

**REPORT of Coordinating Committee for the  
COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF LITERATURES IN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES**

**Submitted by Margaret R. Higonnet, President**

Date: June 25, 2013

Members: Margaret R. Higonnet (University of Connecticut), President  
Marcel Cornis-Pope (Virginia Commonwealth University), Vice President  
Svend Erik Larsen (Aarhus University), Secretary  
Vivian Liska (University of Antwerp), Treasurer  
Theo D'haen (Leuven University)  
César Dominguez Prieto (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela)  
Angela Esterhammer (Toronto University)  
Patrizia Lombardo (Université de Genève)  
Inocência Mata (Universidade de Lisboa)  
Thomas Nolden (Wellesley College)  
Anders Pettersson (Umeå University)  
Fridrun Rinner (Université de Provence, Aix-Marseilles)  
Franca Sinopoli (« La Sapienza » Università di Roma)  
Steven Sondrup (Brigham Young University)  
Francesco Stella (Università di Siena)  
Anja Tippner (Universität Hamburg)

I am pleased to report on activities of the Coordinating Committee for Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages from May 2012, when we met in Salzburg, to June. (Our annual meeting will be held in Paris July 15, 2013, the day before the meeting of the ICLA Executive Council.) We thank Stéphane Michaud and Philippe Daros for hosting our business meeting in the Sorbonne.

**1) Financial Report.**

At the last meeting of the ICLA Executive Council in Chicago, September 5-6, 2012, we reported 22,036.65 € in the account. We did not request renewal of the annual subsidy of \$3,000 from the ICLA for the committee's work. Our Treasurer Vivian Liska reports on June 25, 2013 a balance of 22,098,13 €.

In June 2012 the CHLEL committee voted on a supplemental ballot in June 2012 to approve an honorarium of 200 € to the Chair of the elections committee and an allowance of up to 600 € to the President of the committee for travel (passed 13 for, 1 against, 2 abstaining). This proposal was not approved at the meeting of the ICLA Executive Council in September 2012.

Following our detailed "quinquennial" report in December 2012 to the Union Académique Internationale I learned this spring that the 2,500 € previously allocated to CHLEL by the UAI had lapsed, since there had been no expenses submitted to the Treasurer, and we could not apply for any reimbursement. At the meeting of the UAI Assembly in Mainz, however, our quinquennial report was accepted with felicitations. On the next round of reports to the UAI, the CHLEL president will need to apply for a renewed subsidy. Theo D'haen agreed to serve as a liaison to the Assembly but was unable to attend the 2013 meeting.

In the next months we expect project directors to request help in covering costs of

translation and copy-editing. Our procedures are governed by requirements of the UAI and similar rules of the ICLA governing subsidies, whereby original documentation of expenditures is submitted before reimbursement. In the past, routine modest costs such as xeroxing, copy-editing, translation, indexing, and permissions for illustrations have been reimbursed. Such expenses have had a ceiling of \$2,000 per volume, with a possible additional 600 euros for further costs. Directors now are facing high costs for translation and copy-editing, at multiples of those allocations; we currently are concerned with a project whose translation costs will exceed \$8,000, and other projects will submit budgets hoping for reimbursement up to \$2,000. At the same time traditional sources of funding have dried up. We therefore respectfully request an annual subsidy from the ICLA of \$3,000, for 2013-2014.

## 2) Publications with Benjamins.

The Benjamins website provides blurbs and selective Google views of our volumes. Sets of volumes can now be bought at a discount and all volumes can be purchased in digital form. The volumes devoted to the *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe* continue to garner reviews, which have been posted separately on the CHLEL site. Earlier reviews can be found at the website under “Comparative Literature History Series,” where each title appears, followed by links to the reviews. See <http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.CHLEL>

While our eight current projects continue to make significant progress, as directors gather contributions, translate, and copy-edit them, there were no publications in this period. Manuscripts must be print-ready by August, in order to appear the same year. Descriptions of the current projects are now posted on our web site. The manuscript on new Media, edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope, may be ready for external reviewers in fall 2013. We also expect to receive the manuscript of the first volume of the Nordic project, directed by Steven Sondrup, in winter 2013. The second volume of the Iberia project, edited by César Domínguez Prieto may be ready in early 2014. By spring 2014 it is possible that we will receive the study of Orality as a challenge to comparative literary history, coedited by Daniel Chamberlain and Ted Chamberlin.

Among other ongoing projects César Domínguez's *Medieval Comparatism / Comparatist Medievalism* has waited, while he focused on the Iberian project. Fridrun Rinner and Franca Sinopoli have gathered position papers for the transnational project on *Migrant Literatures* into a set of papers in the online journal 'Malice' this year and will chair a pair of panels at the Paris congress. I organized a conference at Harvard's Center for European Studies to support the project on *Conceptualizing European Literature* directed by Vivian Liska and Thomas Nolden, bringing together several contributors. The final volume of Eva Kushner's project on the Renaissance may be ready for review in 2014.

Two other proposals, one devoted to the troublesome conceptualization of “realism” and the other to the topic of ‘Transatlantic literatures’ in the latter part of the twentieth century, submitted by Jean Marc Moura, will also be discussed at the meeting of the committee in July. The four panels on realism organized at the ICLA Congress will take place after the committee's meeting. At the meeting in Salzburg, Marcel Cornis Pope, Svend Erik Larsen, and I drafted a rough outline of questions; we have continued to collect abstracts and line up contributors appropriate for certain aspects of the subject and apologize for the delay in sending a fuller outline of work in progress. We agreed to focus on the nineteenth-century component before developing a volume on avatars such as surrealism and socialist realism in the twentieth century. Jean Marc Moura is weighing how to respond to the suggestion that his study encompass the

whole 20th century instead of the Atlantic literatures after 1945). Since he was not able to attend the meeting last year, he would like to discuss such questions with the committee this year.

### **3) Website and Editorial Review**

[www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.CHLEL](http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.CHLEL)

The website maintained at the University of Antwerp by our Treasurer Vivian Liska and her excellent assistant Jan Morrens effectively supports the work of the committee. The “members only” section contains ongoing editorial information such as guidelines for editors, project reports and comments, planning information about our annual meeting, and the history of the committee’s work (minutes and annual reports by the president, secretary, and treasurer). On the public face of the website, visitors can find our mission statement, links to the publications by Benjamins together with links to book reviews, a list of committee members, and the by-laws of the committee. In addition, Secretary Svend Erik Larsen has gathered and posted short descriptions of each current project to make our ongoing work more accessible.

### **4) Election of committee for 2013-2016**

Secretary Svend Erik Larsen chaired our election committee and conducted the ballot, including a second round after one of the newly-elected members withdrew. We thank him as well as Linda Hutcheon and Sandra Bermann for their work as nominators and as scrutineers, and welcome the six new members who join us.

The new committee, effective at the end of our meeting on July 15, will serve 2013 – 2016:

Marcel Cornis-Pope (Virginia Commonwealth University), President  
Theo D’haen (Leuven University), Vice-President  
César Domínguez Prieto (University of Santiago de Compostela), Secretary  
Vivian Liska (Antwerp University), Treasurer  
Kjersti Bale (University of Oslo)  
Robert Dixon (University of Sydney)  
Dirk Götsche (University of Nottingham)  
Patrizia Lombardo (Université de Genève)  
Thomas Nolden (Wellesley College)  
Thomas Pavel (University of Chicago))  
Karen-Margrethe Simonsen (Aarhus University)  
Franca Sinopoli (University of Rome)  
Steven Sondrup (Brigham Young University)  
Francesco Stella (University of Siena)  
Anja Tippner (Hamburg University)  
Robert Weninger (King’s College, London)

The new members have been invited to attend our business meeting as non-voting members.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret R. Higonnet, President (2010-2013)

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