

July 3, 2007

Dear Executive Committee Members,

Please find herein the **Report of the Coordinating Committee**. I have asked one of our members, Professor Margaret Higonnet, to represent the Coordinating Committee at the meeting of the Executive Committee. I am very sorry to be unable, because of temporary health reasons that don't allow me to take an extended trip, to present this report in person, since our close coordination with the ICLA Executive Committee is one of the priorities of the upcoming years.

The Coordinating Committee for *Histoire Comparée des Littératures en Langues Européennes / A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* has several new members: Svend Erik Larsen (Aarhus University, Denmark), Franca Sinopoli ("La Sapienza" Università di Roma, Italy), Steven Sondrup (Brigham Young University, USA), and Cynthia Skenazi (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA). I (Randolph D. Pope, University of Virginia, USA), have returned to the Committee as its President. Following changes to our by-laws that were approved by the Executive Committee in June of last year, we have become more efficient by transacting most of our business by e-mail with considerable savings in time and funds. One focus of our activity will be the improvement of our presence in the web so that our publications' quality and number — Benjamins has published fourteen of our volumes since 1993— become better known, hoping also that this enhanced presentation will encourage more ICLA members to develop new projects. It may be worth remembering that the first eight volumes were published by Akadémiai Kiadó, so in total 22 volumes have been published since the series was established by the ICLA in 1967.

The Committee held its annual meeting at Santiago de Compostela on June 7, 2007, followed by the conference "Literary Histories and Space" on June 8th and 9th. We wish to thank Fernando Cabo Aseginolaza for his hospitality at the Casa de Europa.

We are happy to report that *Modernism*, superbly edited by Astradur Eysteinnsson and Vivian Liska, is under production at John Benjamins and will be published in September. Its 1022 pages are distributed in two volumes and eleven sections which include 57 essays written by a stellar group of scholars, plus introduction and conclusion by the editors.

The Romanticism sub-series has already published the following volumes: *Romantic Irony* (ed. Frederick Garber, 1988), *Romantic Drama* (ed. Gerald Gillespie, 1993), *Romantic Poetry* (ed. Angela Esterhammer, 2002), *Nonfictional Romantic Prose: Expanding Borders* (eds. Steven P. Sondrup and Virgil Nemoianu, with the collaboration of Gerald Gillespie), and will conclude for the time being with *Romantic Prose Fiction* (eds. Gerald Gillespie, Manfred Engel and Bernard Dieterle), which goes to press in the very near future. The volume contains 39 essays and is divided in three sections:

Characteristic Themes, Paradigms of Romantic Fiction, and Contributions of Romanticism to 19th and 20th Century Writing and Thought. I quote from the Preface of the editors:

In preparing this volume, our editorial team sought to keep a variety of readerships in mind. We wanted the contents to be interesting both to specialists in particular literatures that had experienced their own kind of Romanticism and to literary generalists and comparatists curious about shared characteristics that had surfaced in several traditions. Equally important in our view was that the cross-cultural studies in the three parts of *Romantic Prose Fiction* be more readily accessible also to those readers on all continents who are not primarily pursuing European and Euro-American literatures but nevertheless would like to explore Romanticism because it enjoys a wide reputation as the most significant cultural development immediately antecedent to Modernism. As the Introduction and many of the chapters themselves will set forth, the unfolding status of Romanticism, from its first manifestations down to the present, is a central matter the volume addresses.

The Committee believes the volume not only describes superbly the “unfolding status of Romanticism,” but it will contribute significantly to its understanding. In the years of planning for this volume, selecting contributors, and very careful editing, the editors have impressed the Committee with their innovative thinking, professionalism, and academic rigor.

The East Central Europe project, edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, has already published two volumes, *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Volume I* (2204) and *Volume II* in (2006). *Volume III* is in print this year with 522 pages plus 14 of introductory material. The book is divided into three parts, Publishing and Censorship, Theater as a Literary Institution, and Forging Primal Pasts: The Uses of Folklore. *Volume IV* was discussed at Santiago and will probably be ready by April of 2008. All together these four volumes are a monumental work which the Committee has overseen in great detail, admiring the effort and talent put into it by their editors and the hundreds of contributors.

Fernando Cabo has been the editor of a Comparative Literary History of the Iberian Peninsula which for its magnitude, innovative approach, and quality of participants will surely be a milestone for this region. For numerous reasons, among them a most complex political interlocking of the diverse nationalities of the Peninsula, no similar project has succeeded before. Santiago de Compostela, with its highly reputed university and faculty, has been the perfect base for this project, which already has completed the first of two volumes. It will be ready to be sent to reviewers by December of this year. Professor Cabo has been extraordinarily successful in securing financial support for this project, allowing us to see a finely edited and proofread version both in English and, eventually Spanish, where it is sure to have a great impact both in the Spanish and the Latin American market.

The Renaissance sub-series has seen already two volumes published, *L'époque de la renaissance (1400-1600). I. L'avènement de l'esprit nouveau (1400-1480)*, edited by Tibor Klaniczay, Eva Kushner, and Andre Stegmann (1987), and *L'Époque de la*

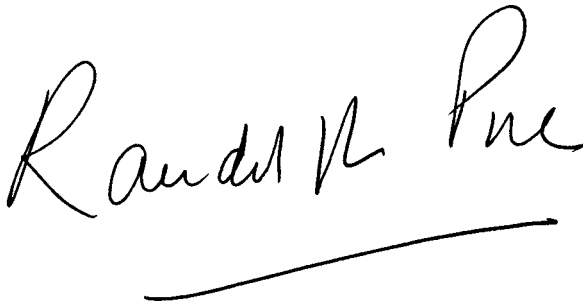
Renaissance (1400-1600): Tome IV: Crises et essors nouveaux (1560-1610), edited by Tibor Klaniczay, Eva Kushner, and Paul Chavy (2000). Volume III (1520–1560), was sent to editorial readers and prepared for publication. We expect to submit it to Benjamins this month. The second volume is still in process, half completed. While the order in which these volumes have appeared is not the ideal, once they are all published they will constitute a most detailed and authoritative presentation of the period.

Another ambitious and innovative project which is progressing exceedingly well, thanks to its main editor, Steven P. Sondrup, is the Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures. The creative rethinking of this area has been considerably advanced by a \$90,000.00 grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers to be used for conferences during a three-year period. The first one already took place at the University of California in Berkeley, in March 2007. We anticipate that the final product will need four volumes, for which already co-editors have been assigned.

We expect to revive this year a dormant project on Realism and Naturalism, which is sorely needed to complement our other volumes. We also are looking to encourage interest in a project on a Comparative History of Medieval Literatures. Among new projects discussed at Santiago were a possible series of shorter volumes, hoping to start a new sub-series on more focused topics that could have greater commercial appeal. The larger volumes, beautifully printed by Benjamins, are expensive and primarily sold to libraries.

We are very grateful for the increase we have received from ICLA Bureau in our subsidy, from US\$ 2,000.00 to US\$ 3,000.00. Thanks to Committee member Eva Kushner, we received a 3,000.00 euros subsidy from the International Union of Academies to help with the development of a web page. Thanks to the watchful care of our treasurer, Daniel Chamberlain, we ended the fiscal year in the black, while we were able to provide modest, yet gratefully received, subsidies to the editing process of the volumes discussed in this report.

Respectfully submitted, for the members of the Committee,



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