

ACUTE

NEWSLETTER

Department of English
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5

June, 1991

Contents

President's Remarks	1
Thinking about the Profession: "The Attack on Theory"	
J. Russell Perkin	3
ACUTE members respond...	
1. David Leahy	4
2. Susan Johnston, Allison Newall, and Dennis Dennisoff	5
The New ACUTE Executive	6
Trent Honours English Essay Competition	6
F. E. L. Priestley Prize	7
Guide to Grants and Fellowships	7
Graduate Student Report	7
ACUTE's Committee for Professional Concerns	8
1992 Conference	8
Revised ACUTE Membership Form	9
Council of Ministers of Education, Criteria for Literacy	11
Announcements/Calls for Papers	11
News of Members	13
Membership Form	15
Proposed Constitutional Amendments (enclosed loose sheet)	

President's Remarks

The "audience's" participation at a conference surely provides as accurate a measure as any of its success. About 350 people--the largest number in our history--attended the ACUTE meetings this year. And their very active participation not only marked, but also did much to make, the success of those meetings. In the vigorous discussion periods after papers, and at the wine and cheese party, the banquet, the cash bar, over lunch, between sessions, one heard engaged debate about what was said during the plenaries, panels and paper sessions. The conversationalists certainly didn't always agree about the issues the sessions raised, but those issues clearly were of the liveliest interest to them. They did agree that the plenary and paper sessions on pedagogy, and the panels on "Women in the University" and "Woman, Native, Other," raised significant questions which surfaced again and again in other papers. What emerged, then, was a conference in which a number of questions and issues, once raised, circulated through many of the papers. Each made a contribution both to its own area of scholarship and to the issues of the meetings as a whole. What resulted felt like a conference, and not simply a series of papers.

A more tenuous measure of the success of our meetings might be the ideas generated in the Executive and Annual General Meetings. For the President of the Association, the AGM is the

scene of two quite different anxieties: will any members show up? and if they do, will it be an Annual General Meeting or an annual general massacre of the Association's officers? Perhaps we owe this year's unprecedented attendance at the AGM more to the absence of a beer tent at Queen's than to the virtues of the Association's operations, but I'd like to think not, particularly since, far from staging a massacre, ACUTE members worked exceptionally hard at this year's AGM and Executive meetings.

One of the things that came out of the AGM was a motion to respond to the spate of articles and books alleging that a factionalist "political correctness" has taken over the universities. This writing, which has been a feature of a segment of the U.S. press for a couple of years now and has recently emerged in Canada in pieces in the *Globe and Mail* and *Macleans*, often takes the work of professors of English as a prime target. Professor Michael Keefer (Guelph) has undertaken to respond to a number of these articles on behalf of the Association, and the Executive of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities has agreed to support and extend our efforts in this direction. If you come across articles that need a response or have suggestions about appropriate strategies or arguments to use in responding, please do contact Professor Keefer.

The second clear directive that emerged from the AGM was that the Executive continue several initiatives of this year's conference, notably those having to do with pedagogy, with professional concerns, and with both the literature and the

teaching and research of women and visible minorities in our disciplines. To this end, the ACUTE Executive will be organizing three events for the 1992 conference.

One will be a series of panels/paper sessions on the theme of "Chaos in the Curriculum?", to be co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of Chairs of English. In these we hope to address our disciplinary and institutional responses to emergent areas of study such as "minority," women's, and popular literatures, feminist theory and literary theory. One focus of such sessions might well be the practical problems of redesigning curricula given tensions between the mandate to include in a coherent and meaningful way these new areas of study and the widely held conviction that we must not relinquish any coverage of what has been the traditional "core" of the discipline. Are we in fact redesigning our curricula to reflect changes in the discipline while at the same time maintaining at least the best of its traditional values? Or are we simply "adding on" courses, producing an incoherent plethora of choices or impossibly complicated sets of requirements for our students? How do we accommodate in the courses which have long been the core of our programs the new directions the discipline has taken? If ACUTE members have suggestions about issues, formats, or participants for these sessions, we would welcome them; please contact either myself or Professor Connie Rooke (Guelph).

The topic for next year's "professional concerns" panel will be "Rethinking Merit: Evaluation

Criteria for Tenure and Promotion." The balance between teaching, research and professional service, workload, the ranking of publication venues, and the notion of a standard career path are among the issues which will obviously come up here. Again, if you have suggestions for issues or participants for this panel, please contact a member of the ACUTE Executive.

And, finally, on the five hundredth anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, we will seek the participation of those whose ancestors were here when Europeans arrived. "Five Hundred Years of Resistance," a theme being taken up by several associations at next year's Learned's, will address issues of aboriginal peoples and cultures.

While the Executive plans a certain number of special events for the annual conference, I would like to stress that the programme is finally the responsibility of ACUTE members. Your suggestions for these special events make a difference to their substance and shape. Moreover, papers submitted by members make up most of the programme. If you have interests, insights, or concerns that you feel the conference programmes are not addressing, please submit a paper or encourage your colleagues to do so. Since one of the complaints Presidents of ACUTE have been receiving in recent years is that a scholar's individual interests, in anything from medieval sermons to science fiction, are insufficiently represented on the programme, I would like to urge members who feel an area of study needs more representation on the programme to submit a proposal for a Special Session. Those sessions are

available not only to members who wish to introduce into our meetings areas of study we have not considered before, but to those who wish to see more on the programme about authors, genres, and questions which have long been part of our critical deliberation.

This late June morning, as I finish preparing copy for this Newsletter, as Paul Hjartarson processes travel claims from the conference, and as Gerry Hill, Paul and I all work to prepare ACUTE's application to SSHRCC for the next three years' funding, the suburban music of lawnmowers hums accompaniment to my PC and reminds me that the pleasures of backyards and cottages, family and friends, summer travel and research lie just beyond the end of this column. ACUTE will not be far from our thoughts in that more leisurely and meditative time; I hope our members too might spare our Association some occasional summer thoughts and that you will share them with us.

Shirley Neuman

Thinking about the Profession

The Attack on Theory

J. Russell Perkin (Saint Mary's)

ACUTE members will have noticed the recent proliferation of attacks on literary theory in American newsmagazines and neo-conservative journals. These attacks, whether written by journalists or tenured full professors of English, tend to betray a total ignorance of the works of the theorists who are

mentioned, sometimes in the most incongruous combinations, and they also tend to have a thinly disguised or overt neoconservative political agenda. While some pessimists were recently lamenting that literary studies have no real political effect, it seems that the challenge posed by new ways of reading is sufficient to provoke a full-scale counterattack from the right.

In a recent MLA newsletter Mario J. Valdés suggested that MLA members should stop complaining among themselves about ill-informed attacks on the discipline and should start responding to these attacks at every opportunity. Since the *Globe and Mail* has now joined the bandwagon of theory-bashing, it might be a good idea for progressive members of ACUTE to follow Professor Valdés's advice.

Given that university funding is under serious strains due to the recession, and given the marginal status of the humanities in the university of the 1990s (after all, our discipline doesn't readily assist in enhancing Canada's "global competitiveness"), it might also be a good idea if we tried to explain more carefully to the general public what literary theory is really about. In particular, we could stress that the cultural issues that have come to the fore in literary studies are precisely those which dominate the national political agenda. Work on gender, or on Orientalism, or on the notion of the centre and the margins, is directly relevant to the issues of sexual politics, policy towards the Middle East, national unity, and relations with the First Nations which are the focus of public discourse in

Canada today.

If a cogent defence of theory is not made, the conservative attack on it will become established as the true account. In conclusion, I would also suggest that those who know better, or ought to know better--i.e., professors of English--have a responsibility not to feed simplified, distorted and even straightforwardly false accounts of what is going on in the discipline to journalists looking for a good story.

ACUTE members respond:

1. As one of the many graduate students who will be applying for tenure-track appointments this coming year, I was pleased to read Linda Hutcheon's column "'Professionalism' and Professing English" (March, 1991). After years of graduate studies, presentations at conferences, thesis research and writing, part-time teaching, and review work and publications, I have had many opportunities to become "professionally skilled" (which includes making blunders and false starts). But if it were not for the guidance and friendship of several professors I am sure I would still be relatively ignorant of many professional skills and institutional duties.

I would hope that most tenured ACUTE members will take Professor Hutcheon's suggestions seriously. Perhaps ACUTE itself, through the Professional Concerns Committee, or a newly designated committee, could look into creating an information package and/or organizing seminars which would propagandize on behalf of better

counselling for prospective job applicants and colleagues. The lethargy to date on this front has been deplorable and is doubtlessly directly related to an equally common failure to rethink pedagogy and curricula. We should not simply rely upon the presumed collegiality of established professors to casually advise and guide prospective colleagues. Many graduate students are not lucky enough to benefit from such nurturing until it is virtually too late. If many of our campuses were less like commuter stops this would probably be less of a problem. But one of the ways to make collegiality more common (and perhaps even more pleasurable) might be to have seriously to reconsider and discuss "what is involved in professing English" with one's colleagues and graduate students on a regular basis.

David Leahy (Concordia)

2. Many thanks to Linda Hutcheon for her excellent column bringing the issue of professional development for graduate students forward. It is a matter of pressing concern for most graduate students, and one that is not addressed often enough by the departments responsible for their training.

At McGill this past year, the Professional Development Committee of the English Graduate Students Association applied for and received a grant from the Post-Graduate Council, which was used for a series of professional development workshops. Topics included conference papers, publishing in journals, facing hiring committees, a workshop in academic writing, and the McGill project system.

The workshops were particularly

well attended by new graduate students, and the speakers, largely but not wholly members of the McGill faculty, were enthusiastic about the workshops.

One of the indirect results of these workshops has been a renewed commitment on the part of the Department to professional development for graduate students, and a revised, required Master's course will feature many of the same subjects addressed in the workshops. Doctoral candidates will be urged to audit these sessions.

In addition to the student initiative, the doctoral pro-seminar in the past year included a session on the scholarly grants system, and the teaching assistant supervisor, Professor Peter Gibian, provided a series of workshops on the role of the T.A. All were well attended.

We urge graduate students, as well as Departments, to take the initiative in providing professional development. We believe that this show of interest on the part of graduate students will encourage Departments to include professional development issues in all aspects of their graduate programs.

Susan Johnston, Professional Development, Allison Newall, Professional Development, Dennis Dennisoff, Graduate Student Caucus, ACUTE (McGill University)

"Thinking about the Profession" will be a regular feature of the ACUTE Newsletter. We invite submissions from our membership on any topic of concern to the profession. They should be written in a vigorous and engaging

prose, and should be clear-thinking and stimulating. And they should be no longer than two double-spaced pages. We also invite brief, cogent responses to the writers of "Thinking about the Profession." These will be selected and edited for publication with an eye to the limitations of space on one hand, and to maintaining the integrity of the writers' views and a representation of a range of views on the other hand. Both submissions for the next Newsletter and responses to this month's "Thinking about the Profession" should reach the ACUTE office by August 15.

The New ACUTE Executive

At its Annual General Meeting this year, ACUTE members voted in and welcomed four new members to the ACUTE Executive. Professor Michael Keefer (Guelph) will be Vice-President for the next year and will take over as President in July of 1992. He replaces Professor Len Findlay (Saskatchewan) who is stepping down as Past President of the Association. Three new members-at-large will also join the Executive this year: Smaro Kamboureli (Victoria), Martin Kreiswirth (UWO), and Marjorie Stone (Dalhousie). They replace Tony Dawson (UBC), Margery Fee (Queen's) and Marjorie Garson (Toronto). The Annual General Meeting also voted Jane Sellwood (Victoria) graduate student representative on the ACUTE Executive, pending the members' ratification of the proposed

amendment to the ACUTE constitution to add a graduate student to its Executive.

ACUTE owes many thanks to all the departing members of the Executive, who have been extraordinarily helpful in the past two years in their suggestions for improving the operations of the Association and, especially, in their ideas and their extensive work for the conferences. And we owe very special thanks to Len Findlay who brought devotion, constructive imagination, hard work, and a delightfully urbane wit to his tasks as President and Past-President of the Association.

Trent Honours English Essay Competition

The Trent Honours English prize is awarded each year to the best essays written in undergraduate English courses across Canada and submitted by their instructors. This year's prize winners are: Ona Bjornson, St. Francis Xavier (Instructor: Prof. Pamela Black); Angela Kelly, University of Regina (Instructor: Prof. Cameron Louis); Sabina Kim, University of Regina (Instructor: Prof. Karen Smythe); Jason Sebeslav, Queen's University (Instructor: Prof. Mark Jones); Antonia Swierzy, University of Calgary (Instructor: Prof. Saad El-Gabalawy).

F. E. L. Priestley Prize

The annual F. E. L. Priestley Essay Prize for the best essay in the previous year's volume of *English Studies in Canada* was awarded this year at the ACUTE Banquet. The prize went to Dr. Frances Armstrong of Erindale College, University of Toronto, for her essay "Gender and Miniaturization: Games of Littleness in Nineteenth-Century Fiction," which appeared in the December 1990 issue. Professor Elizabeth Harvey, University of Western Ontario, received Honourable Mention for her "Property, Digestion, and Intertext in Robertson Davies' *The Rebel Angels*," published in the March 1990 issue.

The prize of \$500 is co-sponsored by *English Studies in Canada* and ACUTE. The prize-winners are decided upon by a three-person jury named by the ACUTE executive. The members of this year's jury were Professor Judith Herz (Concordia), who chaired, and Professors Len Findlay (Saskatchewan) and Sherrill Grace (UBC). The thanks of all ACUTE members go to these three scholars for taking on this time-consuming, if pleasurable, task. And our congratulations to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Harvey on their fine essays.

Guide to Grants and Fellowships for Canadian Graduate Students and Faculty in English

The Guide is a "master" list of scholarships, grants and post-doctoral positions available to

Canadian scholars of English. As Fall deadlines approach, the *Guide to Grants and its "Suggestions for Grant Applications"* will be invaluable. Copies are available for \$10 from the ACUTE office.

Report of the (provisional) Graduate Student Representative to the ACUTE Executive

As your provisional graduate student representative, I would like to thank you for your support of the graduate student membership of ACUTE at the Learned Societies Conference, 1991.

As you may already know, the circumstances leading to my nomination and election arose from issues of graduate student representation within ACUTE. Many members, both graduate students and faculty, feel that graduate students constitute a distinct body within the ACUTE membership, and that their interests should be represented by an individual nominated by the graduate student constituency.

My position as graduate student representative is provisional until ratification by your vote on the mail ballot sent out with the *June Newsletter*. Please note that nominations for next year's graduate representative must be mailed to me by January 31, 1992. I will present this list of nominees to the ACUTE Executive at the meeting in February, 1992. The slate of nominees will be published in the March 1991 *Newsletter* before the Learned Societies Conference in P.E.I. in May 1992. Your participation in this nomination process is vital

in order to ensure representation of graduate student interests on the ACUTE Executive.

The participation of graduate students is vital to ensure not only representation of their interests in ACUTE but also recognition of graduate student participation in the shift from hierarchical to interactive models of scholarship, pedagogy, and administration in academe. Please forward your suggestions for sessions and panels for the P.E.I. Conference 1991 programme to the ACUTE Executive.

Please note that as graduate student representative I will be your channel to the ACUTE Executive. Contact me about matters you wish to be brought to the attention of the Executive at the November telephone conference call meeting:

Jane Sellwood
Department of English
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Jane Sellwood

ACUTE's Committee for Professional Concerns

The Committee for Professional Concerns is embarking on a two-year project to survey workloads in English Departments across Canada. Is there a standard work profile? What are the variations on the pattern? How do different schools accommodate problems of over-enrolment and under-staffing? Are there pedagogical alternatives

in place at some schools that would solve problems at others? The answers may provide ammunition for internal lobbying, or viable ways of balancing demands on faculty.

For now, we are sending out a general call to the ACUTE membership. What should be included in the questionnaire? What are the central issues?

Please send comments and suggestions to Elizabeth Popham, Department of English, Trent University, Peterborough Ont. K9J 7B8 (E-mail epopham@trentu.ca) by September 15.

1992 ACUTE Conference

The 1992 ACUTE Conference will be held at the University of Prince Edward Island from May 24 to May 27. Some of the events at that conference came out of Executive discussions and the Annual General Meeting at this year's Learned and are described above in the "President's Remarks." But, as always, much depends on the members of ACUTE. The conference is only as good as the papers you submit.

Members are reminded that papers (no more than 20 pages, suitable for oral delivery) or proposals (2 pages) can be submitted to ACUTE for consideration for next year's conference any time prior to November 15. Members who wish to propose Special Sessions can place an announcement in the September Newsletter calling for paper submissions; the deadline for receiving copy for your announcement is August 15.

All papers and proposals submitted, with authorial identification removed, are sent to at least two readers who return their reports by late January. When making final decisions about the programme, the conference organizers consider the readers' reports, the necessity of including a range of period, national, theoretical and critical interests on the programme, and the ways in which the papers could be intelligently coupled in sessions. In mid to late February we write to all those who submitted papers and proposals, informing them about the conference programme and sending them readers' comments.

If you have suggestions for plenary speakers, the conference organizers would be pleased to consider them. Please send your suggestions, with some information about the proposed speaker, to Shirley Neuman, ACUTE, Dept. of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2E5.

Revised ACUTE Membership Form

The ACUTE membership form has long been a source of irritation to and complaints from members. The categories on the form proliferate, making it difficult to decide which ones to list oneself under; at the same time, many scholars find that the categories they would like to describe themselves by are not included. The Executive has spent several hours this year talking about how the form might be revised to allow members greater self-selection of "Categories of Interest" under which they wished to be listed, while at the same time keeping both the work of the Executive Assistant, who must record these, and the size of the *Directory* in bounds.

We have, tentatively, come up with the following form. It allows members more flexibility and, while it will increase the work of the Executive Assistant and the size of the *Directory*, we think both will remain manageable. However, BEFORE we use this form, the Executive invites your comments as to its suitability. Is it a form that will enable you to describe your scholarly interests more precisely? a form that you feel you can use with comparative ease? Do you have suggestions for improvement? If you have suggestions for its improvement, please write to ACUTE by September 1 and we will take them into account.

The proposed new form is reproduced below. If you wish to compare it with the form now in use, you can find the latter on the last page of the *Newsletter*.

(PROPOSED) MEMBERSHIP FORM 1992

Please return completed form (with cheque payable to ACUTE) to the
Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2E5

NAME: _____

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION: _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE: (wk.): (____) _____ (hm.): (____) _____

E.MAIL: _____ FAX: (____) _____

- I enclose [] The regular membership fee of \$65.
 [] The reduced fee of \$30.
 Status: ___ Graduate Student; ___ Retired Professor
 ___ Unemployed/Underemployed.
 [] The household membership fee of \$115 (includes two
 memberships, one subscription to English Studies in
 Canada.) Please indicate both names above.
 [] I require a receipt other than my cancelled cheque.

I am [] a new member; [] a renewing member.

ACUTE DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' AREAS OF SCHOLARLY RESEARCH: (Please write
down no more than three descriptors.) The *Directory* is used chiefly by
colleagues seeking scholars to review books, to prepare scholarly papers
on special topics, and to evaluate manuscripts, grant applications,
conference papers, and graduate student theses. Members should list as
precisely as possible under the following headings areas of scholarly
research in which they would feel comfortable performing such tasks.
Please list interests in a way that avoids duplication between
categories.

1. Literatures of a Particular Period and National Literatures
(e.g. Middle English, Restoration Literature, 18th-19th C. American
Literature, Postcolonial fiction, Victorian poetry, etc.) _____

2. Genres (e.g. Ballad, comedy, autobiography, etc.) _____

3. Culture and Gender Studies (e.g. American Studies, Women's Studies,
Women's Literature, Irish Literature, etc.) _____

4. Criticism, Theory, Methodology (e.g. History of Criticism,

Bibliography, Literary History, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Feminist Theory, Textual Editing, etc.) _____

5. Language and Linguistics (e.g. Composition; Rhetoric, Creative Writing, etc.) _____

6. Pedagogy (e.g. Teaching practice and evaluation, curriculum, etc.) _____

7. Authors (list up to four) _____

8. Other _____

**Council of Ministers of Education,
Criteria for Literacy and Numeracy**

The Council of Ministers of Education is currently drafting criteria for literacy and numeracy. This involves the preparation of a Reading Assessment and a Writing Assessment, which will presumably be used to test students widely across the country. The Council invited Professor Len Findlay, Past President of ACUTE, to attend a meeting on June 5 to discuss the draft criteria. Members of ACUTE wishing to know more about these criteria, and the proposed uses to

which they may be put, can contact either Prof. Findlay, Dept. of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon S7N 0W0, or can write to Mr. James Cullen, Coordinator, SAIP, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 252 Bloor Street West, Suite 5-200, Toronto M5S 1V5.

Announcements / Calls for Papers

Alternatives Volume 17:4, "Finding a New Voice," explores the ways artistic expression can fire our enthusiasm for nature and forge links between disparate points of view. Author Rebecca Raglon investigates the relationship between environmental thought and traditional literary criticism. Environmentalist Jenny Carter looks at environmentalism in the art and life of Wordsworth. A selection of visual art includes work by sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, native artist Jimmie Durham, and Mennonite painter Leah Frey Daum.

Copies are available for \$5.50 (plus 7% GST) from *Alternatives*, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2G1, (519) 885-1211 ext 6783.

Critical Mass is a biannual journal of literary studies which publishes essays, reviews, and creative writing by graduate students at Canadian universities. We encourage submissions on literature and critical theory. In addition, we welcome opinion pieces on issues of concern to graduate students.

Subscriptions, correspondence and submissions may be sent to: *Critical Mass*, c/o Department of English, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3J5. One year subscription (two issues): \$10; institutions \$15.

Literary Initiatives, a new journal of critical practice for literature written in English, is written and edited by graduate English students from across Canada. It is administered by the Students' Association of Graduate English at the University of

Guelph. Every issue will include critical articles and book reviews by graduate students.

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome (approximately 5000 words). Manuscripts should follow MLA format and must be accompanied by a short biography, proof of enrolment in a Graduate English program at the time of submission, and a \$5 submission fee. All students submitting manuscripts will receive a complimentary copy of the next issue of *Literary Initiatives*. Electronic copies (WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Wordstar, etc.) are desirable.

Every manuscript, whether accepted for publication or not, will receive a "Reader's Report"; authors who wish to receive a copy of the report should enclose a SASE with their submission. Original manuscripts cannot be returned. Deadline for submissions is August 1, 1991.

Literary Initiatives will be published semi-annually beginning in 1991. Annual subscription rates are \$25 for institutions and \$10 for individuals, and are available from *Literary Initiatives*, Department of English, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

A call for papers for an inter-disciplinary collection of essays on critical theory in Canada. Frank Davey and Smaro Kamboureli invite contributions of essays which should address, singly or in combination, the impact of theory on: the contributors' disciplines or their own work; recent national, provincial or regional politics in Canada; racial or gender politics in Canada; such Canadian institutions as the mass media, funding agencies, the law; the book and periodical practices

in the contributor's field; the curriculum, pedagogy, and university structures and processes in Canada. Alternatively, contributors may wish to address the theoretical questions they feel are most urgent in their fields or practices.

Those wishing to contribute may send abstracts or essays to each editor (Frank Davey, English Dept., Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Ont. N6A 3K7; and Smaro Kamboureli, English Dept., Univ. of Victoria, Victoria B.C. V8W 2Y2). Abstracts should be sent by Oct. 1, 1991. Essays should be submitted by February 1, 1992 in both paper and diskette form if possible; they may be any length up to 7000 words.

The Canadian Academic Centre in Italy is updating a database of research links between Canada and Italy since 1980. Included are projects involving direct collaboration between researchers, along with visiting professorships, post-doctoral fellowships, joint seminars, as well as studies of an aspect of the "other" country that do not necessarily entail collaboration between researchers. In 1989 and 1990 we have collected information on more than 500 collaborative projects, but it is evident that our records are still incomplete.

If you have carried out research which involves Italy or Italian resources, we want to include a record of your work. To do this we must receive your response to a simple two-page questionnaire in the next few weeks. If you completed a questionnaire in a previous year but in the meantime have conducted further research, please obtain a questionnaire and provide us with

updated information. If you have never received (or responded to) a request for this information, please obtain a copy of the questionnaire and return it to us.

Questionnaires can be obtained from either the Canadian Mediterranean Institute (CMI, 113 Osgoode Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6S1, fax: [613] 238 6115) or the Canadian Academic Centre in Italy (CACI, Piazza Cardelli 4, 00186 Rome, Italy, fax: [011 396] 687 3693). To speed communication, you may send a message by electronic mail (BITNET / NETNORTH) to the CMI (CMIXF@UOTTAWA) or the CACI (CACI@IRMUNISA).

Northeast Modern Language Association invites submissions on a special topic: The Resistance to Practice: The Infernal Internal Problematics of Practice.

Paul de Man argued that the difficulty we have with theory is, properly speaking, a tension, resistance foisted on us by theory itself. Is the resistance to practice something internal to the discourse of theory? Is this why the popular press cannot understand the theory informing our turn to multiculturalism? And why we continue to resist practice too?

Send papers or proposals to: Neil Easterbrook, Dept. of English, TCU Box 32872, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas 76129. Deadline: 1 August 1991.

The third session of the cultural program of Italian ExpoLingue, which will take place in Milan in mid-January, 1992, will address the languages that are less taught in Italy, as well as countries of the English- and/or French-

speaking world different from the 'mother' countries. Canada, in particular, as a unique case of bilingualism and biculturalism, plays a very significant role in the world of languages.

The actual participation may include one or more of the following: a stand with display materials set up by an official body (federal or state government(s) or agencies); a book show sponsored by Canadian publishers; one or more lectures or seminars on any subjects concerning Canada, its languages and cultures; any activity of cultural interest, even though not directly related to languages.

Queries and suggestions about cultural and linguistic aspects of ExpoLingue should be addressed to Egmont Lee, Director, Canadian Academic Centre in Italy, Piazza Cardelli 4, 00186 Roma, or by E-Mail to CACI@ITCASPUR, whereas inquiries of a technical and commercial kind should be addressed to CONSUL.T.A., Via V. Monti 41, I-20123 Milano.

News of Members

G. Kim BLANK (Victoria) has edited, with an introduction, *The New Shelley: Later Twentieth-Century Views* (Macmillan/St. Martin's, 1990), and is the author of *Wordsworth's Influence on Shelley: A Study of Poetic Authority* (Macmillan/St. Martin's, 1988).

Arnold E. DAVIDSON (Duke) has written "The Novel in Canada" for the forthcoming *Columbia History of the American Novel*. His edited

collection, *Studies on Canadian Literature: Introductory and Critical Essays*, has just been published by the MLA. ACUTE members Barry Cameron, Barbara Godard, Terry Goldie, Linda Hutcheon, Shirley Neuman, and W. H. New are among its contributors.

Sheldon GOLDFARB (UBC) has published "Yawning in Spirit or Trembling at the Portals? Cox's Diary and the Boredom of Becky Sharp" in the *Durham University Journal* 52 ns (1991): 39-43.

Ajay HEBLE has been appointed Assistant Professor of English at the University of Guelph. He has recently published "Michael Ondaatje and the Problem of History" in *CLIO* 19.2 (1990).

Constance B. HIATT (UWO), in collaboration with Robin F. Jones (Dept. of French, UWO), has published an edition of *La Novele Cirurgerie* (London: Anglo-Norman Text Society, 1990).

Gerald LYNCH (Ottawa) and David Rampton have edited, with Introduction, *The Canadian Essay* (Toronto: Copp Clark Pitman, 1991).

Louis K. MacKENDRICK (Windsor) has published a monograph, *Al Purdy and His Works* (ECW), and, in *Canadian Writers 1890-1920* (ed. W. H. New), "Stephen Leacock." "Gruss and Gaunts: Carman's Gothic" appears in *Bliss Carman: A Reappraisal*, ed. Gerald Lynch; items on Jack Hodgins, John Metcalf, and W.C. Fields are forthcoming.

Norman H. MacKENZIE (Queen's) has published *The Poetical Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins* in the

Oxford English Texts series (Clarendon Press: 1990). Two companion volumes provide over 530 annotated facsimiles of all the autographs: *The Early Poetic MSS and Note-Books* (Garland, 1989) and *The Later Poetic MSS of Hopkins* (in press).

James NOONAN (Carleton) translated and introduced Marcel Dubé's three-act play *Time of the Lilacs* (*Le Temps des lilas*) in *Canadian Drama/L'Art dramatique canadien*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (1990), pp. 195-292. His article "Theatre and Spectacle under the Aberdeens, 1893-1898" appeared in the same issue, pp. 147-72.

Malcolm PAGE (SFU) has published *File on Edgar*, his seventh compilation on modern British Dramatists for Methuen's "Writers on File" series. His "Fourteen Propositions about Theatre in British Columbia" appeared in the October 1990 issue of *Journal of Canadian Studies*.

Ann SADDLEMYER (Toronto) has recently published, as general editor, *Early Stages: Essays on Theatre in Ontario 1800-1915* (U of T Press). In October she received an honorary D.Litt. from the University of Windsor and in April was awarded the University of Toronto Alumni Award for Excellence.

Tracy WARE (Bishop's) has forthcoming in *English Studies in Canada* "A Little Self-Consciousness is a Dangerous Thing: A Response to Robert Lecker."

News of Members and Other Announcements of Interest

Using the format of the *Newsletter* [Percy SHELLEY (Oxford) has published...], indicate what you have published recently and other items of interest to the membership. Items must be typed, must not exceed 50 words and must not require copy-editing. The editor retains the right to exclude any material submitted (she regrets that space constraints preclude "news" about local teaching awards, conference papers, research grants, reviews or encyclopedia entries). To appear in the September 1991 issue of the *Newsletter*, items must reach ACUTE by Aug. 15, 1991. Mail to ACUTE, Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5.

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