed to propose a Special Session on George Eliot for the 1998 MLA. Next year in San Francisco!