

## CHLEL, June 15th, 2015

### Members of the Coordinating Committee for CHLEL:

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 Götttsche (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)

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Coordinating Committee for the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages from June 2014 to June 15, 2015. This period includes our Committee meeting (June 16-17, 2014) in Aix en Provence, France, as well as our meeting in Siena, Italy (June 10-11). We thank Fridrun Rinner for hosting our 2014 business meeting at the University Aix Marseille, as well as Crystel Pinçonat and Alexis Nuselovici for helping with the necessary arrangements for our Conference on June 18 through June 21, 2014. We also thank our colleague Francesco Stella who hosted this year's business meeting (June 10-11, 2015), followed by a conference June 12-13 at the Certosa de Pontignano conference center, near Siena, Italy. The conference, attended by thirty-five international scholars from Europe, Asia, North and South America, and titled "The Mechanic Reader," focused primarily (but not only) on the interaction of literature with electronic media, and on the digitalization of both literature and criticism. It included a roundtable reporting on recent CHLEL projects.

### 1) Financial Report.

At our Coordinating Committee meeting June 11 our Treasurer Vivian Liska reported a balance of 25.383,12 €. The ICLA subsidy of 6000 € transferred to our Coordinating Committee account in May 2014 enabled reimbursements to the Iberia project amounting to almost 6,700 €, as already reported. Readers' fees for the Media project edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope amounted to 643 € in 2014-2015. Accompanying this report is the full CHLEL Treasurer's Report by Vivian Liska for the year of 2014-2015. The project on orality entitled "Words to That Effect" has been revised for publication, and we await a report on the editors' expenditures. Two other MSS are about to be submitted to external referees. Their editors will also then submit requests for reimbursement of expenses according to our usual procedures of documentation. We respectfully request that the ICLA grant us a subsidy of 3,000 € for the next period 2015-2016.

### 2) Publications with Benjamins.

In the course of the last year, the first volume in the "problem" series, *New Literary*

*Hybrids in the Age of Multimedia Expression: Crossing Borders, Crossing Genres* (2014), edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope, was published. This volume comprises 456 pages in rather small print and is richly illustrated in color. It covers a broad range of topics (literature and other media such as film, visual art, digital work, sound work, etc.) and geocultural areas (Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East, the Orient, Africa and the Americas).

A new volume on orality entitled *Words to That Effect*, coedited by Daniel Chamberlain and J. Edward Chamberlin, is now in production at Benjamins. This contribution to the “problem” series challenges the usual neglect of oral cultures in comparative literary history.

Regarding the various publications projects that the Coordinating Committee has sponsored, 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. As reported in the past, there have been many positive reviews of the volumes published by the Committee. Reviews of published projects can be found at our website under “Comparative Literature History Series,” where each title is followed by links to the reviews.

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/>

### 3) Current projects

A listing of current projects can be found on the website listed above.

Our ten current projects have continued to make significant progress, as directors have gathered contributions, translated, and copy-edited them. The second volume of *A Comparative History of Literatures in the Iberian Peninsula*, edited by César Domínguez Prieto, Anxo Abuín, and Ellen Sapega, was presented to the Committee on June 10, and will now be sent to external reviewers.

Other book manuscripts are in different stages of elaboration. One volume of the three-volume *Comparative History of Nordic Cultures* edited by Steven P. Sondrup and Mark B. Sandberg is undergoing copyediting to reformat some of the introductory material. It is nearly ready to be sent to external readers. Work on this series was slowed by illness and by the death of one of the editors. Eva Kushner has nearly completed her editorial work on the volume *La Nouvelle Culture* (Renaissance II), which will be the last in the four-volume series on the Renaissance. As soon as she has compiled the complete manuscript, the volume will be sent to external evaluators.

Among other ongoing projects *Transculture: Migration and Literature in Europe in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century*, edited by Fridrun Rinner and Franca Sinopoli has continued to flesh out its outline, through a meeting in December 2014 at La Sapienza University (Rome-Italy) and through extensive collaboration. Members of this research group have created a method of co-authorship and peer review to shape introductory position papers and to gather papers for the case studies section of their volume.

A full account of work on the *History of Transatlantic Literatures in European Languages in the 20th Century*, was presented by the project director Jean Marc Moura. He laid out a sequence of related publications and conferences on the triangular intellectual trade in the last half century, which ground this volume. In turn, a related project was proposed by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen on the history of slavery and its literary cultures in the deeper past. The committee welcomed the proposal and encouraged Simonsen to develop the project further.

Work on the Middle Ages proceeds apace. César Domínguez Prieto's *Medieval Comparatism / Comparatist Medievalism* awaits the completion of his work on the second volume of the Iberian project. At the meeting on June 11, Francesco Stella presented a second medieval project on literatures in Latin, outlined in detail, with proposed names of contributors, which will complement the theoretical project of Domínguez Prieto. The committee also welcomed this proposal and endorsed its further development.

“Landscapes of Realism,” whose principal coordinator is committee member Dirk Götsche, working with members Patrizia Lombardo and Robert Wening, as well as Margaret Higonet and Svend Erik Larsen in the editorial team, has progressed in developing its conceptual structure. Götsche has

submitted a grant proposal to the Leverhulme Foundation, and members of the editorial team are organizing a series of workshops starting in November 2015 to develop sections of the projected two volumes. The Committee voted to approve this proposal in June 2014 and reaffirmed its approval at the June 11, 2015 meeting.

Finally, the committee encouraged editors Vivian Liska and Thomas Nolden, who reported some difficulties in matching their expectations with potential contributors to *Conceptualizing European Literature(s)*, to continue their work on this core project central to the task of the committee.

**4) Website** - <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/>

The committee thanks our Treasurer Vivian Liska and her associate Jan Morrens for maintaining the website at the University of Antwerp. 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. Marcel Cornis-Pope thanks Vice President Theo D'haen, Secretary César Domínguez Prieto, and Treasurer Vivian Liska for their many contributions to the planning and managing of our publication projects.

**5) Committee Elections**

For medical reasons, President Marcel Cornis-Pope was obliged to resign as of June 11, 2015. All members of the Committee have expressed their concern for Marcel and regret that he must leave the committee prematurely. Theo D'haen as Vice-President volunteered to assume the tasks that the president would normally perform. Since the usual election would normally be organized this fall, the committee agreed to proceed promptly to set the machinery in motion for the next triennial election. Svend Erik Larsen, who chaired the election committee three years ago, has agreed to conduct the coming process of balloting.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcel Cornis-Pope, President (2013-2016)  
Coordinating Committee for the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages



Theo D'haen, pro tempore President