

24 June 2005

Tania Franco Carvalhal, President
Executive Committee Members

Dear President Carvalhal and Members of the Executive Committee,

Due to my obligations at the start of the academic year, I cannot participate in the Venice meeting. I apologize for my absence. Please find herein the annual Report of the Coordinating Committee. I have asked Margaret Higonnet to represent the CC at the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The CC for *Histoire des littératures en Langues Européennes/A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* held its annual meeting at Harvard University on May 11 and 12. I wish to thank Margaret Higonnet for her exceptionally kind hospitality and for organizing the highly successful colloquium on *New Europe: New Literary Histories* that took place on May 13 and 14.

At the beginning of the business meeting the CC expressed its gratitude to the Executive Committee for its decision to grant a 1000 euro addition to the 2000 US dollar subsidy. In view of the fact that in 2004 two volumes of great scholarly merit were published (the eighteenth volume of *A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* and the first volume of the new sub-series *A Literary History of Cultural Regions*), the Committee expressed concern in relation to some ICLA members' lack of understanding with regard to the CC's purview, its continued relevance and impressive productivity over the years.

Having heard Eva Kushner's report on the activities of the International Union of Academies, the CC asked her to seek support for the Committee from both the International Union of Academies and UNESCO.

The Vice-President informed the Committee of the election results. Gábor Bezeczky (Institute for Literary Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences) was elected to the Committee as Secretary-Treasurer. The very late withdrawal by Eduardo Coutinho left one seat on the Committee to be filled.

It is a distinct pleasure for me to inform you that the 1010 page typescript of *A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages, Modernism*, was submitted to the CC. The Committee stated that all its concerns had been addressed, so the text would be sent to the readers. I wish to congratulate the directors (Astradur Eysteinnsson and Vivian Liska) on the completion of this project. If the readers submit their reports within a couple of months, the nineteenth and twentieth volumes of our pioneering series will appear in the near future.

Romantic Fictional Prose, the last of our four volumes on Romanticism, is another important contribution to our 'old' series. The Directors, B. Dieterle, G. Gillespie, and M. Engel have produced an electronic print-ready manuscript. The last two chapters and the conclusion, to be written by the Directors, have yet to be submitted. All the other chapters are in their final versions, so the manuscript can be sent to the readers before the end of 2005.

The project *L'époque de la Renaissance* comprises four volumes, of which two (I and IV) have been published. Since volume III, directed by Eva Kushner, is also close to completion, readers were selected at the meeting. The Committee was pleased to learn that the project director had obtained support from Victoria College of the University of Toronto and the Canadian Federal Granting Agency. The members of the CC responded satisfactorily to the report of Eva Kushner on the progress of volume II of the *Renaissance* sub-series.

The second volume of the new sub-series *A Literary History of Cultural Regions, A History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Part 2*, was sent to the second

reader shortly before our meeting, so this volume could be sent to the publisher before the end of the current year. The third volume on East-Central Europe is also in an advanced stage. Accordingly, the two readers for this work were also selected at the Harvard meeting.

Two further projects belonging to the same innovative sub-series were discussed. The Director of *A Comparative Literary History of the Iberian Peninsula* (Fernando Cabo Aseginolaza) informed the CC that theoretical and terminological concerns expressed previously by several members had been addressed. The project is well under way, with a first draft expected in November 2005. Its completion can be expected within two to three years. The Director of a three-volume *Histories of Nordic Literary Culture*, Steven Sondrup, also submitted a detailed table of contents and clarified the logic behind it. As in the former case, a significant number of contributors have been contacted.

I wish to thank our Vice-President Randolph Pope, our Secretary-Treasurer 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,

Mihály Szegedy-Maszák