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).

POSTCOLONIAL ETHICS. Submissions are sought for *Postcolonial Ethics*, a collection of critical essays presenting a wide range of ethical issues in a variety of postcolonialisms. While covering the major debates and dominant practices in the field, the collection will illustrate that both the colonial and the postcolonial manifest differently in different venues, and ethical issues are accordingly various. Submissions should be anchored as much as possible in, though not limited to, specific instances and need not be confined to any particular critical practice, body of texts, or historical period. Submit proposals (250–500 words in length) or inquiries by e-mail to jean_pickering@csufresno.edu and suzanne_kehde@cvip.net. Attachments should be in *WordPerfect* or rich text.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES. The Praeger Series on the Middle Ages will consist of definitive monographs on medieval studies, broadly defined (i.e., aimed at libraries and general readers as well as at students and scholars who seek an introduction to specific aspects of medieval life). Each title in the series, as an introduction to a field, subject, or topic, will be an original work of the highest scholarly and professional quality. While volumes will not be reference works in the traditional sense of the word, they will serve as guides or handbooks to individual topics. Volumes may be by a single author or multiple authors and should be approximately 300 pages long, including 20–30 black-and-white illustrations, as well as maps and charts as necessary. Topics include women (men), warfare, religion (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity), folklore and mythology, chivalry and courtly love, gender and sex, recreation (culture), art (music, theater, architecture), politics, family (household), health and medicine (death), science and technology, crime (law), literature, and images of the other (ethnicity). Send brief proposals and vitae to Jane Chance, English Dept. MS30, Rice Univ., PO Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251–1802 (jchance@rice.edu).

ENTOMOLOGIES. Contributions are invited for a volume of new critical essays, *Insect Poetics: Literary and Cultural Entomologies*. The collection will range from the classical period to the contemporary, treating insects in art, literature, and the sciences. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged on all aspects of cultural entomology, literary and political insects, insects on film and in the visual arts. Send essays (5,000–7,500 words in length) by 31 August 2003 to Eric C. Brown, Dept. of English, Univ. of Maine, Farmington 04938.

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EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY IT NARRATIVES. Submissions are sought for *The Secret Life of Things: Animals and Objects in Eighteenth-Century Fictions of Circulation*, a proposed collection of essays on what are variously called it narratives, novels of circulation, and object tales. Welcome are unpublished manuscripts that explore the relation between it narratives and such subjects as print culture; consumption, commodification, and commerce; money, property, and ownership; the slave trade and slave narratives; cross-cultural contact; gender and sexuality; class and status anxiety; personal identity; the "rise of the novel"; sensibility and sentimentalism; children's literature; and satire. Send 500-word abstracts or 20–30-page essays by 4 August 2003 to Mark Blackwell, Dept. of English, Univ. of Hartford, West Hartford, CT 06117 (blackwell@hartford.edu). Inquiries are welcome.

PUERTO RICAN DIASPORA. Submissions are invited for a collection of essays tentatively titled *Writing Of(f) the Hyphen: Critical Perspectives on the Literature of the Puerto Rican Diaspora*. The goal is to include essays covering a wide range of topics, genres, and authors that collectively offer a broad sense of the literature's development and presence. Preferred are original essays written in English; previously published essays will be considered. Submit 2-page abstracts or proposals along with brief vitae by 1 August 2003 to José Torres-Padilla, Dept. of English, State Univ. of New York, 101 Broad St., Plattsburgh 12901 (torresjl@plattsburgh.edu), and Carmen H. Rivera, Dept. of English, Univ. of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, PO Box 23356, San Juan, PR 00931-3356.

AMERICAN LITERARY GEOGRAPHIES. Interdisciplinary essays are invited for *American Literary Geographies: Space and Cultural Production, 1588–1888*, a collection that addresses relations between literature and geographic discourses and technologies before the founding of the National Geographic Society in 1888. Send vitae and 3-page proposals by 7 October 2003 to Martin Brückner (brueckner@english.udel.edu) or Hsuan L. Hsu (hhsu@socrates.berkeley.edu). Completed papers, 20–25 pages in length, are due by 1 August 2004.

PAIN. Original essays are invited for a collection of essays tentatively titled *The Productivity of Pain*. Pain has long been coded as a means to salvation and knowledge and as a stimulus to writing, or else it has been objectified as the truth's negative, something that, far from ennobling human beings, distances them from their affects. The logic is not hard to stomach. Pain poses a threat to identity by making the body alien. Sartre, in fact, confessed that illness deprived him of himself. But, within the same movement, pain confers identity on the individual because nobody can suffer for you, instead of you, just as nobody can die for you. Physical suffering is thus one of the most private of experiences, and because of its privacy, it is difficult to communicate. The core issues of this interdisciplinary collection, involving the translation of pain into art, are the (im)possibility of finding your own voice in situations of pain and the presumed therapeutic power of the artistic representation of pain. Contributors are urged to consider art in broad terms including disciplines such as visual and performing arts, religion, technology, language, and literary criticism. Other possible avenues of investigation include the role of difference in racialized and gendered constructions of pain and illiteracy and therapy. The deadline for completed manuscripts (hard copy and disk copy in Microsoft format) is 8 August 2003. Brief inquiries or proposals as well as completed manuscripts, of approximately 20 pages and in MLA format, should be sent to Nieves Pascual, Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación, Universidad de Jaén, Paraje Las Lagunillas, s/n 23071 Jaén, Spain (953-012136; fax: 953-012197; npascual@ujaen.es).

TEACHING *A FAREWELL TO ARMS*. Contributors are sought for a collection of essays on teaching *A Farewell to Arms* in secondary school, undergraduate, and graduate classrooms. The book will be part of a series published by the University of Idaho Press. Essays should be pedagogical how-to articles directed at teachers of Hemingway and should spell out, in a conversational writing style, what exercises, questions, audiovisual resources, and Internet sites the writer uses in the classroom to help students grapple with the novel. Essays, 15–20 pages in length, should offer useful, practical advice for working teachers and might include course syllabi, handouts, and sample exam questions. Those interested should write or call Lisa Tyler, Sinclair Community Coll., 444 West 3rd St., Dayton, OH 45402 (937 512-2250; lisa.tyler@sinclair.edu) by 15 August 2003 with details about their experience teaching the novel and with a brief description of the proposed essay.

VICTORIAN CULTURAL STUDIES. Donald E. Hall, editor of Victorian Critical Interventions, a new book series at Ohio State University Press, solicits provocative, theory-based contributions to Victorian cultural studies. The series will focus solely on brief manuscripts that make brash and revisionary claims. The series seeks manuscripts that are (or are revisable to) 40,000–60,000 words in length and that are adaptable to a standard format. In final draft form, all series entries must open with an introduction that sets out the book's interventionist claim and surveys the context into which it is intervening, followed by three or four body chapters covering its topic thoroughly, and must conclude with a clear and succinct assessment of the impact of the book's argument on the field of Victorian studies. Pertinent manuscripts might examine any of a wide variety of "texts"—literary, religious, political/historical, art- or music-related, gender/sexuality-related, science- or class-related—or even that of Victorian studies itself. Engaging with Victorian studies as a multi- and interdisciplinary field, manuscripts should be accessibly written

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and appeal to a diverse audience of readers (including intermediate through advanced students) interested in clear delineations of the scholarly conversation on a particular topic, as well as one critic's attempt to reveal its omissions and add provocatively to it. Series volumes should work to redefine what we know and do as Victorian studies. Send inquiries to Donald E. Hall, English Dept., California State Univ., Northridge 91330–8248 (donald.hall@csun.edu).

ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURES. Contributors are sought for the *Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literatures*, to be published by Greenwood Press in 2005. Approximately one million words in length, the work will be published simultaneously in five volumes. Entries on authors, texts, genres, themes, and historical events range in length from 500 to 5,000 words, and all ethnic American literary traditions—including various European American literatures—will be covered. For further information, write to Emmanuel S. Nelson, Dept. of English, State Univ. of New York, Cortland 13045 (nelsone@cortland.edu).

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE. The editors of *An Encyclopedia of African American Literature*, under contract with Greenwood Press, seek authors for entries on all aspects of African American literature. Entries in the five-volume encyclopedia will address authors, movements, and genres as well as the historical and cultural contexts of African American literature and its critical reception and interpretation. For further information, including detailed guidelines for submissions, e-mail the editors, Hans Ostrom (ostrom@ups.edu) and David Macey (dmacey@ups.edu), or write to *Encyclopedia of African American Literature*, Dept. of English, Univ. of Puget Sound, CMB 1045, 1500 North Warner St., Tacoma, WA 98416–1045.

RENAISSANCE STUDIES PRIZE. The annual Louis L. Martz Prize in Renaissance Studies was awarded to Derek Alwes, for his essay "'To Serve Your Prince by . . . an Honest Dissimulation': The *New Arcadia* as a Defense of Poetry." The prize, awarded by the South Central Renaissance Conference, includes a $1,000 honorarium and publication in the society's journal, *Explorations in Renaissance Culture*. Essays are being accepted for consideration for the 2003 prize. Submissions (5,000–6,500 words in length), in any area of Renaissance studies, must not have been published, accepted for publication, or read previously at an academic conference. Applicants agree to present the winning essay at "Exploring the Renaissance: An International Conference" (1–3 Apr. 2004) in Austin, Texas, and to publish the essay in the society's journal. Send submissions by 31 October 2003 to the jury chair, Raymond-Jean Frontain, Dept. of English, Univ. of Central Arkansas, Conway 72035.

JOSEPH CONRAD AWARD. The Joseph Conrad Society of America presents an annual award to an outstanding graduate student who is writing a dissertation on Conrad or to a recent PhD recipient who has been teaching for no more than three years and is doing research on Conrad. The award consists of $100, one year's membership in the society, and a complimentary invitation to the annual dinner held during the MLA convention. A letter of recommendation, the nominee's vita, and two copies of an example of his or her critical writing (not to exceed 9,000 words in length) should be sent by 1 October 2003 to Carola M. Kaplan, President, Joseph Conrad Soc. of America, English and Foreign Languages Dept., California State Univ., 3801 West Temple Ave., Pomona 91768. Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a large self-addressed, stamped envelope.

GEORGE ELIOT PRIZE. The George Eliot Fellowship awards an annual prize, of £250, for an unpublished paper on George Eliot's life or work. The next winning essay will be published in the 2004 *George Eliot Review*, and the author will also receive two years' honorary membership in the fellowship. Send two copies of submissions (no more than 3,000 words in length and typed or printed double-spaced on one side only of A4 paper with margins of 3.5 cm) by 12 December 2003 to Chairman, George Eliot Fellowship, 71 Stepping Stones Road, Coventry CV5 8JT, England. The winner will be announced on 31 March 2004. Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a large self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Journal Notes

— *Carmina Philosophiae* solicits submissions for its 2003 volume. Encouraged are submissions in a variety of approaches to Boethius, his influence, and his age. Articles of 10–30 pages in length, as well as manuscript editions, will be considered for publication. Send two copies, conforming to Chicago style, to Philip Edward Phillips, Editor, *Carmina Philosophiae*, English Dept., Middle Tennessee State Univ., PO Box 70, Murfreesboro 37132 (fax: 615 898-5098; pphillip@mtsu.edu).

— *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual* is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study and artistic appreciation of the South and of southern culture (including Appalachian culture). To debut in fall 2004 and to be published annually thereafter by Mercer University Press, *CrossRoads* will continue the editorial approach of *CrossRoads: A Journal of Southern Culture*, a semilegendary periodical published in the early 1990s by a dedicated group of graduate students affiliated with the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The original version of *CrossRoads* featured unpublished material by many of the leading scholars and artists committed to interpreting and celebrating the South, including Rob Amberg, A. R. Ammons, James Dickey, William Ferris, Ernest Gaines, Eugene Genovese, Kathryn Gurkin, Alex Haley, Robert Morgan, Tom Rankin, John

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Shelton Reed, Sheryl St. Germain, Jon Michael Spencer, and Steve Young. *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual* seeks submissions for its inaugural issue. Submissions can include analytic academic essays, oral histories, memoirs, creative writing, artwork, and photography. The main criteria ensuring consideration for the inaugural issue—and for subsequent issues—are that all submitted materials should (to borrow Faulkner's famous phrase) "tell about the South" and that they should do so memorably. Send submissions for the first issue by 15 August 2003 to Ted Olson, Editor, *CrossRoads*, ETSU, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614. Address questions to the editor at 423 439-4379 or olson@mail.etsu.edu.

➤ The *Edith Wharton Review* invites essays for a special issue, *Edith Wharton and the Provocations of Philosophy*. Essays should focus on Wharton's extensive engagement with Western philosophy and with various forms of philosophical writing; on her writing in relation to the work of classical, French, or German philosophers known to have been of interest to her; on her work's relation to pragmatism; on Wharton and the question of women and/in philosophy; or on similar issues. A fuller acknowledgment or presentation of Wharton as an intellectually and speculatively animated novelist is one of the chief objectives of this special issue. Send essays (up to approximately 20 double-spaced pages in length and following MLA style) by 15 September 2003 to Frederick Wegener, Dept. of English, California State Univ., 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach 90840-2403 (or as an e-mail attachment to fwegener@csulb.edu).

➤ *Gramma: Journal of Theory and Criticism* invites submissions for a special issue on comparative literature and global studies, to be published in 2005. The editors welcome interdisciplinary and comparative approaches on the usable pasts and the emerging futures of global literary comparatism, including discussions of the following: "world literature" as ethical ideal, as methodological challenge, and as foundation for emergent forms of knowledge; literary production, circulation, translation, and reception across and beyond national boundaries; literary history and theory from a global perspective (cosmopolitanism, diaspora and exile, postcoloniality, world-system theory); global literary comparatism in historical perspective; transnational literary geographies (continent and subcontinent, hemisphere, ocean, archipelago); conceptual horizons and theoretical tensions (global and local, core and periphery, system and fragment, structure and play, close and distant reading). Submissions should not exceed 5,000 words in length, including notes and bibliography, and should follow the *MLA Handbook* (5th ed.). Send them (as two hard copies and a copy on disk) by 31 December 2004 to the editors of the issue, Stephanos Stephanides (steve@ucy.ac.cy) and Antonis Balasopoulos (balaso@ucy.ac.cy), Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Univ. of Cyprus, PO Box 20537, 1678 Nicosia, Cyprus, and Yiorgos Kalogeras (kalogera@enl.auth.gr), School of English, Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki, 54 124 Thessaloniki, Greece.

➤ The *Journal of Language for International Business*, a biannual refereed publication, invites reviews of instructional materials and articles on business language education, intercultural communication, and cross-cultural studies. Electronic submission is preferred. Send manuscripts to the editorial coordinator, Dena Braun (braund@t-bird.edu). Those without e-mail access may mail manuscripts to Braun, CIBER Office, Thunderbird American Graduate School, 15249 North 59th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306-6000. Manuscripts are accepted throughout the year. Proposals for special issues of the journal (and for guest editors) are welcome as well.

➤ Submissions are sought for volume 6, issue 1, of the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*, to be published in spring-summer 2004. The issue will explore the subject Mothering, Law, Politics, and Public Policy. Welcome are submissions from scholars, students, activists, lawyers, policy makers, artists, and others who work or research in this area, as well as creative reflections such as poetry, short stories, and artwork on the subject. Those interested in contributing book reviews should write Cheryl Dobinson (cjdobins@yorku.ca). Book reviews are to be no more than 2 pages (500 words) in length; articles should be 15 pages (3,750 words). All should be in MLA style, in *WordPerfect* or *Microsoft Word*, and IBM-compatible. For more information, write or call ARM, 726 Atkinson Coll., York Univ., 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada (416 736-2100, ext. 60366; arm@yorku.ca; http://www.yorku.ca/crm). Submissions must be received by 1 November 2003. Those submitting work must be members of ARM by 1 November 2003.

➤ *Lit: Literature Interpretation Theory* solicits submissions for a special issue on literary murderesses—fictional murderesses as well as fictionalized accounts of historical figures from all periods. Of especial interest are essays that ground the literature in a cultural or historical analysis of crime and violence. Other topics of interest include discussions of literary violence in relation to gender, class, race, or language. Authors may include Angela Carter, Toni Morrison, Margaret Atwood, Aphra Behn, Thomas Hardy, H. Rider Haggard, Amanda Cross, Louisa May Alcott, and Max Beerbohm. *Lit* publishes critical essays that interpret texts from an engaging, coherent theoretical perspective and provide original close readings of texts. The journal is not restricted to specific periods, genres, or critical paradigms. Send three copies of essays (if outside the United States and Canada, one copy will do), 5,000–10,000 words in length and conforming to MLA citation style, by 1 September 2003 to

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Regina Barreca, Editor, *Lit: Literature Interpretation Theory*, Dept. of English, Univ. of Connecticut, 215 Glenbrook Road, Box 4025, Storrs 06269-4025. For more information, see the journal's Web site (http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~litjourn). Also welcome are submissions for upcoming general issues.

➸ *Prose Studies* invites submissions for a special issue, *Disability and/in Prose*. Welcome is historical, theoretical, critical work around disability and/in prose. Send initial queries to the guest editor, Brenda Brueggemann (brueggemann.1@osu.edu). Submit complete papers (15–25 double-spaced pages in length) to Brueggemann by 30 September 2003. *Prose Studies* is a forum for discussion of the history, theory, and criticism of nonfictional prose of all periods. While the journal publishes studies of such recognized genres of nonfiction as autobiography, biography, the sermon, the essay, the letter, the journal, and so forth, it also aims to promote the study of nonfictional prose as an important component in the profession's ongoing reconfiguration of the categories and canons of literature. Interdisciplinary studies, articles on noncanonical texts, and essays on the theory and practice of discourse are also included. For more detail, see the journal's Web site (http://www.frankcass.com/jnls/pro.htm).

➸ The *Spenser Review* announces a new series of short pieces, De Mulieribus Claris, remembering the careers of women scholars of medieval and Renaissance literature and history from the early days of the profession until circa 1975: until postmodernism changed the face of literary scholarship. In keeping with the journal's mission of documenting and preserving scholarship and its local, specific contexts, the editor invites pieces written as memoir; analyses of individual women's careers and the nature of their structural roles in the profession and the institution; surveys of a woman scholar's work; investigations of specific events or clusters of work. The work and careers of many remarkable women call for intelligent documentation and analysis, among them Hope Emily Allen, Josephine Waters Bennett, Beverly Boyd, Muriel Bradbrook, Lily Bess Campbell, Rosalie Colie, Ruth Dean, Germaine Dempster, Madeleine Doran, Juliet Dusinberre, Una Ellis-Fermor, Helen Gardner, Joan Kelly, Valerie Lagorio, Isabel MacCaffrey, Marjorie Hope Nicolson, Eileen Powers, Edith Rickert, Florence Ridley, Rosemond Tuve, Joan Webber, Enid Welsford, Helen C. White, Kathleen Williams, Lilian Winstanley, Frances Yates. Some pieces will be commissioned, but proposals are welcome. The journal anticipates printing one piece per issue, of a maximum of 3,000 words. Authors who strongly wish to contribute longer pieces are advised to write essays that can be serialized in sections. For more information, write to Theresa Krier, Editor, *Spenser Review*, Dept. of English, Univ. of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556 (tkrier@nd.edu).

➸ *Theatron*, a semiannual journal published by Washington University, invites graduate students to submit writing about theater and drama. Welcome are scholarly papers (12–20 pp. in length and conforming to MLA format) on dramatic literature, criticism, theory, or performance (languages: English, any Romance language, or German); original ten-minute plays or new translations of plays (up to 15 pp. in length); production reviews, reviews of new plays or of books on drama, interviews with theater professionals (3–6 pp. in length); and letters to the editors. E-mail all submissions by 31 July 2003 in a *Microsoft Word* attachment to theatron@artsci.wustl.edu. Do not include your name anywhere in your attached submission. Address all inquiries and comments to tjournal@artsci.wustl.edu.

➸ *Victorian Literature and Culture* seeks articles for an upcoming Editors' Topic on Victorian Taxonomies. Essays should be 20–30 pages long and follow MLA guidelines. Send two copies by 1 December 2003 to Allison Pease, Dept. of English, John Jay Coll., City Univ. of New York, 445 West 59th St., New York, NY 10019. Inquiries may be directed to apease@jjay.cuny.edu or mjerinic@yahoo.com.

Minutes of the MLA Delegate Assembly

The Delegate Assembly met on 29 December 2002 at the Hilton New York Hotel. First Vice President Mary Louise Pratt presided. The assembly was called to order at 1:10 p.m. The chair made some preliminary announcements about the conduct of the meeting, called for a demonstration of the electronic voting system to be used during the meeting, and announced the quorum for the meeting, which was 70 delegates, because 140 delegates had signed in for the meeting at the beginning. [Note: Of the 263 delegates, 176 (67%) attended all or part of the meeting (see the list that follows for the names of the delegates in attendance).]

1. On behalf of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee (DAOC), Ellen Messer-Davidow moved the adoption of the agenda that had been sent to assembly members. The motion occasioned no discussion and no objections. The chair therefore declared the agenda adopted by unanimous consent.

Messer-Davidow then offered a motion on behalf of the DAOC that the rules presented to the assembly be adopted. Since the motion occasioned neither discussion nor objections, the chair declared the rules adopted by unanimous consent.

Again on behalf of the DAOC, Messer-Davidow moved that the assembly approve the minutes of the 2001 meeting as printed in the May 2002 issue of *PMLA*. The chair asked if there were any corrections. Since no corrections were offered, the chair declared the minutes approved as published.

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2. The assembly elected one of its members, Lavina D. Shankar (English, Bates Coll.), to the DAOC for a three-year term (2003–05). Voting from a slate of nominees selected by the 2002 officers of the association, the assembly elected Renée Allen (comparative literature, Brown Univ.), George Levine (English, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick), Michelle A. Massé (English, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge), and Vicky Unruh (Spanish, Univ. of Kansas) to the Nominating Committee for two-year terms (2003–04). Voting from a slate of nominees selected by the DAOC, the assembly elected the following persons to the Elections Committee for two-year terms (2003–04): Dwight A. McBride (Northwestern Univ.), Susan M. Squier (Penn State Univ., University Park), and George Yúdice (New York Univ.).

3. The assembly received the report of the Executive Council, which dealt with Emergency Resolution 2001-A (see May 2002 *PMLA* 584). In January 2002, after the 2001 Delegate Assembly had approved the emergency resolution, the council received a request from one of the proposers to withdraw the resolution. This request raised a procedural question, because parliamentary law prohibits the withdrawal of a resolution at the request of the proposer after the resolution has been presented to the Delegate Assembly for action. After considering the MLA parliamentarian's advice about how to proceed, the council decided to return the resolution to the Delegate Assembly with the request from the proposer and to recommend that the assembly rescind its action.

Accordingly, Michael Bérubé offered a motion to rescind Emergency Resolution 2001-A. The chair announced that, because prior notice of the motion to rescind had been given, a simple majority vote was needed for adoption of the motion. The chair then opened the floor for discussion of the motion. No speakers came forward, so the chair asked the assembly to vote on the motion. The assembly approved the motion to rescind Emergency Resolution 2001-A by a vote of 131 yes and 13 no.

4. The assembly also received the DAOC's annual report. The chair called on Ellen Messer-Davidow, chair of the DAOC, to present the report. Messer-Davidow drew the assembly's attention to the section of the report dealing with the DAOC's review, undertaken at the request of the Executive Council, of the association's procedures for handling emergency resolutions and resolutions that name specific parties. The DAOC had formulated five recommendations for the council's consideration. First, the committee recommended strict enforcement of the existing provisions of the MLA constitution and Delegate Assembly bylaws pertaining to the submission of resolutions and motions. Second, the committee recommended that the constitutional provision calling for resolutions to be submitted with "documented background material" (art. 11.C.3.b) be clarified in two ways: through the addition of the phrase "that substantiates the resolution's claims" to the language of the constitution and through the development by the committee of more comprehensive guidelines for members on the kinds of documentation needed to support different kinds of resolutions. Third, the DAOC recommended that the submission deadline for resolutions, stipulated in article 11.C.3.c–d of the MLA constitution and in Delegate Assembly bylaw 7, be changed from 15 October to 1 October. The DAOC's fourth recommendation was to eliminate resolutions that name parties from the category of emergency resolutions (i.e., those submitted after the October deadline stipulated in the constitution and bylaws), so that such resolutions would have to be submitted by the October deadline. Finally, the DAOC recommended adding to the assembly's agenda an item that would allow for discussion outside the resolution process of issues affecting the discipline, the profession, and the higher education system.

The DAOC had discussed these recommendations with the council at the joint meeting of the DAOC and the council in October 2002. Because the council planned to take formal action on the recommendations at its February 2003 meeting, the DAOC wished to invite assembly members to comment on the recommendations. Messer-Davidow therefore moved that the assembly discuss the DAOC's recommendations for twenty-five minutes, during which time the rules adopted at the beginning of the meeting would continue to apply. This motion was approved by a vote of 106 yes and 39 no. The chair opened the floor for discussion of the recommendations.

The assembly's discussion focused on the committee's second recommendation to clarify the constitution's reference to "documented background material" that must be submitted with a resolution. Several speakers interpreted the additional phrase as providing the DAOC with an opportunity to reject resolutions on technical grounds before the assembly meeting, thereby not allowing the assembly to determine for itself whether background material submitted with a resolution substantiated the claims made in the resolution. Several DAOC members explained that the committee's intent was not to foreclose discussion but to obtain and present to the assembly the kinds of documentation that would allow delegates to make informed decisions about the resolutions. James Phelan suggested that a different clarifying phrase—"that seeks to substantiate the resolution's claims"—might be more acceptable. At the conclusion of the time period allotted for discussion of the DAOC's recommendations, the chair thanked assembly members for their comments and encouraged them to communicate additional comments to the members of the DAOC or the Executive Council. The chair then proceeded to the next item on the assembly's agenda.

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5. The assembly received the report of the executive director, the Finance Committee report, and annual reports from the *PMLA* Editorial Board, Publications Committee, Committee on Scholarly Editions, Committee on the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*, Committee on Honors and Awards, Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities, Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures, Committee on Information Technology, Radio Committee, Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession, Committee on Community Colleges, and Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession. The chair opened the floor for questions and comments. The report of the executive director, the report from the editor of *PMLA*, and the report from the Committee on Honors and Awards each occasioned one question, which MLA staff members answered.

6. In the category of new business, there were two regular resolutions that were received by the 15 October submission deadline for resolutions. Laraine Fergenson and Finley C. Campbell submitted the first resolution, which was referred to as Resolution 2002–1. It read as follows:

> Whereas the current violence in the Middle East has resulted in deplorable acts of bigotry at North American colleges and universities;
>
> Resolved that university administrations and faculties be proactive in promoting productive dialogue and mutual respect among students of different religious, cultural, and political backgrounds; and
>
> Resolved that the MLA condemn anti-Jewish and anti-Arab or anti-Muslim racism as equally abhorrent; and
>
> Resolved that the MLA condemn boycotts and blacklists against scholars on the basis of nationality as unfair, divisive, and inconsistent with academic freedom.

Anne Ruggles Gere presented the resolution and the DAOC's recommendation that the assembly approve the resolution. The chair then stated the question on the resolution and reminded delegates about the procedure that would be followed for the consideration of resolutions. She would call first for debate and amendment of the *resolved* clause or clauses and then for debate and amendment of the preamble before putting the full text of each resolution to a vote. Accordingly, the chair opened the floor for discussion of the *resolved* clauses of Resolution 2002–1.

Laraine Fergenson, one of the proposers of the resolution, thanked the DAOC for its recommendation and addressed an issue that had been raised the previous day during the Open Hearing on Resolutions. She explained that the current resolution was necessary despite the recent ratification by the membership of a similar resolution (see May 2002 *PMLA* 582), because the current resolution urged universities and faculty members to be proactive and condemned specific kinds of racism and the use of boycotts and blacklists as tools of intimidation and isolation. Barbara Silliman proposed to amend the third *resolved* clause by adding "ethnicity, and religious background" after "nationality." This amendment was seconded, and the chair opened the floor for discussion of the amendment. Marta B. Gallegos proposed to amend the amendment by substituting the word "cultures" for "ethnicity." This secondary amendment was also seconded, and the chair asked the assembly to discuss it. One speaker commented on the infelicity of the resulting full phrase ("nationality, cultures, and religious background"). Since there was no further discussion of the secondary amendment, the chair asked the assembly to vote. The secondary amendment was approved by a vote of 87 yes and 70 no. The chair then called for further discussion of the amended amendment to the third *resolved* clause. Several speakers noted that the unnuanced references to nationality and cultures presented problems; others said that the word "and" needed to be changed to "or." A motion to close debate was made and seconded, and the chair called for a vote on the motion, which required a two-thirds vote for passage. The assembly closed debate by a vote of 122 yes and 32 no. The amended amendment to the third *resolved* clause therefore came to an immediate vote. It was approved by a vote of 89 yes and 67 no.

The chair called for further discussion of the three *resolved* clauses. Another amendment to the third *resolved* clause was proposed and seconded: the addition of "or students" after "scholars." The chair stated the question on the amendment and opened the floor for discussion. After brief discussion, the chair put the amendment to a vote. The assembly approved the amendment by a vote of 112 yes and 42 no. The chair again called for further discussion of the three *resolved* clauses. Donald Pease proposed to amend the amended third *resolved* clause by substituting the words "ethnic origins" for the word "cultures." The parliamentarian advised the chair that the amendment was not in order because it renewed a motion that the assembly had already acted on. That is, there was no substantive difference between "ethnic origins" and "ethnicity," a word that the assembly had rejected in a previous vote. Lavina Shankar argued that there was a substantive difference: "ethnicity" referred to self-identification, while "ethnic origins" referred to a process of identification by others that could lead to persecution. The chair ruled that the amendment was in order and called for further discussion of the amendment. Since there was none, the chair

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asked the assembly to vote on the substitution of "ethnic origins" for "cultures." The assembly approved the amendment by a vote of 136 yes and 15 no.

Since the time allowed for discussion of the resolution was running out, the chair called for discussion of the resolution's preamble. No speakers came forward. The assembly then voted to approve the amended resolution by a vote of 136 yes and 13 no. The text of the resolution approved by the assembly read as follows:

> Whereas the current violence in the Middle East has resulted in deplorable acts of bigotry at North American colleges and universities;
>
> Resolved that university administrations and faculties be proactive in promoting productive dialogue and mutual respect among students of different religious, cultural, and political backgrounds; and
>
> Resolved that the MLA condemn anti-Jewish and anti-Arab or anti-Muslim racism as equally abhorrent; and
>
> Resolved that the MLA condemn boycotts and blacklists against scholars or students on the basis of nationality, ethnic origins, and religious background as unfair, divisive, and inconsistent with academic freedom.

The second resolution (designated Resolution 2002-2) was submitted by Michael Bennett, Gregory Meyerson, and Leo Parascondola on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages. It read as follows:

> Whereas the Modern Language Association opposes exploitation of non-tenure-track faculty;
>
> Whereas the recent practice of the University of California–Davis violated due process in not renewing experienced long-term lecturers and replacing them with more contingent short-term post-doctoral lecturers;
>
> Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association joins the AAUP in calling on the University of California–Davis to resist the creation of new tiers of contingent faculty, rehire the terminated lecturers, and stabilize the ranks of the faculty by extending due process protections to all who teach at that institution;
>
> Be it further resolved that the MLA opposes similar trends elsewhere.

Mary Burgan of the DAOC presented the resolution and explained that the DAOC, after studying the resolution carefully, had decided to propose a substitute resolution, which had been distributed to delegates when they signed in for the meeting and which read as follows:

> Whereas the MLA opposes exploitation of non-tenure-track faculty;
>
> Whereas UC Davis is not renewing probationary lecturers while hiring new lecturers on terminal contracts, thereby weakening a category of long-term non-tenure-track faculty who have some job security and due-process protections, under a plan that is supposed to convert non-tenure-track faculty lines to tenure-track faculty lines;
>
> Be it resolved that the MLA urges UC Davis to resist creating new, less secure tiers of contingent faculty and to ensure due-process protections for all their faculty;
>
> Be it further resolved that the MLA opposes similar trends elsewhere.

The chair asked for and received a second to the motion to amend the resolution by substitution and then opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Burgan explained why the DAOC had decided to offer a substitute resolution. First, speaking in her capacity as the general secretary of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), she noted that the reference to the AAUP in the original resolution had to be eliminated because the position attributed to the AAUP was actually the opinion of the chair of an AAUP committee and because the AAUP letter submitted in support of the original resolution had not been approved by any of the AAUP's executive bodies. Second, she noted that the DAOC wished to focus on the issue of the conversion of non-tenure-track positions to tenure-track positions and on the means by which institutions seek to accomplish this conversion. Katie Trumpener agreed that the substitute resolution improved on the original but noted that the final phrase in the second *whereas* clause was misplaced. She therefore proposed to amend the substitute resolution by moving the phrase "under a plan that is supposed to convert non-tenure-track faculty lines to tenure-track faculty lines" to the appropriate place, directly after the opening words "Whereas UC Davis." The chair ruled that the proposed amendment was nonsubstantive and did clarify an ambiguity, so she asked if there were any objections to making the suggested change. Since there were no objections, the chair declared the amendment adopted. In response to a question, members of the DAOC explained why the original resolution's reference to the rehiring of terminated lecturers had been eliminated from the substitute resolution: (1) the MLA had no standing to address what was essentially a contractual matter that would be decided by a labor-relations board, and (2) Michelle Squitieri, who was one of the terminated lecturers and who had worked on the resolution, and the proposers of the resolution had agreed that the resolution should focus more generally on the policies and practices that affected the different classes of lecturers at the University of California, Davis. After this further clarification, the chair proceeded to a vote on the motion to substitute the DAOC's revised resolution for the one originally submitted. The assembly approved the motion to substitute by a vote of 139 yes and 7 no.

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The chair then called for discussion of the *resolved* clauses of the substitute resolution. [Note: After several speakers had commented on the resolution, the parliamentarian advised the chair that the portion of debate time reserved for nonmembers had been used. After further consultation with the parliamentarian and following suggestions made from the floor, the chair proposed to extend discussion by ten minutes and to set aside a portion of the extended time for nonmembers to speak. Since there were no objections, the time for debate was extended in the manner proposed by the chair.] One speaker said that it was not clear either that a new tier of contingent labor was being created at Davis or that any contractual obligations had been violated and that it would be difficult to arrive at a judgment about the situation without more information. Other speakers, citing in particular the two-year postdoctoral positions being created at Davis, argued that new tiers of contingent faculty members were being established and that the job security of long-term lecturers was being undermined. It was also noted that the conversion of some lecturer positions to tenure-track positions would not obviate the need to staff the courses that had been taught by lecturers and that it was difficult to imagine certain kinds of courses (e.g., in the less commonly taught languages) being taught by anyone other than long-term lecturers. Another speaker asked whether the resolution did not simply urge Davis to pursue its stated plan of converting non-tenure-track positions to tenure-track positions.

Elizabeth Langland, dean of humanities, arts, and cultural studies at Davis, drew delegates' attention to the letter detailing the situation at the university that had been submitted by Davis's chancellor and reiterated that she and her colleagues were pursuing a plan to create additional tenure-track positions at Davis and were not thereby creating new tiers of contingent faculty members or violating due process. She explained that only a few probationary lecturers had been adversely affected by the plan; that special assistance had been provided to the affected lecturers, both through a union agreement and individually; and that Davis guaranteed the continuing employment of fifty-two long-term lecturers in the humanities, twenty-four of them in English. She also argued that the creation of postdoctoral positions with a substantial research component could not be characterized as the creation of a new tier of contingent faculty. Because the resolution did not reflect the actual situation at Davis, Langland suggested that the resolution's focus on Davis was unjustified. Squitieri said the resolution was justified because Davis had recently departed from its long-standing practice of reviewing probationary lecturers at the end of the probationary period and then offering three-year contracts to those lecturers whose reviews were positive. She maintained that the new postdoctoral positions had been added at the expense of new long-term lecturer positions and that this kind of conversion had negative effects on the courses previously taught by lecturers. Another speaker commented on the difficulty of making a decision based on the information and arguments presented and noted also that Davis was in part following previous assembly recommendations on the creation of tenure-track positions, that Davis was not the only institution seeking to reconfigure its faculty, and that what was therefore needed was an MLA committee that would investigate the issues raised by the resolution. After Michael Bérubé of the DAOC urged delegates to consider the current resolution as an example of the decision-making process discussed earlier in the meeting (see item 4 above), the final speaker criticized the creation of postdoctoral positions as a tactic intended to divide the faculty ranks and demean non-tenure-track faculty members.

The chair announced that the time for debate of the resolution had expired and that she would call for a vote unless she heard a motion to extend debate. No one offered such a motion, so the chair asked the assembly to vote on the motion to adopt the resolution as substituted. The assembly approved the resolution by a vote of 72 yes and 51 no. The text of the resolution approved by the assembly read as follows:

> Whereas the MLA opposes exploitation of non-tenure-track faculty;
>
> Whereas UC Davis, under a plan that is supposed to convert non-tenure-track faculty lines to tenure-track faculty lines, is not renewing probationary lecturers while hiring new lecturers on terminal contracts, thereby weakening a category of long-term non-tenure-track faculty who have some job security and due-process protections;
>
> Be it resolved that the MLA urges UC Davis to resist creating new, less secure tiers of contingent faculty and to ensure due-process protections for all their faculty;
>
> Be it further resolved that the MLA opposes similar trends elsewhere.

7. Also in the category of new business were two "emergency" resolutions—so designated because they were received after the 15 October deadline for submission of regular resolutions. All had been submitted to the DAOC during the Open Hearing on Resolutions on 28 December. The texts of the emergency resolutions were distributed to delegates immediately before the assembly meeting. The chair reminded the assembly that it could consider an emergency resolution only if three-fourths of the members agreed to consider the resolution.

The first emergency resolution, designated Emergency Resolution 2002-A, was submitted by Richard

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Ohmann on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages. It read as follows:

> Whereas governments seeking popular support for war deploy rhetoric that normalizes violence, neutralizes the pain of war, makes the enemy appear radically different from "us," and in general represents war as just and inevitable,
>
> Therefore, be it resolved that as professionals who teach about language and culture, we have an obligation at this time to explore with students and other citizens the deceptive and dangerous force of terms such as "regime change," "war on terrorism," "axis of evil," and "preemption" as used to justify aggressive war against Iraq.

Rosemarie Scullion presented the emergency resolution to the assembly, and the chair put to the assembly the question of whether it wished to consider the resolution. The chair reminded the assembly that the motion required a three-fourths vote for approval. The assembly's vote was 75 yes and 29 no, which was not sufficient to allow the assembly to discuss and take action on the resolution. The chair therefore asked the assembly to turn to the next item of business.

The second emergency resolution, designated Emergency Resolution 2002-B, was submitted by Patricia Keeton on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and Modern Languages. It read as follows:

> Whereas government estimates of war/postwar costs are $50 billion to $1.9 trillion; and
>
> Whereas these outlays will cause devastating cuts in services, including postsecondary education; and
>
> Whereas all government outlays for postsecondary education (2001) represented merely 11 percent—or $77.4 billion—of the total $768.2 billion spent; and
>
> Whereas the same $50 billion, not spent for war, could increase government postsecondary funding to 19 percent; or provide Head Start funding for 7,000,000 children or health care coverage for 20 million children,
>
> Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association encourage funding allocation for education and services rather than war.

Reed Dasenbrock presented the emergency resolution to the assembly, and the chair put to the assembly the question of whether it wished to consider the resolution. The vote on this procedural motion was 82 yes and 24 no, which was sufficient to allow the assembly to discuss and take action on the resolution. Dasenbrock then presented the DAOC's recommendation that the assembly not approve the resolution. He explained that, while the DAOC was not necessarily opposed to the sentiments expressed in the resolution, the committee found a number of problems with it. The committee concluded that the background material submitted with the resolution did not substantiate the resolution's claims, including some of the dollar figures given; that there was no basis for assuming that money could be shifted from the defense side to the domestic side of the federal budget; that the resolution did not recognize the substantial role of the states in funding education or the fact that funding for the US Department of Education had increased in recent years; and that the resolution, because it commented on issues that fell outside the educational mission of the association, might threaten the association's tax-exempt status.

The chair called for discussion of the *resolved* clause. Keeton urged support for the resolution, explained the factors that made it difficult to estimate the cost of the expected war, and called attention to widespread budget cutbacks that had affected her campus and higher education in general. One speaker characterized the resolution as speculative and urged the assembly to wait and formulate a more focused resolution based on actual events and their effects on education. A number of speakers disagreed with the DAOC's contention that the resolution posed a threat to the MLA's tax-exempt status. Rosemary Feal responded that the activities of the association were constrained by its charter and that the association's legal counsel would be asked for advice about the resolution. One speaker agreed with the resolution's assumption of a connection between the defense and domestic sides of the federal budget, while another speaker said that the history of education funding in the last two decades showed that the assumed connection did not exist. Another speaker agreed that it was difficult to provide documentation pertaining to a future war and urged delegates to speak out on a legitimate issue.

Carole Anne Taylor did not agree that the resolution was speculative and proposed to amend the resolution by substituting one *whereas* clause for all the original ones. The single *whereas* clause read as follows: "Whereas government war/postwar costs cause devastating cuts in services, including postsecondary education." This amendment was seconded, and the chair then opened the floor for discussion of the amendment. One speaker opposed the amendment because it removed all specificity from the preamble and turned the resolution into an unqualified antiwar statement. A motion to close debate was then made and seconded. The chair called for a vote on the motion, which required a two-thirds vote for passage. The assembly closed debate by a vote of 80 yes and 15 no. The amendment therefore came to an immediate vote and was approved by a vote of 73 yes and 30 no. The chair opened the floor for discussion of the amended resolution. After brief further discussion, during which the resolution's unqualified opposition to war was again criticized, Dasenbrock challenged

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the existence of a quorum, and the parliamentarian ordered a count of the house. There were 98 delegates still in attendance, which meant that a quorum was present. A motion to close debate on the amended resolution was then made and seconded. The chair called for a vote on the motion, which required a two-thirds vote for passage. The assembly closed debate by a vote of 79 yes and 21 no. The amended resolution therefore came to an immediate vote. The assembly approved it by a vote of 62 yes and 35 no. The text of the resolution approved by the assembly read as follows:

> Whereas government war/postwar costs cause devastating cuts in services, including postsecondary education;
>
> Be it resolved that the Modern Language Association encourage funding allocation for education and services rather than war.

8. The chair called for the announcement of other items of new business, noting that any new proposals could be discussed but could not be voted on until the next assembly meeting. No one came forward.

9. The chair called for announcements. Luca Somigli repeated a request he had made earlier in the meeting, when the report of the executive director came to the floor for questions and comments. He suggested that the association issue minimum-wage recommendations for Canadian institutions, as it had recently done for United States institutions. Jay Grossman called delegates' attention to a recent online report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the projected costs, both financial and in terms of international stability, of a war with Iraq.

10. Since there was no further business before the assembly, the chair declared the 2002 meeting of the Delegate Assembly adjourned sine die at 4:07 p.m.

Delegates in attendance:

Divisional Delegates: Danny J. Anderson, Laura Bass, Catherine G. Bellver, Anne L. Birberick, Mary Blockley, Joanna Brooks, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Emily Miller Budick, Anne T. Ciecko, Anne J. Cruz, Lennard J. Davis, David Del Principe, Christine R. Farris, Mary A. Favret, Richard Flynn, John Miles Foley, Allen J. Frantzen, Pamela K. Gilbert, Joan Tasker Grimbert, Jay Grossman, Donald E. Hall, Mark B. N. Hansen, Deborah Harter, Susan Hegeman, Mae Henderson, Hilde M. Hoogenboom, Irene Kacandes, Kathleen Lenore Komar, Peter Kvidera, Deidre Shauna Lynch, E. L. McCallum, Amelia María de la Luz Montes, Bill V. Mullen, Timothy S. Murphy, Jim Phelan, Dora E. Polachek, Helmut Puff, K. S. N. Rao, Susheela N. Rao, Sangeeta Ray, Luis Fernando Restrepo, Regina A. Root, Gary F. Scharnhorst, Peter Schulman, Peggy L. Sharpe, Rajini Srikanth, Paul Stevens, John A. Stevenson, Ernest W. Sullivan II, Sean Teuton, Peter W. Travis, Kathrine Varnes, Jennifer Wicke, Tamsen Wolff, Chad C. Wright, Jack A. Yeager, Christina Zwarg.

Special-Interest Delegates: Jesse Alemán, Ruth M. (Beth) Alvarez, Michael Andre, Gil Anidjar, Eileen Barrett, Patricia E. Black, William M. Burgan, Sarah E. Chinn, Kandice Chuh, Katharine Coles, Roser Coll-Gallo, Michael J. Collins, Mario DiGangi, David L. Eng, Laraine R. Fergenson, Nina Garrett, William Tell Gifford, Cheryl Glenn, Laura G. Gutiérrez, Kristen C. Harmon, Jane Harper, Carol E. Henderson, Ronna C. Johnson, Doris Y. Kadish, Rodrigo J. Lazo, Christopher Meeks, Ricardo L. Ortíz, Suzanne R. Pucci, Michael Reder, Jeffrey J. Santa Ana, Lavina D. Shankar, Barbara A. Silliman, Luca Somigli, Ann E. Wallace, Elizabeth J. West.

Regional Delegates: Emily Allen, Gregory Baer, Brigitte Bailey, Ian Baucom, Matt Borden, Laura Browder, Joan F. Cammarata, Allison E. Carey, Holly R. Cashman, Pamela L. Caughie, María Elena Cepeda, Julian W. Connolly, Richard A. Currie, Thadious M. Davis, Marilynn Desmond, Patricia A. Donahue, Mary Lucille Dudy, Jane Everett, Fernanda Ferreira, Yolanda Flores, Kenneth B. Frieden, Peter Alan Froehlich, Denise Galarza Sepúlveda, Marta B. Gallegos, Tim Gauthier, Ester G. González, Roman Graf, Charles A. Grair, Michelle Habell-Pallan, Lisa Justine Hernandez, Rafael Hernandez, Leonard D. Hinds, M. Cecilia Hwangpo, M. Thomas Inge, De Witt Douglas Kilgore, Jeffrey Knapp, Pericles Lewis, Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Michelle Massé, David Mazella, Pamela McCallum, Peggy McCracken, Bridget M. Morgan, Greg Mullins, Charles J. Nolan, Jr., James O'Rourke, William A. Pannapacker, Leo Parascondola, Donald Pease, F. Regina Psaki, James M. Scannell, Geoffrey Saunders Schramm, James F. Slevin, Charles J. Stivale, Barbara A. Szlanic, Carole Anne Taylor, Kyla Wazana Tompkins, Lourdes Torres, Bianca Tredennick, Jane C. Tylus, Vicky Unruh, Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor, Ali Shehzad Zaidi.

Delegates Representing Regional MLAs: Albrecht Classen, Kathleen Diffley, Lorely French, David McWhirter, Scott F. Stoddart.

Officers and Members of the Executive Council: Michael Bérubé, Reed Way Dasenbrock, Roland Greene, Mary Louise Pratt, Tey Diana Rebolledo, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, Amada Sandoval, Robert Scholes, Rosemarie Scullion, Sidonie Smith, Katie Trumpener.

Members of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee: Mary Burgan, Miriam B. Echeverría, Anne Ruggles Gere, Roberta Krueger, Ellen Messer-Davidow.

Parliamentarian: Martha S. Grise.

Clerk: Rosemary G. Feal.

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Meeting of the MLA Executive Council

[Note: The Executive Council voted to approve these minutes at its February 2003 meeting.]

The council met on 25–26 October 2002 at the MLA office in New York. President Stephen Greenblatt presided. The officers present were First Vice President Mary Louise Pratt, Second Vice President Robert Scholes, and Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal. The Executive Council members present were Michael Bérubé (26 Oct. only), Judith Butler, Rey Chow, Reed Way Dasenbrock, Roland Greene, Françoise Lionnet, Tey Diana Rebolledo, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, Amada Sandoval, Rosemarie Scullion, and Sidonie Smith. The MLA staff members present were Director of Bibliographic Information Services and Editor of the *MLA International Bibliography* Barbara Chen, 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, Associate Executive Director and Head of the Division of MLA Operations Regina Vorbeck, Director of Foreign Language Programs Elizabeth B. Welles, and Assistant to the Executive Director and Coordinator of Governance Carol Zuses.

The council began by meeting with the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee (DAOC), which had convened on 23–24 October to review assembly and association business. Ellen Messer-Davidow, the chair of the committee, summarized the committee's deliberations on the four proposals that had been submitted for consideration by the Delegate Assembly, and then she turned to the council's request that the DAOC review the association's procedures for handling emergency resolutions and resolutions that name specific parties (see Oct. 2002 *PMLA* 1332–34). During its meeting, the DAOC had discussed the problems caused when resolutions are not submitted early enough to allow for fully informed deliberations by the DAOC, the Delegate Assembly, or the Executive Council or when resolutions are submitted with inadequate documentation. The committee had therefore begun to develop guidelines for members on the kinds of documentation needed to support a resolution and had formulated three recommendations for changes in the resolution process, all of which would require constitutional amendments. The DAOC recommended (1) that the submission deadline for resolutions be changed from 15 October to 1 October; (2) that the constitution's language on "documented background material" (art. 11.C.3.b) be clarified by adding the phrase "that substantiates the resolution's claims"; and (3) that the submission after the October deadline of resolutions naming parties be prohibited. The council was asked to consider proposing the necessary amendments. Messer-Davidow noted that the DAOC's recommendations to the council would be reported to the assembly in December and that the committee's advice to members on documentation could be disseminated through the *MLA Newsletter*. Council members discussed the recommendations with the DAOC, asked the executive director to consult the association's lawyer on issues related to named parties, and placed on its February 2003 agenda the question of proposing the recommended constitutional amendments.

In addition to its recommendations on the resolution process, the DAOC had also formulated a proposal to include in the assembly's 2003 agenda an opportunity for delegates to discuss important professional issues (e.g., state and federal funding of higher education, scholarly publishing, the conversion of part-time positions to full-time positions). The committee planned to place an article in the *Newsletter* inviting members to identify discussion topics.

The council thanked the committee for its presentation and for its detailed consideration of the resolution process. In addition to the chair, the members of the DAOC who participated in the meeting with the council were Mary Burgan (Amer. Assn. of Univ. Professors), Anne Ruggles Gere (Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor), and Roberta Krueger (Hamilton Coll.). Also present was MLA Parliamentarian Martha S. Grise.

After the joint meeting with the DAOC, the council discussed arrangements for its afternoon meeting on scholarly publishing and then began to review and take action on the various matters before it. After lunch on Friday, 25 October, the council held a joint meeting with representatives of the Association of American University Presses and the Association of Research Libraries (see item 6 below). The council meeting resumed on Saturday morning, 26 October. After holding an executive session, the council continued its review of reports and action items and concluded its business at 2:00 p.m.

The council took the following actions:

1. *Administration and Finance.* The council received a report on the fiscal year just ended (2001–02), which showed that the association concluded the year with a projected surplus of $651,820 in the unrestricted fund instead of the deficit that had been anticipated. Revenue that was higher and expenses that were lower than expected accounted for the shift from deficit to surplus. The Finance Committee noted that all expense categories came in under budget projections.

The council approved the final budget for the fiscal year 2002–03, which projects a surplus of $58,320 in the unrestricted fund. The Finance Committee attributed the surplus to strong revenue projections, principally for the bibliography, the new electronic format of *PMLA*, the sixth edition of the *MLA Handbook*, and the 2002 New

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York convention, that more than offset projected increases in expenses. The final budget also included funds for the planning of a national conference on disability studies, the resumption of a two-meetings-a-year schedule for committees that had been limited to one meeting in 2001–02, and the development of an English curriculum sample survey.

The council appointed Nancy Miller and Amada Sandoval to join the officers of the association on the council's Audit Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing the audit report prepared by the independent accounting firm that audits the association's funds.

The council reviewed the circumstances surrounding a procedural error that occurred after the May council meeting, when the Executive Committee of the Executive Council (which consists of the officers and the senior class of council members) was called on to determine how to respond to members' requests that the MLA condemn an action taken by a British journal publisher who wished to support a European boycott against Israeli scholars. According to a procedure adopted in October 2000 for making decisions between council meetings on items requiring council action, the full council should have been consulted about the response to the requests (see May 2001 *PMLA* 748). The council reaffirmed this procedure for dealing with urgent questions that arise between council meetings. It also changed the name of the Executive Committee to Advisory Committee to avoid confusion with the Executive Council itself and to clarify the committee's role. The renamed committee will have a purely advisory function, since council members agreed that the procedures in place prohibited any subgroup of the council from speaking for the council unless specifically charged by the full council to do so. The council briefly considered a related question about establishing guidelines on the types of issues on which the MLA would take public stands. Council members agreed that it was unnecessary to pursue the question, since the council is already guided in such matters by the MLA constitution and by its obligations as a fiduciary body.

2. *Approval of the May 2002 Council Minutes.* The council approved the minutes of its May 2002 meeting for publication in the January 2003 issue of *PMLA*.

3. *Appointment of a Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).* The council appointed Françoise Lionnet to a four-year term (2003–06) as the association's representative in the Delegate Assembly of the ACLS.

4. *Appointment of a Parliamentarian.* The council reappointed Martha S. Grise to a second three-year term (2003–05) as MLA parliamentarian.

5. *Executive Director Emerita.* In recognition of her long and distinguished tenure as executive director of the association, the council voted unanimously to give the title of executive director emerita to Phyllis Franklin.

6. *Initiatives Related to Scholarly Publishing.* Taking into account the discussions held on 25 October with representatives of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) and the Association of Research Libraries, the council explored a number of short- and long-term projects for the MLA to pursue. First, to begin to determine the feasibility of the MLA's becoming involved in an electronic publishing venture, the council instructed the staff to gather information on existing electronic publishing projects that might serve as models. Second, to encourage departments and institutions to consider deemphasizing the book in their tenure requirements, the council decided it was necessary to provide a set of guidelines on the evaluation of electronic scholarly and teaching materials. Michael Bérubé, Rey Chow, and Sidonie Smith agreed to outline for the next council meeting the issues involved in the development of such guidelines. Third, since university press publishing decisions have direct effects on tenure decisions, the council wished to encourage the AAUP to develop an ethics statement on the manuscript submission and evaluation process. Council members recommended that such a statement also address the ethical issues surrounding the provision of publishing subventions.

7. *Council Subcommittee on* PMLA *Editor.* LaVonne Ruoff, chair of the council subcommittee overseeing the search for a new editor of *PMLA* (see Jan. 2003 *PMLA* 174), reported to the council on the subcommittee's work. The subcommittee had solicited nominations widely and was gathering information on all nominees. Ruoff invited council members to make additional nominations and to comment on the nominations already received. She also said that the subcommittee planned to present to the council in February 2003 a ranked list of six nominees for the council's consideration.

8. *Annual Reports from Standing Committees.* The council received annual reports from the editor of *PMLA* and from the following standing committees: Publications Committee, Committee on Scholarly Editions, Committee on the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*, Committee on Honors and Awards, Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities, Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures, Committee on Information Technology, Radio Committee, Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession, Committee on Community Colleges, and Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession. The council accepted these reports with thanks. Council members

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commented on a variety of committee activities, and the committees' staff liaisons responded to council members' questions.

In conjunction with its discussion of the report from the editor of *PMLA,* the council broached the subject of publishing book reviews in *PMLA*. Council members briefly discussed the pros and cons of including book reviews and the variety of forms that such reviews could take. The council asked the staff to prepare a report for the February 2003 council meeting on the practices of other scholarly journals and learned societies. Council members also encouraged the staff to publicize the *PMLA* special topic on poetry by sending an e-mail message to the members of the MLA Division on Poetry.

9. *Request from the Committee on Scholarly Editions (CSE).* Because of the specialized nature of the committee's work, the CSE requested that the council consult with the committee before making final decisions on new CSE appointees. The council decided that consultation at that stage of the appointment process was unnecessary because the council understood the committee's membership requirements, always considered suggestions or nominations from the committee, and sought to make appointments that would be in keeping with the committee's needs.

10. *Convention Site for 2004.* The council selected Philadelphia as the site of the 2004 annual convention.

11. *Committee Appointments.* The council made five additional appointments to MLA committees and appointed one committee chair. The names of all new committee members will appear in the listings of MLA committee members in the September 2003 (Directory) issue of *PMLA*.

12. *Request from the Alliance of Rhetoric Societies.* The Alliance of Rhetoric Societies (ARS), an organization formed in 2002 to foster collaboration among organizations that focus in whole or in part on the field of rhetoric, requested that the MLA affiliate with the ARS as a charter member. The council postponed consideration of the request to allow the staff to gather more information about the responsibilities that a charter membership would entail.

13. *Request from a Member.* The council received a request from a member to intervene in a matter involving an alleged ethical lapse by another member. The council discussed the request and, following long-standing council practice, decided that it could not adjudicate in this matter. The council asked the staff to so inform the member who made the request.

In Memoriam

J. J. Alfieri, Lawrence University, 8 March 2003
Quentin Anderson, Columbia University, 18 February 2003
Roger Asselineau, University of Paris IV (Paris-Sorbonne), 8 July 2002
Terrence Baker, Cottonwood, Arizona, 9 March 2003
Alex J. Cameron, University of Dayton, 25 February 2003
Lisa P. Conde, University of Wales, 11 November 2002
Raul Diaz-Carnot, Hollywood, Florida, 2 June 2002
Brady B. Gilleland, University of Vermont, 15 February 2003
Wilma M. Hoffmann, University of Illinois, Chicago, 8 December 2002
Georges May, Yale University, 28 February 2003
Joseph H. Summers, University of Rochester, 3 February 2003
Dorothy Tyler, Moravian College, 20 December 2002
Charles Vandersee, University of Virginia, 13 January 2003
Howard W. Webb, Jr., Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 27 January 2003
Robert Lewis Weeks, Denver, Colorado, 19 September 2002
Kenneth G. Wilson, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 11 March 2003

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