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# Newsletter

Volume 19, no. 1, July 2002

**Editor: Dr. Nicolae Harsanyi**

108 Pinegate Cir. #9  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Ph: 919-490-5221  
Email: [niki@ga.unc.edu](mailto:niki@ga.unc.edu)

**Consultants:**

Dr. Marcel Cornis-Pope  
Department of English  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA 23284-2005

The RSAA Newsletter is published twice a year.

**RSAA YEAR BOOK:** Dr. Paul Teodorescu, Editor in Chief

307 Pueblo Drive  
Salinas, CA 93906

**REMINDER:** All RSAA members who have changed their mailing address and institutional affiliation, or who now also have an e-mail address, are kindly requested to update these data by contacting the editor. He is still collecting the dues (\$10.00) for 2002: please send him your checks (payable to RSAA) as soon as possible.

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**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

The more modest version and format of the RSAA Newsletter is due to the loss of the previous financial support that this publication has enjoyed for almost three years. Now the Newsletter has reverted to its desk-top version and its is produced entirely through the funds of RSAA. Therefore your support of RSAA through yearly dues is essential to keep this publication active. I am aware that the cost of living has gone up during the last couple of years: just recently mailing costs went up nationwide; however, the amount of \$10.00 representing the RSAA membership dues is still in place (one of the few expenditures kept at a steady level). Consequently, I cannot find enough reasons why only two members are in good standing, with dues

paid for 2002! As the calendar year is not over, I hope to be able to collect more of your modest contributions to RSAA.

I would like to reiterate and strongly encourage my previous invitation that every one of our readers send in materials concerning their current work and research (presentations of events relevant to Romanian studies, work in progress, books recently published or in print, shorter scholarly papers or their abstracts, academic initiatives, etc.). Since most of us do publish articles in other academic or public interest journals, I would strongly encourage you to send me the summaries of those articles. Their publication in the Newsletter will faithfully mirror the rich and diverse preoccupations of the RSAA members and, at the same time, may turn this periodical into a forum of frank and constructive discussion to the benefit of all. So far, I have had to face a disarming scarcity of materials to include in the newsletter. I hope to be able, with your help, to fill the pages of the next issue with interesting readings. Therefore I appeal to you to send me such materials. Please accept this challenging invitation!

Nicolae Harsanyi  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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### **RSAA on the Web**

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/RSAA/index.html>

Since the beginning of 1999, thanks to Professor Calin A. Mihăilescu, RSAA has a home page maintained at the University of Western Ontario. You can have easy access to the RSAA by-laws, as well as to past and present issues of the Newsletter. Please bookmark this site.

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### **2002 MLA Convention, New York, NY, 27-30 December 2002**

#### **(De)vampirizing Culture: The Dracula Myth - roundtable discussion**

Panel organized by RSAA

Presider: Letitia Guran, (University of Georgia, Athens)

1. "Transylvanian Tropes and Tropics," Monica Popescu (University of Pennsylvania).
2. "In the Shadow of Dracula and the Cold War: Hollywood Constructions of Romanian Identity," Dale Hudson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst).
3. "Narrative 'Transmigration': Lee Siegel's Indian Dracula," Christian Moraru (University of North Carolina, Greensboro).
4. "Vlad Tepes: Vicious Vampire or Vox Populi," David Dozer (De Vry University).
5. "Almost Outside All Law: Vampires, Gypsies and Other Representations," Lucia Cherciu (Dutchess College, NY).

#### **Representations of Eastern European Women in Western Culture - roundtable discussion**

Panel organized by RSAA

Presider: Valentina Glajar, Texas Tech University

1. "The Idea of the 'Feminine' in Representations of Eastern European Women: Between Cultural Relativism and Essentialism," Domnica Radulescu, (Washington and Lee University).
2. "Eastern European Women in Austrian Literature," Anca Holden, (University of Georgia, Athens).

3. "La Jeanne d'Arc des steppes: A Ukrainian Peasant Girl as Heroine of the Third Republic," Ksenya Kiebusinski, (Harvard University).
4. "A Night with La Draculeta: Designing/Desiring Romanian Diva Angela Gheorghiu," Piya Pal-Lapinski, (Bowling Green State University).
5. "Clawdia Chauchat: Hans Castorp's Significant Other," Debra Prager, (Harvard University).
6. "Mad Voices in the Forest: Strategies of Female Representation in Caryl Churchill's 'The Mad Forest'," Ileana Orlich, (Arizona State University).

### **Romanian-French Cultural Relations**

Panel organized by the Discussion Group of Romanian Studies

Presider: Peter G. Christensen (Cardinal Stritch University)

1. "Michelet and the Romanian Liberty," Roxana M. Verona (Dartmouth College).
2. "The Elusive Search for Nora Luca: Tony Gatlif's Adventures in Gypsy Land," Sylvie Blum-Reid (University of Florida, Gainesville).
3. "Between Scylla and Charybdis: Ionesco, Romanian Fascism and French Marxism," Jeanine Teodorescu-Regier (University of Illinois-Chicago).
4. "Vintila Horia beyond the Danube," Peter G. Christensen (Cardinal Stritch University).

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BOOKS OF INTEREST:**

Marcel Cornis-Pope, *NARRATIVE INNOVATION AND CULTURAL REWRITING IN THE COLD WAR ERA AND AFTER* (New York and London: Palgrave, 2001).

"Narrative Innovation and Cultural Rewriting" undertakes a systematic study of postmodernism's responses to the polarized ideologies of the postwar period that have held cultures hostage to a confrontation between rival ideologies abroad and a clash between champions of uniformity and disruptive others at home. Considering a broad range of narrative projects and approaches (from polysystemic fiction to surfiction, postmodern feminism, and multicultural/postcolonial fiction), this book highlights their solutions to ontological division (real vs. imaginary, worldly and other-worldly), sociocultural oppositions (of race, class, gender) and narratological dualities (imitation vs. invention, realism vs. formalism).

Contents: 1. Postmodernism's Polytopic Imagination: Unwriting/Rewriting the Cold War Narratives of Polarization. 2. When the "Mystery of Reason" Confronts the "Mystery of Desire": The Rearticulation of History in Polysystemic Fiction. 3. Narrative as an "Interventive" Mode: From Surfiction to Avant-Pop. 4. Revisionistic Narratives from the Interstices of the Cold War: Postmodern Feminist Fiction. 5. "Chain of Links" or "Disorderly Tangle of Lines"? Alternative Cartographies of Modernity in Thomas Pynchon's Fiction. 6. Interventive Writing in the "Post Human" Age: Experiential and Cultural Rearticulation in Ronald Sukenick's Fiction. 7. Narrative (Dis)Articulation in the "Shadowbox" of History: Raymond Federman's Exploratory Surfiction. 8. Translating a History of "Unspeakable" Otherness into a Discourse of Empowered "Choices": Toni Morrison's Novels of Radical Rememory.

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Emil Vrabie, *AN ENGLISH-AROMANIAN (MACEDO-ROMANIAN) DICTIONARY* Romance Monographs, University of Mississippi. 747 pp.

"The history and contemporary structure of the Aromanian language are important issues for the Romance,

Slavic, and Balkan linguist, as well as the historical linguist, the sociolinguist, and the etymologist. Vrabie's dictionary provides all of the above with a wealth of information and data for study; indeed, it is a significant study for those in many fields. Given the depth and breadth of the project - its introductory grammatical sketch and remarks on lexical relationships; its multilingual entries with a focus on Latin origins; and its completeness and attention to detail - scholars will find this dictionary to be extremely helpful in a number of ways." (from the Foreword by Donald L. Dyer).

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Mihaela Czobor-Lupp and J. Stefan Lupp, eds., MORAL, LEGAL, AND POLITICAL VALUES IN ROMANIAN CULTURE, Council for Research in Values and Philosophical Values, Washington D.C., 2002, 312 pp, ISBN 1-56518-170-0.

The book is structured in four parts: 'Individual or Person?'; 'Rights or Responsibilities?'; 'Traditional or Modern?'; and 'History or Utopia?' which emphasize the multi-layered character of Romanian culture.

## FELLOWSHIPS

The Academy for Educational Development administers the National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships designed to enable US graduate students to pursue specialization in the area and language study or to add an important international dimension to their education. Boren Fellowships support students pursuing the study of languages, cultures, and world regions that are critical to U.S. national security but are less frequently studied by U.S. graduate students, i.e. areas of the world other than Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in or applying to graduate programs in accredited colleges and universities located within the U.S. For more information see [www.aed.org/nsep](http://www.aed.org/nsep).

## INTERNET TOOLS:

<http://corc.oclc.org/WebZ/XPathfinderQuery?sessionid=0:term=3459:xid=LCP>

Although this URL may look long and hard to memorize, it is worth checking out and exploring it. This site, part of Portals to the World, contains links to electronic resources on Romanian language and literature, including learning aids and dictionaries, selected by Library of Congress subject experts.

The "Language and Dictionaries" section provides links to the following sites:

- The Romanian languages (<http://www.verbix.com/documents/romanian.htm>)
- Discusses the historical Romanian dialects - Dacoromanian (closely associated with standard Romanian), Aromanian, Meglenoromanian, and Istroromanian. Gives verb differences and the regions and pockets throughout Southeastern Europe where the dialects are still spoken. In English.
- Say Hello in the Romanian Language (<http://www.ipl.org/youth/hello/romanian.html>) Part of the 'Internet Public Library' website. Links to sites which discuss the Romanian alphabet and language, and to dictionaries and essential words. Includes audio files for pronunciation guidance. In English.
- Romanian-English Dictionary (<http://dictionar.info.uvt.ro/base/newindex.html>)
- English-Romanian-English Dictionaries (<http://www.dictionare.com/english/dictionary.htm>)
- English-Romanian Dictionary of Equivalent Proverbs (<http://info.utas.edu.au/docs/flonta/DP,1,1,95/dictionary.html>)

The section indexed as "Literature" contains the following links:

For full texts of works from or about Romania, including literary works, see

- Romania: Libraries, Archives: Electronic Libraries (<http://corc.oclc.org>)

/WebZ/XPathfinderQuery?sessionid=0:term=3460:xid=LCP)

- Romania literara (<http://www.romlit.ro/>) This online literary weekly from Bucharest includes a link to "Scriitori romani," which lists more than 1,500 Romanian authors, with their birth/death dates. It also links to "Reviste literare romanesti," which provides a directory and detailed information for approximately 50 Romanian literary periodicals world-wide.
- Romanian Poetry (<http://www.romanianvoice.com/poezii/index.html>) Over 1,000 Romanian poems in English, Romanian and other languages. Part of the Romanian Voice website.  
The Banat Library (<http://www.banat.ro/biblioteca/01englez.htm>) Click on "Authors" for a biobibliographic dictionary of more than 150 writers from the Banat region. In Romanian, English, German and Serbian.
- Langue et littérature roumaines (<http://www.bnf.fr/pages/liens/index.htm>) Maintained by the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Links to resources on the Romanian language and literature. In French.

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**Romanian Studies Association of America**  
N e w s l e t t e r

c/o Nicolae Harsanyi  
108 Pinegate Cir. #9  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514