July 30, 2009

Dear President Schmeling and Executive Committee Members,

I am pleased to present to you the Report of the Coordinating Committee for a Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages which I have had the honor to preside for the last three years. In my task I have been superbly helped and inspired by the efficiency of our treasurer, Vivian Liska, the experienced counsel of our Vice President, Daniel Chamberlain, and above all by the extraordinary devotion to the committee and the ICLA of our Secretary, Margaret Higonnet, who has been always vigilant, resourceful, and overall an exemplary colleague. The committee has in all 16 members and the names are listed in Appendix 1. At least three members will be rotating off. Following our by-laws, a committee of three people (one a present continuing member of the committee [Daniel Chamberlin], and two former members) is receiving nominations and will oversee the election. Nominations are welcome, at this time especially of scholars from Eastern Europe.

The committee held its annual meeting to thoroughly review ongoing projects and discuss new ones at Aarhus, Denmark, on 21 May 2009, thanks to the generous invitation and gracious hospitality of committee member Svend Erik Larsen (Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, Aarhus University). We were grateful and fortunate to have with us President Manfred Schmeling who contributed greatly during the meeting and the colloquium which followed on May 22-23. The topic of the colloquium was "Literature in Context"; sixteen presenters (some from the Committee [including President Schmeling], others from Danish universities), read papers, many of them closely related to our ongoing projects.

Since the creation of the committee in 1967 it has developed and sustained a tradition of continuous publication of comprehensive volumes which exemplify and in some cases expand comparative approaches. These 23 published volumes have involved numerous contributors from Europe (Western, Central, and Eastern), Latin America, Canada, and the United States. It should be noted that eleven volumes have been published since the year 2000. We are especially pleased with the recent completion of the Modernism, Romanticism and Central European projects and the new project about Portuguese and African Nations, which is expanding our work into relatively new areas.

I am glad to report that the two-volume *Modernism*, edited by Astradur Eysteinsson and Vivian Liska was awarded the prestigious 2008 MSA [Modernist Studies Association] Book Prize. This book is also now available as an e-book. When awarding the prize, members of the Prize Committe wrote:

> The ambition of the editors is to capture, in their words, 'the ways modernism is viewed at the beginning of the twentieth-century.' Thus the essays collected in Volume 1 range over approaches via critical theory, technology and science, time

and space, mind and body, and literature and the other arts. Volume 2 considers social and political parameters (such as racial politics and ecological criticism) and concepts of the sacred, of popular culture, and of diaspora and exile. The volume concludes with a section entitled 'case studies' that considers the modernisms of Brazil, Australia, Catalonia, France, Spain, Russia, Italy, Greece, and the Nordic countries.

This monumental project is in significant and heartening ways a physical manifestation of the aspirations of the MSA—to consider modernisms as international and interdisciplinary phenomena.

With the publication in 2008 of *Romantic Prose Fiction*, edited by Gerald Gillespie, Manfred Engel, and Bernard Dieterle, the five-volume project was completed. (Other volumes are Nonfictional Romantic Prose: Expanding Borders, edited by Steven Sondrup and Virgil Nemoianu [2004], Romantic Poetry, edited by Angela Esterhammer [2002], Romantic Drama, edited by Gerald Gillespie [1993], and *Romantic Irony*, edited by Frederick Garber [1988]). The 2008, 2004, and 2002 volumes are available now as e-Books. The editor's website at John Benjamins Publishing Company (http://www.benjamins.com/cgibin/t\_bookview.cgi?bookid=CHLEL%20XVII) correctly describes this work: "The Romanticism series in the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages is the result of a remarkable international collaboration. The editorial team coordinated the efforts of over 100 experts from more than two dozen countries to produce five independently conceived, yet interrelated volumes that show not only how Romanticism developed and spread in its principal European homelands and throughout the New World, but also the ways in which the affected literatures in reaction to Romanticism have redefined themselves on into Modernism." Romantic Prose Fiction recently (5 May 2009) received an extensive, detailed and encomiastic review by Dirk Oschmann in IASL Online (http://www.iaslonline.de/) which ended thus:

> Unabhängig vom überragenden Wert mancher Einzelstudien (von Albert, Graeber, Kümmerling-Meibauer, Schmitz-Emans, Engel, Steigerwald, Spiridon und Talvet) bietet das Buch erstens eine gute Einführung in romantische Denkund Darstellungsformen, und es bekommt zweitens durch das große Spektrum an komparatistischen Perspektiven den Charakter eines lehrreichen Handbuchs zur Romantik als internationaler Entwicklung, dessen Lektüre gerade auch jedem Germanisten empfohlen sei.

> [Independently from the outstanding quality of many individual studies (by Albert, Graeber, Kümmerling-Meibauer, Schmitz-Emans, Engel, Steigerwald, Spidiron, and Talvet) this book offers above all a good introduction to romantic thought and its forms of representation, and it also is, due to its wide spectrum of comparative perspectives, a very instructive handbook of Romanticism as an

international movement. Reading it is particularly recommended to all Germanists.]

History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Volume II, edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, published in 2007, continues to receive accolades, as detailed in Appendix 2. For example, Monika Baár describes this project in *Comparative Critical Studies* 4.3 (2007) as "a significant and monumental venture," which "attempts to re-conceptualize literary traditions in the [East-Central European region by deconstructing national myths and focusing on common themes, thereby opening up perspectives which are routinely overlooked in traditional national literary histories" (468-69). Other very positive reviews have been published recently in the *Yearbook of* Comparative and General Literature, Literary Research/Recherche littéraire, Akzent, Novi List, Rampike, Knjižna republika, etc. Reviewing vol. 3 of the project, Ileana Orlich has defined the international significance of this massive work as follows: "One can only imagine the tremendous amount of research and selection that informs the long list of literary institutions profiled in the volume's insightful and judiciously chosen commentaries attached to a particular culture, event, or literary development. Piled high and deep to include 'not so much shared institutions' but rather 'such region-wide analogous institutional processes as the national awakening, the modernist opening, and the communist regimentation, the canonization of texts, and censorship of literature' (xi), the volume's elaborate configuration features 'a series of independent articles,' or what the editors, early on in the Preface, call a 'multiple scanning' of commentaries (ix). At a time when the European Union appears ready to forfeit the region's cultural diversity, the publication of 'The Making and Remaking of Literary Institutions' is a particularly welcome and intellectually enriching work that brings into prominence the national awakening and institutionalization of literature that have taken place over the past two centuries in the cultures of the region."

### **Forthcoming**

There are three new volumes that will be ready for publication in 2010:

John Neubauer and Marcel Cornis-Pope, eds. East-Central Europe IV. This volume should be ready for press by early 2010. A detailed description of this series is attached as Appendix 2.

Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza, ed. Comparative Literary History of the Iberian Peninsula, volume 1. A detailed description of this two-volume book is attached as Appendix 3. Volume 1 received very positive comments by the two editorial readers chosen by our committee to review the manuscript and it is expected to go to press late this year or early in 2010.

Eva Kushner, ed. Renaissance III. As I reported last year, "Maturations et mutations (1520-60)," edited by Professor Eva Kushner (University of Toronto, Canada), has already been reviewed by two external reviewers and approved. Professor Kushner has been somewhat delayed by her meticulous revising of the translations and verifying the apparatus. She reports that she expects to complete this volume and submit it to Benjamins later this year.

The first volume of the monumental Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures, edited by Professors Seven Sondrup (Brigham Young University, USA) and Mark Sandberg (University of California, Berkeley) is approaching completion. This multi-volume project is organized around the idea of region instead of nation, not defining its object through similarity of linguistic group, citizenship, or ethnicity, but instead geographically as the sum of all the literary cultures that have existed in a certain area. In this case, that entity is "Norden" (The North). Consequently, the project examines both the shared and divergent literary cultures that have emerged in this area throughout history. The four planned volumes of the project, to be published sequentially, deal with temporal nodes, spatial nodes, figural nodes, and nodes of transmission. The completion of the four volumes is scheduled for late 2010–2012. The Nordic Literary History Project is partly funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, from whom it has received a substantial grant. It has its own website, http://icla.byu.edu/scandinavian.

In an advanced stage of development is Eva Kushner and Ilana Zinguer, eds. Renaissance II.

The following projects are in their early stages:

Daniel Chamberlain and Ted Chamberlin, eds. Oral Narrative Traditions.

Vivian Liska and Thomas Nolden, eds. Towards a Theory of European Literature.

Inocência Mata and Laura Cavalcante Padilha, eds. Africa and Portugal: Opening up the Atlantic--the Literary Routes of Confrontation and Convergence.

Randolph Pope and Andrew Anderson, eds. Realism.

Fridun Rinner and Franca Sinopoli, eds. Migration and Literature in Europe in the Second Half of the 20th Century.

While the projected volume on Realism comes to fill a gap in our series--another gap is the Middle Ages--and should be of the same type and length as our previous publications, the other projects are conceived as very focused and shorter books that therefore should be completed expeditiously.

#### **Finances**

Financially, the Committee has been able to help authors modestly with the costs associated with translations, proofreading, indexing, and so on. We have paid a small honorarium to the readers selected to comment on the manuscripts, an immense task, since the books are very long and with many contributors. Thanks to Steven Sondrup's untiring efforts we will be receiving this month the ICLA Bureau subsidy approved for the Committee last year in Bremen. We very much hope the ICLA Bureau will renew this subsidy at the Brussels meeting, because we will face several expenses due to the large number of projects we are now overseeing. The International Union of Academies has considered favorably at their 2009 meeting in Buenos Aires our request for continued support, and has granted us € 2,500.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph D. Pope

President of the CHLEL Coordinating Committee

and M Pre

Commonwealth Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature

Director of Comparative Literature

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# Appendix 2

### **REPORT on History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe:**

Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th Centuries

## Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, editors

The four-volumes of the *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe* map the history of ECE literatures from five angles: 1) key political events, 2) literary periods and genres, 3) cities and regions, 4) literary institutions, and 5) real and imaginary figures. Vol. 4 (currently in final edit) has the tentative title "Types and Stereotypes" and is structured in terms of historical and imaginary types and figures. This volume ends with a Post-1989 Epilogue, a "Timeline" (Chronologic Tables), a Gazetteer (variants of names), and an Index. We expect to have this volume published by the end of 2009 or at the very beginning of 2010. Please see a complete TABLE OF CONTENTS below.

In an ADDENDUM, we are providing the Tables of Contents for the three already published volumes.

### **Table of Contents**

#### Volume IV

### **Part V: TYPES AND STEREOTYPES**

### 1. THE POET AS NATIONAL ICON

Dvir Abramovich, "Bialik, Poet of the People"

Jeremy Dauber, "Creating a Yiddish Canon: Authors as Icons in Modern Yiddish

Literature"

Marijan Dović, "France Prešeren: A Conquest of the Slovene Parnassus" Roman Koropeckyj, "Adam Mickiewicz as a Polish National Icon"

John Neubauer "The Sándor-Petőfi Cult"

Călin-Andrei Mihăilescu, "Mihai Eminescu: The Conflicting Sides of a Foundational Lyrical Discourse"

Robert Pynsent, Karel Hynek Mácha Svetlana Slapsak, "Petar II Petrović Njegos: The Icon of the Poet with the Icon" Boyko Penchev, "Hristo Botev and the Necessity of a National Icon"

#### 2. FIGURES OF COLLECTIVE SELF

Włodzimierz Bołecki and John Neubauer, "Two Figures of Regionalism"

Miro Masek, "Models of Collective Identity in the Novels of Milos Crnjanski"

Joanna Spassova, "The Party Leader"

Arturas Tereskinas, "Gendering the Body of the Lithuanian Nation in Maironis's Poetry"

### 3. FIGURES OF TRAUMA

Jūra Avižienis, "Performing Identity: Lithuanian Memoirs of Siberian Deportation and Exile"

Nevena Daković, "Remembrance of the Past and Present: War Trauma in the Yugoslav Cinema"

Jolanta Jastrzebska, "Traumas of World War II"

Tina Kirss, "Family Trauma in Twentieth-century Estonian Literature"

Lado Kralj, "Goli Otok Literature"

Jasmina Lukić, "Gender and War in South Slavic Literatures"

Jambresic Kirin, "Gender and Traumatic Memories in Yugoslavia?

#### 4. FIGURES OF FEMALE IDENTITY

a) Canons and Counter-Canons

Sandra Mešková, "Constructing a Woman Author within the Literary Canon: Aspazija and Anna Brigadere"

Marcel Cornis-Pope, "Women at the Foundation of Romanian Literary Culture: From Muse to Writing Agent"

### b) Gender and Politics

Jasmina Lukić, "Gender and War in South Slavic Literatures"

Svetlana Slapšak, "Women's Memory and an Alternative Kosovo Myth"

### c) Mothers and Daughters

Biljana Nešić-Dojčinović, "The Quest for the Voice of the Mother: Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja's Diary

Inna Peleva, "The Image of the Mother in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Bulgarian Literature"

Sandra Mešková, "Figure of the Daughter: Representation of the Feminine in Latvian Women's Autobiographical Writing of 1990s"

#### d) Bodies and Culture

Lada Čale Feldman, "Women's Corpuses, Corpses or (Cultural) Bodies: The Example of Croatian Playwrighting"

Metka Zupancić, "Feminist Dystopia: Berta Bojetu-Boeta, a Slovene Model"

### 5. FIGURES OF THE OTHER

Dvir Abramovich, "*Tlushim*: The Alienated and the Uprooted" Craig Cravens, "From Golems to Robots"

Néroisz Foiog, "Drouble Stories and Questions of Nationhood"

Nárcisz Fejes, "Dracula-Stories and Questions of Nationhood"

Péter Krasztev, "Vámbéry and Stoker: a Short Story from the History of the East-West Anxiety-Export"

Robert Pynsent, "Czech Modernist Antisemitism: the Case of Božena Benešová"

Svetlana Slapšak, "Harems and Nomads: Jelena Dimitrijević"

Nevena Daković, "Love, Magic, and Life: Gypsies in Yugoslav Cinema"

Mihaela Moscaliuc, "Killing with Metaphors: Romani in the Literary Imagination of East-Central Europe"

### 6. FIGURES OF MEDIATION

Pia Brinzeu, "Lovely Barbarians: British Travelers in Romania"

Katherine Arens, "The Balkans Begin at the *Gürtel*": Travels Across Habsburg and Post-Habsburg Europe"

Gábor Gángó, "József Eötvös: Thinker of a Multinational State"

Péter Hajdu, "On the Ethnic Border: The Image of Slovaks in Kálmán Mikszáth's Writing"

Lida Stefanowska, "Antonych"

### 7. FIGURES OF OUTLAWS

Joep Leerssen, John Neubauer, Elka Agoston-Nikolova et al: Nikola Šuhaj, Juraj Jánosík, Rózsa Sándor and the Hungarian *betyárok*, the Bulgarian Hajduti, Panaït Istrati's Hajduti

### PART VI: EPILOGUE, TIMELINE, GAZETTEER

### A. EPILOGUE: East-Central European Literature after 1989

Marcel Cornis-Pope with Boyko Penchev and Alexander Kiossev on Bulgarian literature; Mihály Szegedy-Maszák on Hungarian literature and conceptual problems with Postmodernism/Postcommunism; Dagmar Roberts on Slovak literature; Karl E. Jirgens on Latvian literature; Arturas Tereskinas on Lithuanian literature; Tamara Trojanowska on Polish theater; Domnica Rădulescu on Romanian theater; Zoltán Imre on Hungarian theater; Andaluna Borcilă on narratives of post-1989 Return

- 1. Introduction: Literary and Cultural Reconstruction after 1989—Terminological and Historical Reconsiderations
- 2. East-Central European Literatures in the 1990s: Postcomunism, Postmodernism, and Beyond
- 3. Postcommunist and Postcolonial Motifs in the Baltic Literatures of the 1990s
- 4. Theater and Drama at the Turning Point
- 5. Narratives of Contact and Return

#### B. TIMELINE

- A. Chronological Table of the National Literary Traditions
- B. Chronological Table of Interchanges

C. GAZETTEER

**WORKS CITED** 

**INDEX** 

II.

The three volumes of the project published so far have received excellent reviews recently. Thus, Vladímir Biti concludes his review of vol. 1 in *Knjižna republika* (Zagreb) 5-7 (2008): 317-23, as follows:

With a special praise for the conceptualization of cultural borders as lines that both connect and divide, the conclusion forces itself upon us that the breakup of identities – which this project on East-Central Europe has partly aimed at – has far-reaching consequences for just about all key concepts of traditional literary-history writing: transnational and national identity, literature, culture, and history. And the question naturally emerges also, whether the analyzed process of connecting and distinguishing remains internal to the region, or whether it also has supra-regional implications and

relevance for Western Europe. Although it falls beyond the reach of this project, some contributions take initiatives in this direction. In any case, this project, with its plan and its realization raises, in spite of its understandable imbalance between the various segments, important questions concerning the writing of literary and cultural history today, and it deserves therefore unusually serious attention.

Ileana Orlich describes vol. 3 of our project in Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research 24 (Summer 2008: 51-58) as follows:

One can only imagine the tremendous amount of research and selection that informs the long list of literary institutions profiled in the volume's insightful and judiciously chosen commentaries attached to a particular culture, event, or literary development. Piled high and deep to include "not so much shared institutions" but rather "such region-wide analogous institutional processes as the national awak-ening, the modernist opening, and the communist regimentation, the canonization of texts, and censorship of literature" (xi), the volume's elaborate configuration features "a series of independent articles," or what the editors, early on in the Preface, call a "multiple scanning" of commentaries (ix). At a time when the European Union appears ready to forfeit the region's cultural diversity, the publication of 'The Making and Remaking of Literary Institutions' is a particularly welcome and intellectually enriching work that brings into prominence the national awakening and institutionalization of literature that have taken place over the past two centuries in the cultures of the region."

Other positive reviews have been published recently in the Akzent, Novi List, and Rampike. A review in the Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature is forthcoming. Here we list all of the reviews we have received so far (at least the ones we are aware of):

Baár, Monika. Review of vols. 1 and 2. Comparative Critical Studies 4.3 (2007): 468-

71.

Băicoianu, Anca. "Europa natală si literaturile ei" ("Native Europe" and Its Literatures) Cuvântul (Bucharest) 10.12 (Dec. 2004): 11.

Bedoya, Fausto. Rev. of vol. 3." Rampike (Windsor, Canada) 16.2 (2008): 78-79.

Berindeanu, Florin. Review of vols. 1, 2, and 3, forthcoming in *Yearbook of* Comparative and General Literature.

- Biti, Vladímir. "Prema novol književno-kulturnoj historiografiji" [rev. of vol. 1] Knjižna republika (Zagreb) 5-7 (2008): 317-23.
- Corbea, Andrei. Review of vol. 1. Arcadia 40.2 (January 2005): 479-481.
- Guran, Letitia. Review of vols. 1 and 2. The Comparatist 30 (2006): 129-35.
- Guran, Letitia. "US-American Comparative Literature and the Study of East-Central European Culture and Literature." Review-essay focused primarily on the ECE History. CLCWeb (Comparative Literature and Culture: A WWWeb Journal) 8.1 (2006). 1-11.
- Heim, Michael. Review of vol. 1. Comparative Literature 58.3 (Summer 2006): 261-63.
- Kuprel, Diana. Diana Kuprel. Review of vol. 1 *Idea&s* [U. of Toronto]1.1 (Autumn 2004): 63. First Century." [Focused in part on the ECE project.] *New Thinking* 1.2.
- Orlich, Ileana. Review of Vol. 3. Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research 24.47-48 (Summer 2008): 51-58.
- Paryź, Marek. "Literacka Panorama Europy Środkowowschodniej." Review of Vols. 1-3. Akzent (Lublin). 2008: 146-48.
- Petković, Nicola. "Nezaobilazni književnopovijesni document Srednje Europe." Review of vols. 1 and 2 in Novi List (Dec. 24, 2006).
- Szili, József. "After the Fall: Literary Histories after the Fall of Literary History." Neohelicon 34.1 (June 2007): 269-82.
- Szili, József. "Westward Hoe or Half-Way between Eastern and Western Europe." *Neohelicon* 33.2 (December 2006): 247-61.
- Teodorescu, Magda. Review of vol. 1. România literară (Bucharest) 37.32 (August 18, 2004): 21.
- Tihanov, Galin. "The Future of Literary History: Three Challenges in the Twenty-First Century." Focused in part on the ECE project. New Thinking 1.2 (Spring 2003). http:///www.new-thinking.org/ 2, 6.
- Uffelmann, Dirk. Kakanien Revisited Website http://www.kakanien.ac.at/home pp. 1-6, 08/2005.

Wachtel, Andrew. Review of vol. 1. The Slavonic and East European Review 83.3 (1 July 2005): 522-523.

The editors have continued to present the project in lectures and recent articles. Here are some of Marcel's contributions:

"Notes on a Contemporary Literary History of East-Central Europe." WeBlog.Ro 2009.

http://vetiver.weblog.ro/2008-10-31/571114/Marcel-Cornis-Pope%3A-Notes-ona-Comparative-Literary-History-of-East-Central-Europe.html

"Writing the History of East-Central European Literary Cultures: A Retrospect." *Literary* Research/Recherche littéraire 24.47-48 (Summer 2008): 41-45.

# Appendix 3

Comparative History of Literatures of the Iberian Peninsula

Volume I, TABLE OF CONTENTS

8 Editor's Preface

SECTION I

DISCOURSES ON IBERIAN LITERARY HISTORY.

Coordinators: Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza and César Domínguez 12

The European horizon of Peninsular literary historiographical discourses

13 Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza

Historiography and the geo-literary imaginary. The Iberian Peninsula: Between Lebensraum and espace vécu

César Domínguez 61

**SECTION II** 

THE IBERIAN PENINSULA AS A LITERARY SPACE

Coordinator: Sharon Feldman

Introduction: The Iberian Peninsula as a literary space

Sharon Feldman	139	
IDENTITARIAN PROJECTIONS: BETWEEN ISOLATIONISM AND REINTEGRATIONISM		
The hidden history of tripartite Iberianism		
Thomas Harrington	145	
On Lusism and Lusofonia: From Identitarian reinforcement to the mapping of difference		
Laura Cavalcante Padilha	168	
DIMENSIONS OF EXTRA-PENINSULARITY		
On extra-Peninsularity		
Daniel-Henri Pageaux	187	
Travel Writing		
Luis Fernández Cifuentes	197	
CITIES, CULTURAL CENTERS AND ENCLAVES		
Empires waxing and waning: Castile, Spain and American exceptionalism		
Michael Ugarte		224
Bilbao and the literary system in the Basque Country		
Jon Kortazar	234	
Contemporary Catalan literature: Fact or friction?		
Jordi Larios and Dominic Keown	248	
Literary and cultural productions centers in Galicia (1848-1936)		
Anxo Tarrío Varela	263	

Cities, cultural centers, and peripheries. From Iberia to Africa: The construction o	f a literary city
Inocência Mata	277
Southern Spain	
Lee Fontanella	286
The Canaries: Between mythical space and global drift	
Bertrand Westphal	298
Insulated voices looking for the world: Narratives from Atlantic Islands (Cabral d João Varela, and João de Melo)	e Nascimento,
Ana Salgueiro Rodrigues	315
SECTION III	
THE MULTILINGUAL LITERARY SPACE OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA	
Coordinator: Ángel López García	
Introduction: The multilingual literary space of the Iberian Peninsula	
Ángel López García	331
Bilingualism and diglossia in Medieval Iberia (350-1350)	
Roger Wright	338
The Impact of Arabic diglossia among the Muslims, Jews and Christians of Al-Aı	ndalus
María Ángeles Gallego	354
Hebrew and Literature in Medieval Iberia	
Mariano Gómez-Aranda	368
Castilian and Portuguese in the sixteenth century	
Ángel Marcos de Dios	385

Literary Language and diatopic variation: Catalan literary cultures	
Vicent Salvador	400
Basque as a literary language	
Karmele Rotaetxe	413
Galician-Portuguese as a literary language in the Middle Ages	
Graça Videira Lopes	422
Ideology and Image of Peninsular languages in Spanish literature	
Fernando Romo Feito	437
SECTION IV	
DIMENSIONS OF ORALITY	
Coordinator: Paloma Díaz-Mas	
Introduction to domensions of orality	
Paloma Díaz-Mas	453
Comparativism and orality: Critical approaches to the ballads of <i>La boda estorba</i> thwarted marriage)	da (The
Paloma Díaz-Mas	456
The traditional Iberian lyric of the Middle Ages and the Golden Age. A compara	tive view
Margit Frenk	486
Linguistic borders and oral transmission	
José Luis Forneiro	508
Iberian traditions of international folktale	
José Manuel Pedrosa	523

Literature and new forms of orality	
Luis Díaz G. de Viana	531
SECTION V	
TEMPORAL FRAMES AND LITERARY (INTER-)SYSTEMS	
Coordinator: Fernando Gómez Redondo	
Introduction: Temporal frames and literary (inter-)systems	
Fernando Gómez Redondo	543
Building a literary model: prose in the court of Alfonso X (1252-84)	
Fernando Gómez Redondo	549
Literature at the crossroads of politics: Spain and Portugal, 1580	
Tobias Brandenberger	562
Baroque literature, 1600-50. Literature in the Iberian Peninsula and America	
Antonio Cortijo Ocaña	579
Theatrical repertoire models in Portugal: conflict and circulation (1737-93)	
Raquel Bello Vázquez	601
The Spanish literary system in the nineteenth century	
Leonardo Romero Tobar	616
The dialogue of Iberian literary nationalisms	
José-Carlos Mainer	626
The shifting systems for literary creation in the novel during the transition and d 82)	emocracy (1975
Randolph D. Pone	637

#### 650 **REFERENCES**

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