



THE ACUTE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1988

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The ACUTE operation is now firmly established at the University of Saskatchewan, and Terry Matheson, Barry Popowich (our Executive Secretary) and I are beginning to enjoy most of the challenges this operation poses. We hope to be able to maintain the high standards of previous executives and welcome any advice that might help us to make the organization more efficient and more responsive to the concerns of its members. Please do not hesitate to share your criticisms and ideas with us. An annual general meeting

and four newsletters are not enough in themselves to sustain a sense of community and co-operation. Keep the letters and phone-calls coming, and we will do our best to accommodate your concerns and act upon your suggestions.

There are two particular matters on which we welcome your views:

1. Directory of Members: The Directory will be subjected to a thorough review in the coming months and a revised version will be presented for approval during the AGM at Laval. How can it be improved?

2. Schedule of Fees: A sub-committee will soon embark on a review of this whole matter. Please let us know your opinion of the current arrangement and what you would like to see in place from 1989 onwards. The most recent fee hike was undertaken with great reluctance, but ACUTE's financial situation was (and remains) extremely worrisome. We need to arrive at a fee formula that will allow us to maintain our membership at something like its present level while restoring certainty and opportunity to the Executive.

Membership Drive: We need new members and prompt renewals of memberships in order for the Executive to function effectively. Please help your Campus Representative to persuade colleagues and graduate students of the advantages of membership in ACUTE. If we all do something to promote the organization among potential members then we ought to come out of the current difficulties stronger than ever.

THE 1989 CONFERENCE

The 1989 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 27-30 at the University of Laval. The Call-for-Papers form is enclosed. Since papers are vetted anonymously, members must be sure that their names do not appear anywhere in their papers. Submissions must include two copies of the paper, along with the Call-for-Papers form and a self-addressed envelope with sufficient return postage. The deadline for submissions is 15 November, 1988.

As was the case last year, only completed or "substantially completed" papers, not abstracts, will be accepted. Papers of varying lengths may be submitted, but a 15-20 page paper may have to be reduced in length if the vettors think it would work best in a multi-paper session. We will try to strike a balance between single-paper and multi-paper sessions.

There will be no special emphasis for the 1989 Conference. We invite papers on all topics and periods and we are open to all critical and theoretical approaches. The Executive will attempt to schedule special and regular sessions in the most effective and stimulating sequence possible.

Please note: the Deadline for submissions for all regular sessions is November 15.

Executive-Organized Special Sessions

This year there will be two special sessions organized by members of the ACUTE Executive:

1. Histories of English Study
2. A Materialist Feminist Theory

ACUTE EXECUTIVE SESSION

"HISTORIES OF ENGLISH STUDY".

Most examinations of English as a discipline concentrate on critical institutionalization. This session will be devoted to the institutionalization of literary study and teaching -- histories, practices, and pedagogies. Work with a Canadian focus is especially welcome. The session will follow the usual format, with brief (10-15 minute) presentations from panel members, followed by discussion. Questions, suggestions, and 5 pp. papers (by December 31) to: Heather Murray, Trinity College, University of Toronto, M5S 1H8.

ACUTE EXECUTIVE SESSION

A Materialist Feminist Theory: What Can It Tell Us About

Canadian Literature? Proposals are invited which theorize relations between feminism and materialism, or which address any aspect of a materialist feminism in its relation to Canadian literary history or one or more Canadian literary texts. Two-page proposals clearly outlining the development of a fifteen-minute argument should be sent by December 15 to Professor Shirley Neuman, Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E5.

ACUTE SPECIAL SESSION on the Representation of Race, Class

and Gender in Canadian Culture. Cross-disciplinary papers and/or papers that work with political representation are of particular interest. Inquiries welcome.

Please contact Dr. Sarah Harasym, Dept. of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 0W0. Please send abstract prior to Nov. 15, 1988.

THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION and ACUTE are seeking papers for a special joint session on teaching women's novels, to be held during the 1989 meetings of the Learned Societies in Quebec City. If you have found an effective (interesting, challenging, enjoyable) approach to teaching a specific novel by a woman, you are encouraged to submit a paper for our session. We are planning a workshop format, starting with 8-10 people giving brief papers, and then moving to a general sharing of ideas. In order to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the ways women's novels are taught, we would appreciate submissions from non-literary, as well as literary, specialists. Whatever novel you choose to discuss, whatever critical approach you take, for this session, the emphasis in your paper should be on practical, pedagogical concerns: what strategies have you found successful in the classroom? How do theoretical considerations affect your teaching practice? The session "Teaching Women's Novels" is jointly sponsored by the Canadian Women's Studies Association (CWSA) and ACUTE. Papers should be sent by December 1, 1988 to Dr. Sylvia Bowerbank, Department of English, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4K1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOSAIC invites submissions for a

special issue on PEACE and/or WAR. Literature may be of any period, nationality or ethnic group and may refer to any historical (or mythological) peace/war situation. Deadline: 1 June 1989; length 20-25 pages; current PMLA form of documentation; send two copies.

BERNARD SHAW: ON STAGE, an international conference sponsored by The University of Guelph and The Academy of the Shaw Festival of Canada, will be held 23-36 August, 1989 at Guelph and Niagra-on-the-Lake. Confirmed participants include, among others, Dan Laurence, Bernard Dukore, Wendy Hiller, Christopher Newton. For more information please contact: Department of Drama, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1; (519) 824-4120 ext. 3147.

Conferences

The 24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES will be held October 13-15, 1988, at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. For information, write to T.J. Matheson, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 0W0.

The 1988 ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH Conference on Literature and Values will be held October 28-30, 1988 at Dalhousie University. For information write to Bruce Greenfield, Dept. of English, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3J5.

"Romanticism in Canada: A Conference in Honour of ROSS G. WOODMAN" will be held October 28-29, 1988 at the University of Western Ontario. Speakers will

include Milton Wilson, W. J. B. Owen, Jared Curtis, Ronald Tetreault, Vincent De Luca, Tilottama Rajan, David Clark, and J. Douglas Kneale. For more information contact Professor J. D. Kneale, Department of English, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, N6A 3K7.

The CANADIAN FEDERATION FOR THE HUMANITIES will sponsor a national forum Nov. 3-6 in Ottawa on "Unemployment or underemployment" of humanities graduates. The forum will look at issues such as improving the status of sessional, part-time or private researchers (so-called "gypsy scholars") and improving access to university careers. For information, contact: CFH, 407-151 Slater St., Ottawa, K1P 5H3.

Calls for Papers

NEMLA, 1989, WILMINGTON DELAWARE, ENGLISH CANADIAN LITERATURE SESSION: AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND NARRATOLOGY. In pursuit of "right relations": how do Canadian writers approach the dynamics of autobiography (their stories) and the telling of these stories? How do our writers problematize life-writing? What role does gender play in determining the form and content of autobiography? Please send an abstract or a copy of your paper (8-10 pages), by 1 September 1988, to Dr. Anne Archer, 14 Napier St., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4G1

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE will hold its annual meeting at the University of Victoria on March

16-18, 1989. Twenty-minute papers (or abstracts) on all aspects of the Renaissance are invited. Inquiries should be addressed to Terry G. Sherwood, Secretary, PNRG Organizing Committee, Department of English, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700; Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y2. The last day for submissions is December 31, 1988.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

JAMES ACHESON (Canterbury, Christchurch, N.Z.) delivered a paper entitled "Woman as Temptress in Joyce and Beckett" at the James Joyce Symposium in Venice. His "Beckett's Film, Berkeley and Schopenhauer" was read in absentia at the ACUTE conference in Windsor.

RACHEL FELDWAY BRENNER (York) has joined the Centre for Religious Studies (Toronto) as Research Reader and Post-doctoral Fellow. Her article "The Left-Wing Jew and Israel: Exploring Four Canadian Jewish Writers" appeared in Midstream, May 88. Another piece on the Holocaust in Canadian Jewish Fiction was published in Methodology of the Academic Teaching of the Holocaust (UPA, 1987).

ELIZABETH BREWSTER (Saskatchewan) has published Entertaining Angels, a new book of poems (Oberon, 1988).

HELEN M. BUSS (Calgary) will be taking up a Canada Research Fellowship at the Univ. of Calgary. Her recent publications include "Canadian Women's Autobiography: Some Critical Directions" in A Mazing Space, and "Margaret Laurence

and the Autobiographical Impulse," forthcoming in Crossing the River. She will be presenting a paper, "The dear domestic circle': Frameworks for the Literary Study of Women's Personal Narratives in Archival Collections" at the Canadian Literature Discussion Group, MLA Conference, New Orleans, Dec/88. Forthcoming papers include on one Margaret Laurence at Brandon, Aug/88, on American women autobiographers at the American Studies Conference, U. of Sask., Oct/88, and on Autobiography and the Literary Canon at Concordia, Nov/88.

GORDON COGGINS (Brock) has been appointed General Editor of a series of classics (Shakespeare to Hardy) to be published in machine-readable format (diskette) with computer-accessible study apparatus. His Queint Device: A Guide to Sexuality in Edmund Spenser (Distek Publishing, 1988) is to be released in both book and machine-readable format.

SAROS COWASJEE (Regina) has published "Mulk Raj Anand: the Fusion of History and Fiction" in The Toronto South Asian Review (vol.1, no. 6), and Introductions to Dennis Kincaid's Durbar and Christine Weston's Indigo, both reprinted in 1987. He also read a paper "Fiction of the Raj" at the University of Singapore in February 1988.

THOMAS DILWORTH (Windsor) has published The Shape of Meaning in the Poetry of David Jones (University of Toronto Press, 1988), and "Remembering Marshall McLuhan" is forthcoming in Salmagundi.

CAROL FULLERTON (Calgary) has recently published "George Stewart, Jr.: Canadian Man of Letters," in Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada XXV (1986), and has forthcoming "Matthew Arnold: Two New Letters," Notes and Queries, September 1988, and "The Theatre Criticism of George Stewart, Jr.," Theatre History in Canada, Fall 1988.

TANYA GARDINER-SCOTT (Hamilton College) is giving a paper entitled "The York 'Ypotis': A Lollard Metrical Homily?" at the "Preachers and Teachers" session of the MLA, December 27-30, 1988, New Orleans.

W.F. GARRETT-PETTS (Alberta) has recently delivered a paper on "Reading Theory and the Teaching of Composition" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication held in St. Louis. He has also published "Reading, Writing, and the Postmodern Conditon: Interpreting Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale," Open Letter, 7th Series, No. 1 (Spring 1988), and "Developing a Community of Readers," English Quarterly, Vol. 21, No. 1 (1988); "Exploring an Interpretive Community: Reader Response to Canadian Prairie Fiction," will be forthcoming in the special Canadian issue of College English (October, 1988). He received the Andrew Stewart Graduate Prize for doctoral research (1988-89) and currently holds a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship.

BARBARA GODARD (York) has published Gynocritics/Gynocritiques: Feminist Approaches to Canadian and Quebec Women's Writing (Toronto: ECW, 1987); "Voicing

Differences: Native Women's Cultural Productions," in A / Mazing Space: Writing Canadian Women Writing, Shirley Neuman and Smaro Kamboureli, eds, (Edmonton: Longspoon/NeWest, 1986); "Structuralism/Post-Structuralism: Language, Reality and Canadian Literature," in Future Indicative, John Moss, ed. (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 1987); [The Canadian Discourse as the Discourse of the Other] in A/Part: Papers from the 1984 Conference on Language, Culture and Identity, Canadian Literature Suppl. No. 1 (May 1987); "Translations," "Letters in Canada 1986," UTQ, 57, 1, (Fall 1987); "Becoming My Hero, Becoming Myself: Notes Towards a Feminist Theory of Reading," Tessera, No.3, Canadian Fiction Magazine, 57 (1986).

PAUL W. HARLAND (Camrose Lutheran College) has recently published "Dramatic Technique and Personae in Donne's Sermons" in ELH, 53 (1986) and "Imagination and Affections in John Donne's Preaching" in John Donne Journal, 6 (1987).

W.G. HEATHE (Lakehead University) has had his article, "Some things that stay there be': Reflections on Emily Dickinson," published in The Canadian Review of American Studies, 18:4.

WYMAN H. HERENDEEN (Windsor) has recently published "William Camden: Historian, Herald and Antiquary," in Studies in Philology LXXXV (1988). and "Wanton Discourse and the Engines of Time: Historians and Poets Historical" in Renaissance Rereadings: Intertext and Context, ed. M.C. Horowitz,

A.J. Cruz, W.A. Furman (Univ. Illinois Press, 1988), and the Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies' Directory/Repertoire (Toronto: CRRS, 1988). In June he delivered a paper on Milton and Machiavelli at the third International Milton Symposium, in Vallambrosa.

CONSTANCE B. HEATT (University of Western Ontario) has recently published An Ordinance of Pottage: an Edition of the Fifteenth-Century Culinary Recipes in Yale University's MS Beinecke 163, With a Commentary on the Recipes and Adapted Versions for the Modern Kitchen. The publisher is Prospect Books of London, England; the book will also be distributed by the University of Virginia Press.

VERONICA HOLLINGER (Concordia) presented "Have You Made Division of Yourself?': Deconstructions of Subject and Gender on the Renaissance Stage" at this year's ACUTE Conference; she also presented "The Legacy of Metropolis: Women, Androids, and the Return of the Repressed in Recent 'Post-Modern' SF Films" (with Peter Hall), and "Neuromancing the Subject: A Case for Anti-Humanism" at the recent Science Fiction Research Association Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. Forthcoming Publications include "Theatrel of the Fin-du-Millennium: Playing (at) the End" (Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts).

LINDA HUTCHEON (Toronto) has just published A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction (Routledge) and The Canadian Postmodern: A Study of Contemporary English Canadian Fiction (Oxford). She has just completed another book manuscript for the New Accents

series (Routledge) entitled The Politics of Postmodern Representation: Photography and Fiction. In 1988-89, she will hold the John P. Robarts Chair in Canadian Studies at York University.

MICHAEL KENNEALLY (Marianopolis College) has published Portraying the Self: Sean O'Casey and the Art of Autobiography (Colin Smythe Publishers/Barnes and Noble) MICHELE LACOMBE (Laurentian) is joining the Canadian Studies Program at Trent University. Her article "Narrative, Carnival, Parody: Intertextuality in Antoine Maillet's Pelagie-la-Charette" appeared in Canadian Literature, 115 (Winter 1988). Dear Bill: The Correspondence of William Arthur Deacon (with John Lennox, York) will be published by the University of Toronto Press this fall.

ALAN MALAK (MacEwan College, Edmonton) had been elected President of the Iris Murdoch Society. He has recently read papers at two Commonwealth Conferences: "Insider/Outsider Views on Belonging: the Short Stories of Bharati Mukherjee and Rohinton Mistry" in Nice, France, and "Minority Discourse and Muslim Fiction Writers in English" in Aachen, W. Germany.

ANN MESSENGER (Simon Fraser) is now on the board of Colleagues Press for a special series of reprints of works by 18th-century women writers. If you have a writer you would like to see reprinted, please inquire of Colleagues Press, "Early Women Writers," Box 4007, East Lansing, Michigan 48826 USA.

PATRICIA MORLEY (Concordia) was the winner of the Ottawa-Carleton Literary Award (\$2,000), April 1988, for Kurelek. A Biography (Macmillan, 1986, 1988). The award was for the best non-fiction published in 1986 or 1987 by a writer resident in the area. She had won the Ottawa Citizen Award for Non-fiction the previous year for the same book.

W. J. B. OWEN (McMaster) read a paper entitled "Such Structures as the Mind Builds" to the annual Wordsworth Summer Conference, Grasmere, in August. In May last he was awarded the degree of D.Litt, honoris causa, by McMaster.

MALCOLM PAGE (Simon Fraser) has just published File on Osborne, the fourth of seven compilations on current British dramatists he is preparing for the Methuen series, "Writers on File."

NORMAN PAGE (Nottingham) has recently published E.M. Forster in the series 'Macmillan Modern Novelists', of which he is general editor. Macmillan have also published a revised version of his Speech in the English Novel, which originally appeared in 1973. As part of the Byron bicentenary celebrations he will lecture at Newstead Abbey in June on Byron's early biographers.

ANN SADDLEMYER (Victoria College and University of Toronto) has been appointed Master of Massey College in the University of Toronto. She has recently lectured in the Adaskin Years' conference, University of Victoria, Concordia University, and at a conference on North American Literature since 1945 held by the University of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

DENIS SALTER (McGill) published a review of L.W. Conolly and Eugene Benson, English-Canadian Theatre (OUP, 1987) in Theatre History Studies 8 (1988), 237-239; "William Rufus Blake and the Gentlemanly Art of Comic Acting;" in Richard Paul Knowles, ed., The Proceedings of the Theatre in Atlantic Canada Symposium, Anchorage Studies 4 (Sackville, N.B.: Centre for Canadian Studies, 1988), 68-99, and "Le Theatre Petit a Petit: Order Minus Power," Canadian Theatre Review 55 (Summer 1988), 15-22.

ROBERT IAN SCOTT (Saskatchewan) has had the article "Interest, Importance, Coherence, and Styles as a Result of Six Types of Meaning" accepted for publication in 1989 by LANGUAGE AND STYLE at Queens College, City University of New York.

DOUGLAS BURNET SMITH (St. Francis Xavier University) was recently elected President of The League of Canadian Poets. Last spring he published two books of poems: Living In The Cave of The Mouth (Owl's Head Press) and Ladder To The Moon (Brick Books).

SARA STAMBAUGH (Alberta) has recently published The Witch and the Goddess in the Stories of Isak Dinesan: A Feminist Reading (UMI Research Press). Her book helps to initiate a series called "Challenging the Literary Canon."

J.H. STAPE (Western) has recently left the Universite de Limoges to take up an appointment at Western for 1988-89. Recent publications include a survey of the Conrad collection at Syracuse University in the Syracuse

University Library Associates Courier and "Conrad Controversial": Ideology and Rhetoric in the Essays on the Titanic" in Prose Studies (May 1988).

WARREN STEVENSON (UBC) read a paper entitled "Coleridge's Divine Duplicity: being a concatenation of his vicarious surrogates, succedaneums, and Doppelgangers" at the first Coleridge Summer Conference, Nether Stowey, July 1988. Coleridge's ghost obliged us with a manifestation at the conference, which opened on the 154th anniversary of his death.

PAUL TIESSEN (Wilfrid Laurier) has recently edited three volumes related to the work of Malcolm Lowry and the Canadian radio dramatist, Gerald Noxon: The Letters of Malcolm Lowry and Gerald Noxon, 1940-1952 (ed. assist. Nancy Strobel), University of British Columbia Press; Teresina Maria, a novel by Gerald Noxon; 'On Malcolm Lowry' and Other Writings by Gerald Noxon. The latter two volumes, co-edited with Miquel Mota, have been published by The Malcolm Lowry Review, English Department, Wilfrid Laurier University.

JUDITH WILLIAMS, formerly with the University of Toronto Press, now freelance editing, has published her book, Perception and Expression in the Novels of Charlotte Bronte (UMI Research Press).

DOUGLAS WURTELE (Carleton) has recently published "Chaucer's Monk: An Errant Exeget," Journal of Literature and Theology 1 (1987): 191-209 and "Chaucer's Wife of Bath and Her Distorted Arthurian Motifs," Arthurian Interpretations 2 (1987): 47-61.

Professional Concerns Committee, 1988-89

The task the committee has assigned itself for the coming academic year is to develop a checklist of fellowships, research grants, and other awards available to graduate students in English at Canadian universities. This list would include information on eligibility, value of award, and deadlines for application. If it proves practical, the committee may also try to develop a parallel list for the use of full-time faculty. C.A.C.E. is already working on a similar list for those with Ph.D.'s but without full-time positions, and it may be possible eventually to combine the separate lists.

In addition to the list, the committee would like to prepare a short commentary describing the qualities of successful (and unsuccessful) grant applications. To that end, we would welcome observations from ACUTE members who have received grants or who have evaluated applications and who could therefore offer helpful suggestions to prospective applicants. Please send your comments to one of the committee members (most of whom are named below), or directly to the new chair, David Kent: Dept. of English, Centennial College, P.O. Box 631, Station A, Scarborough, Ont. M1K 5E9. After two very productive years as chair of this committee, Terry Goldie stepped down at the Windsor ACUTE; we are grateful that he has, nevertheless, chosen to remain on the committee and we thank him for his excellent work on the hiring guidelines and the standard c.v. format.

Evelyn Cobley (Victoria)
Michael Darling (Western)
Terry Goldie (York)
Laura Groening (Dalhousie)
Frederick Holmes (Lakehead)
David Kent (Centennial College)
David Latham (Lethbridge)
Heather Murray (Toronto)
Elizabeth Popham (Memorial)
Susan Stone-Blackburn (Calgary)

CALL FOR PAPERS

1989 ACUTE CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAVAL, MAY 27-30

As a member of ACUTE, you are invited to submit either a completed or substantially completed paper to be considered for possible presentation at the 1989 ACUTE Conference.

PLEASE NOTE the following. Consult the Newsletter for more information.

1. The deadline for receipt of papers is 15 November 1988. Since postal service may be slow, please mail your paper well ahead of the deadline.
2. Please submit TWO copies, accompanied by a single copy of this form. Your name should not appear on the typescript of the paper. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have your paper returned. Also enclose two copies each of a brief abstract and a brief biographical statement for the Conference "Who's Who."
3. Submissions can be considered only from those who are paid-up members of ACUTE for 1989. No paper can be considered that will have been published or delivered before the Conference.
4. Papers will be sent out to assessors as soon as possible after 15 November, and decisions will be announced in February 1989.
5. Indicate below what kind of paper you are submitting:

 Single-paper session
(Submissions of 20-22 pp.)

 Multi-paper session
(Submissions of 10-12 pp.)

6. See the Newsletter for information concerning executive- and member-organized special sessions. Papers for these sessions should be forwarded as indicated.

I submit the attached for the ACUTE Conference, May 27-30, 1988:

TITLE: _____

NAME: _____

UNIVERSITY ADDRESS: _____

 I have already paid my 1989 dues.

 I am enclosing my 1989 membership fee of \$65 (or \$30 for graduate students, retired members, and un/underemployed members) and membership form.

Mail two copies each of your paper, abstract and biographical statement to:

Dr. Terry Matheson, Secretary-Treasurer
ACUTE, c/o Department of English
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sask., S7N 0W0