



THE ACUTE NEWSLETTER

Please Note: The ACUTE office address is ACUTE, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 0W0, and the telephone number is (306) 966-5517. Other numbers are Len Findlay (President) 966-5506 and Terry Matheson (Secretary-Treasurer) 966-5490.

ACUTE EXECUTIVE 1989-90

President	Len Findlay (Saskatchewan)
President-Elect	Shirley Neuman (Alberta)
Secretary-Treasurer	Terry Matheson (Saskatchewan)
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ACUTE FUNDING

ACUTE's grants from SSHRCC for Travel and Administration amounted in 1984-85 to \$28,783. For the period 1988-91 the same grants amount to \$17,484. SSHRCC support for ESC has been restored to something close to the 1984-85 level, but only by applying to ACUTE a funding formula which in effect punishes us for increasing our support to our journal when it clearly needed (and continues to need) it. The extra money from membership revenues diverted to ESC has been deemed by SSHRCC "duplication" of their support for

the journal, and ACUTE has had its grants reduced accordingly. I have written at great length to SSHRCC seeking answers to specific financial questions and asking for clarification of general funding policies. The responses from Denis Croux, Director of Research Communications and Internal Relations, have been "understanding" but unyielding, and ACUTE clearly needs to respond to a very serious situation in the three following ways:

1. Reducing ACUTE expenses.

Executive meetings in the fall and spring are now held by Conference Call (not very satisfactory but all we can afford). We have also abandoned the practice of a dinner at the Learned's attended by the Executive and plenary speakers and their companions. In-house expenses have been reduced to a bare minimum, but there is still a problem. And the Travel Grant is equally inadequate. This year, for example, demands for assistance with travel to Laval amount to more than \$3,000 in excess of what SSHRCC gives us, based on full reimbursement of travel expenses for those giving papers, fifty per cent for moderators, and a modest twenty-five per cent for others. These practices will have to be re-assessed before the Victoria Conference, so that available assistance goes to those who need it most--for example, graduate students giving papers.

2. Possible Initiatives. At the AGM in Laval a number of interesting schemes were suggested for generating additional revenues, including a search for sponsors in the private sector and the establishment of a donor group, Friends of ACUTE. We will be looking into these possibilities and welcome further

suggestions from the membership. However, raising membership fees does not seem warranted at this time, given the fees charged by comparable Learned Societies in North America, the services they offer their members, and the fact that our recent increases have contributed to a reduction of c. 100 in ACUTE membership since June of last year.

3. Changing SSHRCC Policy. We are burdened with the present policies and funding formulae until 1991. However, the review of these matters begins in earnest next year, and we have to make our views felt soon. I urge you to write to SSHRCC protesting the current funding of ACUTE and asking both that a special interim payment be made to this Association to help alleviate its current difficulties, and that the level of support for ACUTE be returned in 1991 to the levels we enjoyed in 1984-85. If you need more information before writing, I'll be glad to provide it. If not, please write directly to

Madame Paule Leduc
Présidente/President
CRSH/SSHRCC
255 Albert ST.
C.P. 1610
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6G4

Please send copies of your letters to me and to

Viviane F. Launay
Executive Director
Canadian Federation for the
Humanities
151 Slater, Suite 407
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3

THE PRIESTLEY PRIZE

At the AGM in Laval we announced the first winner of the Priestley Prize (value \$500)

awarded annually to the author of an outstanding essay published in English Studies in Canada. This year's panel of adjudicators was Tom Cleary (Victoria) who chaired the panel, John Robson (Toronto), and George Logan (Queen's). They selected an essay by Hugh MacCallum (Toronto) on "Jesus as Teacher in Paradise Regained" (ESC June 1988: 135-51).

Professor MacCallum was at the AGM to receive his cheque and made a gracious acceptance speech. I am sure that all members of ACUTE join with me in congratulating Professor MacCallum, and in thanking the adjudicators for their work.

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS

The Committee for Professional Concerns is preparing a Guide to Grants and Fellowships for Canadian Graduate Students and Faculty in English. A 45 pp. draft of the Guide was available in limited numbers at Laval and seemed to create a good deal of interest. Once the Guide is ready for formal dissemination, an announcement will be made in the ACUTE Newsletter.

1990 CONFERENCE AT VICTORIA

In 1990 the Learned's will be held at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. The ACUTE meeting will be in late May-early June, but precise dates have not yet been confirmed. A formal call for papers will appear in the September Newsletter. However, since we now require the submission of completed or substantially completed papers, we are issuing an early call for papers. Papers can vary in length (15-50 mins. reading time), but the vettors may suggest a 50 min.

paper be reduced for a multi-paper session. If the paper you submit falls in the "substantially completed" category, please indicate anticipated length.

We again invite member-organized Special Sessions. The requirements for these are as follows: a statement describing the nature of the session; abstracts of papers to be included (not more than 3); brief descriptions of the participants. In contrast to the other submissions, these will obviously not be vetted anonymously. Please use the September Newsletter to call for papers for such sessions. Your copy should reach ACUTE by the middle of August.

Deadlines for submissions:

- November 15 for all papers
- December 15 for proposals (including abstracts) for special sessions.

Given that travel assistance to Victoria will be determined on a different basis than before, we urge anyone who has access to travel money in their own institution to give serious consideration to using such money to pay their way to the ACUTE Conference next year. The new guidelines for travel assistance will be announced in the September Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF IRISH STUDIES has a new Editor. Ron Marken invites you to submit scholarly articles and book reviews on any aspect of Irish culture. A refereed, learned journal, CJIS asks for articles of 6,000 words (maximum) that conform to the New MLA style. Book reviews should be 1,500 words. If

possible, please accompany your article with an IBM-compatible ASCII disk. Address: Ron Marken, Editor, Canadian Journal of Irish Studies, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, S7N 0W0.

A conference on "THE CONTRIBUTION OF METHODISM TO ATLANTIC CANADA" will be held at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, 6-8 October 1989. The keynote speakers will be Sir Owen Chadwick, who will give a paper on "Methodist Origins: The British Isles," and Dr. John Webster Grant, who will speak on "Methodist Origins: Atlantic Canada." Fourteen other invited speakers will explore the influence of Methodism not only on the religious life of Atlantic Canada but on music, literature, education, and society. The conference, planned for the University's Sesquicentennial celebrations, will include field trips. Please write to the Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N. B., E0A 3C0, Canada.

JUDITH MITCHELL is editing "Teaching Rhetoric: A Collection of Essays by Canadian Academics." If you have an approach to the teaching of rhetoric that you have found to be valuable, or have ideas about why/whether rhetoric should be taught in Canadian universities, please send papers (15,000 words maximum) by Dec. 1, 1989 to Judith Mitchell, Department of English, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y2. All approaches are welcome, including descriptions of single aspects of rhetoric teaching, as well as meditations on wider issues such as the implications for rhetoric teaching of postmodern theories of writing.

WOMEN IMAG(IN)ING: REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN IN CULTURE, an international, interdisciplinary symposium will be held at the University of Alberta, April 5-7, 1990. Catharine Stimpson, President of the MLA, will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Patricia Clements, Deirdre David, Nicole Dubreuil-Blondin, Isobel Grundy, Linda Hutcheon, Shirley Neuman, Mary Nyquist, Lisa Tickner, Patricia Yeager, and Joyce Zemans. An accompanying exhibition, "Dangerous Goods: Feminist Visual Poetics," will be held at the Edmonton Art Gallery. For information contact Dr. Glennis Stephenson, Conference Secretary, Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2E5.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

BEFORE 1860: DISCOURSE/LANGAGE IN CANADA. Submissions are invited for a conference at the University of Toronto April 19-21, 1990. The aim of the conference will be to attempt a new map of discourse in early Canada, and to ask wide-ranging questions about how we ought to be exploring this territory. Conference papers will focus on a wide variety of texts (oral and written from all fields and genres) from the different Canadian cultures of the period before 1860. We invite papers exploring in particular the interaction of literary cultures in the Canadas. Historical, textual, archival, linguistic, and literary approaches are all welcome. This will be a working conference; selected papers will be circulated to registrants beforehand. We hope to arrange publication of the conference proceedings. Travel funds for presenters and respondents will be

sought from SSHRCC. Please submit 5 pp. proposals by September 15, 1989 without your name, but with a covering letter and CV.

Submission indicates that you acknowledge a commitment to supplying the completed paper, if accepted, by Feb. 1, 1990. Notice of accepted papers will be sent out on Nov. 1, 1989. Paper submissions and advance registrations to: Germaine Warkentin, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Toronto, M5S 1K7.

NORTHEAST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION, 22nd Annual Convention, April 6-8, 1990, Westbury Hotel, Toronto. English-Canadian Poetry Section of NEMLA. Topic: "bp Nichol and Gwendolyn MacEwen: In Celebration." Papers (15-20 min.) from any theoretical perspective are invited on these two recently deceased Canadian poets. Please submit by Sept. 1, 1989 a 7 pp. paper or a 2 pp. abstract to the chair for the 1990 session: Liza Potvin, Department of English, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L9. All final participants in the session must be 1989-90 members of NEMLA. Dues must be received by November 1, 1989, for inclusion of a participant's name in the session.

Papers are also invited for the English Canadian Literature Section on the topic "Literary Sequences." "Literary Sequences" invites responses which explore continuity in form and/or content of English Canadian Literature. Such topics as "Literary Sequences" of genre, theme, etc. of a particular author or group of authors may be addressed. Please forward manuscripts (7-10 pp. or 20 min. reading time) by August 1, 1989, to Prof. Deborah Rosenthal, 24 George Drive, Stoughton, Mass., 02072, U.S.A.

UNIVERSITIES ART ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE, November 2-5, 1989 in Winnipeg. Image and Text Session. This session explores the ways in which meanings are constructed and read in published material that includes both image and text. Papers dealing with fine art publishing, illustration, periodicals, picture books, and illustrated texts from any period are invited. Abstracts should be submitted to: Dr. J. Wallace, Department of English, 3-5 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E5. Deadline: August 1, 1989.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

RACHEL FELDHAY BRENNER (York) read a paper entitled "A. M. Klein and Mordecai Richler: Education and Self-Education in Post-Holocaust Canadian Literature" at the 19th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust, in Philadelphia, March 1989.

PETER BUITENHUIS (Simon Fraser) with Ira Nadel (UBC) has recently edited George Orwell in 1984: A Reassessment (London: Macmillan), essays from the Vancouver Orwell conference. With Rick Coe (Simon Fraser) he has co-edited a special issue of College English (vol. 50, Dec. 1988) on Canadian Literature and Rhetoric. An interview with Timothy Findley appeared in the December 1988 issue of Books in Canada. During March 1989 he lectured at the German Association of Canadian Studies conference at Grainau, and at Graz and Venice.

GORDON COGGINS (Brock) has recently published Queint Deuce: A Guide to Sexuality in Edmund Spenser (Distek Publishing, Huntsville, Ont., 1989) in both hard copy and machine-accessible

form. He is currently acting as General Editor for the Distek Literary Series, classics in machine-accessible form with the DISTEK program.

JOHN XIROS COOPER (UBC) published a paper on T.S. Eliot's "Ash Wednesday" in the leading Greek literary review NEA HESTIA (Athens). He will read a paper, "Heteroglossia and Textual Power: a reading of T.S. Eliot's The Sacred Wood," at an international conference, Bakhtin and the epistemology of discourse, Urbino, Italy in July 1989.

JARED CURTIS (Simon Fraser) has received a three-year grant worth \$32,000, from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent U.S. federal agency which supports study in such fields as history, philosophy, literature and languages. It is the third NEH grant Curtis has received for his work on an edition, with Dr. Carol Landon, of William Wordsworth's early verse (1785-97) to be published as part of the Cornell Wordsworth by Cornell University Press.

ARNOLD E. DAVIDSON (Duke) has just accepted an appointment as Research Professor of Canadian Studies at Duke University. He has received, for 1989, a Canadian Studies Senior Fellowship Award granted by the Canadian Embassy in Washington D. C. His essay "As Birds Bring Forth the Story: The Elusive Art of Alistair MacLeod" appeared in Canadian Literature No.119: 32-42; another essay on MacLeod is forthcoming in the Journal of the Short Story in English; and in January 1989 he gave a paper on MacLeod at a conference in Angers, France.

NORMAN FELTES (York), having acted as Chair of York English for a

year, will spend 1989-1990 in Oxford on a SSHRCC grant. His book, Modes of Production of Victorian Novels (Chicago, 1986), has just been reissued in paperback.

SHERRILL GRACE (UBC) has recently published "In Search of Demeter" in Margaret Atwood: Vision and Forms, eds. VanSpankeren and Castro; "Neige noire, Caligari and the Postmodern Film Frame-Up" in New Comparison 5 (1988); "'Figures in a Ground': Bertram Brooker and the Craft of Fiction" in Provincial Essays 7 (1988). She has been awarded a two-year SSHRCC grant to prepare a two-volume scholarly edition of The Collected Letters of Malcolm Lowry. Her feminist reading of Joyce's story, "A Mother," "Rediscovering Mrs. Kearney," appeared in James Joyce: The Augmented Ninth, ed. Bernard Benstock.

KENNETH W. GRAHAM (Guelph) has edited Gothic Fictions: Prohibition/Transgression (AMS Press, May 1989) with a portentous total of thirteen essays by Jay MacPherson, Mark Madoff, Ann McWhir, Kim Michasiw, James Reaney, Janis Svilpis, and others.

RICHARD FIRTH GREEN (Western) has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 1989/90 to complete a book on literature and law in late-fourteenth-century England.

MICHAEL GREENSTEIN (Toronto, SCS) has recently published "Bellow's Canadian Beginnings," Saul Bellow Journal 7.1 (Winter 1988): 27-34; "Between Ottawa and St. Ives: Norman Levine's Tight-rope Walkers," The Journal of Commonwealth Literature 23. 1 (1988): 61-75; and "North America's Jewish Intellectuals," Canadian Review of American Studies 19. 3: 333-38.

A. C. HAMILTON (Queen's). The Spenser Encyclopedia, of which he is the General Editor, has been announced by the University of Toronto Press for Autumn 1989 but publication may be delayed until 1990.

BERNIE HARDER (Windsor), and others, have recently published the third volume of the edition of John Trevisa, On the Properties of Things: John Trevisa's translation of 'Bartholomaeus Anglicus De Proprietatibus Rerum', A Critical Text, Volume III (Oxford University Press, 1988).

FREDERICK M. HOLMES (Lakehead) read "The Reader as Discoverer in David Lodge's Small World" at the Conference of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts held in Fort Lauderdale. He has three articles forthcoming: "The Novelist as Magus: John Fowles and the Function of Narrative" (The Dalhousie Review); "The Trouble with Giles Goat-Boy: The Perils of Narrative Self-Subversion" (Wascana Review); and "John Fowles's Variation on Angus Wilson's Variation on E. M. Forster: 'The Cloud,' 'Et Dona Ferentes,' and 'The Story of a Panic'" (Ariel).

ROBERT LECKER (McGill) has recently published An Other I: The Fictions of Clark Blaise (ECW Press, 1988). Forthcoming publications include "The Canonization of Canadian Literature: An Inquiry into Value" in Critical Inquiry and an edited collection of essays on the Canadian canon for University of Toronto Press.

LINDA MUNK (Toronto) has been awarded the Macmillan Fellowship in St. Chad's College, University of Durham (England) for 1989-90. A member of the Society of Fellows

and of the Centre for Literature and Theology, she will deliver the first Macmillan lecture in November. Further, she has been appointed Visiting Scholar at Harvard for 1990-91. Recent publications include, "Recycling Language: Emily Dickinson's Religious Wordplay" ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance. 32 (1986 [1988]): 232-52; "Understanding Understatement: Biblical Typology and [Flannery O'Connor's] 'The Displaced Person,'" Literature & Theology. 2.1: (Sept. 1988) 210-27.

IRA B. NADEL (UBC) has recently published Joyce and The Jews: Culture and Texts (London: Macmillan). His essay "Textual Criticism and Non-Fictional Prose: The Case of Matthew Arnold" appeared in UTQ 58 (1988). JJO published "Finn Redux: A New Source for the Title of Finnegans Wake" in volume 26 (1989).

W. H. NEW (UBC) has recently published A History of Canadian Literature (London: Macmillan, 1989).

JOHN M. ROBSON (Victoria College, Toronto) has recently published What Did He Say? Editing Nineteenth-Century Speeches from Hansard and the Newspapers, the inaugural F. E. L. Priestley lecture at Lethbridge, and edited Debating Speeches and Journals, and Public and Parliamentary Speeches, Vols. 26-7 and 28-9 of the Collected Works of J. S. Mill.

R.C. TERRY (Victoria) recently published A Trollope Chronology (London: Macmillan). He is currently planning an international conference commemorating the Wilkie Collins Centennial to be held at Victoria, 29 Sept.-1 Oct. 1989.

CLAUD THOMPSON (Saskatchewan) has been appointed Associate Dean (Humanities and Fine Arts) in the College of Arts and Science.

MARGARET TURNER (Guelph) is a Canada Research Fellow at the University of Guelph and has recently published "Endings be Damned: Robert Kroetsch's Gone Indian" in Canadian Literature 119 and "Canadian Literature and Robert Kroetsch: A Case of Canonization" in Dalhousie Review 67.1.

