

EACLALS

European Association for
Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

EACLALS Newsletter May 2000

Executive Committee:

Gerhard Stilz, University of Tübingen (Chair)
Geoffrey V. Davis, RWTH Aachen, (Secretary)
Svenja Kuhfuss, University of Tübingen (Treasurer)

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0. Personal letters to all members

As an attachment you will find (according to your current membership status) either a request to renew your membership or a letter displaying your personal data as they stand in our database. In both cases we ask you kindly to check whether the data are correct and return the completed form to us.

1. The 1999 EACLALS Conference in Tübingen

The executive committee has been busy reaping the fruits of the Tübingen EACLALS Triennial conference, installing a database of EACLALS members and consolidating the EACLALS budget for our further activities.

The sifting, screening and reading of the papers submitted from the Tübingen Conference has kept the editorial committee busy for several months. Well over 100 papers have been submitted for publication and are still being processed. The bulk of the papers selected will be published in two volumes, as follows:

Volume 1: *Colonies, Missions, Cultures in the English-Speaking World: General and Comparative Studies* (Tübingen: Stauffenburg Verlag).

This volume will address the general and comparative issues raised at the conference. It will contain a short introduction to the overall theme and an evaluative summary of the panel discussions prepared from tape and video transcripts by a graduate workshop.

Volume 2: *Dependence, Independence and Interdependence at the Threshold of the 21st Century: Literary Case Studies* (Amsterdam: Rodopi). This will be published as an ASNEL Papers volume in the Cross/Cultures series.

This volume is planned to contain specialised studies on individual authors and/or works and will be arranged by region.

Although they are appearing from different publishing houses, the volumes will be correlated as to form and content. Both are scheduled to appear during 2000

A number of interesting and varied reports on the Tübingen conference were published. If interested members and erstwhile conference-goers might like to track them down, here are the details:

Robert Ross, editor of *Antipodes*, penned a brief report for the Newsletter of the American Association of Australian Literary Studies (June 1999, p. 7) highlighting the Australian input at the conference and the challenging panel discussions;

Susanne Reichl of the University of Vienna, writing for the *European English Messenger* (VIII, 2 Autumn 1999, pp.65-

66), found that many papers lacked theoretical foundation but was excited by what seemed to be emerging as a more politically grounded approach to the field;

Silke Stroh tackled the "impossible task" of assessing the vast range of papers and discussions for the house magazine of the German Association of University Teachers of English, *Anglistik* (10.2 /1999, pp.195-199);

ACOLIT, the magazine of the German Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English carried two reports, one by Carola Klefe and one by Michael Krumbein (No. 44, June 1999, pp. 11-15) which voiced much student enthusiasm for the great variety of papers and the presence of numerous stimulating writers.

Stephen Gray, the conference's keynote speaker recorded his impressions of his visit to Germany with his customary wit and learning in an article entitled "Tübingen über alles" for *Flamingo*, the in-flight magazine of Air Namibia (August 1999, pp. 21-26).

2. The next EACLALS Triennial conference

Prof. Bruce Clunies Ross and his team at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) have agreed to host the next EACLALS Triennial Conference, which will take place in 2002. A preliminary announcement will appear soon. The topic under consideration is "Bodies and Voices." Details will be finalised at the Aachen-Liège ASNEL conference this May when the EACLALS committee will be meeting with the Copenhagen organisers.

EACLALS 2002: University of Copenhagen

Call for Papers

The organisers are proposing the theme

BODIES AND VOICES

"Bodies and Voices" strikes at the heart of many contemporary debates in colonial and post-colonial studies: debates about the colonised subject; colonisation of the body and the mind;

representations of "the other"; subaltern agency; even the question "Can the subaltern speak?"

But the topic also opens up innumerable other areas of discussion and investigation at the intersection of classic concerns in Commonwealth literary, linguistic and historical studies with completely new perspectives from within or outside the field. To mention a few: historical anatomies of the body and the voice; global English versus local Englishes and other debates on language and cultural articulation; enslavement of bodies and voices, discourses of race and racism; the senses and histories of the senses; embodiment and incarnation; cargo cults and spirit possession; tattoos and accents; the survival of biological and cultural diversity in the 21st century; bodies of land, bodies of water; voices of air and fire; erotics of the body and the voice; the carnivalesque; drama and performance; mimicry and mime; indeed "bodies" and "voices" of everything from colonial administration to postcolonial discourse.

Interpretations of the conference theme ranging from the predictable to the surprising are encouraged. Preliminary indications of interest and suggestions for panels are welcome and may be sent to the organisers **before 1 October, 2000**, either by ordinary or electronic mail:

Bruce Clunies Ross,
Martin Leer,
Eva Rask Knudsen,
Merete Borch,

University of Copenhagen, Department of English, 80,
Njalsgade, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark.

bcross@hum.ku.dk; lcer@hum.ku.dk; erask@hum.ku.dk;
borch@hum.ku.dk.

3. Finances

The Association has received the customary annual grant of £1000 from the Commonwealth Foundation for the financial year 1999–2000. At the same time we learnt that funding has been granted for the establishment of new ACLALS chapters in the US, Japan and Hong Kong.

The lion's share of our own membership fees continues to be passed on to *Kunapipi* and to the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* under joint membership and subscription arrangements of long standing.

EACLALS subscription reminders are being sent out with this newsletter.

4. *Kunapipi*

As many members of EACLALS will be aware, the founding editor of *Kunapipi*, Anna Rutherford, has now returned to Australia after many years in Europe. This means that from this year on the journal will be produced from the University of Wollongong. The transfer to Australia is proving costly and it has therefore been decided that, for the first year of publication there at least, the number of issues per year will be reduced to two, while the subscription will remain the same. This arrangement is designed to tide the journal over a difficult period during which new sources of funding will have to be sought to replace those from Britain which necessarily lapse once the journal is no longer produced from there. The further progress of the journal will depend on successful future fundraising.

The next issues will be a special Malaysian one and a general one.

Anne Collett of the editorial team in Wollongong writes:

"*Kunapipi* will remain a truly international journal, as maintained not only in its authorship and readership, but also in its editorial board that reflects both European and Commonwealth interests, and we would ask for your continued support and understanding during the next year as we struggle to settle *Kunapipi* into its new home-base [...] The quality of the journal is of enormous importance to us and I'm sure to EACLALS members, a quality of scholarship and of material production that has been maintained over a period now of more

than 20 years. *Kunapipi* has served EACLALS extraordinarily well over this period [...] and will continue to do so – given your encouragement and support."

5. Membership

Membership currently stands at around some 300 paid-up members. The success of the Oviedo Triennial conference contributed to an increase in numbers. Subscription dues reminders are being sent out with this Newsletter.

We have lost track of the following EACLALS members and would be grateful if anyone could inform us of their new addresses:

Beulah Bujan
Camino Real 87 2B
Colloto Asturias 33010
SPAIN

Alecia McKenzie
Avenue Chazal 163
1030 Bruxelles
BELGIUM

Lutz Mühlfriedel
Sickingstraße 6
07743 Jena
GERMANY

Philip Whyte
1 Bis Rue des Ursulines
37000 Tours
FRANCE

6. Conference News



ASNEL CONFERENCE 2000
Towards a Transcultural Future: Literature and Society
in a "Post"- Colonial World
Aachen / Liège
31 May – 4 June

REVISED CONFERENCE UPDATE (1 May 2000)

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the conference will feature **readings and performances** by:

Hilarious Ngwa Ambe (Cameroon), Erna Brodber (Jamaica), Bernard Cohen (Australia), Lindsey Collen (Mauritius), Robert Fraser (GB), Katherine Gallagher (Australia/GB), Peter Goldsworthy (Australia), Geoff Goodfellow (Australia), Syd Harrex (Australia), Wilson Harris (Guyana/GB), Amryl Johnson (Trinidad/GB), Jan Kemp (Aotearoa/New Zealand), Karen King-Aribisala (Nigeria), Lee Maracle (Canada), Jack Mapanje (Malawi/GB), Sindiwe Magona (South Africa), Don Mattera (South Africa), Brian Matthews (Australia), Babila Mutia (Cameroon), Mike Nicol (South Africa), Lewis Nkosi (South Africa), Vincent O'Sullivan (Aotearoa/New Zealand), Caryl Phillips (St Kitts/GB), Malcolm Purkey (South Africa), Lesego Rampolokeng (South Africa), Andrew Sant (Australia), Lawrence Scott (Trinidad/GB), Sujay Sood (India/USA), Robert Sullivan (Aotearoa/New Zealand), Aritha van Herk (Canada), M.G. Vassanji (Kenya/Canada), Patrick Womba (Martinique).

Friday June 2 will be very much a **Caribbean day** with keynote addresses by Wilson Harris and Caryl Phillips and paper sessions on "The Black Experience in Britain" and "Creolization."

As for the Aachen meetings, a plenary panel on "**Literature and Human Rights**" will take place on the Thursday (June 1) while the conference will conclude at Sunday lunchtime (4 June) with a plenary forum on "**The Future of Post-Colonial Studies**".

The extracurricular **social programme** will include a special conference performance of Tone Brulin's **musical play** *Stemmen uit het niets / Voices from the Void*, based on Wilson Harris's *Jonestown* and in the presence of the novelist at the International Ludwig Forum.

For further details, please see our websites:

<http://www.rwth-aachen.de/anglistik> (under: "Aktuelles")

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/lacphl/annonces/aachen.html>

The Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies 12th Triennial Conference

RESISTANCE AND RECONCILIATION WRITING IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Monday 9 — Saturday 14 July 2001
Rydges Canberra Hotel (Lakeside)

Call for Papers

As issues of resistance and reconciliation between indigenous, settler and diasporic communities become increasingly urgent in countries of the Commonwealth, writers of literature, journalism, plays and films have provided a variety of ways to perceive and understand such issues.

Paper-givers are invited to consider questions including the following:

- In what ways can writing constitute forms of resistance? or reconciliation?

- How do affinities to place, community, region, race, religion or nation emerge? How are they represented in Commonwealth writing?
- How do certain kinds of authority engender acquiescence? complicity? violence? rebellion?
- How have postcolonial studies or other theoretical perspectives confirmed or challenged notions of a Commonwealth, and Commonwealth writing?

Abstracts for papers of 20 minutes duration which engage with these and other relevant questions are invited. 'Writing' should be taken here to include literature, performance, media, electronic and cyber-texts, film, television and other forms of popular culture.

Deadline for abstracts of 200 words, short bio-note (50 words) and contact address by 30 October 2000 to Jacqueline Lo, ACLALS Secretary, Old Canberra House, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia. For further information, see ACLALS website: <http://www.aclals.com> or contact Jacqueline.Lo@anu.edu.au

- **Tenth Conference of the Society for Religion and Literature.** 4–7 September, 2000. Nijmegen, Holland. "Literary Canons and Religious Identity". Includes panels on post-colonial literature. For more details: <http://www.its.uidaho.edu/ssrl/>.

- **"Writing Diasporas" - Conference on the role of travelling and translating writers, artists and intellectuals in the cultural politics of diasporas and nations** - University of Swansea, September 20-23 2000 <http://www.swan.ac.uk/conferences/transcomm>
Contact: t. cheesman@swan.ac.uk or m.b. gillepsie@swan.ac.uk

- **"Contextualizing the Caribbean: New Approaches in an Era of**

Globalization" - University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, September 29-30

2000

Contact: Dr Sandra Pouchet Paquet, Associate Professor, University of

Miami, Department of English, PO Box 248145, Coral Gables, FL 33124

(spaquet@miami.edu)

- **"Writing Europe 2001: Migrant Cartographies" - On cultural travellers and**

new literatures - University of Leiden/University of Amsterdam, March 22-24

2001

Contact: Dr Daniela Merolla, ALW, University of Leiden, Van Wijkplaats, 2,

2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands (Merolla@Rullet.LeidenUniv.nl) or Dr Sandra

Ponzanesi, Belle van Zuylen Institute, University of Amsterdam, Rokin

84-90, 1012KX Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Ponzanesi@pscw.uva.nl)

- **"The Creative Circle: Artist, Critic, Translator."** Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association. Richmond, Virginia, April 4-8, 2001. One of the keynote speakers will be

Nadine Gordimer. Contact EACLALS member Richard Priebe at Virginia Commonwealth University: rpriebe@saturn.vcu.edu

- **FILLM XXII International Congress - Re-imagining Language and Literature**

for the 21st Century - Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand, 14-21

August 2002

Contact: Dr Suthira Duangsamorn, Assumption University of Thailand, Hua

Mak, Bangkok 10240, Thailand (artsds@au.ac.th) - <http://www.au.ac.th>

7. Research

The University of Liège has a website with complete bibliographies, regularly updated, for Wilson Harris and Caryl Phillips. The address is: <http://www.ulg.ac.be/facphl/uer/d-gemman/L3>.

The Centro per lo Studio delle Letterature e delle Culture delle Aree Emergenti ("Centre for the Study of the Literatures and the Cultures of the Emerging Areas") at the University of Turin (Italy) covers the areas of the new literatures in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Its present director is Prof. Sergio Zoppi. The centre aims to promote and co-ordinate research work in the areas mentioned and frequently hosts foreign guests as researchers and lecturers. One of its major activities is the publication of scholarly books and bilingual editions of the work of postcolonial authors. It also issues a periodical entitled *Africa, America, Asia Australia* with Bulzoni Editore in Rome. Eighteen issues have appeared so far. The Centre is seeking to strengthen its ties with other institutions interested in its work. The contact address is: Isabella Maria Zoppi, Centro per lo Studio delle Letterature e delle Culture delle Aree Emergenti, Università degli Studi di Torino, Via Sant'Octavio 20, 10124 Torino, Italia.

8. New Publications by and/or of interest to EACLALS members

Christopher B. Balme. *Decolonizing the Stage. Theatrical Syncretism and Post-Colonial Drama* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).

Carole Durix, Jean-Pierre Durix. *The New Literatures in English* (Paris: Longman France, 1993).

Liselotte Glage (ed.). *Being/s in Transit: Travelling*Migration*Dislocation* (Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 2000), ASNEL Papers 5, Cross/Cultures Vol. 41.

D.C.R.A. Goonetilleke. *Salman Rushdie*, London: Macmillan, 1998. (hb.£37.50, pb.£11.99).

----- (ed.) *Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness* (Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 1999) 2nd Ed. US\$ 7.95; Cdn\$ 9.95. (Publisher's address: 71 Princess St., P.O.Box 1234, Peterborough, Ontario ON K9J 7H5, Canada.

Douglas Killam and Ruth Rowe (ed.). *The Companion to African Literatures* (Oxford: James Currey, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 2000).

Martin Kuester, Gabriele Christ and Rudolf Beck (ed.). *New Worlds: Discovering and Constructing the Unknown in Anglophone Literature* (Munich: Verlag Ernst Vögel, 2000). A Festschrift for the late Walter Pache.

La ville plurielle dans la fiction antillaise anglophone: Images de l'interculturel, textes réunis et présentés par Corinne Duboin et Eric Tabuteau, Toulouse: Presses Universitaires du Mirail, 2000.

Elsa Linguanti, Francesco Casotti and Carmen Concilio (ed.). *Coterminous Worlds. Magical Realism and Contemporary Post-Colonial Literature in English* (Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 1999), Cross/Cultures Vol. 39.

Monika Reif-Hülser (ed.). *Borderlands. Negotiating Boundaries in Post-Colonial Writing* (Amsterdam/Atlanta, 199) ASNEL Papers 4, Cross/Cultures Vol. 40.

Robert Ross (ed.). *Colonial and Postcolonial Fiction. An Anthology* (New York and London: Garland, 1999).

André Viola. *J.M.Coetzee. Romancier sud-africain* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999).

Itala Vivan. *Alf Kumalo. Fotografo Sudafricano* (Milan: Leonardo Arte, 1998).

9. Obituary

We regret to inform members of the death of EACLALS member Lars Johansson of Kälmarne, Sweden on September 3rd 1999.