

BARCELONA
January 1994.

EACLALS NEWSLETTER

Dear Members:

As we enter another New Year, I would like to send greetings to all our EACLALS friends. We start out on a world scene that is indeed far from buoyant and one could wish that the year had opened on a more sanguine note, but let us hope that, at least in a small way, the connections and friendships built up through ACLALS and its regional sections may contribute something towards a better understanding among nations. EACLALS members have been busy in this sense throughout 1993 and the following is a brief account of some of their activities.

WHO'S WHO.

In response to a questionnaire circulated in 1992, many members expressed their approval for our project to publish a WHO'S WHO of EACLALS members and also a bibliography of doctoral dissertations on Commonwealth themes presented in Europe. The idea was confirmed at the triennial Conference held in May, 1993 in Graz, and, as a consequence, a form was circulated to all members. I would like to thank the diligent who have already kindly sent in their replies and would urge the less diligent to do so before the end of February. I understand that the filling in of yet another form is irksome to busy academics but if this publication is to be of any use it must be comprehensive, and we would like to bring it out this year. May I remind you that only bibliography related to some aspect of Commonwealth Studies -or the New Literatures in English- is requested and it is not necessary to include your publications in other fields. If any member has not received the form, please let me know immediately.

CONFERENCES HELD IN 1993.

The EACLALS highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Triennial Conference held in Graz with a larger attendance than ever before, thus raising our hopes that this field of study is really making progress and becoming consolidated in European centres. Apart from the welcome appearance of many new members from Eastern Europe, it was a pleasure to see so many participants from other continents, not only Commonwealth countries and the USA but also China, Japan, Jordan, The Philippines, Puerto Rico and Taiwan. The conference was also remarkable for the very large number of distinguished writers who attended. Members who took part will surely wish to join me in thanking Professor Wolfgang Zach, his wife Hannelore and their team of helpers for their tireless and also no doubt tiring efforts to make this a successful meeting in the beautiful and hospitable region of Styria.

ESSE/2 Bordeaux September

The European Society for the Study of English included among the forty three sections of the conference one dedicated to The New Literatures in English which was well attended, the fourteen slots allotted to us being amply covered. I feel that it is important that our field should be well represented, not only in conferences devoted to our areas but also in these wider domains of English studies. May I urge members to offer papers for the

next ESSE conference to be held in Glasgow in 1995.

EASA Sitges October 2-4

The seaside town of Sitges is becoming well-known to our members as a pleasant venue. Having in the past been the setting for an EACLALS conference and also one of the Spanish Association for Canadian Studies, this year it welcomed the European Association for Studies on Australia. Thanks to the able organization of Convener Susan Ballyn and her team of helpers, an interesting and well-attended meeting was held to discuss "Australia's Changing Landscape". This Association which has been through its initial years under the capable presidency of Prof. Giovanna Capone, now passes to another much appreciated member of EACLALS, Prof. Werner Senn, to whom we wish every success as the new president.

THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE NEW LITERATURES IN ENGLISH Munich September 7-10

The customary annual meeting of this Association was this year organized by Dr. Peter Stummer in the University of Munich, the topic being "The Fusion of Cultures" which aimed, as he says, "to get beyond the present-day post-colonial counter-discourse orthodoxy which builds on the overriding importance of alterity and difference." The near coincidence with the ESSE conference in Bordeaux prevented me from attending this meeting but judging by the programme it seems evident that the expected high standard of writer participation and papers is being well maintained. We hope to hear of a venue for this year.

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA March 23-25

Though not specifically dedicated to Commonwealth Studies, the conference entitled "The End", organized by Prof. Jacqueline Hurlley, to consider the end of the 19th. century and the end of the 20th. inevitably included a number of papers related to the colonial and post-colonial world. A number of distinguished scholars and writers from diverse parts of "The Empire", joined us in this fin de deux siècles venture.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Among the conferences anticipated in coming years are:

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

"Moving Words, Moving Worlds: Commonwealth & Post Colonial Literatures 30 years Forward." School of English. University of Leeds. 1-3 September 1994. Send abstracts (not more than 500 words) and requests for information to Alison Donnell. School of English. University of Leeds. Leeds LS2 9JT. It is to be noted that the first conference on Commonwealth literature ever held in Britain took place at Leeds in September 1964. Thirty years on, this conference will set out to explore the developments which have been made and to signal future directions.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

British Australian Studies Association (BASA), Biennial Conference. "Changing Courses: Australia since the Forties". Rutherford College. University of Kent. 2-4 September 1994. Abstracts of not more than 500 words to Dr. G. Raines. Darwin College. The University. Canterbury. Kent CT2 7 NY. U.K.

STAFFORD UNIVERSITY

"Citizen & Cultural Frontiers". 14-17 September, 1994. Information from Dr. Azzedine Haddour. School of Arts. P.O.Box 661. Stafforshire University. College Rd. Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2XW

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

16th. Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Professors of English (I.A.U.P.E.) 31 July-5 August, 1995. Information: Professor Arne Zettersten. English Dept. University of Copenhagen, Njalsgade 84-96. DK-2300. Copenhagen S. Denmark. This conference will include a section on The New Literatures in English.

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

The next conference of the European Association for Studies on Australia (EASA) will also be held in Copenhagen in the latter part of 1995. Professor Senn will, in due course, circulate further information.

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

10th. Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). "Islands and Continents". 20-27 September, 1995. Information: Professor D.C.R.A. Goonetilleke. Department of English. University of Kelaniya. Kelaniya. Sri Lanka.

UNIVERSITY OF OVIEDO

The Triennial Conference of EACLALS will be held in the university of Oviedo (N. Spain) in 1996.

THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE. LONDON

Some members will already have heard the disturbing news about the future of this Institute which will face grave difficulties in funding its many important activities when the Foreign and Commonwealth Office withdraws its financial support in 1996. This government grant represents 80% of the total budget and unless this drastic decision is revised or other means of funding are found, it will not be possible to maintain the many exhibitions, workshops and educational programmes now offered. Over the years many of us in Europe and beyond have made use of the Institute Library and attended interesting seminars and would surely regret any reductions in this centre. I have been in touch with Director General Stephen Cox to see in what way EACLALS could help to find solutions. As a first step I would suggest that all members should become Friends of the Institute, thus receiving information about what is being done. Please write to the Campaign Office. Commonwealth Institute. Kensington High Street. London W8 6NQ. Tel. 071-603 4535 Fax. 071-602 7374

The Commonwealth Institute has recently held an interesting conference on Translating South Asian Literatures and will early this year hold a Women Writers' Workshop -15 January, and a Seminar on Urdu Literature -5 February.

TENURED POSTS & POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

We have often stressed the importance of achieving more tenured posts in Commonwealth Studies in the universities, this leading the way to more graduate and post-graduate courses and therefore a consolidation of these disciplines. It was good news that Shirley Chew has recently added to our list of Professors on acceding to the Chair at the University of Leeds. Many congratulations, Shirley! As regards post-graduate studies we would like to mention a new Coursework MA in Postcolonial Studies being offered in 1994/95 by the University of Kent. Information from Professor Lyn Innes. Darwin College. University of Kent. Canterbury CT2 7NY

PUBLICATIONS

The Proceedings of three conferences have recently been

published:

Australia in Barcelona. Proceedings of the Symposium held at Barcelona University 17-18 January, 1991. eds. K.Firth & S.Ballyn. Dept. de Filologia Anglesa i Alemanya. Universitat de Barcelona. 1993

Imagination and the Creative Impulse in the New Literatures in English. Proceedings of a symposium held at the University of Trento, 1990. eds. M.T. Bindella & G.V. Davis. Rodopi. Amsterdam 1993

Traditionalism vs. Modernism. Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English, Essen, 12-15 June 1991. eds. E.Reckwitz, L. Vennarini, C.Wegener. Verlag Die Blaue Eule. Essen 1994. The African papers of this conference will be published in a companion volume edited as number 8 of the *African Literatures in English* series, at Essen.

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS TO AUSTRALIA

The Visiting Fellowships offered by the Sir Robert Menzies Centre to British academics are also available for one tertiary teacher from another European country each year. There is also a proposal to support European students undertaking research higher degrees on Australian topics. The Centre does not provide a salary but funding will support travel to Australia or a half fellowship for research in British libraries. Information will be provided by the Secretary, Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, 28 Russell Sq. London, WC1B 5DS. U.K.

AN ABSENCE

Members attending our various meetings last year will have regretted the absence of one of our long-standing and much appreciated members, Hena Maes-Jelinek to whom we send our sincere condolences on the death of her husband René. We look forward to having her with us again soon to benefit from her valuable scholarship and judgement.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

On payment of your 1994 subscription, you will be receiving the new red membership card which we ask you to keep together with your receipt.


NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

We realize that payment of the subscriptions by cheque is not always convenient and are currently negotiating with the Bank of Scotland, where the EACLALS account is held, to see if credit cards could be used. This, if applicable, will only come into force in 1995, so payment for this year must be as usual.

NEWS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

You will, no doubt, detect items missing in this letter, but I can only communicate the news you send me. Please keep us informed about conferences, publications, lecture tours, exchanges, etc. Professors Thieme and Chew are also glad to receive such information for their 'Bulletin Board' in the Journal of Commonwealth Literature.

Best Wishes


Doireann MacDermott