Professional Notes and Comment

Although the items printed in this section are meant to serve the professional interests of the membership, the editor does not solicit the items and cannot vouch for their reliability. Members should exercise reasonable judgment in responding to them. Contributors may send items to Professional Notes and Comment, *PMLA*, Modern Language Association, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004–1789 (fax: 646 458–0030; pnc@mla.org).

MICHAEL ONDAATJE. Papers are solicited for inclusion in a collected volume on Michael Ondaatje's work, to be published by Guernica Editions in its series Canadian Writers. Send papers—of 6,000 words and in MLA format, with parenthetical citations and a works-cited list but with no footnotes or endnotes—by e-mail to Steven Totosy at totosy@lib.purdue.edu. The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2002.

EUGENIO D'ORS. Original essays are invited for a collection tentatively entitled *Oceanografía de Xenius: Ensayos críticos en torno a Eugenio D'Ors*. This book proposes to reassess the intellectual and literary undertaking of the Catalonian author, one of the most intriguing, prestigious, and charismatic writer-thinkers of twentieth-century Spain. The editors are interested in essays that investigate the following areas of D'Ors's work and life: creative writing; journalism; theoretical, philosophical, or aesthetic conceptions; political ideology. Submissions may be in Spanish, English, or Catalan. Send a 2-page proposal or the completed print of the text (20–30 pp. in length) along with a brief vita by 1 March 2002 to Carlos X. Ardavín, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures, Trinity Univ., 715 Stadium Dr., 46, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200 (210 999-7537; fax: 210 999-8370; cardavin@trinity.edu), or to Eloy E. Merino, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Northern Illinois Univ., De Kalb 60115-2854 (815 753-6447; fax: 815 753-5989; emerino@niu.edu).

AUDRE LORDE. Submissions are invited for a collection of essays on the poetry and prose of Audre Lorde, in an effort to begin to fill the gaps in criticism on this author and activist. Welcome are essays on any aspect of Lorde's work, from poetry to essays to the biomythography *Zami*. While postmodern theoretical approaches are not discouraged, clear writing accessible to an educated lay reader is the first priority. Lorde was a teacher but not an academic, and jargon-laden prose is not an approach that interests this editor. The editor will consider creative nonfiction in addition to scholarly essays and encourages graduate students to submit proposals. Send 1–2-page proposals by 1 May 2002 to Catherine Wiley, Univ. of Colorado, Campus Box 175, PO Box 173364, Denver 80217 (cwiley@carbon.cudenver.edu).

COLLABORATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY AND WRITING IN LATIN AMERICA. Submissions are invited for a proposed volume, *Double Exposure: Photography and Writing in Latin America*, coedited by Marcy Schwartz and Mary Beth Tierney-Tello, on collaborative photography and writing projects in Latin America. Possible topics include

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Robertson Davies

A Mingling of Contrarities

Edited by Camille La Bossière and Linda Morra
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This collective assessment of the achievements of Robertson Davies addresses the basic problems in reading his artfulness as a moralist committed to the practice of doubling, disguise, irony and paradox, of dwelling in "gaps" or spaces "in between."

Margaret Laurence

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Edited by David Staines
179 pp • Paper 0776604465 $19.95
University of Ottawa Press

This book highlights the accomplishments of one of Canada's most acclaimed and beloved fiction writers, Margaret Laurence. The essays in this collection bring together twelve distinguised scholars, critics, and writers to explore the various dimensions of her career and corpus, as well as her influence on young Canadian writers today.

Professing English

A Life of Roy Daniells

Sandra Djwa
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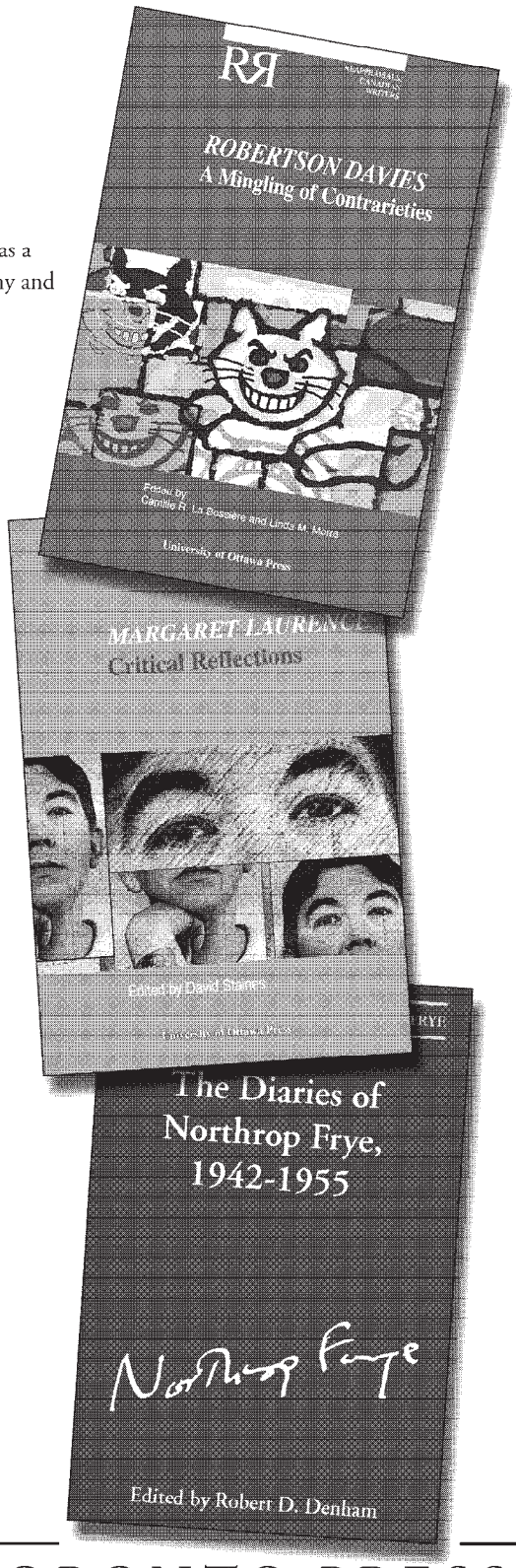
Roy Daniells (1902–1979), an English professor and an outstanding scholar, teacher and poet, was a key figure in the consolidation of English as a discipline and the development of Canadian literature as a recognised body of writing and a legitimate focus of scholarship

The Diaries of Northrop Frye, 1942-1955

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testimonio, documentary, mourning and memory in text and image, nature and writing, creative writing about photography, Weston and Modotti in Mexico, visual ethnography, writers and art criticism, indigenism and *neoindigenismo* in visual and verbal media, surrealism in photography and writing, and photography and revolution. The editors are particularly interested in the dynamic interactions and aesthetic tensions between text and image as they arise in the context of collaborative works (books, catalogs, exhibits, demonstrations, graphic art). Other possible avenues of investigation include the politics of presentation and dissemination as well as the reception of these collaborative products. Send 2-page abstracts or completed manuscripts (20 pp. in length) along with a brief vita by 15 April 2002 to Marcy Schwartz, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers Univ., 105 George St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901–1414 (meschwar@rci.rutgers.edu) and Mary Beth Tierney-Tello, Wheaton Coll., Norton, MA 02766 (mttello@wheatonma.edu).

CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE. For a new book series focusing on Canadian Jewish writing—creative, critical, literary, or historical—the series editor is interested in seeing manuscripts or query letters from specialists and creative writers. They can be sent to the editor, Norman Ravvin, Dept. of Religion, FA 101, Concordia Univ., 1455 Boulevard de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, PQ H3G 1M8, Canada (ravvinbutler@sprint.ca). The first book to be published in the series will be an anthology, *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories*.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERARY INFLUENCES. The editors of *Biographical Dictionary of Literary Influences: The Twentieth Century* seek scholars to assist in tracing reading practices and literary influences in the lives of 450 of the most important men and women who influenced Western culture during the twentieth century. Articles are assigned at either 600 or 850 words in length. For a full description of the project, including writing guidelines, a list of entries, and a sample article, go to the project Web site at http://www.geocities.com/dwblakeley/ or write or call John Powell, 95 Bryant St., Williamsburg, KY 40769 (606 539–9284; drjpowell@aol.com).

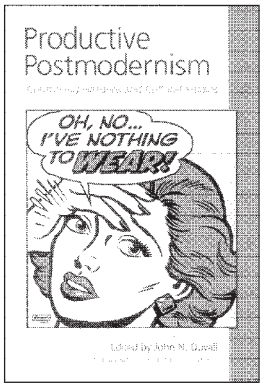
ASIAN AMERICAN SHORT STORY WRITERS. Qualified contributors are sought to write for *Asian American Short Story Writers: A Bio-bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*, an original reference book to be published by Greenwood Press. Each contribution will include a biography, a discussion of major works and themes, a review of the critical response to the short story writer's works, and bibliographies of primary and secondary sources. For details, write or call Guiyou Huang, Dept. of English, Kutztown Univ. of Pennsylvania, Kutztown 19530 (610 683–4356; huang@kutztown.edu or hguiyou@hotmail.com).

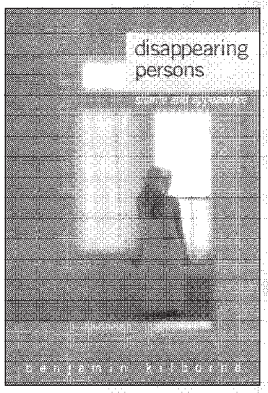
EARLY MODERN LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC CULTURES. Ashgate's new series Literary and Scientific Cultures of Early Modernity provides a forum for groundbreaking work on the relations between literary and scientific discourses in Europe during a period when both fields were in a crucial moment of historical formation. Welcome are proposals that address the many overlaps between modes of imaginative writing typical of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—poetics, rhetoric, prose narrative, dramatic production, utopia—and the vocabularies, conceptual models, and intellectual methods of newly emergent "scientific" fields such as medicine, astronomy, astrology, alchemy, psychology, mapping, mathematics, or natural history. To reflect the nature of intellectual inquiry during the period, the series is interdisciplinary and will publish monographs, edited collections, and selected critical editions of primary texts relevant to an understanding of the mutual implication of literary and scientific epistemologies. Proposals should take the form of either a preliminary letter of inquiry, briefly describing the project, or a formal prospectus including abstract, table of contents, sample chapter, estimate of length, estimate of the number and type of illustrations to be included, and a c.v. Send a copy of either type of proposal to each of the two series editors and to the publisher: Mary Thomas Crane, Dept. of English, Boston Coll., 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467; Henry S. Turner, Dept. of English, Univ. of Wisconsin, 600 North Park St., Madison 53706; and Erika Gaffney, Editor, Ashgate Publishing Co., 131 Main St., Burlington, VT 05401–5600 (egaffney@ashgate.com).

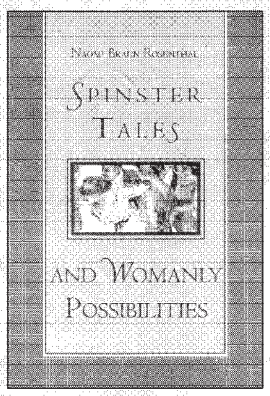
THEATER RESEARCH PRIZE. The American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) offers the Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize, an annual prize of $500 for the best essay in English on any subject in theater research. The author must be untenured and within seven years of the doctorate—or be a student working toward the doctorate—at the time the essay is published. The Kahan prize is presented at the ASTR annual meeting. To be eligible, an essay must have been published in a refereed journal or anthology dated 2001. Previous winners are ineligible. Essays may be nominated by members of ASTR, by editors (one essay per issue), by the authors themselves (one entry only), or by other persons on the authors' behalf. For editorial submissions, the committee will verify the author's eligibility, requiring only that editors include the author's current address in the submission. For other submissions, include a brief statement of the author's credentials in conformance with the award's eligibility requirements, as well as the author's current address. Those wishing to nominate essays should send four photocopies of each entry (do not send copies of the journal), together with information on the essay's publication and the author's eligibility, by 15 March 2002 to Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei, Dept. of Theater, 102 E. Melnitz Hall, Univ. of California, Box 951622, Los Angeles 90095–1622.

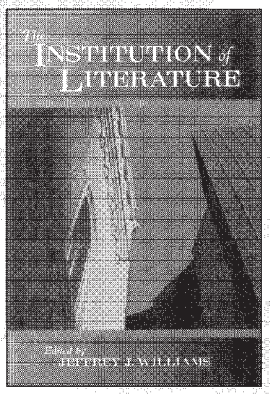
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Journal Notes

Articles are solicited for a special issue of *A/B: Auto/Biography Studies* on writing about adoption, kinship, and family. Essays may treat autobiographies, journals, letters, and other forms of autobiographical or biographical literature about the subject and may address such questions as, How do adoption and kinship mediate questions of identity, ethnicity, and religious affiliation? How are the politics of adoption, kinship, and family expressed in life writing? How do we address the recent surge in adoption autobiographies? What relation do these texts have with the adoption-rights movement, with the growing acceptance of nontraditional families, with the development of new reproductive technologies? How might adoption and kinship autobiography inform an understanding of gay parenting, single parenting, and extended-family parenting? What can we learn about globalization from personal stories of intercultural and intercountry adoption? What tropes and images characterize narratives of adoption and kinship? How can we use this writing in our classes and our lives? Send completed essays by 15 June 2002 or queries to Emily Hipchen and Jill R. Deans, *A/B: Auto/Biography Studies*, Dept. of Languages and Literatures, Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater 53190–1790 (262 472-5037; hipchene@uww.edu).

Changing English: Studies in Reading and Culture, a fully refereed journal for English teachers at every level, solicits articles and reviews from writers concerned with English teaching anywhere in the world. The editor, Jane Miller, and associate editor, Susan Alice Fischer, welcome contributions by teachers and writers from all areas of the curriculum, where these have a bearing on developments in aspects of language, literacy, and literature teaching. Submissions and editorial correspondence should be addressed to Susan Alice Fischer, *Changing English*, PO Box 1287, Cathedral Sta., New York, NY 10025–1287 (safcpw@earthlink.net). For further details on the journal, including contents pages, visit http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/1358684X.html.

CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture: A WWWeb Journal is now published by Purdue University Press at http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu. *CLCWeb*, a peer-reviewed quarterly, is the only free-access online journal in comparative literature and culture. It includes a library with bibliographies, selected research material and syllabi, an international directory of scholars in the field, and a moderated e-mail discussion list. Starting in 2002, Purdue also publishes selected material from the year's work of the journal as an annual in traditional hard copy. The founding editor, Steven Totosy, remains the journal's editor. Colleagues are invited to send new work for publication to the editor at totosy@lib.purdue.edu.

The Coordination Internationale de Chercheurs sur les Littératures du Maghreb is transforming *Expressions maghrébines*, its annual bulletin, into a refereed journal that publishes scholarly articles on literature and other arts of the Maghreb and the Maghrebi diaspora. The first issue, to be published in 2002, is on the theme "What is a Maghrebi author?" Each issue will include a section, "Varia," open to articles on any subject. Requests for further information and completed articles should be submitted by e-mail to the editor, Alec G. Hargreaves, Director, Winthrop-King Inst. for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee 32306–1540 (ahargrea@mailer.fsu.edu).

Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly seeks submissions of short fiction, general-audience critical essays, and novelist feature stories or interviews. Submission guidelines are at http://www.tncc.vccs.edu/faculty/longt/HGMFQ. Writers of any sexuality or gender are welcome to submit. Translations of other international literatures are sought for the journal's anglophone readership. Future planned theme issues include one featuring detective and murder mysteries and one featuring science fiction and fantasy writing. Send submissions or queries to Thomas L. Long, Editor, *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*, English Dept., Thomas Nelson Community Coll., PO Box 9407, Hampton, VA 23670 (longt@tncc.vccs.edu).

Papers are invited for a special issue of the *Journal of Literary Studies* (Univ. of South Africa) that broadly addresses African literatures and cultures in relation to modernity and its alternatives. The postmodern critiques of modernity and the blossoming of postmodern forms in literature and culture have led to a revisiting of modernity. Paul Gilroy's paradigm-constituting *The Black Atlantic*, Stuart Hall et al.'s *Modernity*, and Ntongela Masilela's recent *Black Modernity* grapple with ways in which modernity has been a source of both exploitation and hope for Africans on the continent and in the diaspora. The special issue seeks to explore this dialectic in (southern) African culture. Papers (suggested length: 3,000–5,000 words) could address any of the following broad areas: African modernities that are alternatives to European modernity and postmodernism; southern African literature and culture since the Mandela republic; South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and transatlantic: encounters and influences of modernity; liberation, nationalism, and internationalism; rereadings of history, historiography, genre, and aesthetics in postcolonial Africa; the African renaissance, *ubuntu*, and African humanism; multiple jeopardy and post/modern identities. Submit inquiries, papers, or outlines of approximately 500 words, along with short biographical sketches, by 15 February 2002 to Thomas Olver (olver@es.unizh.ch) and Stephan Meyer (sdmeyer@bluemail.ch).

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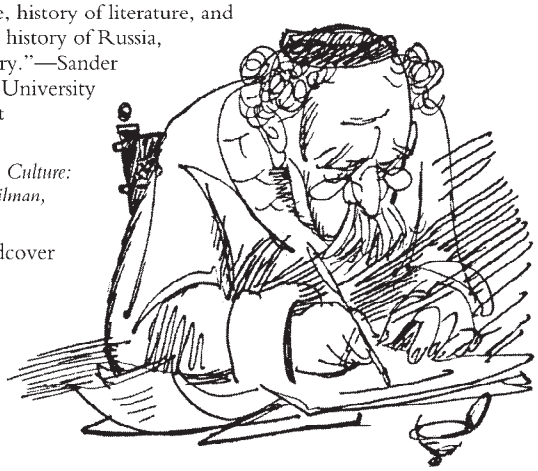
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➤ Contributions are sought for volume 29 (2002) of *Medievalia et Humanistica: Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Culture*. The editorial board welcomes scholarly, critical, or interdisciplinary articles of significant interest on relevant material and urges contributors to communicate clearly and concisely the larger implications, in addition to the material of their research, and to hold documentation to a minimum. Articles, in English, may be submitted to Managing Editor, *Medievalia et Humanistica*, PO Box 3922, Bryant, TX 77805. Inquiries concerning subscriptions should be addressed to the publisher, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706.

➤ Categories of the double are numerous and multiform. They figure in myths, religion, literature, and psychology and are used to reveal or sublime personality traits. Freud defines the double as the narcissistic expression of a split psyche or persona, or its projection. Filmmakers, however, explore any aspect of the double to convey a message, which is not necessarily psychopathological. Given the freedom that the camera, film editing, and modern technology offer, the double in movies is limited only by the filmmakers' imagination. *Post Script: Essays in Film and the Humanities* is calling for contributors to a special issue, *The Double in Movies*. Possible topics include the similarity in appearance of two actors who play a single role or who represent opposite aspects of a persona, a split or dual personality played by one actor who resorts to makeup to change appearances, repetition of scenes, superposition of images from other movies, reflections in mirrors, flashbacks, re-creation of characters' past lives or of events. Papers on applicable United States or international films will be considered. Also encouraged are substantive interviews with filmmakers, a substantive bibliography of films dealing with doubles, and book reviews up to 1,000 words in length. Submissions should be original articles that have not appeared in books or journals, no longer than 24 double-spaced pages plus documentation (preferrably in MLA style, with internal citations and a works-cited list) and written in English. Send three hard copies of manuscripts, with author identification on separate sheets and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of manuscripts, by 1 March 2002 to the guest editor, Françoise Ghillebaert, Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages, Baylor Univ., PO Box 97392, Waco, TX 76798 (ghillebaert@yahoo.com), or to the general editor, Gerald Duchovnay, Dept. of Literature and Languages, Texas A&M Univ., Commerce 75429 (gerald_duchovnay@tamu-commerce.edu).

➤ *South Asian Review*, the annual refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for its 2002 special number, devoted to R. K. Narayan. There is a wide range of critical issues in the revaluation of Narayan—colonial, postcolonial, historical, sociological, psychological, philosophical, and religious. Can Narayan the novelist be read in the context of contemporary Western critical theory? Graham Greene compared Narayan to Chekhov, but does that comparison adequately explain Narayan's art and vision? What is the nature of "Indianness" in Narayan's work? How is this "Indianness" different in scope and nature from that in, say, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao? Is the creator of the Malgudi novels concerned with history and social reality? Is Malgudi merely a localized and provincial representation, or is it a universal mythic structure? In maintaining that the novel is the least satisfactory of all literary forms for dealing with "social ills," does Narayan share the modernist position? Which of the two representations of India, preindependence and postindependence, comes out forcefully, convincingly, and realistically in Narayan's novels? To what extent is Narayan's *Gods, Demons, and Others* (1964) a key to reading his novels, especially in determining the nature of mythic structure and in creating his characters as universal types? Does Narayan reject Western ideas of progress and of civil society, rationalism, scientific and technological advancement, social and political reform, humanism, education, and so on? Does Narayan mythicize history and reality? Critical articles (15–25 pages in length and prepared according to MLA style) may deal with any major issue in Narayan scholarship. The deadline for the receipt of articles (three hard copies, one copy on an IBM-compatible diskette, and an abstract of 8–10 lines) is 31 March 2002. All correspondence pertaining to the Narayan issue should be directed to K. D. Verma, Editor, *South Asian Review*, Dept. of English, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, PA 15904 (814 269-7143; kverma@pitt.edu).

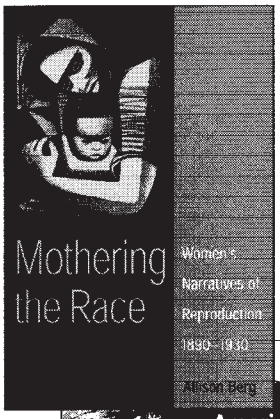
Meeting of the MLA Executive Council

[Note: The Executive Council voted to approve these minutes at its October 2001 meeting.]

The council met on 18–19 May 2001 at the MLA office in New York. President Sylvia Molloy presided. Present were First Vice President Stephen Greenblatt; Second Vice President Mary Louise Pratt; Executive Council members David Bartholomae, Rey Chow, Kirsten M. Christensen (18 May only), Roland Greene, Françoise Lionnet, Cary Nelson, Tey Diana Rebolledo, Sidonie Smith, Katie Trumpener, Virginia Wright Wexman, and Anthony C. Yu; Executive Director Phyllis Franklin; Director of Bibliographic Information Services and Editor of the *MLA International Bibliography* Barbara Chen; Director of Book Publications Martha Noel Evans; Managing Editor of MLA Publications Judy Goulding; Director of Financial Operations Amilde Hadden; Director of Convention Programs Maribeth T. Kraus (18 May only);

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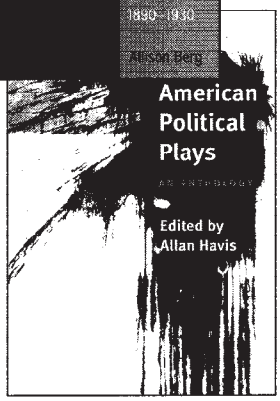
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Director of English Programs David Laurence; Associate Executive Director and Head of the Division of MLA Operations Regina Vorbeck; Director of Foreign Language Programs Elizabeth B. Welles (18 May only); and Assistant to the Executive Director and Coordinator of Governance Carol Zuses.

The council convened in regular session through the morning and most of the afternoon on 18 May. The council first took up the items carried forward from its February meeting and then turned to its new business. At the end of the afternoon, the council met in executive session to review staff salaries and the progress of the search for a new executive director. On the morning of 19 May, the council convened again in regular session to consider and take action on the remaining items on its agenda. The council adjourned at 11:35 a.m., having concluded all the business before it.

The council took the following actions:

1. *Administration and Finance.* The Finance Committee presented a midyear report on finances with a summary of association income and expenses in the fiscal year 2000–01 after seven months. The committee also presented to the council a tentative budget for the fiscal year 2001–02 that projected a deficit of $279,730 in the association's unrestricted fund. Phyllis Franklin explained that the tentative budget was conservative and reflected a number of difficult decisions.

On the expense side, the budget included funds for the conference on cooperation between English and foreign language programs that the council approved in February and for a new PhD placement survey. Funds for food events at the convention had been limited, and the curriculum survey that the council had discussed in February was not funded. In addition, funding for committee meetings was limited. A number of committees that normally meet more than once a year were budgeted for only one meeting in the fiscal year 2001–02. The *PMLA* Editorial Board and the Executive Council, which normally meet three times a year, were budgeted for only two meetings. Franklin also pointed out that funding for the ad hoc committee on diversity and tolerance recommended by the 2000 Delegate Assembly had not been included in the tentative budget but that the council could decide to fund the committee. She further noted that in October, when the outcome of the current fiscal year would be known, the council would have the option of restoring funding for committee meetings. Finally, three unfilled staff positions were cut. One of the unfilled positions was for a person who would oversee the development of the MLA's Web site. Franklin explained that, since this position had never been filled, other full-time staff members had done much of the work on the Web site, with assistance from outside consultants. The current arrangement would continue, but the staff would not be able to initiate new Web activities in 2001–02. Therefore, the implementation of two motions approved by the 1999 Delegate Assembly—one calling for the establishment of a "public and institutional policy alerts" section at the Web site and the other calling for the creation of a year-round discussion forum for MLA members—would have to be postponed. The Finance Committee had considered patterns of use at the Web site and concluded that these projects could be delayed without inconvenience to members.

On the revenue side, the committee projected an increase in bibliography revenue because of the new distribution contract with the Gale Group (see May 2001 *PMLA* 748) and royalty increases on other contracts. A slight increase in membership dues was projected because of the three new dues categories covering incomes over $80,000. The tentative budget also incorporated two fee increases in addition to those approved in February (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1480): the subscription fee for the print *Job Information List* was increased by $10, and the daily fee for child care at the convention was increased by $5. The Finance Committee also reported on two staff initiatives to enhance association revenue: the preparation of a new edition of the *MLA Handbook* and the exploration of options for the electronic distribution of *PMLA* and other association publications.

Council members discussed the Finance Committee's report at length and agreed to include funding for an ad hoc committee on diversity and tolerance (see item 6, below). The council also decided to plan for three council meetings in 2001–02 but to review this decision in October in the light of the outcome of the current fiscal year. It then voted to approve the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2001–02.

The council took two actions relating to headquarters administration. (1) It authorized Phyllis Franklin, as executive director, to negotiate and sign contracts on behalf of the MLA in the fiscal year 2001–02. (2) It authorized Regina Vorbeck to sign contracts in the absence of the executive director in the fiscal year 2001–02.

Finally, the council designated Deloitte and Touche to conduct the audit of the association's fiscal year 2000–01 accounts.

2. *Acknowledgment of Service.* On the occasion of her retirement, the council acknowledged Martha Evans's years of service to the association as director of the book publication program, which she greatly enhanced during her tenure.

3. *Approval of the February 2001 Council Minutes.* The council reviewed a draft of the minutes of its February 2001 meeting. Council members agreed on two changes and then voted to approve the minutes for publication in the October 2001 issue of *PMLA*.

The council's discussion of the draft minutes prompted two other actions. First, the council decided that council members' names should not appear in the minutes except in special circumstances (in a report, for example, of an election, an appointment, a recusal).

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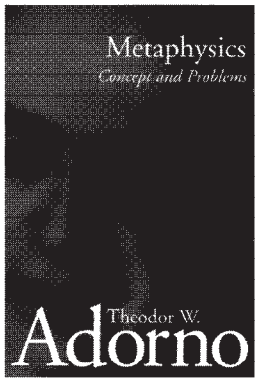
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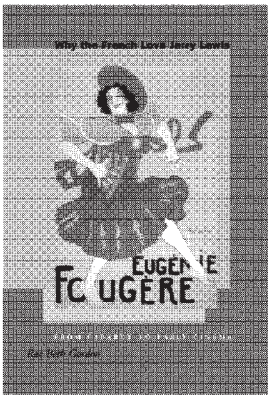
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Second, to add to information received at the February meeting, the council asked the staff to publish an article in the *MLA Newsletter* asking part-timers and others to send information about how they had used data from the MLA's staffing survey to gain salary increases or improve working conditions.

4. *Withdrawal of Constitutional Amendment.* At its February meeting, the council had instructed the executive director to ask the association's attorney whether legal issues were raised by the constitutional amendment calling for representation by people of color on the Executive Council that the 2000 Delegate Assembly had approved (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1492). The council asked her to withhold the amendment from the ratification ballot if the amendment could lead to legal challenges.

Phyllis Franklin reported to the council on her consultation with the association's attorney. Because recent court cases held that the kind of preference the amendment called for was exclusionary, organizations establishing such preferences would be vulnerable to lawsuits brought by groups not singled out for inclusion. She had therefore withheld the amendment from the ballot. She further reported that she had told the members of the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, which had initiated the motion that led the council to develop the amendment (see Oct. 2000 *PMLA* 1316), about the situation and that committee members asked what strategies the council would develop for including more people of color in MLA activities.

The council agreed to publish the following notice about the withdrawal of the amendment in the Fall 2001 issue of the *MLA Newsletter*.

> In December 2000, the Delegate Assembly approved a proposed amendment to the MLA constitution that the Executive Council initiated. The amendment established the formal representation of people of color on the Executive Council. In March 2001 the council learned that recent court decisions have held that preferences of the kind expressed in the proposed amendment are discriminatory. Therefore, implementing the amendment would have made the MLA vulnerable to lawsuits. For this reason, after consulting with the MLA Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, in which the amendment had originated, the amendment was deleted from the ballot that was mailed to members in April 2001.
>
> Council members wish to affirm their support for the principle of inclusive participation in association governance and activities. They agree with a statement William Bowen and Derek Bok make in *The Shape of the River* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000) on the need for full participation:
>
> > The problem of "the color line" is so central to American life for reasons that are rooted in the disjunction between the values embedded in the Constitution and the realities of three centuries of collective experience. These reasons reflect a sense on the part of many that, despite all the progress made in the past fifty years, we have not yet succeeded in transcending a racial divide that too often discourages the development of ordinary relationships among individuals based on trust and mutual respect. They include as well persistent gross inequities in wealth, privilege, and position that are hard to explain away simply on the basis of differences in individual effort and initiative, significant as such differences are. Finally, there is a collective concern that we are failing to develop to its fullest the human potential of the country and a growing realization that our society, with its ever more diverse population, cannot ultimately succeed as a democracy if we fail to close the gaps in opportunity that continue to be associated with race. (Preface 1)

The council also instructed Franklin to forward the statement to the Nominating Committee and the Elections Committee, which are responsible for nominating members to stand for election to the Executive Council and the Delegate Assembly, respectively. The council planned to discuss, at a future council meeting, other ways of encouraging broad participation in MLA activities.

5. *Consideration of a Council Procedure for Dealing with Requests for Public Statements.* During the February 2001 meeting, the council considered two Delegate Assembly motions that called on the council to issue public statements of various kinds. One motion (1999–11) focused on statements of support for faculty members and graduate student employees engaged in union organizing (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1486); the other motion (2000–11) focused on statements that warn and censure institutions "that violate the rights of students and faculty in fields represented by the MLA" (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1492). Council members noted that no procedure was in place for the council to receive members' complaints about institutions and instructed the staff to consult the association's lawyer and to develop a procedure for the council's consideration at its next meeting.

Phyllis Franklin reported to the council that the association's lawyer had questioned the establishment of a formal procedure for dealing with members' requests for council statements about particular situations on college and university campuses. He noted that the MLA constitution did not provide any authority to the council to act in response to any and all members' complaints about institutions. Establishing such a procedure would, in effect, add a new responsibility to those enumerated for the council in the constitution. Moreover, because of their time-consuming potential, taking on even a small number of such cases each year could undermine the ability of the council to carry out its constitutional responsibilities, the chief of which is to "manage the business and affairs of

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the association as provided by the laws of the State of Maryland for directors of a corporation" (art. 7.B.1).

Franklin reminded the council that nothing in the constitution prevented the council from acting in response to members' requests or complaints. Instead of adopting a formal procedure, the council could deal on an ad hoc basis with members' complaints and requests for statements, and the staff could prepare for the council's discussion by seeking responses from the institutions involved. The council decided not to establish a formal procedure for receiving members' complaints and requests for statements and agreed to address individual cases as they arose.

6. *Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance.* At its February meeting, the council decided that action on a Delegate Assembly motion (2000–4) calling for the establishment of a special MLA committee on campus diversity and tolerance should be postponed until May, when the budget for the fiscal year 2001–02 would be available (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1488). At this meeting, the council decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance. It approved the following committee charge:

> The Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance is established to further the work of the Task Force against Campus Bigotry. The committee is charged:
>
> (a) to review the literature relating to ethnic and racial incidents on campus with an eye to determining what is known about how institutions and members of their faculties resolve conflicts,
> (b) to review the literature relating to education in language, writing, and literature for diverse groups of students with an eye to calling attention to what is effective,
> (c) to create convention sessions where MLA members exchange ideas and information about the topics the committee is studying,
> (d) to consult the members of the Coalition on the Academic Workforce regarding possibilities for cooperation or collaboration on these issues,
> (e) to make recommendations regarding constructive policies and practices for the MLA and for colleges and universities, and
> (f) to write a report presenting the results of the committee's activities and its findings with regard to the topics outlined above.

The council also appointed the following members to the committee: William L. Andrews, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Finley C. Campbell, DeVry Inst. of Technology; Laraine R. Fergenson, Bronx Community Coll., City Univ. of New York; Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Howard Univ.; Keith Gilyard, Penn State Univ., University Park; Jacqueline Goldsby, Univ. of Chicago; José Esteban Muñoz, New York Univ.; and Jing Wang, Duke Univ.

7. *Conference on Cooperation between English and Foreign Language Programs.* Phyllis Franklin gave the council a brief progress report on plans for the MLA's conference on cooperation between English and foreign language programs (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1484), which was scheduled for 12–14 April 2002. The council considered two offers from host institutions and decided to hold the conference at New York University.

8. *Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching.* The council received the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching. Council members found the committee's discussion of issues surrounding teaching and its status in the profession interesting and useful. The council decided to publish the report in *Profession 2001*, so that MLA members and others could discuss and respond to the committee's findings. The council also asked the staff to consult the Committee on Information Technology about developing and maintaining a list of electronic discussion lists that deal with teaching and other aspects of the language and literature profession.

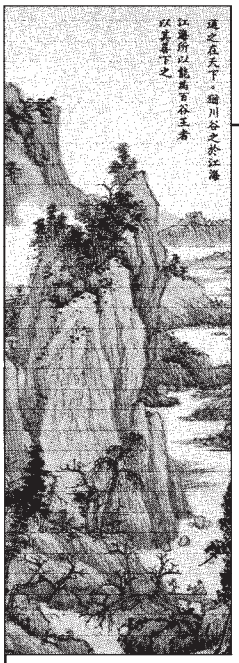
9. *Request from the Advisory Committee on the* MLA International Bibliography. The advisory committee requested that the council create a committee that would establish standards for evaluating "electronic literature/language reference tools" and "award a seal of approval to electronic literature/language reference sources that meet standards set by the committee." The advisory committee suggested that the new committee function like the MLA Committee on Scholarly Editions (CSE) and that the cost of evaluating projects be paid by the developers or publishers of the projects.

The council considered a number of problems posed by the request. Since the MLA publishes an electronic bibliography in language and literature, the association might be seen as having a conflict of interest if it attempted to set standards for and evaluate electronic reference works developed by others. In addition, expecting developers of projects to pay the cost of an evaluation prevents people who do not have the money from getting evaluations and raises conflict-of-interest questions. The feasibility of developing standards for electronic publications was also questioned in the light of the CSE's experience with developing standards for electronic scholarly editions. Finally, the advisory committee's proposal did not take account of either the staff costs associated with the establishment of a new committee or the availability of staff support at a time when members have requested the creation of a number of new committees. For these reasons, the council did not approve the advisory committee's request.

10. *Request from the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession (CSWP).* The council received a letter from the CSWP that asked council members for their insights on a number of questions that the committee had raised in its report, "Women in the Profession, 2000," which was published in *Profession 2000*. The questions dealt with a variety of issues, including the

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decline in the quality of available academic jobs at a time when more women are entering the profession, whether certain areas of scholarship are more risky for women to enter, whether there are separate gender spheres in the profession, and whether family-care responsibilities affect patterns of employment for women and men.

The council thanked the committee for its report and discussed how to address the questions the committee had raised. Since the committee identified the kind of broad issues that the council had determined to discuss periodically (see May 2001 *PMLA* 750–52), the council decided to ask the committee to reflect further on concrete, practical steps that could be taken to address the issues and to forward its ideas to the council in time for the February 2002 council meeting.

11. *Establishment of an MLA Prize.* The council received the clarifications it had requested from the Discussion Group on Chicana and Chicano Literature regarding the establishment of an MLA prize to recognize outstanding scholarship in the field of "Chicana and Chicano and US Latina and Latino literary and cultural study" (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1492). It also received statements of support from the chair of the Discussion Group on Puerto Rican Literature and Culture and the cochair of the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada. The council asked the Committee on Honors and Awards to implement the prize proposal on the basis of the clarifications provided.

12. *Change in Job Center Operation.* The staff reported to the council that a sharp increase in the number of departments signing in at the Job Information Center during the 2000 convention had put a severe strain on the system used for providing information about the location of job interviews to job candidates. A department or search committee chair would sign in at the job center and leave a paper form with information about the department's interview location (specifically, the hotel room number, which the chair could not know before checking in at the hotel) and with a list of the job candidates scheduled for interviews. This system allowed staff members working in the job center to restrict information about interview locations to interviewees; during periods of high activity in the job center, however, the restriction was not always honored. At the 2000 convention, the problems inherent in the system—receiving and organizing the hundreds of paper forms deposited during the first few hours of the job center's operation at the same time as hundreds of job candidates are asking for the information that the forms contain—led to the system's breakdown.

The staff proposed to implement a new system, one relying on database technology, to ease the organization and flow of information. However, under the new system the staff would no longer be able to restrict information about interview locations to the candidates scheduled for interviews because staff members would not have enough time to enter interviewees' names in the database. The staff therefore sought the council's authorization to implement the new system. Council members discussed several aspects of the situation, including the role that hotel switchboards can and cannot play and whether giving interview locations to people who were not scheduled for interviews might create problems, and emphasized the responsibility of the chair to tell candidates about the department's interview location. At the conclusion of the discussion, the council authorized the staff to implement the new system.

13. *Proposal from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).* At its February meeting, the council authorized the MLA Publications Committee to implement a 2000 Delegate Assembly motion (2000-12) that called on the MLA to publish a book on unionization (see Oct. 2001 *PMLA* 1492). At this meeting, Phyllis Franklin reported that the AAUP had approached the MLA with a proposal jointly to develop a book that would update a 1975 AAUP book, *A Primer on Collective Bargaining for College and University Faculty.* The new book would cover faculty and graduate student unionization and would have three sections. Two sections, one on the history of unionization and one on the legal issues affecting unionization, would be written by specialists in these areas. The third section would contain essays by MLA members and by members of other humanities organizations exploring a variety of viewpoints on unionization. Because this approach to the project differed significantly from the mode of implementation that the council had authorized, Franklin asked the council to consider whether pursuing the AAUP's proposal would fulfill the intent of the Delegate Assembly's motion. Council members discussed at length the conceptualization of the proposed book and decided to accept the AAUP's proposal. They authorized the staff and the Publications Committee to pursue discussions with the AAUP. Council members also asked to be kept informed of the progress of the project.

14. *Discussion of Progressive Dues Structure.* When the council discussed a proposal to establish additional dues categories based on incomes above $80,000 (see Jan. 2001 *PMLA* 240), a council member asked whether it would be advisable to make the MLA's dues structure more progressive. At this meeting, the council discussed a staff report showing what a progressive dues structure would look like and giving information on the dues structures of other organizations in the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The staff also reported on a recalculation of the cost of services provided to members: it had increased from $30 in the fiscal year 1992–93 to $44 in the fiscal year 1999–2000. Council members agreed that it would not be feasible to implement a progressive dues structure. There was brief discussion of the student dues category in the light of the increased cost of services. Some council members suggested that an increase in the student dues rate (currently $20) or the elimination of the category be considered in the future. The suggestion was prompted by a number of factors: that the student dues category is now heavily subsidized, that the MLA student dues rate is lower than that of comparable ACLS organizations, that

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the support some students receive from their graduate institutions makes the student dues benefit unnecessary.

15. *Database of Scholarly Achievements in the Humanities.* Phyllis Franklin told the council about a project initiated by the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), of which the MLA is a member. The project, which she had described in her column for the Summer 2001 issue of the *MLA Newsletter*, involved generating a list of twentieth-century scholarly works in the humanities to be used by those who lobby members of Congress on the issue of increased funding for National Endowment for the Humanities programs that support scholarship. The NHA believed that these programs were particularly hard hit by the budget cuts of the 1990s because they are the most difficult to explain and defend. In her newsletter column, Franklin had asked MLA members to provide examples of scholarly research that have contributed to our understanding of the United States and other countries and cultures in various periods, have expanded the boundaries of human knowledge, or have influenced general education. She asked council members if they also wished to contribute to the proposed database.

Council members discussed the problems associated with the creation and the reception of such lists (e.g., avoiding the sense that the works on the list were the "best," understanding that the list could not be complete or comprehensive, anticipating that the list might have the opposite of the desired effect) but agreed that it would be worthwhile to pursue the project's goal of explaining humanities scholarship and increasing funding for it. Franklin said she would compile a list using council members' contributions and those she received from MLA members and present it to the council for review in October.

16. *PhD Programs and Employment Trends in the Field.* The council reviewed statistical information showing trends over time in the numbers of positions advertised in the MLA *Job Information List*; in the numbers of doctorates granted in English, foreign languages, and business fields; in the numbers of bachelor's degrees in English, foreign languages, and business fields; and in the numbers of institutions granting doctorates in English and foreign languages. Though the job market continued to be weak, there had not been a significant reduction in the numbers of PhDs granted in English and foreign languages. Even the increased enrollments indicated by the rise in the number of bachelor's degrees in the MLA's fields had not led to increased hiring of full-time, tenure-track faculty members. Phyllis Franklin asked the council to consider disseminating this information to prospective graduate students in a brief form. The council discussed Franklin's request at length and touched on a number of aspects of the situation—for instance, the extent to which doctoral programs have downsized, the internal pressures in departments that work against reductions in the size of graduate programs, the desirability of providing full funding to fewer graduate students, the kinds of positions available in different kinds of departments and institutions and who is hired to fill them. Council members agreed that it was important to provide all the available information to prospective graduate students and approved Franklin's request. She planned to prepare a report for the council's consideration at a future meeting.

17. *Report on Participation in MLA Activities.* The council received a report on the ranks, geographic locations, and institutions of members who served the association in various capacities in 2000 and early 2001 (i.e., as members of standing committees except for publication and prize committees, as members of ad hoc committees, as representatives to conferences and the American Council of Learned Societies, and as scholar bibliographers). The staff regularly provides this information because the council is concerned to involve a broad cross section of the membership in association activities. The information in the report will serve the council as a guide for future appointments.

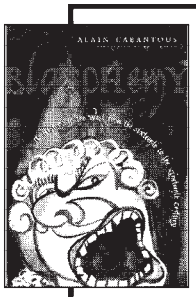
18. *Nomination of Honorary Members and Fellows.* The council received recommendations from the Committee on Honors and Awards (CHA) pertaining to the nomination of honorary members and fellows. Acting on the CHA's recommendations of individuals to be honored this year, the council nominated Malcolm Bowie and Ayyappa Paniker for honorary membership in the association and José Saramago, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, and Charles Tomlinson for honorary fellowship. Following the provisions of article 3.D of the MLA constitution, the election of honorary members and fellows will be conducted during the 2001 Delegate Assembly meeting in New Orleans. This election is subject to ratification by the entire membership, and the ratification vote is to be held in the spring of 2002.

19. *Recommendations from the Program Committee.* The council received and acted on the Program Committee's recommendations regarding allied organizations, divisions, and discussion groups. Continuing the review of existing allied organizations that was begun in 1991, the council renewed the allied organization status of the following organizations: Association for the Study of Dada and Surrealism, Cervantes Society of America, College Language Association, Dante Society, Doris Lessing Society, Graduate Student Caucus, Hemingway Society, Henry James Society, International Arthur Schnitzler Research Association, International Association of Galdós Scholars, International Brecht Society, International James Joyce Foundation, Kafka Society of America. The council did not approve a petition for allied organization status from the David Mamet Society.

In actions relating to divisions and discussion groups, the council approved a petition for division status from the Discussion Group on Chicana and Chicano Literature and a petition for a new discussion group on law as literature. The council also approved a request from the Division on East Asian Languages and Literatures to split into two divisions, one on East Asian languages and literatures to 1900 and one on East Asian languages and literatures after 1900. The three new divisions and the

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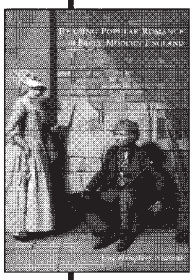
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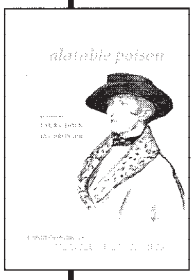
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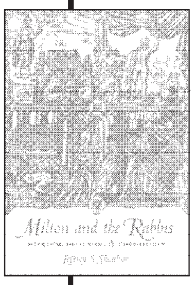
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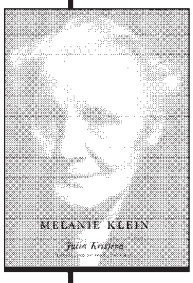
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new discussion group will organize their first sessions for the 2002 convention. The council did not approve two other petitions, one for a discussion group on food studies and the other for a discussion group on travel literature, nor did it approve a request from the Division on the Literature of Colonial Spanish America to change the name of the division to Division on Colonial Latin American Literature. In this last instance, the council asked the staff to seek clarification of the rationale for the requested change from the division executive committee. Finally, the council granted permanent status to the following discussion groups: Arabic Literature and Culture, Cognitive Approaches to Literature, Literature of the United States in Languages Other Than English, Postcolonial Studies in Literature and Culture, Science Fiction and Utopian and Fantastic Literature, South Asian Languages and Literatures, West Asian Languages and Literatures.

During their discussion of the Program Committee's recommendations, council members expressed concern about how difficult it was to make room for new fields of study in the convention program. They agreed that the overall structure of the convention was not clear, since different parts of the structure had developed at different paces and under different circumstances over the years. Therefore, they asked Phyllis Franklin to prepare a background report on the structure of the convention for the council's consideration at its October meeting.

20. *Films at the Convention.* A council member put forward a proposal for making film screenings a regular feature of the convention program. According to the proposal, a room would be set aside throughout the convention for the screening of two types of films: those discussed in paper presentations and those included in a thematic film series like the one arranged for the 2000 convention. The MLA staff would make all arrangements to obtain the films for screening at the convention. The staff explained that the proposal posed a number of scheduling, cost, and logistic problems. Taking the 2000 convention as an example, the staff reported that eighty-one papers dealt with film in some way. Showing so many films during the convention would limit the space available for paper-reading sessions and lead to the acceptance of fewer special session proposals. In addition, arranging for the screenings of the eight films included in the film series organized by the council took three weeks of a staff member's time and cost $4,000. The time and cost associated with arranging for a larger number of film screenings would be prohibitive. Current convention policies allow members who wish to show films in conjunction with their paper presentations to request film showings; it is the members' responsibility to obtain the films and the necessary permissions. Since the existing procedures accommodate members' needs in this area, the staff suggested maintaining them. The council agreed and decided not to pursue the proposal at the present time.

21. *Council Meeting Schedule.* The council approved the following dates for its meetings in 2004: 27–28 February, 21–22 May, and 29–30 October.

22. *Committee Appointments.* The council made nine additional appointments to MLA committees and appointed two committee chairs. The names of all new committee members appear in the listings of MLA committee members in the September 2001 (Directory) issue of *PMLA*.

In Memoriam

F. B. Adams, Jr., Bléré, France, 7 January 2001
Jorge Amado, Salvador, Brazil, 6 August 2001
Frederick John Beharriell, State University of New York, Albany, 4 April 2001
Walter Parker Bowman, State University College of New York, Brockport, 3 June 2001
Germaine Brée, Wake Forest University, 22 September 2001
Bruce Cutler, Wichita State University, 25 March 2001
Robert Y. Drake, Jr., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 30 June 2001
Dax Duskin, Chicago, Illinois, 4 October 2001
Catherine Fehrer, Suffolk University, 23 May 2001
Oscar Fernández, University of Iowa, 6 February 2001
Miriam Margaret Heffernan, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 23 August 2001
Roseanne L. Hoefel, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, 16 May 2001
Michiyo Ishii, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan, 15 May 2001
Rolf Kieser, Queens College, City University of New York, 28 June 2001
Elaine Marks, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 6 October 2001
Edwin Haviland Miller, New York University, 17 September 2001
Peter B. Murray, Macalester College, 21 July 2001
Montserrat Ordóñez, University of the Andes, Colombia, 22 January 2001
Dorothy W. Pitts, University of the South, 16 September 2001
Walter Poesse, Indiana University, Bloomington, 18 July 2001
Theodore Silverstein, University of Chicago, 1 September 2001
Kenneth A. Stackhouse, Virginia Commonwealth University, 16 June 2001
Jean Sudrann, Mount Holyoke College, 9 May 2001
Joseph Szövérffy, University of Vienna, 28 June 2001
Eugene Hester Thompson, Jr., Guilford College, 11 May 2001
Walter Wedzicha, Clarkson University, 27 April 2001
Judith Weise, State University College of New York, Potsdam, 30 September 2001
Eudora Welty, Jackson, Mississippi, 23 July 2001

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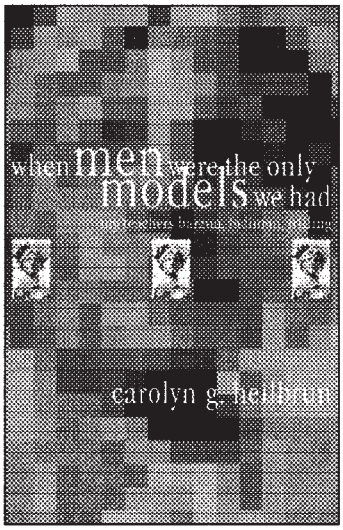
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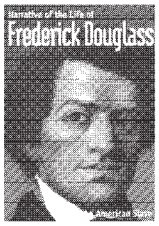
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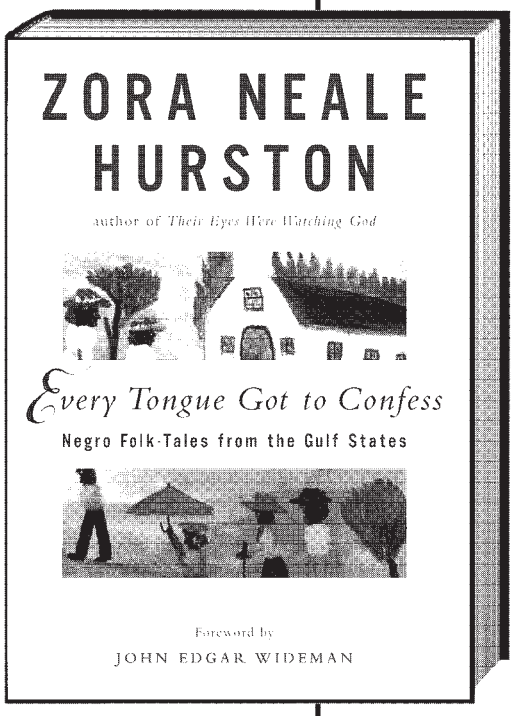
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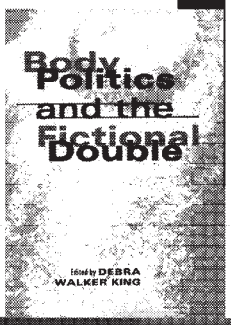
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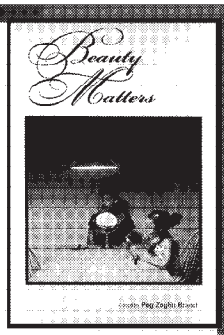
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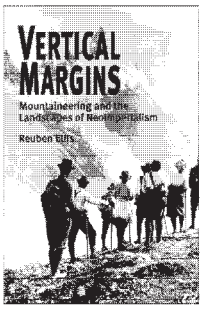
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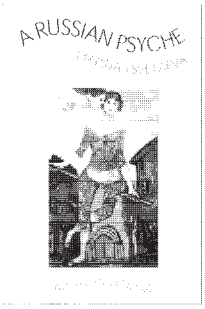
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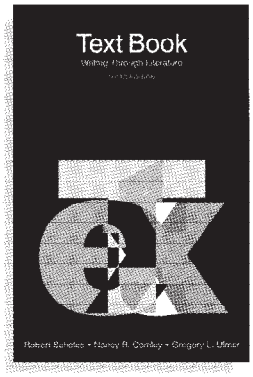
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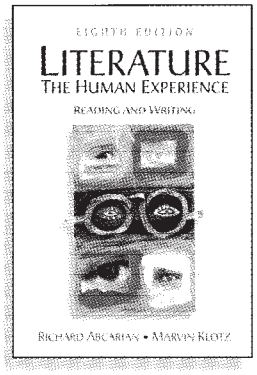
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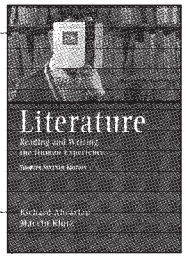
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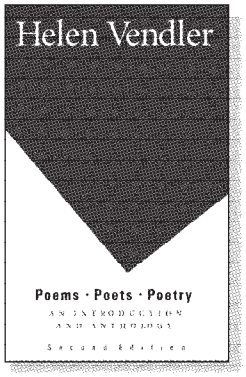
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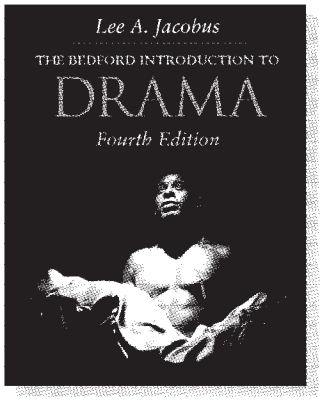
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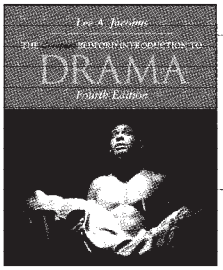
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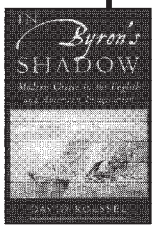
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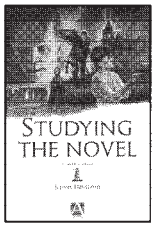
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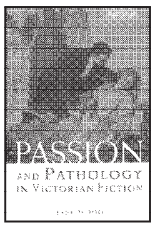
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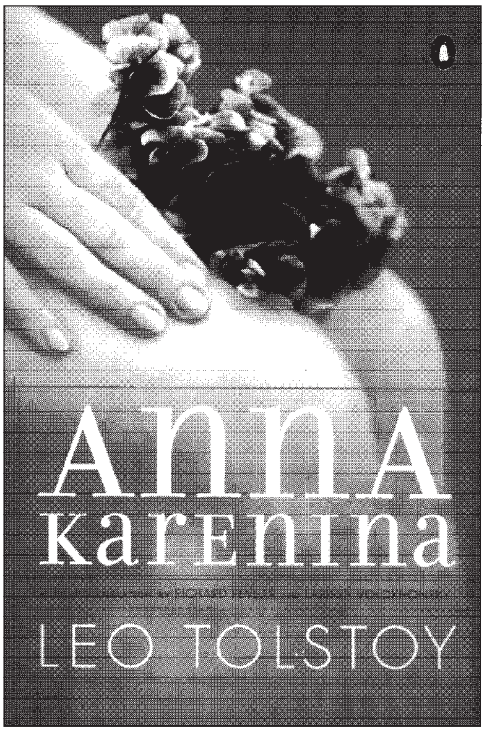
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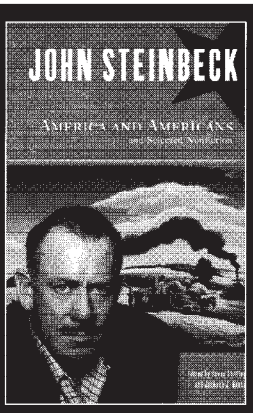
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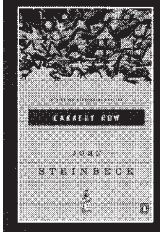
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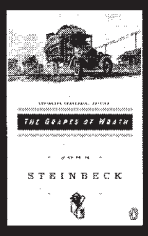
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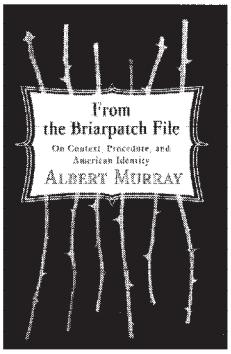
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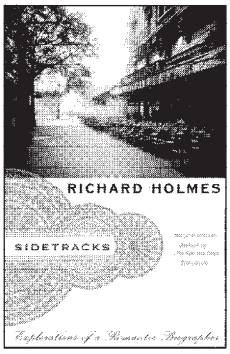


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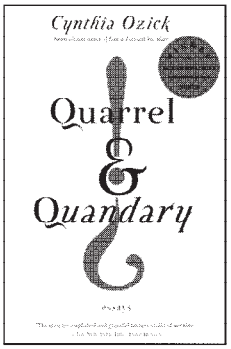
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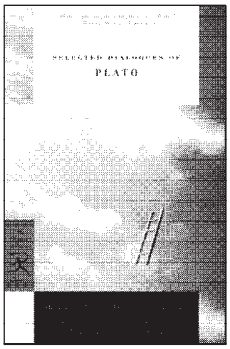


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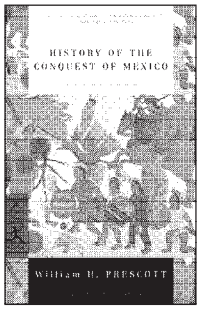
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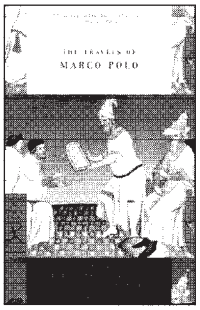
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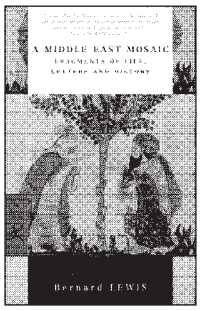
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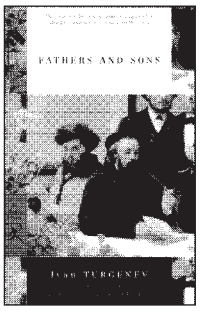


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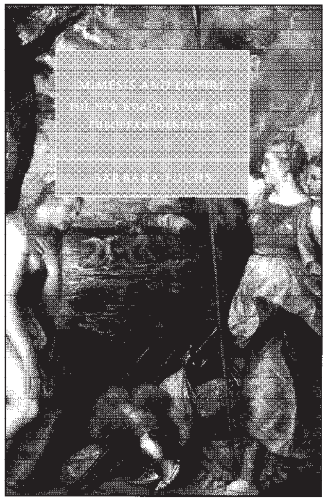
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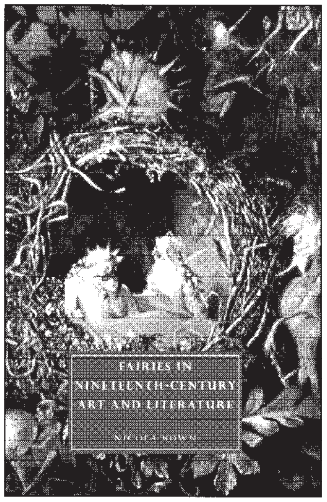
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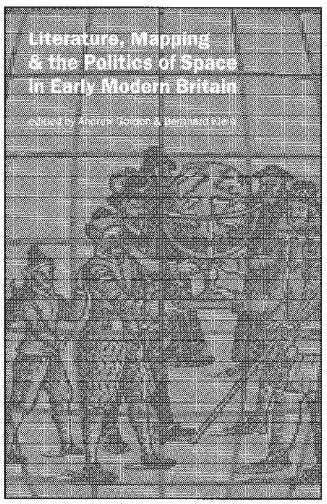
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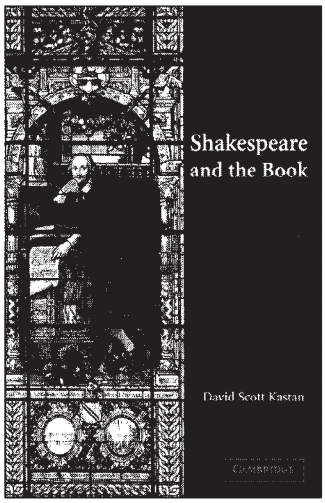
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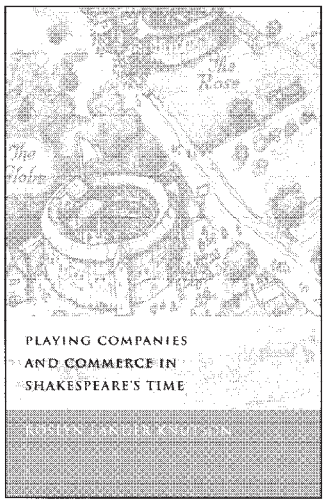
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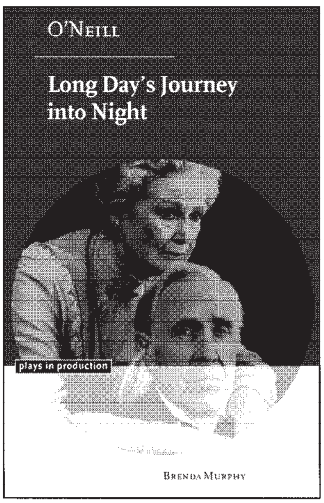
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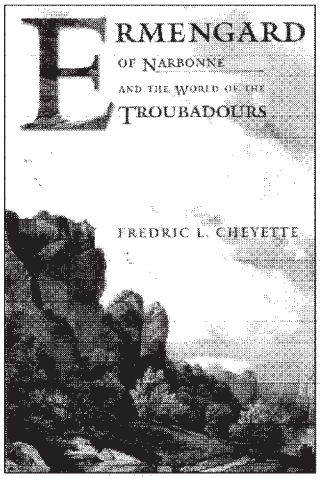
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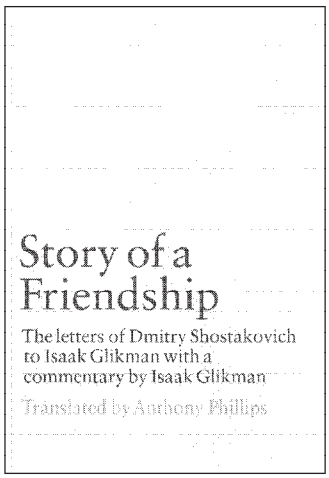
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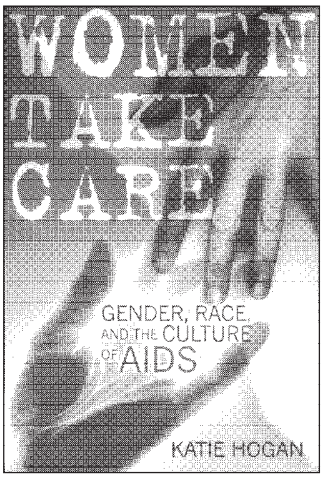
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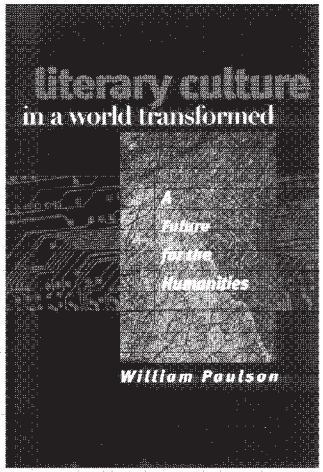


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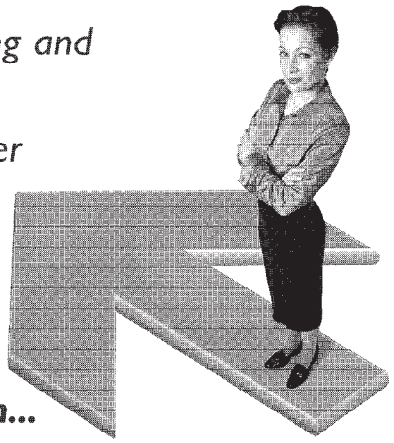
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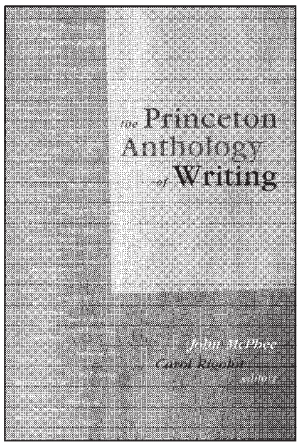
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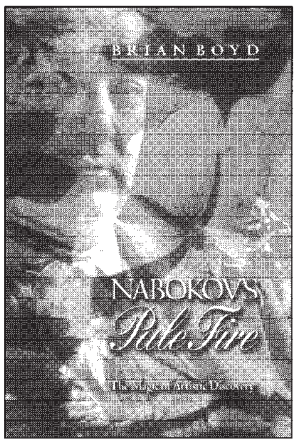
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