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Newsletter

Volume 20, no. 2, December 2003

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The RSAA Newsletter is published twice a year.

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

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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 collecting the dues (\$10.00) for 2004: please send him your checks (payable to RSAA) as soon as possible.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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; 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). 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 invitations 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. 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

RSAA on the Web

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

Since the beginning of 1999, thanks to Professor Călin-Andrei 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.

2003 MLA Convention, San Diego, CA, 27-30 December 2002

The Politics of Fiction in Pre/Post Communist Europe

Panel organized by RSAA

Saturday, 27 December 5:15-6:30pm, Green room, San Diego Marriott

Presiding: Ileana Alexandra Orlich, Arizona State University

1. "Milan Kundera and the Aesthetics of Nostalgia: You Can't Go Home Again," Martha Kuhlman, Bryant College.
2. "Speech After the Long Silence: The Autobiographical Translations of Lucian Blaga," Sean Cotter, University of Michigan.
3. "The Poetics of Fear: Witnessing the Quotidian in the Romanian Fiction of the Communist Era," Ileana Alexandra Orlich, Arizona State University.
4. "In the Aftermath of the Revolution: Post Communist Strategies of Romanian Criticism," Letitia Guran, University of Georgia.

Loss and Gain: The 20th-Century East European Experience in Exile - a round table discussion

Organized by the Discussion Group of Romanian Studies

Sunday 28 December 3:30-4:45pm Del Mar, San Diego Marriott

Presiding: Noemi Marin, Florida Atlantic University, and Anca L. Holden, University of Georgia

Participants:

- Graham Benton, California Maritime Academy: "What's Old is New: Arthur Philip and the Post-Cold War Lost"
- Valentina Glajar, Texas Tech University: "Writing Czech Novels in German: Exile, History, and Subjectivity in Libuse Moníková's *Treibeis*"
- Anne Roth, UCLA: "Remembering Moscow Exile in East German Literature"

- Gabriella Kecskes, Temple University: "Detours of Identity: The Geographical Rendering of Identity Crisis in the life of a Young Immigrant in Gary Shteyngart's *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*"
- Monica Grecu, University of Nevada, Reno: "The Theology of Exile: The Art and Poetry of Stefan Munteanu"
- Haritina Gratiela Dobrescu, University of Toronto: "The Nostalgic Commute of a Cultural Migrant in Marthe Bibesco's *Isvor*"
- Anne Quiney, University of Mississippi: "The Poetics of Nostalgia and Rage: Emil Cioran's Philosophy in Exile"
- Maria-Sabina Draga-Alexandru, University of East Anglia: "Reading Exile: Irina Grogorescu Pana's *Australia* and Monica Pillat's *America*"
- Anca L. Holden, University of Georgia: "Loss and Gain: Cultural Exile in Carmen-Francesca Banciu's *Berlin ist mein Paris*"
- Jerry Tesar, San Diego State University: "Loss and Compensation: Reinterpreting Czech History and Culture in Several Czech-American Novels."

Eugène Ionesco--Between Cultures and Literatures: A Quest of Identity

Panel organized by RSAA

Presiding: Jeanine Teodorescu-Regier, University of Illinois at Chicago.

1. "Looking for a Little Bit of Paradise: The Voyage of Ionesco's *Everyman* from Romania to the Land of the Dead," Deborah Gaensbauer, Regis University.
2. "Language, Exile, and Identity in *l'Homme aux valises* and *Voyage chez les morts*." Ingrid Chafee, Morehouse College.
3. "Ionesco Despite Himself: Politics and the Absurd," Domnica Radulescu, Washington and Lee University.

Letter From RSAA President

Dear RSAA members,

I hope that you are all well, after a long and exhausting semester.

As most of us prepare to attend the MLA convention, I thought it would be a good idea to remind you of the RSAA sessions, dinner, and meeting in San Diego.

RSAA Dinner: the dinner is scheduled for the second day of the conference, Dec. 28, at 7:30 (if some people come later, there is no problem). The restaurant is called Di Medici and its cuisine is mostly northern-Italian. It is very close to the San Diego Marriott.

Annual Meeting of the RSAA Board and Members

The meeting will take place at the end of the session "Loss and Gain: The Twentieth Century East European Experience in Exile" (3:30-4:45pm), which takes place in the Del Mar room, at the San Diego Marriott Hotel. The meeting will start at 5:30pm either in the Del Mar room, or in an adjacent room, depending on availability. We hope that all those interested will have enough time to arrive at the San Diego Marriott by 5:30pm.

Please prepare written proposals for future RSAA sessions (it would be a good idea to have 10-15 copies for distribution). Each member is allowed to organize only one session every three years. Thus, we encourage a larger number of members to develop new RSAA programs.

The acceptance of proposals for the 2004 MLA will be determined and voted on only by those members present at the meeting in San Diego.

Proposed topics should be of interest not only to Romanian Studies scholars, but also to a larger audience which might include East and Central European Studies and/or Comparative Literature. We are seeking to attract a wider audience and a broader range of participants whose interests are not necessarily restricted to Romanian Studies.

Finally, I have a favor to ask of all our members: please prepare your suggestions and thoughts on the following issues:

1. Ways of publicizing our sessions at the MLA in order to attract a larger audience (fliers, e-mails, etc.)
2. Ways of advertising the RSAA and attracting participation of MLA members of wider interests in our panels
3. Ways of expanding our membership and of making our organization more visible at the MLA as well as in American and European Academia.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Jeanine Teodorescu

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Professor Liliana Zancu has opted to become an Honorary Life-Time Member through a donation of \$100.00. Many thanks for her generosity! For decades, Dr. Zancu has supported with much enthusiasm the activity of our Association.

Professor Raymonde Bulger's article Dumitru Tepeneag si postmodernitatea was published in Ramuri, no. 3-4, March-April 2003. Sonia Cuciureanu signed its Romanian translation. Professor Bulger originally presented this paper in French at the CIEF (Conseil International des Etudes Francophones, based at Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette) meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, last May 2002 in a session of Francophone literatures. At the same organization's 2003 meeting in New Orleans, Dr. Bulger presented a paper on Mircea Eliade: "Caractère autochtone, pan-asiatique du yoga, voie du salut." For 2004 in June, she is preparing another session on Tepeneag for the CIEF which will convene in Liège, Belgium.

On October 9, 2003, Professor Aleksandra Gruzinska organized the following special panel on E. M. Cioran at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA) 57th Convention in Missoula, Montana. The local host for the convention was the University of Montana.

E.M. Cioran: Philosophy and Themes, Genre and Style.

Chair: Aleksandra Gruzinska, Arizona State University

Alternate Chair: Raymonde A. Bulger, Professor Emerita Graceland University

Presenters:

Raymonde A. Bulger, Graceland University: "Le Poids du peyou l'aphorisme chez E.M. Cioran."

Aleksandra Gruzinska, Arizona State University: "E.M. Cioran and Samuel Beckett: A Literary Portrait."

In 2004, the 58th RMMLA meeting will be held in Boulder, Colorado, from September 28 through Oct. 2,

2004. The Special Session on "E.M. Cioran: Philosophy and Themes, Genre and Style" will be offered again. Proposals are welcome and should be sent to Aleksandra Gruzinska, Ph.D. Arizona State University, Department of Languages and Literatures, P.O.Box 870202, Tempe, AZ 85287-0202; e-mail: gruzinska@asu.edu Deadline for submission is March 1st, 2004. Speakers have to be members by April 1st.

?In the last six months of this year, the RSAA was joined by one new member:
Letitia Guran (University of Georgia) - Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indiana University Libraries' New Romanian Materials

The Indiana University Libraries and Romanian Studies Program are pleased to announce a major acquisition in Romanian studies. During academic year 2002-2003, Indiana University received a large and most valuable donation of books, documents, tapes, and records from Dr. Mary Leuca of Crown Point, Indiana, in memory of her late husband, Walter Leuca. All those interested in the regional history of the Romanian Diaspora, Romanian history, language and culture, and recordings of Romanian folklore will find a wealth of information in the collection, which includes the following:

Oral history cassette recordings and transcripts: Romanian-Americans in Lake County, Indiana (1976-77), 115 interviews. Time period covered: 1920s-1970s. Topics: immigration to the United States, marriage, family, ethnic traditions, employment, education, and religion. These are housed at the IU Center for the Study of History and Memory archive: www.Indiana.edu/~ohrc/

Folk music recordings on 64 vinyl records and cassettes. These are housed at the IU Archives of Traditional Music: www.Indiana.edu/~libarchm/

Over 300 books and journals covering literature, history, and culture. The collection includes many Romanian émigré church annuals (Calendar National al Ziarului America 1927-1980s, Arhiepiscopia Ortodoxa Româna, Calendarul Credinta 1950s-1980s); rare Romanian works published in the 1920s and 30s, such as 18 unique issues of Pagini alese din scriitori români, and Cântece populare românești de pe Frontul de luptă; and many other unusual American-Romanian publications of the first half of the 20th century.

Some original materials in poor condition will be reproduced in the IU preservation department. All books and journals will be catalogued and integrated into the IU Main Library research collection with a bookplate indicating that they were "donated by Dr. Mary Leuca in memory of her late husband Walter Leuca."

Happy Holidays!

La Multi Ani!

Romanian Studies Association of America

Newsletter

c/o Nicolae Harsanyi

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