

BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCES, 1987-1991

16-17. December, 1987, at Collingwood College, Durham:

Workshop Conference: "LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY"

Programme

16.12. 2 to 3.30 pm: Arrival and Registration

Papers by: Jay Bernstein (Essex), Jacques Berthoud (York), Bernard Harrison (Sussex), Richard Roberts (Durham), Howard Robinson (Liverpool)
Papers will be about 40 minutes and will lead to extensive discussion based on specific texts.

17.12. around 4 pm: End of Conference

Price: BCLA Members: £25 all inclusive (non-residential: £6)
Others: £30 all inclusive (non-residential: £11)
Graduate Students: £21 (non-residential: £2)
non-returnable deposit on enrolment: £5 (graduate students: £2)

Please fill in the enclosed enrolment form and return it to the Secretary. The workshop format limits numbers to about 40-45 participants. The detailed programme will be sent out early in the summer term, 1987.

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15-16.12. 1988, in Amsterdam

Joint Workshop Conference with the Dutch General Literature Association:

"LITERATURE AND ADAPTATION"

The Workshop will discuss questions of both intra-literary and inter-semiotic adaptation, giving preference, within literature, to the study of adaptation across linguistic boundaries.

Please address offers of papers to the Secretary.

Price: The stay in Amsterdam will cost around £30-35. The BCLA aim to go with a party of ca. 20. The possibilities of obtaining a subsidy for this conference are being explored.

Details of programme and price will become available early in 1988. An expression of intent to participate can be sent to the Secretary even before then.

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December 1989 at the University of Warwick

Large conference:

"LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SELF"

This conference will be run in several sections, one of which will discuss "Theories of Mimesis"; others will be concerned with questions of technique and of social context, depending to a large extent on what papers are being proposed. A firm scheme of sections will be put forward in the course of 1988, together with details of price and organisation.

Comments, suggestions, and proposals for papers please to the Secretary.

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December 1990 (venue to be determined) Workshop Conference: "THE PICARESQUE"

December 1991 (venue to be determined) Workshop Conference: "METAMORPHOSES"

The Secretary, BCLA, Dr. H.M.Klein, School of Modern Languages and European History, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ

To the Secretary, BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION (BCLA),
Dr. H.M.Klein, School of Modern Languages and European History
University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ

CONFERENCE ENROLMENT FORM
(Durham, December 1987)

Name.....

Institution (if applicable).....

Correspondence Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I intend to participate in the BCLA Workshop Conference on "LITERATURE AND
PHILOSOPHY" at Collingwood College, Durham, 16-17.12.1987.

I shall want/not want accommodation and full board at the College.

I am enclosing a cheque for £* , made out to "BCLA Durham Workshop 87".

Date.....Signature.....

*Please Note: on enrolment, AT LEAST £5 must be paid (Graduate Students:
£2) as a non-returnable deposit; the difference to the full price
applicable will be paid on registration (2-3.30 on Wednesday, 16th
December, at Collingwood College).

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(The conference price is: BCLA Members: £25 (residential), £6 (non-
residential); Non-Members: £30 (residential), £11 (non-residential);
Graduate Students: £21 (residential), £2 (non-residential).

BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The British Comparative Literature Association was founded in 1975 to promote literary studies without confinement to national or linguistic boundaries, and in relation to other disciplines. Its first President was Frank Kermode, succeeded by Siegbert Praver, then by Arthur Terry. The BCLA is affiliated to the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), and membership of the BCLA includes membership of the ICLA.

Over the past twelve years the Association has fostered the exchange of critical ideas and concepts, and helped to enhance an awareness of common ground; it has encouraged the publication of research and provided a forum for personal as well as institutional academic contacts, within Britain as well as with Associations and individuals in other countries.

The BCLA has members in Departments of English and Modern Languages, Linguistics, Classics, Medieval, African and Oriental Studies, Schools of Humanities and of Cultural Studies as well as in Departments of other Arts subjects, in a great variety of institutions. It also bridges the so-called binary divide by appealing to the fundamental interest in the subject of literature and its context, whether colleagues work in larger frameworks or, as is often the case, alone or in small groups.

Conference Activities

The following large, international conferences were held: "Problems and Methodology of Comparative Literature" (East Anglia, 1975); "The Novel" (Warwick, 1977); "The Languages of the Arts" (Kent, 1980), and "Comedy" (Manchester, 1986).

There have also been small workshop conferences: "Poetics and the Study of Literature" (York, 1976); "Translation" (The Burn, Brechin, 1978); "Psychoanalysis and Literature" (Reading, 1979); "Parable and Narrative Form in the Bible and in Literature" (Cambridge, 1982); "Ideas of Poetic Tradition" (Sheffield, 1982); "Metaphor" (York, 1984; jointly with the Dutch General Literature Association); "Shakespeare Translation" (Warwick, 1985). Furthermore, various regional conferences were mounted, and in 1985 the Association hosted the ICLA Sussex Colloquium on "Literature and Values".

The following conferences are scheduled for the coming years:
December 1987 : "Literature and Philosophy" (Durham; workshop)
December 1988 : "Literature and Adaptation" (Amsterdam; joint Anglo-Dutch workshop)
December 1989 : "Literary Representations of the Self" (large conference)
December 1990 : "The Picaresque" (workshop)
December 1991 : "Metamorphoses" (workshop)

Publication Activities

From 1975 until 1982 Susan Bassnett published Comparison. This has now been revived, under the editorship of Theo Hermans, Susan Bassnett and Holger Klein, as New Comparison, a twice-yearly journal which began to appear in 1986 and has been adopted as the official publication of the BCLA, subscription to which is included in the membership dues (£10). Since 1979, Elinor Shaffer has edited Comparative Criticism, a yearbook published for the BCLA by Cambridge UP and available to members at a greatly reduced price. Currently the possibilities of publishing an occasional series of comparative theses and monographs, of Festschriften and bibliographies, are being explored.

The BCLA's activities are organized, under the aegis of its President, by an Executive Committee, all officers being elected at the Association's General Meetings held on the occasion of the large conferences. At Manchester (December 1986), the following were elected:

BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

President: Professor Arthur Terry (Essex)

Treasurer: Dr. Susan Bassnett (Warwick)

Secretary: Dr. Holger Klein (East Anglia)

Members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. Stephen Bann (Kent)

Mrs. Penelope Brown (Manchester)

Dr. Leon Burnett (Essex)

Mrs. Eva Fox-Gal (York)

Dr. Theo Hermans (London)

Dr. Margarita Stocker (Liverpool)

ex officio Members:

Professor David Bellos (past Secretary)

Dr. Elinor Shaffer (editor, Comparative Criticism)

General correspondence and offers of papers for conferences should be addressed to the Secretary: Dr. Holger Klein, School of Modern Languages and European History, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

Applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Dr. Susan Bassnett, Graduate School of Comparative Literature, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

Literary Studies have increasingly come under pressure in recent years, as successive governments have curtailed funding for higher education in general and have moreover sought to shift the balance in favour of applied science and directly vocational training. While one would not deny that such a shift may be beneficial to the economy, there is a real danger that advanced cultural studies, the benefits of which are indirect but nonetheless indispensable for the flourishing of any society, are being truncated.

The BCLA Committee believe that, faced with such a situation, we should respond with an energetic vindication of the value to society of literature and the other liberal arts: by cooperating more closely and by trying to place our work more in the public eye, and in general not by diminished, but heightened activity. A professional association like the BCLA, spanning many disciplines, can make a significant contribution towards these objectives, and its impact will be the greater, the higher its numbers are. The BCLA is, therefore, actively endeavouring to enlarge its membership and extends a cordial invitation to colleagues to join it.

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(please cut off and return this slip to The Treasurer, BCLA, Dr. Susan Bassnett, Graduate School of Comparative Literature, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL)

Name and Title
(Professor/Dr./Mrs/Miss/Mr.).....

Institution.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I wish to join the British Comparative Literature Association and enclose a cheque for £10 for 1987/88, which includes subscription to New Comparison and membership of the International Comparative Literature Association.
(Membership of the BCLA is eligible for income tax relief)

Date.....Signature.....