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).

MEENA ALEXANDER. Contributions are invited for a collection of critical essays on any aspect of Meena Alexander's work as poet, memoirist, novelist, literary theorist, and thinker. Welcome are essays that use the methodologies of transnational feminism, deconstruction, psychoanalysis, postcolonial theory, queer studies, narrative theory, cultural studies, and genre studies to examine Alexander's creative work. Also of interest are essays examining interconnections between Alexander's poetic practice and thought and grassroots or pedagogical activism, as well as others that contextualize her contribution to the field of postcolonial and Asian American literatures. Possible topics include the lyric in a time of violence; transnational feminist poetics; rethinking Indian nationalism; trauma and language; migration, exile, and home; United States race relations and multicultural pedagogy; postcoloniality, history, and the personal essay; the body and memory; memoir as a genre; and autobiographical fiction. Send 500-word abstracts by e-mail to Lopamudra Basu (basul@uwstout.edu) and to Cynthia Leenerts (srcyn@aol.com) by 1 December 2005. Preference will be given to essays between 3,000 and 4,000 words in length.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. Essay proposals are solicited for a centennial volume on *Anne of Green Gables*. Topics might include the historical importance of *Anne of Green Gables* in relation to children's and adolescent literature, women's literature, Canadian literature, regional traditions, coming of age, feminism, orphan literature, or the novel of education; the character of Anne and her relationships, particularly in regard to the changing nature of child rearing, parenting, and the family; the role of the imagination and child speech; the importance of friendship and children's culture; changing cultural visions of child and teen development; adaptations of the novel in popular culture, including tourism, film, television, dolls; and histories and critical evaluations of the novel's reception. Send 1–2-page proposals by 1 February 2006 by e-mail as *Word* attachments to Holly Blackford (blackfor@camden.rutgers.edu) or by mail to Blackford, English Dept., Armitage Hall, Rutgers Univ., 311 North Fifth St., Camden, NJ 08102. Completed essays will be due 1 October 2006, with the goal of spring 2008 publication in Scarecrow Press's Centennial Studies Series.

HOLOCAUST STUDIES. Papers in Holocaust studies are invited for *Studies in Holocaust Literature*, in the Purdue University Press series Books in Comparative Cultural Studies (http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/ccs-purdue.html and http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/series/compstudies.asp). Edited by Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Louise O. Vasvári, the volume is intended to cover a wide range of scholarship about Holocaust literature based in various disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Articles should not exceed 6,000 words in length and should use no endnotes or footnotes; citations follow the MLA guidelines for

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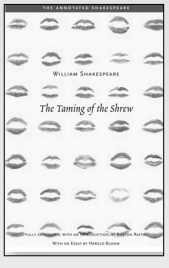
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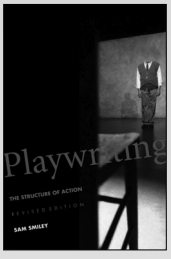
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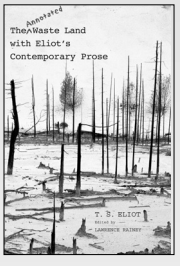


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parenthetical citations and include a list of works cited (for the style guide for books in the series, see http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/ccs-purdue.html). Send each paper, along with an abstract and a brief bioprofile of the author, in an attachment by e-mail only by 30 April 2006 to Vasvári (louise.vasvari@sunysb.edu).

JAMES HILTON SOCIETY. The James Hilton Society, founded in 2000, promotes interest in the life and work of the novelist and scriptwriter James Hilton, author of *Lost Horizon*, *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, and *Random Harvest*. Hilton was immensely popular in the 1930s and 1940s, and eight of his novels were made into successful films. The society publishes a quarterly newsletter and an annual scholarly journal. It also organizes conferences where Hilton's novels and films are discussed in a congenial atmosphere. Further information can be obtained from John Hammond, Secretary, James Hilton Soc., 49 Beckingthorpe Dr., Bottesford, Nottingham, NG13 0DN, England, or from the society's Web site (http://www.jameshiltonsociety.co.uk).

ASSOCIATION OF LITERARY SCHOLARS AND CRITICS. Members of the Modern Language Association and all others interested in the study and creation of literary works of all genres, including graduate students and independents as well as those on college and university faculties, are invited to join the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. The association publishes the journal *Literary Imagination*, the *ALSC Newsletter*, and the *Forum*, expressing diverse views on issues of current importance. It also sponsors an experimental blog, *The Valve* (http://www.thevalve.org/), and ALSC members have established an affiliated e-mail discussion list. The annual meeting, which includes plenary sessions and seminars, is held in October or November (on 4–6 Nov. 2005, in Boston; on 13–15 Oct. 2006, in San Francisco). For more information, write or call the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics, 650 Beacon St., Suite 510, Boston, MA 02215 (617 358-1990; fax: 617 358-1995; alsc@bu.edu; http://www.bu.edu/literary/).

JOSEPH CONRAD SOCIETY AWARD. The Joseph Conrad Society of America presents its annual Bruce Harkness Young Conrad Scholar Award to an outstanding graduate student who is writing a dissertation on Conrad or to a recent PhD who has been teaching for no more than five years and is doing research on Conrad. The award consists of a $100 honorarium, one year's membership in the Joseph Conrad Society of America, and a complimentary invitation to the annual Conrad Society dinner, held during the Modern Language Association convention. A letter of recommendation, the nominee's c.v., and two copies of a sample of his or her scholarly writing (not to exceed 9,000 words in length) should be sent, postmarked by 1 November 2005, to Andrea White, President, Joseph Conrad Soc. of America, Dept. of English, California State Univ., Dominguez Hills, 1000 East Victoria St., Carson 90747. Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a large self-addressed, stamped envelope. The 2005 award will be presented at the annual Conrad Society dinner in December.

NINETEENTH CENTURY STUDIES ASSOCIATION PRIZE. The Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA) seeks nominees for its 2006 NCSA Article Prize. The prize recognizes excellence in scholarly studies from any discipline focusing on any aspect of the long nineteenth century (from the French Revolution to World War I). The winner will receive a cash award of $500, to be presented at the NCSA annual meeting, held in Salisbury, Maryland, during 16–18 March 2006. Articles published between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005 are eligible for consideration for the 2006 prize and may be submitted by the author or by the publisher of a journal or collection of essays. Submission of interdisciplinary studies is encouraged. Essays written in part or in whole in a language other than English must be accompanied by translations. The winning article will be selected by a committee of nineteenth-century scholars representing diverse disciplines. Send three offprints or photocopies of published articles or essays by 15 November 2005 to the chair of the Article Prize Committee: Patricia O'Hara, Dept. of English, Franklin and Marshall Coll., PO Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003. Send inquiries to her at patricia.ohara@fandm.edu. Applicants should provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard so that receipt of their submissions can be acknowledged.

LAW, CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES DISSERTATION AWARD. The Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities invites submissions for its 2006 Julien Mezey Dissertation Award, presented annually for the dissertation that most promises to enrich and advance interdisciplinary scholarship at the intersection of law, culture, and the humanities. The award will be presented at the association's annual meeting at Syracuse University on 17–18 March 2006. The association seeks outstanding works from a wide variety of perspectives, including law and cultural studies, legal hermeneutics and rhetoric, law and literature, law and visual studies, legal history, and legal theory and jurisprudence. Scholars completing humanities-oriented dissertations in SJD and related programs, as well as those earning PhDs, are encouraged to submit their work. Applicants eligible for the 2006 award must have defended their dissertations successfully between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005. By 31 October 2005, the award committee must receive three hard copies of the dissertation and dissertation abstract, three hard copies of a letter of support from a faculty member, one e-mail version of the dissertation and abstract (PDF or *Word* format), and contact information for the nominee. All materials should be sent to Martha Merrill Umphrey, Dept. of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought, Amherst Coll., PO Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002 (mmumphrey@amherst.edu).

Journal Notes

African American Review solicits essays for two special issues. The first, on the postsoul aesthetic, will be published

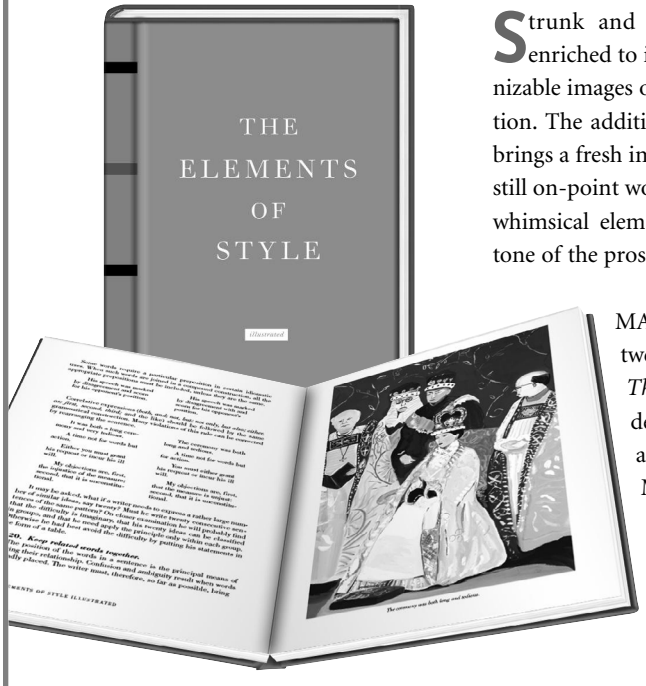
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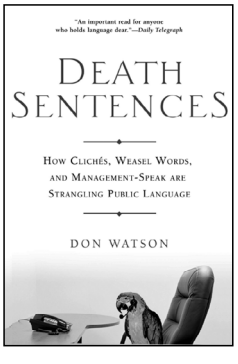
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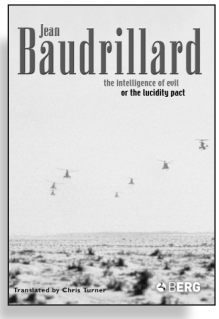
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in 2007. Greg Tate calls the postsoul "the African American equivalent of postmodernism," and a working definition of the postsoul aesthetic could include this quotation from Thelma Golden, curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem (who prefers the term *postblack*): "For me, to approach a conversation about 'black art' ultimately meant embracing and rejecting the notion of such a thing at the very same time. . . . [The postsoul] was characterized by artists who were adamant about not being labeled as 'black' artists, though their work was steeped, in fact deeply interested, in redefining complex notions of blackness." Recognized nearly twenty years ago primarily by Trey Ellis ("The New Black Aesthetic," 1989), Greg Tate ("Cult Nats Meet Freaky-Deke," 1986), and Nelson George (*Buppies, B-Boys, Baps and BoHos: Notes on Post-soul Black Culture*, 1992), the postsoul aesthetic could describe the work of Paul Beatty, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Danzy Senna, Mos-Def, Dave Chappelle, Me'Shell Ndege-Ocello, Colson Whitehead, Aaron McGruder, Ellen Gallagher, the Roots, Spike Lee, Saul Williams, Kara Walker, Living Colour, and Darius James. In addition to these artists and provocateurs, prospective article topics include theorizing the postsoul as critical praxis; observations and commentary on, and critiques of, the postsoul aesthetic or scholarship on the postsoul; critical readings of postsoul novelists, artists, filmmakers, musicians, and others or of their individual works; naming the postsoul aesthetic—identifications and identity crises; the "cultural mulatto" archetype in postsoul texts; redefining blackness in postsoul texts; the postsoul in the college classroom; pre-soul and postsoul; postsex(ualities) and the postsoul; and the postsoul aesthetic in relation to any of the following: postmodernism, gender, social class, hip-hop, essentialized blackness, mass marketing and mass communication, the African American vernacular traditions, satire, the Black Arts Movement, Ralph Ellison, Albert Murray, signifyin(g), politics, and double consciousness. Send queries, proposals, and papers to Bertram D. Ashe, Univ. of Richmond, 28 Westhampton Way, Richmond, VA 23173 (bashe@richmond.edu). Completed papers are due 31 December 2005. For its fortieth-anniversary special issue, *African American Review* invites scholarly queries, proposals, and papers on Julia C. Collins, African American author of several recently rediscovered essays and the 1865 novel *The Curse of Caste; or, The Slave Bride*. Also of interest is scholarly work that contextualizes Collins and her extant writings. Prospective topics include the nineteenth-century African American press, antebellum African American reading habits, the antebellum "free" black press in the development of African American literacy/ies, and the black press's influence on early African American narrative and the novelization of oppression. Welcome as well are creative submissions that imagine Collins or other black women as professional writers, the social impact of *The Curse of Caste*, the social and personal circumstances under which Collins (and her peers) wrote, and Collins's contemporary audience(s). Submit 300–500-word proposals, abstracts, and queries by 31 October 2005 and completed manuscripts by 31 December 2005 to Veta Tucker, Grand Valley State Univ., 242 Lake Huron Hall, 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI 49401 (tuckerv@gvsu.edu [no e-mail attachments]).

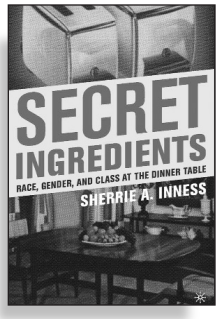
➽ The online *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* (http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/) invites contributions for three forthcoming thematic issues. *Representing Humanity in an Age of Terror*, edited by Sophia A. McClennen and Henry James Morello, aims at exploring the complexity and difficulty inherent in efforts to represent humanity during moments of social terror. The editors seek papers that analyze how the politics of panic and terror associated with war, authoritarianism, fascism, empire, and globalization require the construction of an inhuman other. To what extent do torture, genocide, and other forms of violence depend on an impoverished notion of humanity? How do these forms of violent othering relate to racial profiling, patriarchy, compulsory heterosexuality, criminalizing of communities, classism, xenophobia, and other ideological structures dependent on divisive notions of social identity? And what role has cultural production played in challenging these notions? How have cultural products attempted to mediate the trauma of terror, record alternative versions of official history, and suggest alternative, egalitarian worldviews? What role does culture play in the struggle for human rights? How can the scholarly methods of comparative cultural studies enable interdisciplinary investigations into the relations among politics, aesthetics, psychology, and historical crisis? The editors invite papers that take a global view of the ways that these issues have shaped the cultural landscape of the twentieth century. The volume will include the viewpoints of scholars, activists, and artists. Send complete manuscripts (as e-mail attachments only) by 15 March 2006 to Morello (morello@psu.edu). All articles accepted for the journal will also appear in a print volume of the Purdue University Press series Books in Comparative Cultural Studies (http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/ccs-purdue.html and http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/series/compstudies.asp). Papers are sought for *Culture and Culture Policy in the New European Union*, edited by a collective of editors. Culture policy is understood as all aspects of community-, institution-, government-, and international organization–based policy in theory and practice with regard to all aspects of culture. Foci of the issue include culture and culture policy in the eastward enlargement of the European Union and ensuing issues between western Europe and central and eastern Europe and issues in culture and culture policy in the cultures and countries of central and eastern Europe. Send papers by 30 March 2006 to the editor of *CLCWeb*, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek (clcweb@purdue.edu). *Comparative Cultural Studies and First Nations Studies*, edited by Angeline O'Neill, aims to explore a crucial problematic underlying

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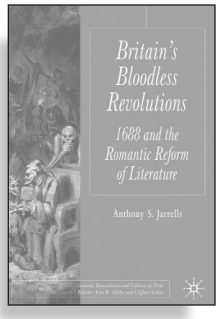
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the emergence and impact of indigenous literature. Focusing on Australia's aboriginal peoples, Canada's First Nations, and the New Zealand Maori, this issue of the journal examines the effectiveness of a comparative methodology in meeting the challenge posed by questions such as, What is indigenous literature, and how do indigenous writers and academics see nonindigenous academics, critics, and readers relating to it now and in the future? In other words, who has the right to speak, and what can be said? What does a comparative methodology have to say about the oft-laid charges of nonindigenous "appropriation" of indigenous literature and culture and about indigenous "censorship" of nonindigenous writers and commentators? What role can a comparative methodology play in investigating the interaction between oral and written traditions? Send complete manuscripts (as e-mail attachments only) by 31 August 2006 to O'Neill (aoneill@nd.edu.au). All articles accepted for the journal will be considered for a print volume of the Purdue University Press series Books in Comparative Cultural Studies. For all issues, articles should not exceed 6,000 words in length and should use no endnotes or footnotes. Citations follow the MLA guidelines for parenthetical citations and include a list of works cited. For more on *CLCWeb*'s submission procedures, see http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/proced2.html.

➸ The *Critic*, the journal of the College English Association, invites submissions for a special issue on Food and the Literary Imagination. Topics are flexible and may include food as symbol; food and character or theme; food and ideology; conversation at meals; cultural preferences, taboos, and social roles; food and social currency; food and sexuality; food, fasting, and spirituality; and the pleasure of it all. Send essays (5,000 words in length) by 31 October 2005. For further information, write to Walter Levy (wlevy129@aol.com).

➸ Submissions are invited for *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, a new peer-reviewed online journal on all aspects of digital media in the humanities, sponsored by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations and the Association for Computers and the Humanities. Sought are original essays that explore the digital inflections of humanities research, digital signification and modes of representation, the influence of digital publication on traditional scholarly forms such as the edition and the monograph, the politics of the digital academy, the impact of the digital on our understanding of discipline, and other topics related to humanities scholarship in the digital age. For more information and for details of submission, see http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/ or write the editors at editor@digitalhumanities.org.

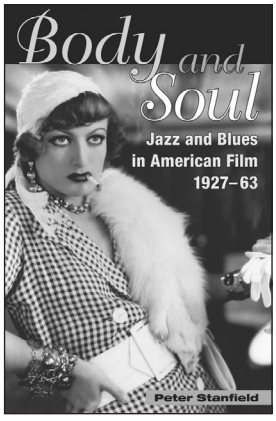
➸ The December 2006 edition of the *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies* (*JILAS*) will be dedicated to the issue of masculinity and violence in Spain and Latin America. Invited are papers in Spanish, Portuguese, or English from scholars working in any field in which the nexus between masculinity and violence (physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, symbolic) is explored. The editors welcome papers from activists and from academics in the humanities and social sciences and particularly welcome interdisciplinary papers that make a critical use of contemporary theories of gender, power, and violence. Topics may include media representations of violence; literary, filmic, or artistic representations of violence; domestic, intrafamiliar violence; legal or juridical implications of masculine violence; female collusion in masculine violence; the patriarchal state and violence; colonialism and violence; violence and gangs; reversals and variations of the "masculine perpetrator versus female victim" model; and masculinity and violence in relation to any of the following: contemporary music and video, popular culture, power, nationalism, terrorism, religion, class, race, and poverty. The deadline for submission of papers is 30 May 2006. Papers must be no longer than 8,000 words in length and must conform to the *JILAS* style guide (http://www.latrobe.edu.au/history/jilas/styleguide.htm). For more information, write to the editors, Jeff Browitt (jeffrey.browitt@uts.edu.au), Stewart King (stewart.king@arts.monash.edu.au), and Alfredo Martínez Expósito (a.martinez@uq.edu.au). For a complete call for papers, see http://www.arts.uq.edu.au/slccs/index.html?page=26229&pid=26220.

➸ The *Journal of Information Ethics* invites essays on ethics in conjunction with the following topics: the academy, graphic images, scholarly communication, or biometrics. On publication, the author receives two copies of the issue and an honorarium. Send queries or manuscripts (10–20 pp. in length) to Robert Hauptman, Editor, *Journal of Information Ethics*, LR and TS, Saint Cloud State Univ., Saint Cloud, MN 56301 (hauptman@stcloudstate.edu).

➸ For a special issue of *Life Writing* on Mixed Race, Hybrid, Transnational: Writing Lives in National and Global Frames, to be published in September 2006, the editors invite articles that theorize and read mixed race, hybrid, and transnational subjects represented in all forms of life writing—autobiography, memoir, biography, diaries, letters, autobiographical novels and other forms of creative nonfiction, and more. The journal is open to new research on hybridity, multiple subjectivities, interculturalism, flexible citizenships, and all forms of crossings and overlapping identities and narratives. Of particular interest are studies that recuperate historical and neglected texts and include experimental and mixed life writing genres within their interpretive perimeters. Counteracademic and creative nonfiction work on these subjects will be considered for the "Reflections" section of this special issue. Submissions from the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Pacific Oceania, and Europe are welcome. All articles will be peer-reviewed. Send submissions by 30 December 2005 to the guest editor, Shirley Geok-lin Lim (slim@english

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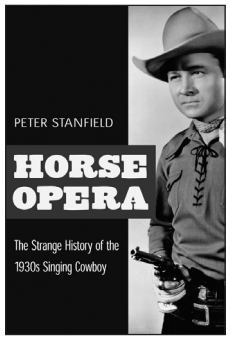
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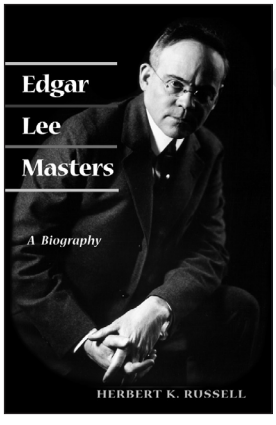
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.ucsb.edu), or the associate guest editor, Caroline Hong (carolhong@umail.ucsb.edu), Dept. of English, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara 93106.

Adrienne Rich has described "re-vision" as "an act of survival." *Lit: Literature Interpretation Theory* solicits submissions for an upcoming special issue on contemporary British women writers (1960–present) who are rewriting familiar and established narratives. The guest editor is Mara Reisman. Of particular interest are essays that ground the literature in a cultural or historical analysis of women's fiction and women writers. Other issues of interest include language, madness, rebellion, and power. Authors may include A. S. Byatt, Angela Carter, Margaret Drabble, Doris Lessing, Muriel Spark, Fay Weldon, and Jeanette Winterson. Send three copies of submissions (5,000–10,000 words in length and conforming to MLA citation style) by 1 November 2005 to Regina Barreca, Editor, *Lit: Literature Interpretation Theory*, Dept. of English, 215 Glenbrook Road, Box 4025, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs 06269-4025.

Volume 32 (2006) of *Medievalia et Humanistica: Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Culture* is open to contributions from all sources. The editorial board welcomes scholarly, critical, or interdisciplinary articles of significant interest on relevant material. Contributors are urged to communicate clearly and concisely the larger implications and the material of their research, holding documentation to a minimum. Texts, maps, illustrations, diagrams, and musical examples are published when they are essential to the argument of the article. Articles, in English, may be submitted to Editor, *Medievalia et Humanistica*, PO Box 28428, Austin, TX 78755-8428. Inquiries concerning subscriptions should be addressed to the publisher, Rowman and Littlefield, 4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706.

Alongside its usual miscellany of fiction, essays, poetry, and translations, the sixteenth issue of *Natural Bridge* will include a special section of writing that reflects the presence, influence, or tradition of women writers (stories, poems, personal essays or memoirs). The more women writers appear in the work of other writers, the longer they will endure. Sought are submissions in which these writers appear explicitly (in epigraphs, as characters, etc.) or implicitly (in formal, verbal, stylistic echoes): a hint in a cover letter identifying the writer would be helpful. Writers of all genders and in all literary schools are encouraged to submit. The guest editor is Nanora Sweet (sweet@umsl.edu). More information is available from http://www.umsl.edu/~natural. Send submissions from 1 November to 31 December 2005 to *Natural Bridge*, Dept. of English, Univ. of Missouri, 1 University Blvd., Saint Louis 63121, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Payment is two copies of the journal and a one-year subscription.

South Asian Review, a refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for its 2006 special-topic issue (27.1), devoted to Empire and Racial Hybridity. What happened to the racial hybrid in postcolonial theory? In *Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race*, Robert Young suggests that "the use of hybridity today prompts questions about the ways in which contemporary thinking has broken absolutely with the racialized formulations of the past" (6). Metropolitan discussions of hybridity tend to privilege cultural hybridity as a Bhabhian problematic of colonial representation. Young illuminates the links between cultural theory and nineteenth-century writings on race and identity, leaving a sustained examination of the racially hybrid byproduct of empire in South Asia to other scholars. *South Asian Review* solicits essays that continue this project with a focus on racial hybridity in South Asia. This special issue is intended to relocate hybridity within the experience of the "literal" racial hybrid, within the postcolony in order to explore the underreported local face of hybridity, and within a more expansive framework that juxtaposes contemporary diaspora with older histories of cultural interactions. Historical and sociological studies are welcome. Suggested topics include the racial hybrid in South Asian literature or film, the Anglo-Indian diaspora, the burghers of Sri Lanka, Anglo-Indians and the Partition, and theories of racial hybridity in South Asia. Essays should be 4,600–7,800 words in length and follow MLA style without exception. The author's name should appear only on the cover sheet, to facilitate blind vetting. Essays will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Please include a cover letter with the following information: name, institution and address for correspondence, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. Authors should also enclose a 50-word biography and an abstract on a separate sheet. Send two hard copies of submissions and one e-mailed copy by 15 January 2006 to Deepika Bahri, Guest Editor, 2006 *SAR* Special Topic Issue, English Dept., Emory Univ., Atlanta, GA 30322 (dpetrag@emory.edu—use the subject line "Special Issue Paper Submission").

Studies in the Humanities seeks essays on theoretical investigations of any topic in literature, film, drama, and cultural studies. Also invited are contributions specifically for special issues on the Gothic and horror (for Dec. 2005) and on Native American texts (for Dec. 2006). The journal encourages articles that reach across disciplines and cultures to deepen understanding of a work, an artist, a genre, an artistic milieu, or the conditions of artistic production. Send three copies of manuscripts (without author's name), using current MLA-style documentation, with a stamped return envelope (if you wish the essays returned) to Editor, 110 Leonard Hall, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705. E-mail inquiries to tslater@iup.edu.

Taiwan Journal of English Literature, a new literary journal, invites contributions in all areas of British, American, and other English literary and cultural studies. Formal book reviews and informal book announcements are

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also welcome. The language of publication is English. Submissions are accepted throughout the year, and issues are published in spring and fall. For more-detailed information for contributors, see "Call for Papers" at http://english.nccu.edu.tw/new/journal/Literature/index.htm. E-mail submissions are accepted at tjel@nccu.edu.tw; hard-copy submissions should be sent, in triplicate and with an electronic copy on disk, to Editors, *Taiwan Journal of English Literature*, Dept. of English, National Chengchi Univ., 64 Chih-nan Road Section 2, Taipei, Taiwan 116, ROC.

Meeting of the MLA Executive Council

[Note: The Executive Council voted to approve these minutes at its May 2005 meeting.]

The council met on 25–26 February 2005 at the MLA office in New York. President Domna C. Stanton presided. The officers present were First Vice President Marjorie Perloff, Second Vice President Michael Holquist, and Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal. The Executive Council members present were K. Anthony Appiah, Marilyn Gaddis Rose, John Guillory, Mary N. Layoun, Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel, Nancy K. Miller, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, Amada Sandoval, Hortense J. Spillers, Guy Stern, and Priscilla Wald. Executive Council members Michael Bérubé and Rosaura Sánchez (see item 3 below) were absent. The MLA staff members present were Director of Bibliographic Information Services and Editor of the *MLA International Bibliography* Barbara Chen, Director of Foreign Language Programs Nelly Furman, Managing Editor of MLA Publications and Director of Publishing Operations Judy Goulding, Director of Financial Operations Amilde Hadden, Director of Convention Programs Maribeth T. Kraus, Director of English Programs David Laurence, Director of Book Publications David G. Nicholls, and Assistant to the Executive Director and Coordinator of Governance Carol Zuses.

The council began its morning session on 25 February by meeting in executive session to review council members' fiduciary responsibilities. During the executive session, the council established an attendance policy for its members. Following the executive session and for the remainder of the morning, the council convened in regular session to begin working though its agenda. After lunch, the council met in subcommittees. The Subcommittee on Administration and Finance reviewed three staff reports, the report from the trustees of the MLA's invested funds, and three corporate resolutions; discussed other agenda items within the subcommittee's purview; and considered appointments to four MLA committees. Attending were Domna Stanton, chair; Anthony Appiah; Marilyn Gaddis Rose; Amada Sandoval; and Hortense Spillers. The Subcommittee on Projects (Marjorie Perloff, chair; Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel; Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi; LaVonne Ruoff; and Priscilla Wald) met to discuss four staff reports, to review two committee requests and the revised MLA Statement of Professional Ethics, and to consider appointments to six MLA committees. The Subcommittee on Meetings and Publications (Michael Holquist, chair; John Guillory; Mary Layoun; Nancy Miller; and Guy Stern) reviewed four staff reports and one committee report, considered several other agenda items within the subcommittee's purview, and considered appointments to seven MLA committees. After the subcommittee meetings, the full council reconvened to hear the reports and recommendations of its subcommittees and to take action on the various requests before it. At the end of the afternoon, the council discussed MLA media relations. On 26 February, the council first met in executive session to consider staff issues and then met in morning and afternoon regular sessions to continue working through its agenda. Before its final regular session, the council discussed the Academic Bill of Rights. The council adjourned at 3:35 p.m., having concluded all the business before it.

The council took the following actions:

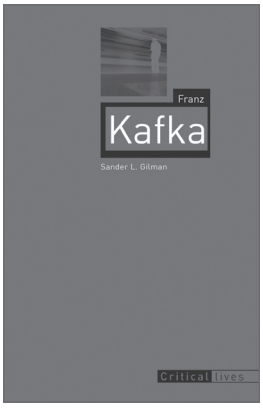
1. *Administration and Finance.* The council received the independent auditor's report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2004, which showed that the association concluded the fiscal year with a surplus of $668,319 in the unrestricted fund. The surplus is to be added to the association's cash reserve, which the council had directed the staff to build to cover four months of association expenses (see May 2004 *PMLA* 624). The council noted the auditor's assessment of the association's information technology controls, a periodic assessment that, in 2004, allowed for a review of the staff's implementation of a new financial accounting system. The staff reported that it had made plans to carry out the auditor's recommendations regarding control procedures and that one other item of concern—the need for a staff computer-use policy—would be addressed with the help of the association's attorney. The council will be asked to review the final version of the policy statement when it is completed.

The council also received the Finance Committee's report, which reviewed the budget for the current fiscal year using four-month projections. The committee noted that the projected deficit in the unrestricted fund was larger than the deficit projected in October 2004. Most of the increase in the deficit was attributed to the cost of the survey of tenure requirements that the council approved in October 2004 (see May 2005 *PMLA* 948). Rosemary Feal asked the council to consider the matter of twenty-seven travel grants awarded to graduate students who had planned to attend the 2004 convention but who had not done so and so had not claimed their awards. Since there were thirty-seven eligible grant applicants who had not received awards but who had attended the convention, she suggested that these eligible applicants be funded retroactively, despite the slight additional expense. The

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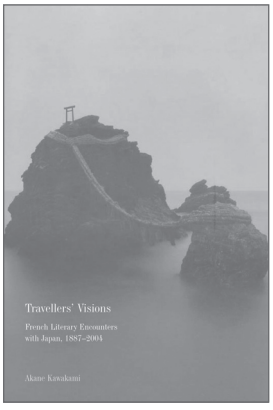
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council agreed to this proposal. The staff is to request receipts from the new grant recipients.

The Finance Committee asked the council to consider several matters relating to the preparation of a budget for the fiscal year 2005–06, and the council authorized the staff to prepare a balanced budget.

The council adopted the following two resolutions relating to financial management. [Note: The president certified the council's action by signing the original documents containing the resolutions. These documents were then stamped with the association's corporate seal.]

> WHEREAS, article 4, section E of the constitution of the Modern Language Association provides as follows: "The permanent fund of the association and its other endowment funds shall be administered by a board of three trustees, each appointed by the Executive Council for a three-year term, the three terms to be staggered by one year. One of the trustees shall be designated the managing trustee"; and
>
> WHEREAS, Herbert Lindenberger, Malcolm Smith, and Catharine Stimpson have been appointed by the Executive Council as the three trustees with authority to administer the permanent fund of the association and its other endowment funds, and Malcolm Smith has been designated the managing trustee of this committee (the "Permanent Fund Committee");
>
> NOW, THEREFORE, be it
>
> RESOLVED, that, upon the written direction to Rosemary G. Feal, executive director, and Judy Goulding, managing editor of MLA publications and director of publishing operations, of any member of the Permanent Fund Committee to effect the purchase, transfer, sale, or other disposition of any security or securities held in the permanent fund or any other endowment funds, the executive director and managing editor of MLA publications and director of publishing operations be and hereby are authorized and directed to take all such steps and to execute and deliver all such documents as they shall deem necessary or appropriate to effect such purchase, transfer, sale, or other disposition; and be it further
>
> RESOLVED, that the president of the MLA be and hereby is authorized and directed to certify this resolution to any third party requiring delivery of same in order to substantiate the proper authority for the disposition of the securities of the permanent fund or any other endowment funds.

> RESOLVED: That Rosemary G. Feal as executive director of the corporation and Judy Goulding as managing editor of MLA publications and director of publishing operations for the corporation be and hereby are authorized jointly to open a custody account with the United States Trust Company of New York in the name of the corporation and deposit therein such property of the corporation as they may deem advisable.
>
> It is FURTHER RESOLVED: That Rosemary G. Feal and Judy Goulding be and hereby are authorized jointly to direct all changes of investments and authorize the delivery of any securities or cash, and the property therein shall be subject to such control until further action by this board.
>
> It is FURTHER RESOLVED: That United States Trust Company of New York be and hereby is designated a depositary of this corporation and is authorized and directed to pay checks and other orders for the payment of money when signed in the following manner: [manner of signing specified].

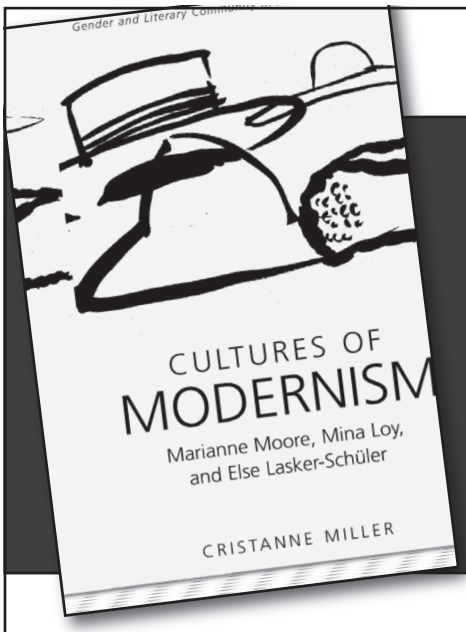
The council adopted one additional corporate resolution, from Citibank. By adopting this resolution, the council authorized Rosemary Feal and Judy Goulding to open bank accounts at Citibank in the name of the association and to contract with the bank for additional services relating to these accounts. [Note: A signed copy of this resolution was entered into the minute book of the association.] The council also authorized the following staff members to sign nonpayroll checks over $1,000: Barbara Chen, Rosemary Feal, Judy Goulding, Maribeth Kraus, and David Laurence.

Finally, the council appointed Anthony Appiah and John Guillory to join the officers of the association on the council's Audit Committee in 2005.

2. *Report of the MLA Trustees.* The council received the trustees' annual report, which showed that at the end of the calendar year 2004, the association's endowment fund and two of the six donor-restricted funds that support a number of association prizes had shown increases in market value. The four donor-restricted funds that decreased slightly in value were invested mainly in United States treasury notes. The trustees noted that the mutual funds in which the MLA endowment was invested were well diversified, and they decided on a strategy for investing approximately $170,000 that had been released from the security letter of credit required by the MLA's landlord at 26 Broadway. Having considered the council's request to invest some of the endowment in socially responsible mutual funds and having reviewed information on a number of such funds provided by the staff, the trustees decided to invest a portion of the money at their disposal in two of these funds.

In response to the council's question about the trustees' rationale for the 50-50 allocation between fixed-income instruments and equities (see Oct. 2004 *PMLA* 1388), the trustees explained that the investment strategy depended on one's view of the function of the endowment. The trustees considered the endowment a reserve fund that could not be invested in an overly aggressive way, since the association might need to tap it to cover operating expenses in an emergency. If the endowment were viewed differently, then the trustees could pursue a more aggressive strategy in the interest of achieving gains that could be used to support new association projects. The trustees asked the council to clarify its view of the endowment. The council did so and approved a statement on investment policy that called for a small shift in

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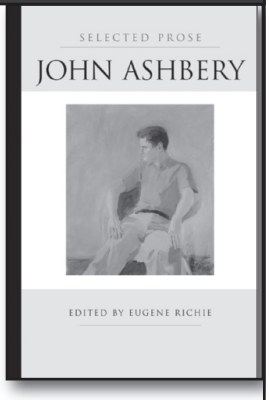
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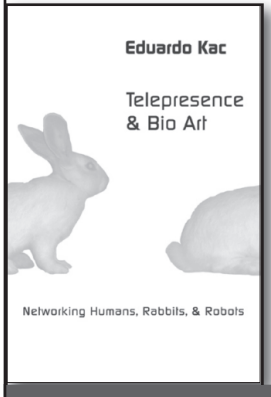
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investment strategy toward a more aggressive approach and a 45-55 allocation between fixed-income instruments and equities. The staff was asked to forward the council's statement to the trustees.

3. *Resignation of a Council Member.* The council received the resignation of a council member, Rosaura Sánchez, and accepted it with regret. The council thanked Sánchez for her service. Council members then considered the constitutional provisions (arts. 8.A.6 and 8.A.5) governing the replacement of a council member. The council decided to replace Sánchez for the remainder of her term and appointed Nicolas Shumway (Univ. of Texas, Austin) to her council seat.

4. *Approval of the October 2004 and December 2004 Council Minutes.* The council approved the minutes of its October and December 2004 meetings for publication in the May 2005 issue of *PMLA*.

5. *Proposal for a Conference on the Humanities and Human Rights.* Judith Butler and Domna Stanton proposed to the council that the MLA cosponsor a conference on the humanities and human rights, a growing field of interest in the academy in general and in language and literature departments in particular. The conference aims to explore the significant role that humanists have to play in examining critically the cultural, social, historical, philosophical, and legal discourses and practices of human rights and in developing a methodology for the study of texts from a human rights perspective. The conference, which would be held at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in October 2005, was modeled after other recent MLA conferences (e.g., the March 2004 Conference on Disability Studies and the University). After discussing the outlines of the proposed conference and reviewing a list of possible speakers, the council voted to approve in principle the MLA's cosponsorship of the conference and asked the staff to prepare a conference budget for the council's review in May.

6. *Participation in the Joint National Committee for Languages / National Council on Languages and International Studies (JNCL/NCLIS).* Rosemary Feal and Domna Stanton reported to the council on their recent interactions with the executive director and the board of JNCL/NCLIS, a coalition of language organizations whose purpose is to advocate for federal funding of language programs in schools and higher education. They explained that the current directions and priorities of JNCL/NCLIS differed significantly from the MLA's mission. In addition, since the MLA is a substantial contributor of money to JNCL/NCLIS, Feal and Stanton expressed concern about the way fiduciary matters are handled by the organization's board. They suggested that the MLA's advocacy dollars would be better directed to organizations whose outlook and activities are more in line with those of the MLA (e.g., National Humanities Alliance, Council on International Education).After lengthy discussion, the council decided to reduce by half the MLA's 2005 contribution to JNCL/NCLIS and to resign from the organization's board. Stanton was asked to write to JNCL/NCLIS to explain these actions.

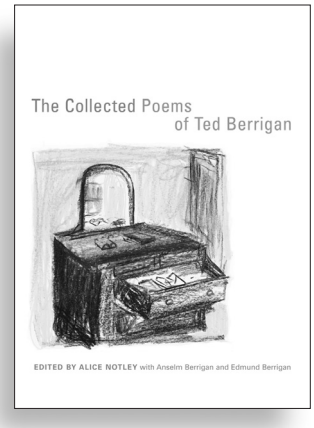
7. *MLA Language Map.* Rosemary Feal reported to the council on the impact that the MLA Language Map had had since its launch on 16 June 2004. She noted that news stories about it had appeared in over two hundred newspapers. In addition, the map was listed as a hot site in the *USATODAY.com* Web guide and was chosen for inclusion in *Yahoo! Picks*. Many academic institutions, national language resource centers, public libraries, college and university libraries, and language organizations provide links to the language map from their Web sites. Feal also noted that community organizations are using the map as a resource in support of their missions.

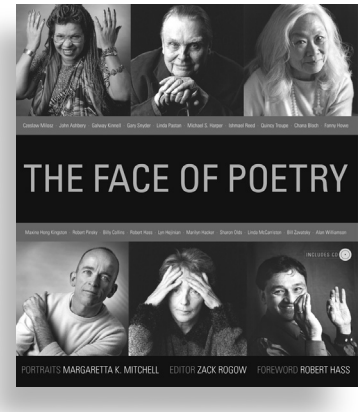
Feal outlined plans for the development of the second phase of the language map, scheduled for 2005 and 2006. In consultation with a national advisory committee, the staff will apply for a grant to support the expansion of the map. She also explained that the MLA Language Map is the association's most visible public contribution to the congressionally designated Year of Languages in 2005.

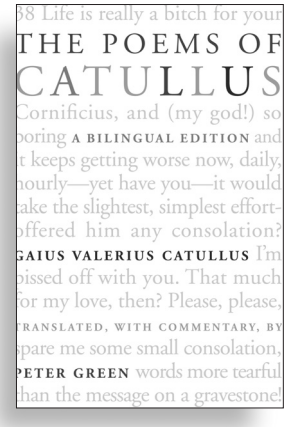
8. *Migrations from Print Formats to the MLA Web Site.* The council received the staff proposal it had requested in October regarding the migration to the members-only area of the MLA Web site of materials printed in *PMLA* (see May 2005 *PMLA* 950). The staff asked the council to consider the migration of two sections of *PMLA*: Forthcoming Meetings and Conferences of General Interest (FMC) and Professional Notes and Comment (PNC), both of which appear in the January, March, May, and October issues of the journal. FMC lists conferences in the field, providing dates, subjects, and contact information. PNC includes notes on new journals and special issues of journals, calls for papers for edited volumes, minutes of Executive Council and Delegate Assembly meetings, the In Memoriam section, and other general notices. The staff explained that council and assembly minutes and In Memoriam should remain in the printed version of *PMLA* as a permanent record but that moving the FMC listing and most of the PNC section to the Web site would have two major advantages. Members would be better and more efficiently served, since less lead time would be needed to run notices, and the association would save on the cost of printing. There was also a disadvantage: certain groups—MLA members without Internet access, library subscribers, and library users—would not be able to consult the online listings. The staff also proposed the following timetable for implementation: offer the online listings beginning in September 2005, but delay the discontinuation of the print listings until the beginning of the 2006 calendar year. Council members agreed with the staff proposal to adopt a slow approach to the question of migrations, which would allow the council to assess the effects of the first steps before proceeding with additional migrations.

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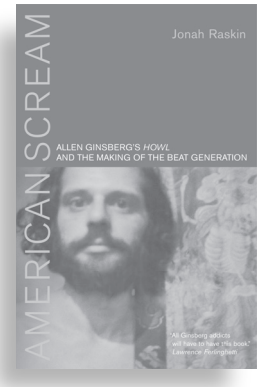
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The council therefore voted to approve the staff proposal and asked to revisit the question of migrations in a year.

9. *Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Convention.* Among the discussion topics identified by the council at its October 2004 meeting (see May 2005 *PMLA* 946) was one that previous councils had also touched on: the inflexibility of the division structure in the face of the membership's changing intellectual commitments and concerns and the related problem of opening up space at the annual convention for new fields of study and new configurations of established fields (see May 2002 *PMLA* 598). The council had asked the Program Committee to take up these issues. Because of its regular workload, the committee had not been able to do so. The council therefore decided that an ad hoc committee was needed to develop recommendations for changes. It charged a subcommittee of its members (Michael Holquist; Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel; Marjorie Perloff, chair; and Hortense Spillers) to draft a charge for this ad hoc committee for the council's review in May.

10. *Departmental Reports.* The council accepted staff members' annual departmental reports with thanks and asked various staff members to elaborate on some of the information presented in the reports. In conjunction with the report on the Job Information Service, the council commented on the possibility, being investigated by the staff, of extending the six-week period during which job listings in the online *Job Information List* are available for searching.

11. PMLA *Editor's Term.* The council exercised its option to extend Marianne Hirsch's term as editor of *PMLA* by two years. Hirsch was therefore invited to continue serving as editor through June 2008. [Note: Hirsch declined the term extension; she will serve as editor through June 2006.]

12. *Review of the Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance.* The council received the report of the subcommittee of council members charged in October with reviewing the recommendations in the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Tolerance and outlining how the council might respond to them (see May 2005 *PMLA* 948).

Some of the ad hoc committee's recommendations aimed at encouraging MLA members to remain alert to relevant issues, to inform themselves and their campus administrations about measures to be taken in cases of conflict, and to share information. The subcommittee thought it would be more useful to focus on what the association could do and so recommended that the MLA collect or develop and then disseminate through association publications guidelines for best practices in a number of areas (e.g., professional mentoring of people of color, preparation for teaching in diverse classrooms). The ad hoc committee also wished to encourage the MLA to provide resources (e.g., convention sessions and other convention structures, reports and other documents) that would allow members to address relevant issues. The subcommittee found that the association was already providing many of these resources. It recommended the following additional initiatives: create a Web-based panel of members of the profession who have experience dealing with sensitive questions, issues, texts, or topics; use the ADE and ADFL summer seminars to talk to chairs about best practices; modify the charge of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to include explicit reference to issues of bigotry and prejudice that arise in the activities of English and foreign language departments. The subcommittee also advised the council to pass along to the *PMLA* Editorial Board the ad hoc committee's proposal for a special issue of *PMLA* and to publish the ad hoc committee's report in shortened form in *Profession 2005* and at the MLA Web site.

The council accepted the subcommittee's report and asked the staff to pursue the initiatives the subcommittee had identified. The members of the subcommittee agreed to continue assembling documents that present best practices.

13. *Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on MLA Style.* The council received the report of the ad hoc committee it had charged in May 2004 with assessing the principles of citing electronic publications currently embodied in MLA style for adequacy and inclusiveness (see Jan. 2005 *PMLA* 282). The committee examined the current requirements of MLA style in relation to a number of sample citations and found that MLA style often requires authors to provide information in excess of that needed to find the work cited. For example, the inclusion of a URL is of little use when the source is an article in an archival database such as *JSTOR*. The committee therefore decided to define a basic principle for the citation of sources: a citation should accurately identify the source consulted by an author. Accurate identification relies on the authority of the source, the establishment of the source's accessibility, and the establishment of the context in which the author consulted the source (e.g., date of access). The committee further noted that sufficiency should be a criterion of MLA citation style; that is, citations should offer just enough information to allow for the accurate identification of sources. The committee asked the council to approve the basic principle for citation that it had elaborated and to instruct the staff to adapt MLA style to follow this principle. The council did so.

14. *Revision of the MLA Statement of Professional Ethics.* When the MLA Statement of Professional Ethics was approved by the Delegate Assembly in 1991 and the Executive Council in 1992, provision was made for its periodic review by the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities (CAFPRR). The first of these reviews, in 1997, resulted in no changes. The CAFPRR completed its second review in November 2004 and forwarded a revised statement to the council for approval. The com-

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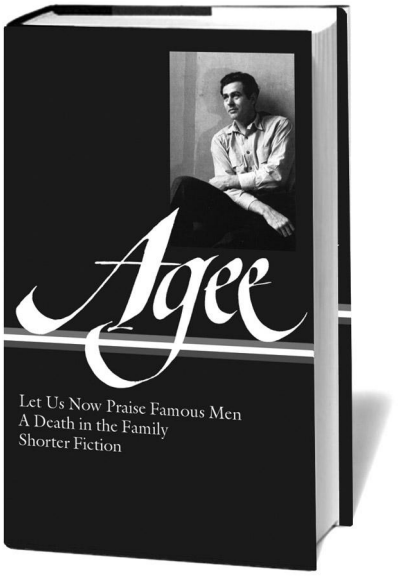
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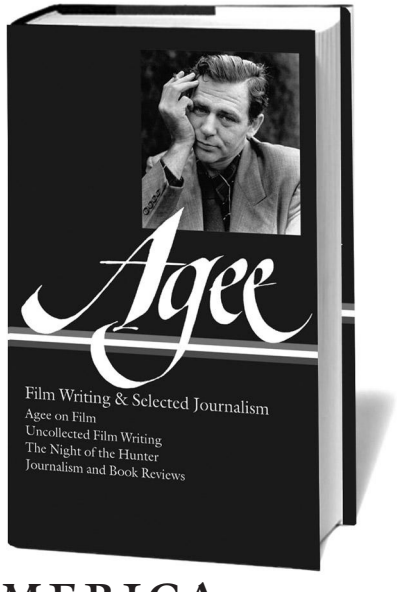


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mittee noted that it had undertaken to revise the statement in ways that emphasized the activities of teaching, learning, researching, and writing instead of an individual's identity as, for example, a teacher or a student. Council members agreed that the revised statement was very well done and approved it for publication in *Profession 2005* and at the MLA Web site. The council's action will be reported to the Delegate Assembly, and a notice of it will be placed in the *MLA Newsletter*. Finally, the council instructed the staff to thank the committee for its excellent work and to ask the committee to undertake the next revision of the statement in time for submission to the council in 2010.

15. *Request from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities (CAFPRR).* The CAFPRR had received a request at its November 2004 meeting to address an incident that had just taken place at the Catholic University of America. The university administration had rescinded a department's invitation to a speaker for reasons that went beyond the speaker's professional competence. The CAFPRR decided to write a letter of protest to the president of Catholic University. The committee forwarded that letter to the council and asked for the council's authorization to send the letter. The council discussed this matter at length and did not authorize the committee to send the letter, since association committees cannot speak for the association. The council agreed, however, that it was important for the CAFPRR and other association committees to be able to receive requests for action, so that the committees could monitor trends on campuses and gather relevant documentation for the council to use in developing appropriate responses (e.g., policy statements). The council asked the staff to tell the committee of the council's decision and to suggest to the committee how it might respond both to the member who requested that the committee take action and to those who make similar requests in the future.

16. *Request from the Committee on Community Colleges.* Anticipating the expiration of its current charge in June 2005, the Committee on Community Colleges reported to the council on its past accomplishments and current and future projects. It requested that the council renew the committee with a revised charge that would allow the committee to take up an issue it had identified in the course of its work: the encouragement of scholarship about teaching in community colleges. Council members agreed on the need to increase the participation of community college teachers in MLA activities and to identify relevant issues that the council might work on. The council renewed the committee for five years, through June 2010, and approved the revised charge proposed by the committee. The new charge reads as follows:

> The Committee on Community Colleges is charged with considering a range of issues that affect modern language teachers in two-year colleges, e.g., conditions of employment, staffing, curriculum, articulation with secondary schools and four-year institutions, the preparation and recruitment of faculty, and the encouragement of scholarship about teaching in the community college.
>
> The committee should develop convention sessions and propose publications and other projects that will serve the needs of students and current and future teachers at two-year colleges.

17. *Recommendations from the 2004 Delegate Assembly.* The council received and acted on a report on the two motions approved by the Delegate Assembly during the assembly's meeting on 29 December 2004 in Philadelphia. [Note: For a full account of the Delegate Assembly meeting, including the text of each motion, see May 2005 *PMLA* 932–46.]

First, the assembly approved a motion calling on the MLA to work with other groups, including labor unions, in advocating reversal of a 2004 National Labor Relations Board ruling that denied the right to unionize to graduate employees at private universities and in encouraging voluntary recognition of graduate student unions by university administrations. The motion also called on the MLA to promote in various ways (e.g., support financially, send representatives to) a conference on these issues that the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL) was planning for 2006. Council members were sympathetic to the issues raised by the motion but had concerns about several of the actions specified in it. The council decided to implement the motion in the following manner. The council reaffirmed a resolution that the Delegate Assembly approved in 1999 and that the membership ratified in 2000; this resolution endorses the right of all academic employees—full- and part-time faculty members, graduate employees, and support staff—to engage in collective bargaining if they choose to do so. The council also instructed the staff to tell COCAL that the MLA would assist with the planning of its 2006 conference and to ask the other organizations named in the motion how the MLA might work with them on these issues. When COCAL provides a conference proposal, the council will consider a conference subvention and how the MLA might be represented at the conference.

Second, the assembly approved a motion that called for the establishment of a new MLA fund to provide partial travel reimbursement to part-time faculty members and contingent non-tenure-track faculty members who attend the annual convention. During its discussion of the motion, the council decided that the unemployed should also be included. The council agreed to implement the motion and asked the staff to develop a detailed proposal covering application requirements and eligibility criteria for the council's consideration in May.

18. *Review of Constitutional Amendments Approved by the 2004 Delegate Assembly.* As required by the MLA constitution (art. 13.D), the council reviewed the constitutional

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amendments approved by the 2004 Delegate Assembly and forwarded them to the membership for the required ratification vote.

19. *Election of a Council Member to the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee (DAOC).* The council elected Guy Stern to the DAOC for a two-year term (2005–06).

20. *Appointments to MLA Committees.* The council made fifty-two appointments to the standing committees of the association and appointed twelve committee chairs or cochairs. The names of all new and continuing committee members will appear in the September 2005 (Directory) issue of *PMLA* and at the MLA Web site.

21. *Selection of a Site for the 2006 Convention.* The council selected Los Angeles as the site of the 2006 MLA convention, provided that ongoing negotiations involving hotel-related labor unions in Los Angeles reached a successful conclusion within a reasonable time. If the labor situation remains unresolved and a decision on a convention site is needed before the May council meeting, the council's procedure for making decisions between council meetings will be used (see Jan. 2005 *PMLA* 278).

22. *Request from a Member.* Clara Orban requested that the annual convention not be held in states that had recently approved constitutional bans against same-sex marriages. The council found that it would be more appropriate to treat this matter by means of a motion to be considered by the MLA Delegate Assembly. It asked the staff to so inform Orban and to give her all necessary information on the requirements for submitting a motion to the 2005 assembly.

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