

1 July 2004

Kawamoto Koji, President
Executive Committee Members

Dear President Kawamoto and Members of the Executive Committee,

A mon vif regret, I cannot participate in the Hong Kong Congress. Please find herein the Report of the Coordinating Committee. I have asked one of our members, Professor Eugene Chen Eoyang to represent the CC at the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The CC for *Histoire Comparée des Littératures en Langues Européennes / A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* held its annual meeting at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle on June 9 and 10, 2004, followed by a highly successful colloquium on “Quels paradigmes pour la littérature?”

It is a distinct pleasure for me to inform you that the eighteenth volume of *A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* (the fourth volume in the Romanticism sub-series) came out at the beginning of 2004. This 477-page-long book, entitled *Nonfictional Romantic Prose: Expanding Borders*, gives a truly systematic treatment of the theoretical and critical activity of the Romantics, their aesthetic, ideological, religious, and political views, and their contribution to the renewal of literary genres. Let me congratulate the editors, Virgil Nemoianu, Steven P. Sondrup, and Gerald Gillespie on their work.

The Romanticism sub-series will be completed by the fifth volume, Gerald Gillespie, Manfred Engel and Bernard Dieterle, eds.: *Romantic Prose Fiction*. This work was begun in 1999-2000. Two hundred scholars were contacted. The editors accepted about twenty per cent of the proposals. Of the 37 chapters two are not in their final versions. All the material will be printed out by September 2004. In short, this volume can be sent out to the readers within a few months.

The project *L'époque de la Renaissance* comprises four volumes, of which two (I and III) have been published. Volume III, *Maturations et mutations 1520-1560*, completed under the direction of Eva Kushner, was approved by the CC in Budapest in 2003. Less than fifty per cent of the chapters of Volume II are in the hands of Professor Kushner.

The discussion on a volume on Modernism, edited by Astradur Eysteinnsson and Vivian Liska, was started two years ago and continued at our Paris meeting. Except for two contributions, all the articles have been written. Two thirds of them have been copy-edited. The CC has asked for the abstracts of the individual chapters. In the case of one contribution, Marcel Cornis-Pope raised the question of a possible overlap with an essay written by the same author for the East-Central European project. At the end of a fruitful discussion, Vivian Liska asked the President of the CC to write a new chapter on Hungarian Modernism for the volume.

As stated in my report submitted to the Executive Council in 2003, in view of the fact that the project *A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* is nearing completion, a new sub-series called *A Literary History of Cultural Regions* has been planned and approved.

The first volume of this new sub-series, *A History of the Literary Cultures in East-Central Europe: Part I*, was published shortly before our 2004 meeting. I wish to congratulate its editors, John Neubauer and Marcel Cornis-Pope on their success. The volume covers a wide range of cultures that are hardly known by the international community. In the past the CC promised to publish one volume per year. 2004 seems to be an exceptional year; two works of great scholarly merit were published almost simultaneously. The directors of the

East-Central European project plan to submit Volume II at the end of the summer of 2004 and send Volume III to the readers at the end of this year.

In 2003 the director of our *Nordic Literary History* project was asked to supply the CC with a more detailed outline. Since in Paris Steven Sondrup presented a detailed table of contents based on the papers read at an international conference, the three-volume project was approved.

Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza also gave a detailed information on his three-volume project, *A Comparative Literary History of the Iberian Peninsula*. In his view, the editorial work of Volume I will be completed by the end of 2005.

Our Association has had a tradition of electing new members of the CC one year after the creation of a new Executive Committee. Since the Hong Kong Congress had to be postponed, the CC accepted our President's suggestion to extend the mandate of its members until 2005.

Because of the growing expenses of our Committee, we would be extremely grateful if the Executive Committee authorized an additional one thousand euros for the expenses of the volumes in preparation.

I wish to thank Professor Jean Bessiere and his colleagues for hosting our 2004 meeting, our Vice-President Randolph Pope, our Secretary-Treasure Daniel F. Chamberlain, and all the members of the Coordinating Committee for their strong commitment to our work, as well as the members of the ICLA Executive Committee for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mihaly Szegedy-Maszak