

2010-2011 Report of the ICLA coordinating committee for
Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL)

July 29 2011

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Coordinating Committee for a Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL) in 2010-2011, since the last meeting of the ICLA Büro in Seoul in August 1910. As Randolph Pope, the former president of the committee, reported at Seoul, we then had one new publication in print and two forthcoming in fall 2010 and winter 2011. Each has been exemplary: the first volume of the regional study of Iberia, edited by Fernando Cabo and his colleagues; the final volume of the *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe*, edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer; and the third volume of Eva Kushner's Renaissance project, *L'Époque de la Renaissance (1400–1600): maturations et mutations (1520–1560)*. (See Appendix 1)

The members of the CHLEL committee met on June 6, 2011 in Lisbon at the Universidade de Lisboa, followed by a conference hosted by Inocência Mata. Thirteen of the sixteen members were able to attend, coming from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. The colloquium involved a number of additional scholars from Portugal, France, and Canada who addressed panels devoted to projects that are underway. ICLA President Steven Sondrup, who is not only a member but also a director of a major multi-volume CHLEL project, was able to attend while travelling to Paris and Germany to prepare the next triennial conference. Having circulated comments in advance, the committee reviewed in detail eight current projects and two suspended projects. It took note that workshops held at Seoul had advanced the work of several projects. We made provisional plans for meetings in 2012 and 2013.

In the past year, most of our current projects have continued to move forward. Unfortunately, two projects that had made no progress over three years, due to various impediments that stalled their development, were suspended: one on Lusophone Africa, directed by Inocência Mata, and the other on Realism, directed by Randolph Pope. Part of the past year has been devoted to reconsidering how to develop those projects with a new team and a new vision. The 2010-2011 committee's service as an editorial review board has been exemplary, providing detailed written assessments of projects. Moreover, as most of the Project Directors' detailed reports twice every year demonstrate, the committee can rely on an exceptional group of dedicated colleagues who have pushed forward their explorations in comparative literary history, sometimes in the face of severe illnesses and other difficulties. While the dwindling resources of universities have caused our Directors to project escalating need for funds to cover costs of translation and copy-editing, we have continued to secure financial support both from the ICLA, which granted the committee \$3,000 (2,338) in 2010, and from the International Union of Academies, which gave us a subsidy of 2500 € in 2011. (See Appendix 2: Budget)

PUBLICATIONS

To date, the Committee has overseen the publication of 26 volumes. Its aim has been to promote the comparative study of literary history, with attention to the full range of literary cultures in European languages. Launched by major comparatists such as Jacques Voisine, Henry Remak, and Jean Weisgerber in 1967, the series has of necessity drawn on a great number of distinguished as well as younger collaborators to cover a broad variety of periods, genres, and regions such as Africa, the Caribbean, East-Central Europe, and Iberia. Project Directors have

been sensitive to the problematic nature of their subjects, and as a result their enterprises have won praise and prizes for thoughtful innovations. The four-volume *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th Centuries* was celebrated in December 2010 at the British Academy. The Modern Language Association of America will dedicate a presidential session at its January 2012 convention to the discussion of comparative and multicultural projects such as the *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe* that have expanded the traditional scholarly focus of the MLA. For the first time this year, the committee received royalties of 214.59 € (June 20, 2011) for reprints from recent volumes, one indicator of their reception. Details for each volume are available at the Benjamins website:

http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_seriesview.cgi?series=CHLEL

Close to completion in 2012 are the second volume of the Comparative History of Literatures of the Iberian Peninsula, edited by Fernando Cabo and his team, and the first volume of the Comparative History of Nordic Literary Culture, edited by Steven Sondrup and his team. Both are at the stage of copy-editing and preparation for external review. Significant progress has been made by the two-volume Medieval project, directed by César Dómínguez Prieto, which will address a long-neglected segment in our history. The last volume of the Renaissance sequence, edited by Eva Kushner and her new co-editor Konrad Eisenbichler (II: "La nouvelle culture: 1480-1520"), now is being fleshed out.

Solid advances are also visible in the shorter "problem" projects on Orality, directed by Daniel Chamberlain and Ted Chamberlin, and on Literature and Multimedia, directed by Marcel Cornis-Pope, whose topics and contributors are in place, with many of the essays already received for review. These "problem" studies focus theoretically on areas that have become critical for literary history today and that have arisen in our previous histories. The focused volumes directly address shifts in literary production and historiography. Several other projects are at intermediate stages of preparation: Vivian Liska and Thomas Nolden are working on their volume devoted to the central concept of "European" literature and may propose a panel to be held at Harvard University's Center for European Studies; Fridun Rinner and Franca Sinopoli, the editors of "Migration and Literature in Europe in the Second Half of the 20th Century," have organized panels with contributors at Seoul as well as Aix-en-Provence, and will continue to meet regularly.

In order to accelerate development of projects such as the one on Realism, which is currently being re-started, we anticipate that panels of 12 contributors (or more) will be organized at the ACLA (Brown University, March 29-April 2, 2012) and at the ICLA meeting (Paris, 2013). Work is already underway to gather contributors to these volumes, and to consolidate ideas at a panel or seminar that meets over several days.

FINANCES

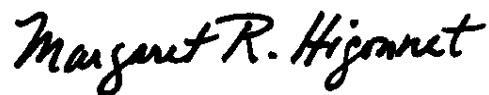
Between June 2010 and June 2011, the committee received support from the Union académique internationale (2500 €) and from the ICLA (2,338 € or \$3,000). As recently as 5 years ago, there was a very small sum in the committee's account, but we have been able to benefit from the ICLA increase in support and new support from the UAI (secured by Eva Kushner), as well as a turn to electronic communication. No member travel is reimbursed. The Committee helps Project Directors to cover modest costs associated with translation, proofreading, indexing, permissions, and other expenses associated with preparing the manuscripts. The ceiling for such expenditures per volume is now \$2,000 (a decade ago it was \$1,000). As an example, for the

History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe (2006-2010), from 2000 to 2011, the total expenditures were \$9,069. The committee spent in the first 6 months of 2011 sums of 200 € for an honorarium, 450 € for copyediting, and 333 € for publications costs, in addition to bank charges, for a total of 1020 €, according to the 2010-11 financial report submitted by Treasurer Vivian Liska.

While the actual expenditures vary significantly from year to year, reimbursements accrue at the conclusion of our projects. In the past, several project directors have been able to secure generous funding from governmental and other sources. At the CHLEL meeting in June, 2011, however, the committee was notified that the projects on Iberia and the Renaissance would each be seeking financial support at the usual level of \$2,000. A similar need to secure funding for translation has also been anticipated by the projects on Orality and on Literature and Multimedia. We expect that readers' reports will require expenditures in the coming year of € 800 euros. The budget projected for the coming year, therefore, is on the order of \$7,000, as is the budget projected for the following year.

We gratefully acknowledge the subventions received in the past from the ICLA and from the International Union of Academies; both institutions are thanked on our website and in our recent volumes. These subventions are essential to our work. In light of the needs currently foreseen, the Committee wishes to respectfully request a subvention of \$3,000.00 for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret R. Higonnet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret R. Higonnet
President, CHLEL, 2010-2013

Appendix 1: 26 volumes of [Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages](#)

[L'Époque de la Renaissance \(1400–1600\): Tome III: maturations et mutations \(1520–1560\)](#) . **Kushner**, Eva (ed.). 2011. ix, 636 pp.

[History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries. Volume 4: Types and stereotypes](#) . **Cornis-Pope**, Marcel and John **Neubauer** (eds.) 2010. ix, 692 pp. + index

[A Comparative History of Literatures in the Iberian Peninsula: Volume I](#). Fernando **Cabo Aseguinolaza**, Anxo **Abuín Gonzalez** and César **Domínguez**(eds.) 2010. xiv, 750 pp.

[Romantic Prose Fiction](#). Gerald **Gillespie**, Manfred **Engel** and Bernard **Dieterle** (eds.). 2008. xxi, 733 pp.

[History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries. Volume III: The making and remaking of literary institutions](#) . Marcel **Cornis-Pope**, and John **Neubauer** (eds.) 2007. xiv, 522 pp.

[Modernism](#). Astradur **Eysteinnsson**, and Vivian **Liska** (eds.) 2007. xii, 1043 pp. (2 vols.)

[History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries. Volume II](#) Marcel **Cornis-Pope**, and John **Neubauer** (eds.) 2006. xiv, 512 pp.

[History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries. Volume I](#). Marcel **Cornis-Pope**, and John **Neubauer** (eds.). 2004. xx, 648 pp.

[Nonfictional Romantic Prose: Expanding borders](#). Steven P.**Sondrup**, and Virgil **Nemoianu** (eds.) 2004. viii, 477 pp.

[Romantic Poetry](#). **Esterhammer**, Angela (ed.) 2002. xii, 537 pp.

[L'Aube de la Modernité 1680-1760](#). **Knabe**, Peter-Eckhard, Roland **Mortier** et François **Moureau** (dir.) 2002. viii, 554 pp.

[A History of Literature in the Caribbean: Volume 2: English- and Dutch-speaking regions](#). A. James **Arnold**, (ed.) 2001. x, 672 pp.

[Die Wende von der Aufklärung zur Romantik 1760–1820: Epoche im Überblick](#). **Glaser**, Horst Albert und György M. **Vajda** † (Hrsg.) 2001. x, 760 pp.

[L'Époque de la Renaissance \(1400–1600\): Tome IV: Crises et essors nouveaux \(1560–1610\)](#). **Klaniczay**, Tibor, Eva **Kushner** et Paul **Chavy** (dir.) 2000. xiv, 817 pp.

[A History of Literature in the Caribbean: Volume 3: Cross-Cultural Studies](#). A. James **Arnold**, ed.) 1997. xviii, 398 pp.

[International Postmodernism: Theory and literary practice](#). **Bertens**, Hans and Douwe W. **Fokkema** (eds.) 1997. xvi, 581 pp.

[A History of Literature in the Caribbean: Volume 1: Hispanic and Francophone Regions](#). **Arnold**, A. James, Julio **Rodriguez-Luis** and J. Michael **Dash** (eds.) 1994. xviii, 579 pp.

[Romantic Drama](#) **Gillespie**, Gerald (ed.) 1993. xvi, 516 pp.

[Romantic Irony](#) **Garber**, Frederick (ed.) 1988. 395 pp.

[L'Époque de la Renaissance \(1400–1600\): Tome I: L'avènement de l'esprit nouveau \(1400–1480\)](#) **Klaniczay**, Tibor, Eva **Kushner** et André **Stegmann** (dir.) 1988. 594 pp.

[European-language Writing in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) **Gérard**, Albert S. (ed.) 1986. 1288 pp. 2 volumes

[Les Avant-gardes littéraires au XXe siècle: Deux volumes. I: Histoire; II: Théorie](#) **Weisgerber**, Jean (dir.) 1986. 622, 704 pp.

[Les Avant-gardes littéraires au XXe siècle: Volume II: Théorie](#) **Weisgerber**, Jean (dir.) 1986. 704 pp.

[Les Avant-gardes littéraires au XXe siècle: Volume I: Histoire](#) **Weisgerber**, Jean (dir.) 1986. 622 pp.

[Le Tournant du siècle des Lumières 1760–1820: Les genres en vers des Lumières au romantisme](#) **Vajda**, György M. † (dir.) 1982. 684 pp.

[The Symbolist Movement in the Literature of European Languages](#) **Balakian**, Anna (ed.), 1984. 732 pp.

[Expressionism as an International Literary Phenomenon](#) **Weisstein**, Ulrich (ed.) 1982.

Appendix 2

CHLEL Treasurer's Report			
12 July 2010 - 3 June 2011			
Submitted June 3, 2011			
Vivian Liska, Treasurer of CHLEL			
Revenue			
UAI subsidy 2010		De Paepe	2,500.00 €
ICLA operating grant		(3.000,00 USD)	2,338.00 €
Bank balance			15,020.39 €
Bank interest			26.91 €
TOTAL revenue			19,885.30 €
Expenditures			
ECE Expenses Keith Lander		John Neubauer	450.00 €
ECE Reader's Report		Monika Baar	200.00 €
CHLEL publications to DePaepe		John Benjamins	333.16 €
Bank account expenses			7.80 €
Bank account expenses			7.80 €
Bank account expenses			7.80 €
Bank account expenses			7.80 €
Bank account expenses	('portkosten')		0.61 €
Bank account expenses	('verrichtingenarchief')		5.00 €
TOTAL expenditures			1,019.97 €
Committee balance	3 June 2011		18,865.33 €