



European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

Chairperson
Hena Maes-Jelinek

Secretary
Geoffrey V. Davis

Treasurer
Bénédicte Ledent

EACLALS NEWSLETTER – November 1997

Dear Member,

We are pleased to announce the forthcoming ACLALS and EACLALS conferences.

1. ACLALS

The 1998 ACLALS Triennial Conference will take place at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1–6 December 1998.

– The overall theme is “Sharing a Commonwealth”

– The call for papers has just been issued by the new ACLALS chairperson, Professor Chee Seng LIM.

Please send your abstract as soon as possible to the following address:

Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Malaya,
50603 KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

– Further information may be obtained from the same address.

We hope to be able to provide you with practical information in our next Newsletter.

After announcing that the next ACLALS conference would take place in Malaysia, we received the following letter from one of our members, Dr. T. Wignesan, who lives in Paris:

February 25, 1997

Dear Professor Maes-Jelinek,

Thank you very much for the EACLALS committee circular, dated February first, on the matter of the acceptance of the Malaysian committee as the organizer of the next triennial ACLALS conference and as the International Chair.

I am well aware that as a Stateless Person (having been expelled/forced out of Malaysia, the country of my birth and residence until my twenty-first year in 1962) my lone voice of protest is of no moment whatsoever, but I feel I should not let this opportunity go by – in the interests of the rights of man – without registering my dissent.

Malaysia is probably the only remaining ‘apartheid’ country in the world whose laws of racial/ethnic discrimination are written into the Constitution and where a no-trial detention law (maintained also by the Republic of Singapore) is still used to muffle any dissenter – and often without just cause: see my article on Malaysian literature in *Komparatistische Hefte*, vol. 7, Bayreuth 1983 – of the regimes on either side of the Johore Straits. To give you just an example of the discrimination practised by even the MACLALS members, ever since the publication of the above-mentioned article, no work of mine is ever cited in the bibliography section of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, and this despite the fact that I drew the attention of the respective editors to this wilful act. The correspondence I have on the matters speaks for itself.

I am not bothered in the least about what Malaysian or Singaporeans may do to me or to themselves in the process, but I do think that what I have to say in this letter about the country should not go without a response, unless the EACLALS committee too wishes to back an apartheid regime in every sense of the word. With every good wish, Yours sincerely, T. Wignesan.

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The chairperson responded to this by stating that we would bring his letter to the attention of our members. After reading the 1996 Amnesty International report on Malaysia, however, the committee, while sympathising with Dr. Wignesan's experience, does not feel that the present situation in that country is such as to warrant a boycott of the conference (as it would have been in the case of Nigeria, for example). Members who feel otherwise may like to contact Dr Wignesan at his address: 35, rue M. Ténine, B.P.53, 94268 Fresnes/Paris Cedex, France. Tel/fax : 33.1.42.37.15.93. E-mail: wignesan@classic.msn.com



2. EACLALS

As announced in our previous newsletter, the next EACLALS Triennial Conference, organized by Gerhard Stilz, will take place at the University of Tübingen. The committee has now met with Professor Stilz and viewed various proposed venues for conference events. The University of Tübingen is located in a lovely medieval town in Baden-Württemberg, about half an hour by train from Stuttgart. We are now able to pass on the following information:

- the conference will be held from 6 to 11 April 1999;
- the conference will be organised in association with GNEL (the German Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English);
- the topic has been defined as: "Colonies, Missions, Cultures in the English-Speaking World: Dependence, Independence and Interdependence at the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century".

The conference will concentrate on theoretical and practical collusions of colony and culture and on the interplay between missions – in a wide religious *and* secular sense – and colonialism. Contributions will be invited to relate (at least) to one of the following three directions:

- a.– Discuss correlations between the prime impulses of colonialism – beyond imbalances of 18th- and 19th-century economic, political and military power – and religious and secularized missionary notions related to these.
- b.– Address the colonial structures and processes of submission and resistance in the colonies shaped or transformed by the British Empire.
- c.– Assess the cultural and political dialectic of missions and colonization during British colonial history, through the era of liberation and independence, and into a post-colonial future of cosmopolitan interdependence.

All contributions should highlight phenomena and examples from the English-speaking world, while the three problematic core concepts of 'colony', 'mission' and 'culture' should be subjected to fundamental conceptual analysis and anthropological scrutiny, and supported by literary and linguistic research (historically diversified and regionally comparative).

It may be of interest to members that the following writers have already expressed interest in attending : David Malouf, Timothy Findley, Njabulo Ndebele, Nuruddin Farah, Fred D'Aguiar, Caryl Phillips, Zakes Mda, Homi Bhabha, Patricia Grace, Vincent O'Sullivan and Witi Ihimaera.



3. Conferences

NOV.–DEC. 97. LONDON, GRESHAM COLLEGE. A series of lectures on "The Legacy of Independence: South Asia 1947 – 1997." 10.11.: Lord Desai (LSE); 17.11.: S.R. Osmani (Ulster); 24.11.: Andrew Robinson (THES); 1.12.: Nayantara Saghil. For details contact Gresham College. Fax: 0171 831 5208. E-mail: enquiries@gresham.ac.uk

DEC. 5 – 7, 1997: MAINZ, GERMANY: A conference on "Religion in African American Culture". Contact: Prof. W. Herget. Fax: 06131-395100. E-mail: Herget@mzdmza.zdv.uni-mainz.de

JANUARY 5 – 9, 1998: MYSORE, INDIA. A conference on "Writers of the Indian Diaspora". Contact: Prof. H. H. Anniah Gowda, "Anjali", 96, 7th Main, Jayalakshampuram, Mysore 570 012, India, or A. L. McLeod, Lawrenceville, NJ. Fax: 609-895-0448.

MARCH 19 – 20, 1998: MONTREAL, CANADA. Conference on “**The Third Solitude: Canadian Minority Writing.**” Contact: Canadian Minority Writing Conference, c/o Domenic Beneventi or Licia Canton, Dept. of English Studies, Université de Montréal, P.O.Box 6128 Succ. Centre-Ville, Montréal, Québec, H3C 3J7, Canada. E-mail: dbeneventi@securenet.net

MARCH 25 – 29, 1998: AUSTIN, TEXAS: Conference of the African Literature Association on “**Multiculturalism and Hybridity in African Literatures.**” Contact: Hal Wylie, French Dept., University of Texas, Austin TX 78712. Tel: 512-471-5531. Fax: 512-471-8492. E-mail: hwylie@uts.cc.utexas.edu

MARCH 26 – APRIL 1, 1998: POTCHEFSTROOM AND CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: “**Conrad and Postcoloniality: Heart of Darkness Centenary Conference.**” Contact: Dr. A. M. de Lange, Dept. of English, Potchefstroom University. Tel. (27) (148) 299-1555/1. Fax: (27) (148) 299- 1562. E-mail: engamdl@puknet.puk.ac.za

APRIL 6 – 9, 1998: STOKE-ON-TRENT, UK: British Association for Canadian Studies **Annual Conference.** Contact: Prof. A. Hallsworth, Staffordshire University. Fax: 01728 747167. E-mail: a.g.hallsworth@staffs.ac.uk

APRIL 30 –MAY 2, 1998: HUELVA, SPAIN. A conference on “**Women’s Exiles.**” Contact: Prof. Mar Gallego, Fax: (34) 59 27 09 87 or Dr. Zenón Luis, e-mail: luis@uhu.es

JUNE 2 – 5, 1998: JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. Conference on “**A Sense of Space.**” Contact: Rita Wilson, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050. Tel. (27 11) 716 3270. Fax: (27 11) 403 7289. E-mail: 099rita@muse.arts.wits.ac.za

JUNE 22 – 29, 1998: MANCHESTER, UK: “**After the Body: An International Conference on Religion, Culture and Gender.**” Contact: The Centre for Religion, Culture and Gender, Dept. of Religions and Theology, University of Manchester. Tel. 0161 275 3615. Fax: 0161 275 3613. E-mail: crcg@man.ac.uk

JULY 3 – 5, 1998: DERRY (MAGEE COLLEGE): “**Borders and Crossings: An International and Multidisciplinary Conference on Travel Writing.**” Details from: Dr. Glenn Hooper, Belfast. Tel. (01232) 327678 ext. 334. Fax: (02132) 333719. E-mail: g.hooper@stmarys-belfast.ac.uk



4. Courses

University of Essex: M.A. in Postcolonial Studies. Details: Prof. P. Hulme, Dept. of Literature, University of Essex, Colchester C04 3SQ.

University College, Galway: M.A. in Culture and Colonialism. Details from Dr. L. Pilkington, Dept. of English, UGC, Galway, Ireland.

University of Hull: M.A. in the New Literatures in English. Details from the Dept. of English, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX.

University of Kent: M.A. in Post-Colonial Studies. Details from Rod Edmond, School of English, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NX. E-mail: R.S. Edmond@ukc.ac.uk

University of Luton: B.A. in Post-Colonial Studies. Contact: Dr. B. Chandramohan. Tel. 01582-489159. Fax: 01582-489014. E-mail: balasubramanyam.chandramohan@luton.ac.uk

University of Sussex: M.A. in Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures. Contact: Dr. L. Chrisman, School of African and Asian Studies. E-mail: L.H.Chrisman@sussex.ac.uk

University of Warwick: M.A. in Postcolonial Literature in English. Contact: The Centre for British and Comparative Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

University of Liège: M.A. in English Studies (with an entirely postcolonial option). Contact: Marc Delrez, English Department, 3 place Cockerill, Université de Liège, 4000 Liège, Belgium.



5. Library Facilities

The Commonwealth Institute Literature Library now has a web site. The address is as follows:
<http://www.commonwealth.org.uk/litlib.html>. The e-mail address is: literature@commonwealth.org.uk



6. Publications: Journals

In the section on New Journals in the January 1997 Newsletter we incorrectly reported that a new journal entitled *Englisches* had appeared from the University of Barcelona. In fact this title referred to a single issue of the Department of English's journal *Links & Letters*. We apologise for the error.

Routledge announce a new journal for 1998 entitled *Interventions: The International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. General Editor: Robert Young. Joint Editors: Alison Donnell, Ato Quayson, and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan. Homi Bhabha will be the Advisory Editor. The first issues will be devoted to: Ideologies of the Postcolonial; South Asia and Partition; Caribbean Configurations? The Legacy of C.L.R. James; and The Veil: Postcolonialism and the Politics of Dress. The first of these may be obtained as a sample copy from October 1998. The journal invites contributions and suggestions for themes for special issues. Manuscripts should be sent to: *Interventions*, Dept. of English and Media Studies, Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Lane, Nottingham NG11 8NS.

Carfax Publishing announces a new journal entitled *Postcolonial Studies: Culture, Politics, Economy*. The journal will be published in association with the Institute of Postcolonial Studies, La Trobe University, Australia. Details may be obtained from: Carfax Publishing, P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE. Fax: 01235 401550. E-mail: sales@carfax.co.uk

The Journal of Caribbean Literatures has just been launched by Professor Maurice Lee, 115 Baker Hall, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls IA 50614-0502, E-mail: maurice.lee@uni.edu.



7. Publications: Books

Bertinetti, Paolo (ed.) *Racconti dai Caraibi* (Milan: Mondadori, 1997)

Butlin, Ron. *Mauritian Voices. New Writing in English* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Flambard Press, 1997)

Crow, Brian with Chris Banfield. *An Introduction to Post-Colonial Theatre* (Cambridge: C.U.P., 1996)

Davis, Geoffrey V. and Anne Fuchs (ed.). *Theatre and Change in South Africa* (Amsterdam: Harwood, 1996)

Delrez, Marc and Bénédicte Ledent (eds). *The Contact and the Culmination: Essays in Honour of Hena Maes-Jelinek* (Liège: English Dept. of the University, 1997) (Orders by Fax: 32-4-3665721).

Granqvist, Raoul and Jürgen Martini (ed.). *Preserving the Landscape of the Imagination: Children's Literature in Africa* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1997) (Matatu 17-18)

Harrow, Kenneth W. (ed.). *With Open Eyes: Women and African Cinema* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1997) (Matatu 19)

Hirson, Denis. *The Lava of the Land: South African Poetry 1960-1996* (Evanston, Ill.: TriQuartely Books/Northwestern University Press, 1997)

Kossew, Sue. *Pen and Power. A Post-Colonial Reading of J.M. Coetzee and André Brink* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1997)

Kuortti, Joel. *The Salman Rushdie Bibliography. A Bibliography of Salman Rushdie's Work and Rushdie Criticism* (Frankfurt, Bern, New York: Lang, 1997)

Riemenschneider, Dieter and Geoffrey V. Davis, (ed.). *Aratjara: Aboriginal Culture and Literature in Australia* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1997).

Stotesbury, John A., *Apartheid, Liberation and Romance: A Critical Investigation of the Writing of Joy Packer* (Uppsala: Swedish Science Press, 1996)

EACLALS still has some copies of *A Talent(ed) Digger*, the Festschrift published in honour of one of our founders, Anna Rutherford. Copies of this most handsome volume, which contains contributions by many ACLALS members around the world, may be obtained by writing to Geoffrey V. Davis, Institut für Anglistik, RWTH Aachen, 52056 Aachen, Germany. The price is Hfl. 55 or US \$ 36.50.