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).

MANLIO ARGUETA. Essays are invited for a volume on the work of the Salvadoran writer Manlio Argueta. Submissions may treat any aspect of his work. The editors are Astvaldur Astvaldsson (Univ. of Liverpool), Linda J. Craft (North Park Univ.), and Ana Patricia Rodríguez (Univ. of Maryland, College Park). Essays should be prepared for blind refereeing: provide the title and the author's name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address on a separate sheet. Send two typed, double-spaced hard copies of essays (in Spanish or English; no more than 8,000 words in length, including notes and the list of works cited; and conforming to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed.) by 1 July 2005 to Susan M. Nelson, Assistant, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Box 52, North Park Univ., 3225 West Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Essays should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. For questions regarding the volume, write Linda J. Craft, Professor, Spanish Dept., Box 30, North Park Univ., 3225 West Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60625 (lcraft@northpark.edu).

T. S. ELIOT. Submissions are sought for a collection of essays on T. S. Eliot's international reception. The collection will explore how Eliot's writings and persona have entered the literary and cultural life of countries other than England and the United States, where his reception has already been well documented. Submissions might address the different ways in which readers, critics, and writers in other cultural contexts have responded to Eliot's words, ideas, and politics—whether by assimilating, interrogating, subverting, or rejecting them. Of particular interest is the encounter, in postcolonial or even colonial spaces, between indigenous voices and Eliot as a canonical English writer. Other submissions might focus on the matter of modernist poetics in world traditions as they are manifested in, or translated through, responses to T. S. Eliot. In addition to scholarly pieces, also welcome are more personal essays reflecting on an engagement with Eliot's words and ideas and the social setting in which it took place. Send 2-page abstracts by 30 November 2004 to both Shyamal Bagchee (shyamal.bagchee@ualberta.ca) and Elisabeth Däumer (edaumer@emich.edu).

AMERICAN LITERATURE BIBLIOGRAPHY. The Encyclopedia Society will direct *The Bowker Guide to American Literature* (*BGAL*), to be published by R. R. Bowker. *BGAL* will be the largest annotated and subject-divided bibliography of American literature, with over eighteen thousand entries. The entries will cover all representative works of American literature in over forty categories and genres.

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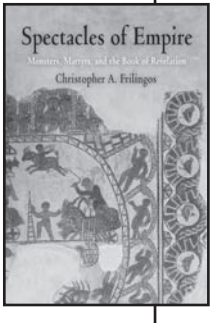
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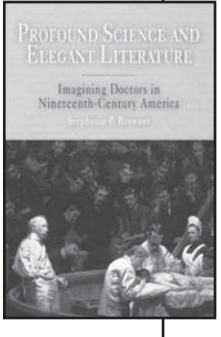
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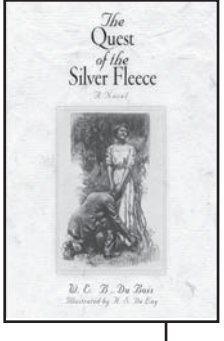
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Work is expected to be completed in February 2005. The editors of *BGAL* invite members of the Modern Language Association associated with American literature to participate in the work and write the annotations. The annotations will be brief and will follow the standard Bowker format. Contributors will receive an honorarium and their names will be listed in the front matter. Those who are interested should write to George Kurian, Editor in Chief, *Bowker Guide to American Literature*, Box 519, Baldwin Place, NY 10505-0519 (914 962-3287; fax: 914 962-3287; gtkurian@aol.com).

TEACHING THE AFRICAN NOVEL. The Publications Committee of the Modern Language Association of America has approved the development of a volume of essays on teaching the African novel. The volume, planned as part of the series Options for Teaching, will be edited by Gaurav Desai. As currently projected, the volume will be structured in three main sections, the first devoted to theoretical approaches (e.g., Afrocentric, feminist/womanist, theories of orature), the second to thematic concerns (e.g., political resistance, nationalism, multiculturalism), and the third to a variety of course and institutional contexts in which the novels are taught (e.g., seminar course, foreign language course, women's studies course, historically black colleges). The volume will also include a section on resources that may be helpful to teachers of African novels. One-page abstracts are invited by 1 December 2004, although the editor strongly encourages potential contributors to write him well in advance of the deadline at gaurav@tulane.edu.

FEELING WESTERN. Proposals are invited for contributions to the Boise State University Western Writers Series on the subject Feeling Western. The series publishes 15,000-word introductions to writers and classic texts of the American West, for an audience of both academic and lay readers. Manuscripts on this special topic should cover a subject new to the series, meet series guidelines, provide a broad introduction to the author or text, and address a topic relating to western affect, sentimentality, antisentimentality, or authenticity in some portion of the study. For past titles and writers' guidelines, see the series Web site (http://english.boisestate.edu/westernwriters). Accepted manuscripts will be published in 2006, in conjunction with the 2006 meeting of the Western Literature Association, on the same theme. Manuscripts are due 1 May 2005. Send a proposal first, with rationale, outline, preliminary bibliography, and c.v., to Tara Penry, Editor, Western Writers Series, English Dept., Boise State Univ., Boise, ID 83725-1525 (tpenry@boisestate.edu).

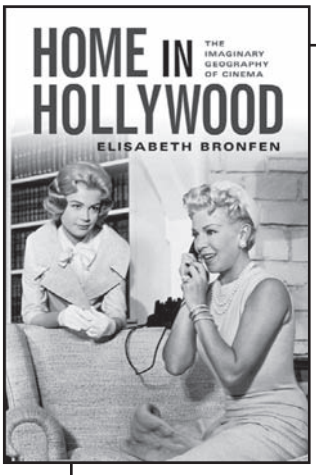
WHITENESS STUDIES. Submissions are invited for a collection of critical essays, to be published in the series Tennessee Studies in Literature, on any aspect of whiteness that integrates literature, film, the performance arts, history, and popular culture in transnational and international settings (Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, North America, South America, etc.). Send two copies of completed essays (25–30 pp. in length) and 1-page vitae to La Vinia Delois Jennings, Dept. of English, 301 McClung Tower, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville 37996. Direct inquiries about the submission closing date and paper style to laviniaj@utk.edu.

DICTIONARY SOCIETY AWARD. The Dictionary Society of North America offers the Laurence Urdang DSNA Award for the support of lexicographical research. The award will support one or more lexicographical projects during 2005 with amounts between $500 and $2,500. Applicants must be current members of the DSNA. The budget may include costs of travel, tuition, materials, and subsistence and related expenses. The proposal should contain the project name, the applicant's name and address, a statement of the immediate goals and expected long-range results of the project, a description of the methodology or procedures to be used, a summary budget of total expenses for the project, an identification of other sources of support available for the project, and a 1-page biographical résumé for the applicant. It should total no more than 3 single-spaced pages, including the 1-page résumé. The proposal should be sent (along with a self-addressed, stamped postcard for acknowledgment) to the president of the DSNA, David Jost, Houghton Mifflin, 222 Berkeley St., 8th floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mailed to david_jost@hmco.com. It must be received by 1 December 2004. Awards will be made and full payments sent early in 2005. The society requests that it be sent copies of any publications arising from the award.

JOSEPH CONRAD SOCIETY AWARDS. 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 three years and is doing research on Conrad. The award consists of a $100 honorarium, one year's membership in the society, 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 2004, to Carola M. Kaplan, President, Joseph Conrad Soc. of America, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, California State Univ., 3801 West Temple Ave., Pomona 91768. Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a large self-addressed, stamped envelope. The 2004 award will be presented at the society's annual dinner in December. The Joseph Conrad Society also offers the triannual

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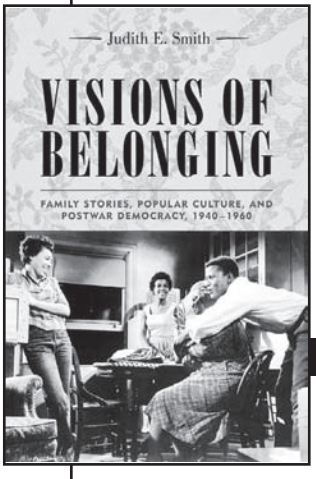
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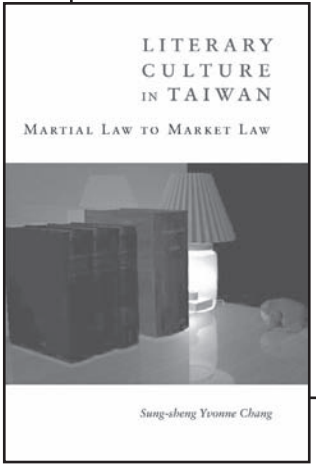
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Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies. The inaugural presentation will occur at the society's annual business meeting to be held at the MLA convention in December 2005. Eligible works must be book-length critical or biographical studies published from 2001 through 2004 and must be predominantly about Conrad's life or works. In addition to single-author works, book-length collections of essays in Conrad studies and significantly revised editions of earlier critical or biographical works in Conrad studies are eligible. Reprints of critical or biographical works in Conrad studies lacking significant revision and editions of Conrad's writings are not eligible. The award consists of a $250 honorarium, one year's membership in the society, and a complimentary invitation to the annual Conrad Society dinner. Authors or publishers interested in having their work considered for the Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies should send three copies of the text, postmarked by 1 February 2005, to Carola M. Kaplan, at the address above. Submissions will not be returned, and the winner of the award will be notified in early November 2005.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES PRIZE. The annual NCSA Article Prize, given by the Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA), recognizes excellence in scholarly studies on subjects in any discipline focusing on any aspect of the long nineteenth century (French Revolution to World War I). The winner receives a cash award of $500, to be presented next at the annual meeting of the association in March 2005. Articles published between 1 September 2003 and 31 August 2004 are eligible for the 2005 prize and may be submitted by the author or a publisher of a journal, an anthology, or a volume containing independent essays. Submission of multidisciplinary studies is especially encouraged. Essays written in part or wholly in a language other than English must be accompanied by translations in English. The winning article will be selected by a committee of nineteenth-century scholars representing diverse disciplines. The deadline for submission is 1 November 2004. Send three offprints or photocopies of published essays or articles to the chair of the Article Prize Committee, Kevin Lewis, Dept. of Religious Studies, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia 29208. Inquiries for further information may be directed to Lewis at kevin@sc.edu, but electronic submissions will not be accepted. Applicants should provide an e-mail address so that receipt of their submissions can be acknowledged.

Journal Notes

➸ *American Drama* invites submissions for a special issue on postmodernism, to be published in summer 2005. Welcome are original essays on American play texts and TV and movie scripts that explore or contest the conditions of postmodernity or are themselves postmodernist texts. The essays may also use postmodern and poststructural theoretical formulations to examine American dramatic literature. Contributors might take up such ideas as postmodern canon formation, postmodern dramatic conventions, postmodern mise-en-scène, the postmodern character, the postmodern playwright, and the postmodern sublime. Send submissions by 1 December 2004 to Editor, *American Drama*, Univ. of Cincinnati, PO Box 210069, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0069.

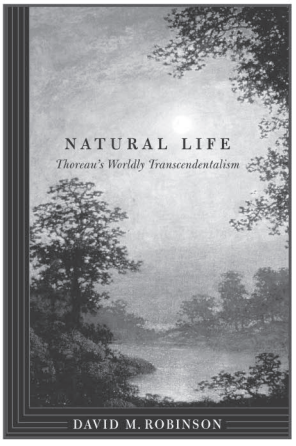
➸ The fourth issue of *Brújula*, titled *Working Gender: Cultural Representations of Women and Labor*, aims to bring together research that engages with and analyzes the condition of women as they participate in work. Studies of work include paid, unpaid, intellectual, creative, physical, formal or informal, and legal or illegal endeavors. The editors will consider papers from a variety of disciplines that explore and problematize the changing definitions of women and their labors in Latin American societies from precolonial to contemporary times. Submit materials to submitbrujula@ucdavis.edu by 5 January 2005. For more information, visit the journal's Web site (http://hia.ucdavis.edu/brujula).

➸ *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies*, a refereed journal published biannually (in January and June) by the Department of English at National Taiwan Normal University, invites submissions for forthcoming issues. Especially encouraged are contributions from both Taiwan and the international community addressing the special topic Literature in the Age of Cultural Studies and Globalization (*Concentric* 31.2); the submissions deadline is 31 December 2004. Articles on any aspect of literature and culture are also welcome. Manuscripts intended as special-topic submissions should be identified as such. Address all correspondence to *Concentric* Editor, Dept. of English, National Taiwan Normal Univ., 162 Hoping East Road, Section 1, Taipei 106, Taiwan, ROC (concentric@deps.ntnu.edu.tw). For details, visit *Concentric* online at http://www.eng.ntnu.edu.tw/concentric-literature/index.htm.

➸ *Contemporary Literature* invites submissions for a special issue on immigrant fictions, to be published in 2006. The issue will explore how new theories and experiences of immigration, migrant culture, and national borders have changed literary cultures in English after 1945. Articles might consider how contemporary writers, especially immigrant writers, have shaped the way we think about immigration and national culture; how these writers engage new ideas and experiences of Europe, United States cultures, diaspora, empire, citizenship, colonialism, racism, and cosmopolitanism; and what literary strategies and conditions of

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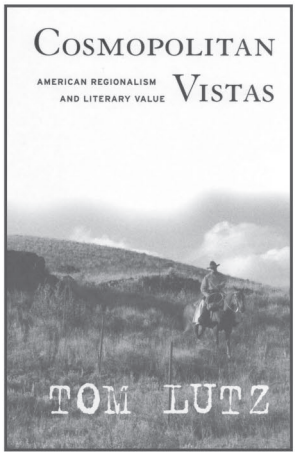
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production have emerged from new theories and experiences of immigration. Articles focused on poetry and memoir as well as on narrative are welcome. Send submissions, 25–35 pages in length, by 1 March 2005 to Immigrant Fictions, *Contemporary Literature*, Dept. of English, 7141 Helen C. White Hall, Univ. of Wisconsin, 600 North Park St., Madison 53706. Questions about submission guidelines should be directed to cl@mhub.english.wisc.edu. Questions about content should be directed to the guest editor of this issue, Rebecca L. Walkowitz, at rwalkowitz@wisc.edu.

For a forthcoming issue on beauty, to be edited by Claire Colebrook and Rita Felski, *Feminist Theory* invites essays that move beyond the well-established critique of the beauty myth to develop new perspectives on the question of beauty and gender. Possible topics include the beautifying of the home through interior decor and design; makeup, fashion, and bodily transformations as ways of reconstructing the self; feminist perspectives on the "beauty boom" in literary and art criticism (Scarry, Steiner, Hickey, Donoghue); feminist interpretations of the philosophy of beauty; reevaluations of "male gaze" theory and its reduction of beauty to a fetish; male beauty and the making-over of masculinity (the "metrosexual"); nonvisual theorizations of beauty in musicology and other fields; cross-cultural beauty practices. Manuscripts should not exceed 8,000 words in length, should be addressed to an international and interdisciplinary readership familiar with current debates in feminist theory, and should use the Harvard referencing style. Send manuscripts, with diskettes, by 15 July 2005 to Rita Felski, English Dept., 219 Bryan Hall, Univ. of Virginia, PO Box 400121, Charlottesville 22904-4121, or e-mail them as *WordPerfect* or *Microsoft Word* attachments to rf6d@virginia.edu.

The *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* seeks submissions for a special issue devoted to the intellectual and political legacy of Edward Said. Papers (preferably 4,000–5,000 words in length) may engage any aspect of Said's work in relation to Commonwealth and postcolonial studies, taking up theoretical, literary, pedagogical, or other topics. Authors should not identify themselves in the essay. E-mail submissions by 1 February 2005 to Patrick Colm Hogan, guest editor of the issue, at hogan@uconnvm.uconn.edu.

For a special double issue on screen performance, to be published in Summer-Fall 2006, the *Journal of Film and Video* invites submissions that advance analysis and understanding of screen acting, help to build vocabularies for analyzing performance, and explore integral connections between framing, editing, sound design, and performance elements. Scholars and practitioners are encouraged to submit studies of screen performance that employ coherent conceptual frameworks. Sought are essays that challenge conventional views of film and media, bridge gaps between theory and practice, and overcome divisions between film and theater studies. To reflect the diversity of contemporary perspectives on screen acting, the editors hope to include contributions from scholars and practitioners working in film, video, theater, and other performing art or media forms. The issue will serve to document the current state of research and continue film scholars' sustained inquiry into screen performance. Contributions to that line of inquiry can be found in the books by James Naremore (1988), Roberta Pearson (1992), and Virginia Wright Wexman (1995). Productive work on screen performance has appeared in chapters of comprehensive studies such as *Theatre to Cinema* (1997) and *Hollywood Cinema* (2003). Developments in the scholarship on film acting are also reflected in a collection of articles published in *The Velvet Light Trap* (1972), *Sight and Sound* (1973), *Screen* (1978, 1985, and 1999), *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* (1979), *Cinema Journal* (1980), *Wide Angle* (1984), *Post Script* (1993), and anthologies from the 1990s edited by Carole Zucker, Jeremy Butler, and Alan Lovell and Peter Krämer. Welcome are new essays or retrospective articles by scholars who have surveyed or participated in the body of work on screen performance. While recognizing the value of star studies and thematic inquiries into the performance of identity, power, desire, and so on, the editors seek articles that consider the potential meaning-producing function of gestures, intonations, movements, inflections, poses, and so forth and that in so doing provide evidence to counter the view that screen performance is uniquely resistant to, or unworthy of, careful analysis. Articles should be 12–25 typed and double-spaced pages in length. Book reviews of single volumes may not exceed 1,500 words. Submissions for the special issue must be postmarked by 15 April 2005 and sent in triplicate to Stephen Tropiano, Editor, *Journal of Film and Video*, Ithaca Coll. Los Angeles Program, 3800 Barham Blvd., Suite 305, Los Angeles, CA 90068. The guest editors are Cynthia Baron (cbaron@bgnet.bgsu.edu) and Diane Carson (decarson@aol.com). Questions about articles or book reviews should be addressed to them.

LiteraryMama.com, an online literary magazine, features writing by mother writers about the complexities and many faces of motherhood. It publishes fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, literary criticism, book reviews, columns, and profiles about mother writers from all periods. From self-defined mothers who are creative writers, *Literary Mama* seeks mamacentric writing with fresh voices, superior craft, and vivid imagery. From self-defined mothers who are creative

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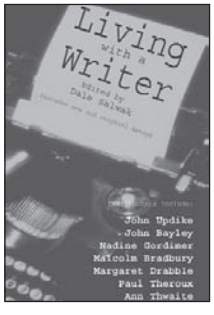
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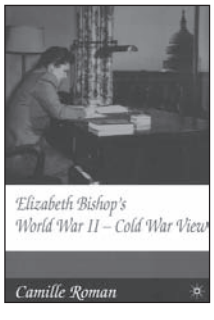
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writers and scholars, the magazine seeks personal or critical writing that theorizes the relations between motherhood and creativity, as well as personal writing (in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction) that explores motherhood in the academy. *Literary Mama* reprints literary criticism that addresses motherhood as a theme in texts by mother writers. The magazine also seeks book reviews and author profiles. While *Literary Mama* features profiles of well-known living mother writers, it is also interested in mother writers of the past. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Caroline Lee Hentz, Fanny Fern, and E. D. E. N. Southworth, for example, are mother writers from the nineteenth century whose lives and work warrant attention through the lens of the maternal. Acceptance of submissions is ongoing. For more information, read the guidelines at http://www.literarymama.com/submissions/.

➸ *Literature Compass* (http://www.literature-compass.com) seeks papers on all topics in the study of twentieth-century British and anglophone literature. *Literature Compass* surveys new trends and developments in literary study and publishes original survey articles on new and important directions in criticism and theory (as well as a range of useful reference resources). The site comprises nine sections, devoted to nine fields of study. Articles in each section range from 1,000 to 10,000 words in length; longer articles are peer-reviewed. Finished articles and abstracts of work in progress are welcome; the site does not publish primary research. Articles typically fall into at least one of the following three categories: (1) Overview of a topic in your field with a survey of recent scholarship: Which topics are driving your field? What new research has been published? Can you put that new research in context with your own insights? (2) Comparative look across sections or boundaries: How are various fields interacting? Are related things happening in different fields? Can one area provide an insight into another when used in teaching or research? (3) State of the field: Can you offer a fresh perspective on developments in your field? Perhaps there are arguments drawing attention away from the critical points. Are there new resources worthy of attention? Which critical approaches are dominating the field or gaining momentum? Send articles (along with short vitae) or questions to Jesse Matz, the editor of the twentieth-century section (matzj@kenyon.edu). For more information on preparing articles, write to Kivmars Bowling, *Literature Compass* assistant (kivmars.bowling@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com).

➸ The *National Women's Studies Association Journal* (*NWSA/J*), an official publication of the National Women's Studies Association, publishes interdisciplinary, multicultural feminist scholarship linking feminist theory with teaching and activism. In Spring 2006, *NWSA/J* will publish a special issue on aging. Feminist theorists of old age, such as Baba Copper, Barbara Macdonald, Cynthia Rich, and Margaret Cruikshank, have charged that women's studies and the feminist movement have, in large part, ignored the issue of aging. In a field in which so many other aspects of body-based identity are recognized, debated, de- and reconstructed, and challenged, the subject of old age remains relatively unexamined and untheorized—nearly taboo. The editors seek papers that address a range of questions, including the following: What is stopping women's studies scholars from realizing age as another category of Othering? How can scholars address this topic in their writing? How might intergenerational dialogues reduce ageism? What are useful ways of bringing issues of aging into the classroom? *Old*, *older*, *aging*, *aged*, *chronologically gifted*, *mature*, *ripened*, *advanced*, *senior*, *gray*, *golden*, *retiree*, *elder*, *wise one*, *fogy*, *crone*, *geezer*: how does our vocabulary interact with and inform our constructions of aging identity? How do constructions of old age affect politics and public policy? Does age interact with gender and sex? How do social constructions of age differ from scientific ones? How much does old age have in common with other identity categories, and how is it different? How does age intersect with other embodied or social categories? *NWSA/J* welcomes feminist analyses and theorizations of visual, sociological, philosophical, linguistic, scientific, historical, economic, psychological, biological, activist, literary, and other representations of old age. The journal is committed to including a broad range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship. Journal information and submission guidelines are available at http://www.nwsaj.engl.iastate.edu. Send completed articles by 15 January 2005 to Leni Marshall, Dept. of English, 207 Lind Hall, Univ. of Minnesota, 207 Church St. SE, Minneapolis 55455 (mars0264@umn.edu).

➸ The *Revista de literaturas populares*, a scholarly journal published twice a year by the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, invites unpublished contributions on folk and popular literature of Mexico (including the United States border), Latin America, and the Iberian peninsula. Authors interested in any of these expressions, as well as the Indian literature of Latin America, are invited to submit critical essays, annotated texts or documents, and extended book reviews. The *Revista* also publishes contributions on mass literature and the interrelations of popular and learned literature. Annotated texts may be stories, legends, myths, poetry, or any other text related to the subjects covered by the *Revista*. All contributions should be written in Spanish and include on the cover sheet the author's name, affiliation, and

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contact information. Essays must include an abstract of 15 lines maximum. Texts in Indian languages should include a translation into Spanish. For information about book reviews, contact the editorial staff. Manuscripts should conform to MLA style, have 1½-line spacing, and be accompanied by a copy on a floppy disk (IBM-compatible). Send contributions to Enrique Flores, Av. Miguel Ángel de Quevedo 843, Col. Coyoacán, México, DF 04000. Inquiries and attached submissions can be directed to litpop@correo.unam.mx.

➸ *South Asian Review*, the refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for the 2005 special-topic issue, devoted to V. S. Naipaul's literary life, thought, and craftsmanship. The guest editor of the special number is P. S. Chauhan (Arcadia Univ.). Intended as an assessment of Naipaul's achievement in various genres, the publication encourages contributors to focus on an aspect of his writing even as they refer to other categories of Naipaul's work. Alternatively, the essays may address themselves to any of the social and political issues raised by Naipaul's work. *South Asian Review* equally welcomes articles well grounded in contemporary critical theory, semiotic analysis, or formalistic principles. Scholars planning to contribute to the Naipaul issue are advised to send a 200-word proposal by 3 January 2005 to chauhanp@comcast.net. The deadline for the submission of completed articles—15–25 pages in length, printed double-spaced in a twelve-point font, and prepared in accordance with the MLA style—is 14 March 2005. All correspondence concerning the 2005 special-topic issue should be addressed to P. S. Chauhan, Associate Editor, *South Asian Review*, Dept. of English, Arcadia Univ., 450 South Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038-3295 (215 572-2106; chauhanp@arcadia.edu). For more detailed information, refer to the journal's Web site: http://faculty.upj.pitt.edu/SouthAsianReview/.

➸ *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* is accepting manuscripts for publication. The journal provides a forum for the presentation of scholarship and criticism about women in the fields of literature, history, art, sociology, law, political science, economics, anthropology, and the sciences. It also publishes poetry and film and book reviews. Inquisitive, original, well-researched manuscripts on any of the aforementioned humanities topics or any new topics are encouraged. Send three paper copies of each manuscript (at least 25 pp. in length and formatted according to MLA guidelines) and one disk copy formatted in *Microsoft Word*, an abstract, and contact information to Wendy Martin, Editor, *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Dept. of English, Claremont Graduate Univ., 143 East 10th St., Claremont, CA 91711. Direct concerns or questions to womstudj@cgu.edu.

Meeting of the MLA Executive Council

[Note: The Executive Council voted to approve these minutes at its May 2004 meeting.]

The council met on 27–28 February 2004 at the MLA office in New York. President Robert Scholes presided. The officers present were First Vice President Domna C. Stanton, Second Vice President Marjorie Perloff, and Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal. The Executive Council members present were K. Anthony Appiah, Michael Bérubé, Judith Butler, Marilyn Gaddis Rose, John Guillory (28 Feb. only), Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, Tey Diana Rebolledo, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, and Guy Stern. 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 (27 Feb. only), and Assistant to the Executive Director and Coordinator of Governance Carol Zuses.

The council began its morning session on 27 February by meeting in executive session to review council members' fiduciary responsibilities. Following the executive session and for the remainder of the morning and the first part of the afternoon, the council convened in regular session to discuss the reauthorization of Title VI of the Higher Education Act (see item 5, below) and to review the actions of the 2003 Delegate Assembly (see items 9 and 10, below). In the middle of the afternoon, the council met in subcommittees. The Subcommittee on Administration and Finance reviewed four staff reports, the report from the trustees of the MLA's invested funds, and three corporate resolutions. Attending were Robert Scholes, chair; Marilyn Gaddis Rose; Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi; and Tey Diana Rebolledo. The Subcommittee on Projects (Domna Stanton, chair; Michael Bérubé; Judith Butler; Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel) met to discuss four departmental reports and to review appointments to nine MLA committees. The Subcommittee on Meetings and Publications (Marjorie Perloff, chair; Anthony Appiah; LaVonne Ruoff; Guy Stern) reviewed two requests, considered appointments to seven MLA committees, and discussed four staff reports. 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.

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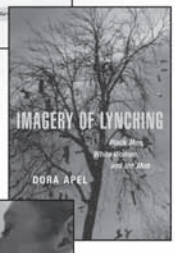
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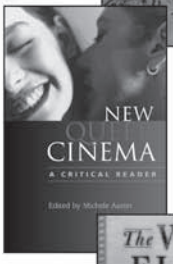
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On 28 February, the council continued to work through its agenda during regular sessions held in the morning and the afternoon and adjourned at 2:00 p.m., having concluded all the business before it.

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 2003, which showed that the association concluded the fiscal year with a surplus of $1,806,833 in the unrestricted fund. It 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 2003. Most of the increase in the deficit was attributed to lower-than-expected income from the San Diego convention, from the special conference on disability studies, and from library subscriptions to the electronic version of *PMLA*. The Finance Committee asked the council to consider several matters relating to the preparation of a budget for the fiscal year 2004–05, and the council authorized the staff to prepare a balanced budget.

In the light of the report of the MLA trustees (see next item), the council briefly discussed the advisability of investing a small percentage of the association's cash reserve in equities. Council members agreed that it was premature to pursue this possibility, since more information was needed on the risks and benefits of investing a portion of the cash reserve and since the cash reserve was still being built up to cover four months of association expenses.

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, Phyllis Franklin, Herbert Lindenberger, and Malcolm Smith 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 Regina M. Vorbeck, associate executive director, 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 associate executive director 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 Regina M. Vorbeck as associate executive director of 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 Regina M. Vorbeck 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 JPMorgan Chase Bank. By adopting this resolution, the council authorized Rosemary Feal and Regina Vorbeck to open bank accounts at JPMorgan Chase Bank 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.]

Pursuant to a recommendation from the association's auditors, the council decided that its Audit Committee would hold a preaudit meeting with the association's auditors in May each year in addition to the long-standing postaudit meeting held in December. The first preaudit meeting is to be held in conjunction with the May 2004 council meeting. The council appointed Anthony Appiah and Nancy Miller to join

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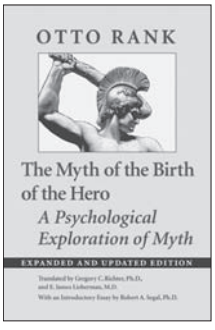
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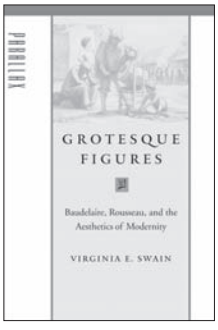
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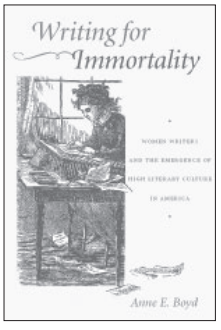
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the officers of the association on the council's 2004 Audit Committee.

2. *Acknowledgment of Service.* On the occasion of her retirement, the council gratefully acknowledged Elizabeth Welles's ten years of service to the association as director of foreign language programs and ADFL.

3. *Report of the MLA Trustees.* The council received the trustees' annual report, which showed that at the end of the calendar year 2003, a year in which the stock market regained some of the ground lost during the previous two years, the association's endowment fund and one donor-restricted fund that supports a number of association prizes had both increased in market value. These funds fared better than some of the most commonly followed stock indexes. In addition, four donor-restricted funds that support various association prizes and that were invested mainly in United States treasury notes had increased slightly in market value. 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 $750,000, the portion of the 2002–03 budget surplus that the council had added to the endowment (see May 2004 *PMLA* 624). The trustees also reported that they took up the council's question about socially responsible investing (see Oct. 2003 *PMLA* 1374) and reviewed the background information that the staff had prepared. They asked the staff to provide additional information on the performance of socially responsible mutual funds for their next meeting. The council discussed the trustees' report, asked the staff for a report on socially responsible investing, and asked the staff to forward to the trustees several questions about their investment strategy.

4. *Approval of the October 2003 Council Minutes.* The council approved the minutes of its October 2003 meeting for publication in the May 2004 issue of *PMLA*.

5. *Reauthorization of Title VI of the Higher Education Act.* In the weeks leading up to the council meeting, Rosemary Feal forwarded to the council a number of updates on the status of the reauthorization of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. This title covers foreign languages and international studies. The House of Representatives passed a Title VI reauthorization bill, HR 3077, in October 2003, and the Senate was scheduled to take up the matter during its current session. While the council supported the reauthorization of Title VI, it was opposed to one of the provisions of HR 3077: the creation of an International Education Advisory Board with the authority to investigate curricular content and the activities of grantees. Therefore, the council wrote the following letter to the Senate committee responsible for reporting out a reauthorization bill, asking the committee to reject the advisory-board provision of HR 3077:

The Executive Council of the Modern Language Association, in accord with its charter, regularly makes recommendations on public policy matters that affect the research and teaching of its members. The Modern Language Association is the largest representative body of college and university teachers and scholars of language and literature in the United States, representing nearly 30,000 members at home and abroad.

We are writing today to express our strong endorsement of the proposed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and to register our strong concern about one of its provisions.

That provision is in HR 3077, currently before the Senate. The proposed International Education Advisory Board is vested with powers to monitor grant recipients under Title VI that exceed its advisory role. Under the proposed legislation, the Advisory Board will be authorized "to study, monitor, appraise and evaluate a sample of activities supported under [Title VI]."

Title VI programs are already evaluated through a rigorous process of academic and governmental peer review. Adequate accountability procedures are in place when grant applications are reviewed, when activities funded by the grant are evaluated annually, and when the reauthorization of grants is considered.

We note with dismay that the monitoring activities of this Advisory Board are not sufficiently restricted, and no basis is given for selecting among the activities monitored and those that are not. This leaves the door open to the arbitrary and intrusive surveillance of the academic activities of faculty members who receive these grants. Under the proposed legislation, the Advisory Board is authorized to probe the "activities" of grant recipients. This language is too broad, soliciting surveillance of course content and academic and professional activities unrelated to the purposes of the grant itself. This authorization to probe the activities of grant recipients also leaves open the possibility of inquiries into public and intellectual expressions of viewpoints that are protected by the First Amendment. Such inquiries could abrogate basic principles of academic freedom.

The proposed legislation empowers this Advisory Board to do more than "advise" the government; it entitles the board to make use of government agencies to secure information about grant recipients and their unspecified activities from a range of institutions, including colleges and universities. In this way, the Advisory Board is given license to serve institutions with requests for information without first establishing justifiable reasons to any judicial authority for such requests.

In addition, HR 3077 fails to provide for adequate procedures of accountability for the Advisory Board, thus opening the way for arbitrary interventions and

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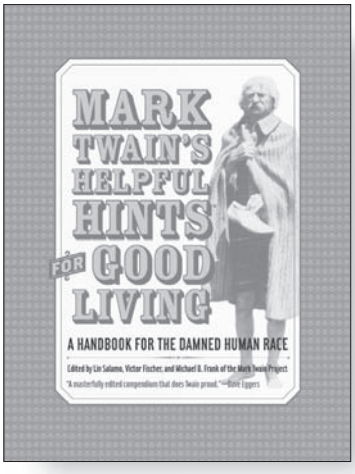
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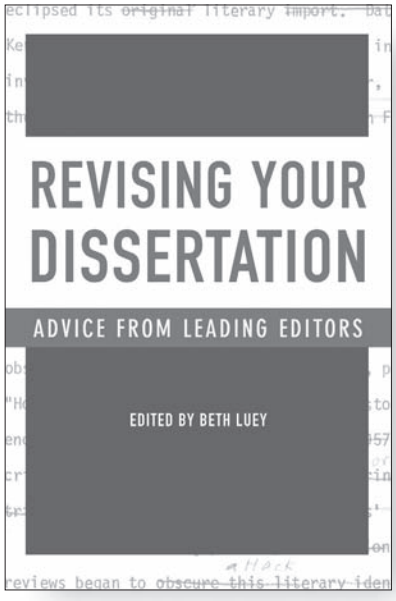
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information-gathering activities that are subject to no judicial oversight.

We note that international education has become increasingly important for Americans, and we support international programs, especially in language and literary study. The study of Arabic, for instance, has increased 92% in the past four years, a trend we hope will continue. At a time when the nation should be promoting the study of foreign languages, HR 3077 may well produce a climate that discourages students from pursuing the study of foreign language and literature.

The monitoring of curricula also threatens to undermine long-standing traditions of academic freedom in the United States, according to which faculty members with specific expertise are free to design and implement curriculum and pursue research in accord with their best judgment and shared and tested academic criteria.

On the basis of these serious concerns about the threat to academic freedom and the freedom of expression and to time-honored standards for securing the quality of education, the MLA urges you to vote against HR 3077. Please feel free to contact the executive director of the MLA, Dr. Rosemary Feal, if you have any questions about our views on HR 3077 or require any additional information.

6. *New Task Force on the Evaluation of Scholarship.* The council reviewed the work of the council subcommittee that was charged with outlining the issues involved in developing guidelines for the evaluation of a wide range of scholarly activity beyond the monograph (see Jan. 2004 *PMLA* 170) and decided to pursue the establishment of a task force that would develop such guidelines. Another subcommittee of council members (Domna Stanton, chair; Michael Bérubé; Judith Butler; John Guillory; Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel) was formed and charged with drafting a charge for the task force and making recommendations on the composition of the task force. The council asked the new subcommittee to report back to the council in May.

7. *MLA Committees and Foreign Language Policy Issues.* The council considered the question of the association's ability to engage seriously with national policy issues affecting foreign language study in the United States. The MLA Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures, which was established in 1989 under different national and professional circumstances, had been charged with focusing on issues within the profession, not with considering national foreign language policy issues. While the committee had undertaken numerous useful projects over the years, the council found that the committee was not well suited to pursue current issues and that a different structure was needed to address them. The council therefore decided to discharge the Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures and to establish an ad hoc committee whose specific purpose would be to focus on national language needs and policy issues. The council appointed a subcommittee of its members (Domna Stanton, chair; Diana Rebolledo; Guy Stern) and charged it with drafting a charge for a new ad hoc committee and compiling a list of suggested appointees. The subcommittee is to report back to the council in May. The council also instructed the staff to write to the members of the discharged committee to thank them for their service and to commend them for their work.

8. *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.

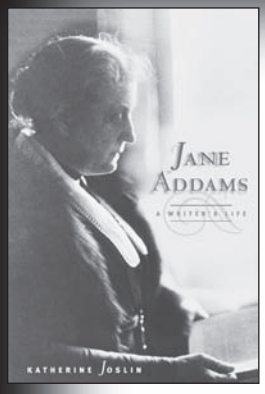
9. *Recommendations from the 2003 Delegate Assembly.* The council received and acted on a report on the two motions approved by the Delegate Assembly during the assembly's meeting on 29 December 2003 in San Diego. [Note: For a full account of the Delegate Assembly meeting, including the text of each motion, see May 2004 *PMLA* 606–22.]

First, the assembly endorsed the report of the Executive Council subcommittee that was charged with clarifying the MLA's position on issues surrounding the conversion of non-tenure-track faculty positions to tenure-track faculty positions. In the interest of disseminating the report as widely as possible, the council authorized the publication of the report at the MLA Web site and in *Profession 2004*. Second, the assembly approved a motion calling on the MLA to continue support of high-quality writing instruction by cooperating with the Committee on Academic Quality of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). The council instructed the staff to implement the motion by telling the CCCC of the MLA's willingness to cooperate with the Committee on Academic Quality and by keeping the council informed about opportunities for the MLA to participate in activities sponsored by the committee.

10. *Review of Resolutions Approved by the 2003 Delegate Assembly.* In accordance with article 7.B.3 of the MLA constitution, the council reviewed the five resolutions that the 2003 Delegate Assembly had approved (see May 2004 *PMLA* 612–20) to determine whether to forward the resolutions to the membership for ratification. Resolutions that (1) do not impede the council's ability to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities, (2) do not contain erroneous, tortious, or possibly libelous statements, and (3) do not pose a threat to the association's continuing operation as a tax-exempt organization may be forwarded to the membership. If the council determines that it cannot forward a resolution to the membership, it must present the reasons for its

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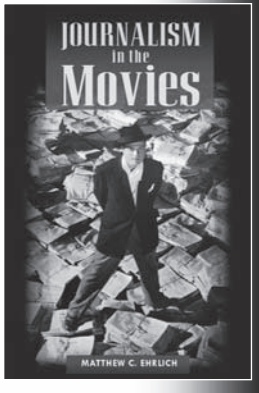


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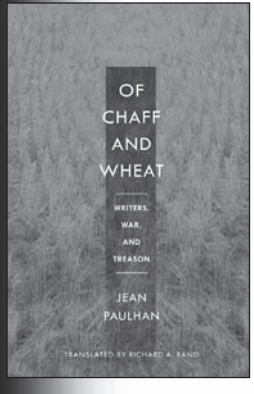


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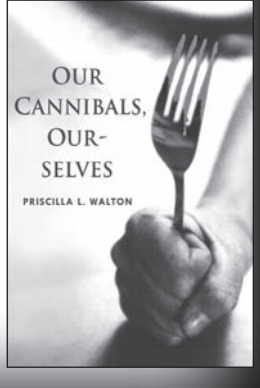
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action at the next meeting of the Delegate Assembly, when the assembly will have the opportunity to consider reformulating the resolution.

The first three resolutions that the council reviewed posed no constitutional, legal, or fiduciary problems, so the council authorized nonsubstantive copyediting changes to the wording of the resolutions and forwarded them to the membership for the required ratification vote. The first resolution was a statement of support for the right of MLA members "to conduct critical analysis of war talk." The second urged all members of the Yale community concerned with the question of union representation to engage in dialogue in an atmosphere that encourages mutual respect and freedom of expression. The third resolution called on the MLA to urge the repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act.

The fourth resolution that the council reviewed had a preamble that cited government spending on war and the defunding of higher education and a *resolved* clause that called on the MLA to urge "the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and Iraq and reallocation of funds to reverse inattention to, and grave deficits in, funding of education and other human services." After lengthy discussion, the council decided that it could not forward the resolution to the membership because the resolution addressed an issue—the withdrawal of troops—that fell outside the mission of the association. In so doing, the resolution (1) impeded the council's ability to carry out its fiduciary responsibility to pursue the association's chartered mission and (2) posed a threat to the association's tax-exempt status, which was granted on the basis of the association's mission. As required by the constitution, the council will explain the reasons for its action to the 2004 Delegate Assembly.

The final resolution that the council reviewed stated the MLA's opposition to "federal legislation such as HR 3077 that seeks to impose government controls on academic inquiry that create a hostile environment for teaching and learning." The council agreed to forward the resolution to the membership for the required ratification vote and authorized nonsubstantive copyediting changes to the wording of the resolution.

11. *Election of a Council Member to the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee (DAOC).* The council elected A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff to the DAOC for a two-year term (2004–05).

12. *Appointments to MLA Committees.* The council made fifty-four appointments to the standing committees of the association and appointed nine committee chairs or cochairs. The September 2004 (Directory) issue of *PMLA* will list all new and continuing committee members.

13. *Selection of Future Convention Sites.* The council selected Washington, DC, as the site of the 2005 MLA convention. After reviewing the sites of recent conventions, the council also decided to hold the 2006 convention at a West Coast location and the 2007 convention in Chicago.

14. *Request for Reinstatement from a Suspended Allied Organization.* The council suspended the Pirandello Society of America as an allied organization in 2002 because the society's governance procedures did not allow the society's membership to participate in the election of the society's officers and board members (see Jan. 2003 *PMLA* 188). This suspension was to be reconsidered if the society revised its bylaws to provide for membership participation in the election of officers and board members. The society amended its bylaws in 2003 and submitted them to the council along with a request for reinstatement. Since the society met the condition set by the council, the council reinstated the society as an allied organization.

15. *Request from the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS).* The president of the NCIS requested assistance with the planning of the coalition's 2004 conference, to be held in New York City in October. She also requested a small monetary contribution to help fund the conference. The council agreed to provide $600 for the conference.

16. *Request from a Member.* The council received a letter from Heather Dubrow in which she raised three issues: the value that the profession places on various types of publications (e.g., editions, textbooks, translations), the role and status of creative writers in the association, and fostering collegiality in departments and in the profession more generally. The first issue was one that the council had already addressed in the context of the task force the council planned to establish (see item 6, above). The council shared Dubrow's concerns about creative writers and so asked Rosemary Feal to confer with Dubrow about how the MLA might be made more hospitable to creative writers. Discussion of Dubrow's third issue, collegiality, prompted the council to ask Feal to issue a call for papers on the topic for *Profession*. Finally, the council asked Feal to respond to Dubrow's letter on the council's behalf.

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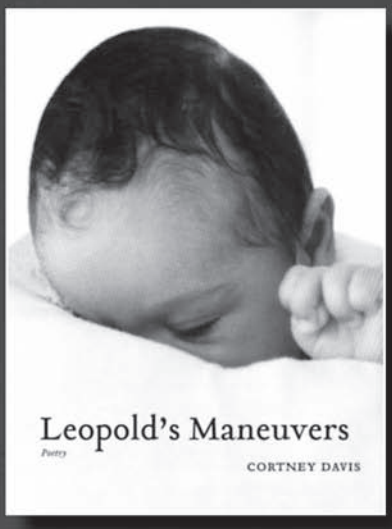
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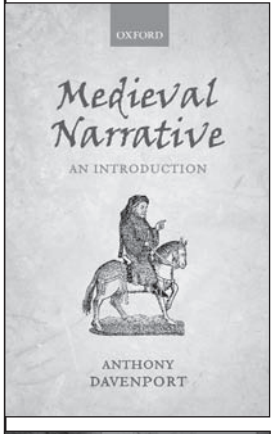
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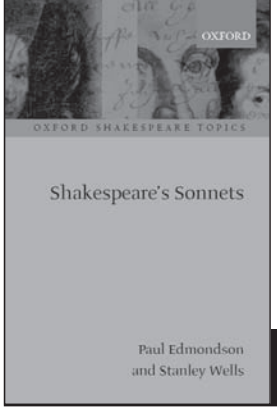
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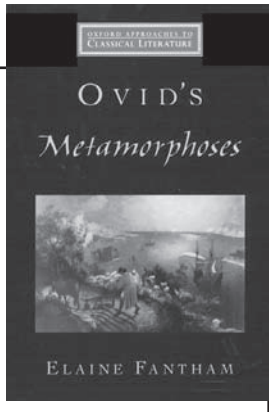
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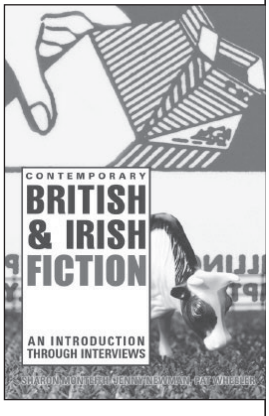
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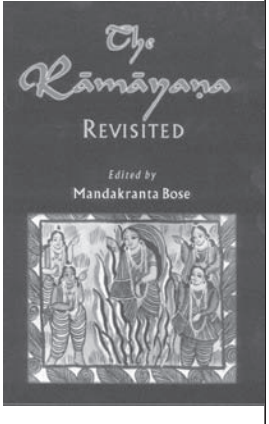
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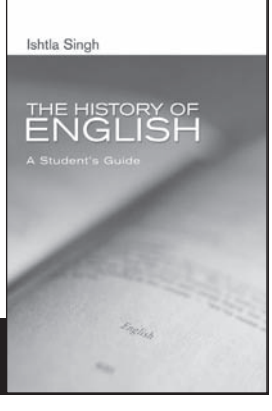
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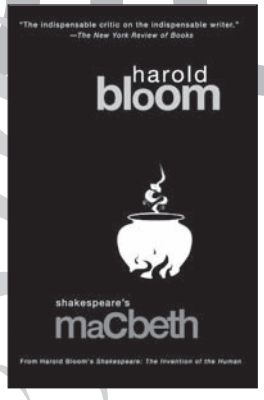
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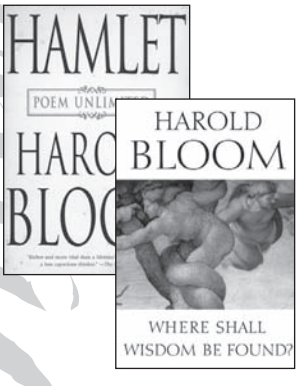


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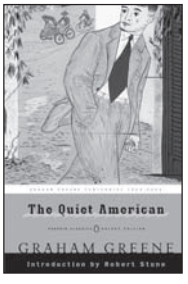
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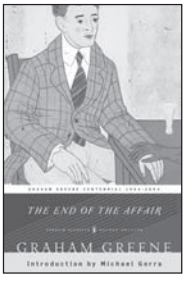
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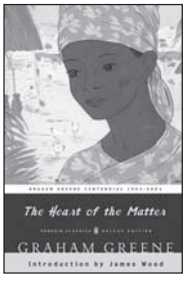
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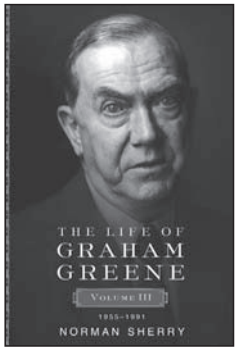
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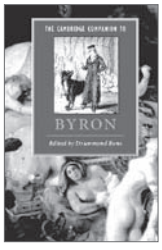
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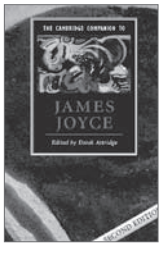
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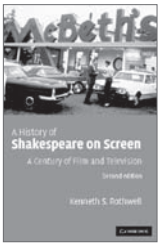
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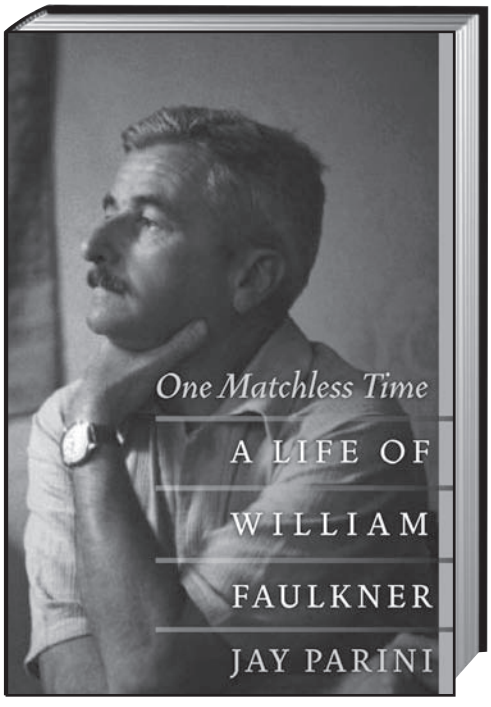




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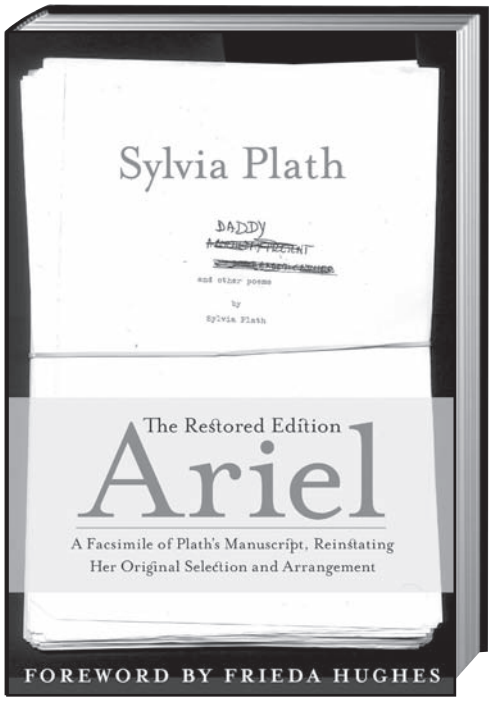
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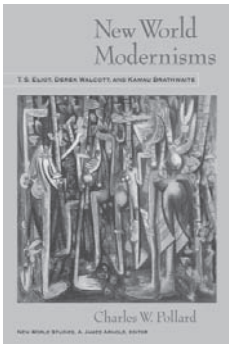
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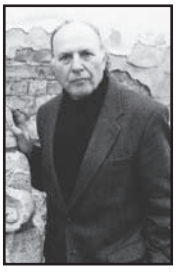
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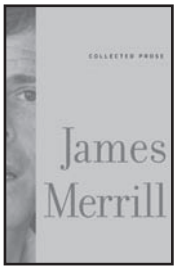


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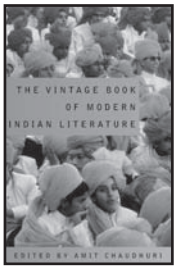


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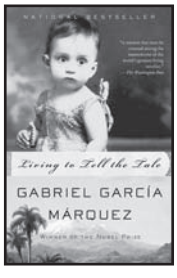


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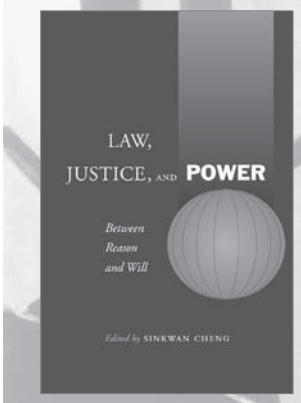

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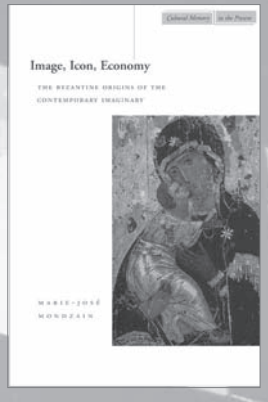
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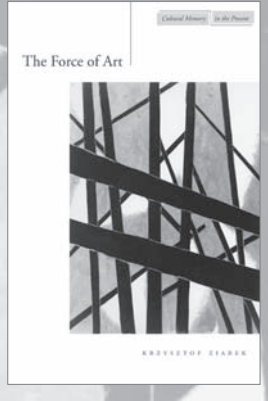
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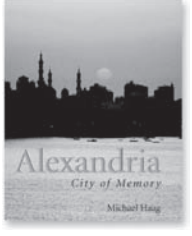
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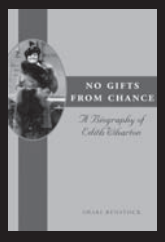
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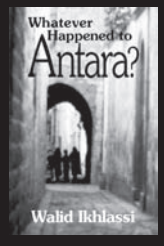
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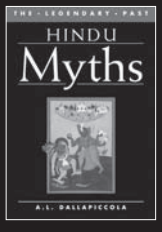
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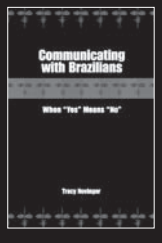


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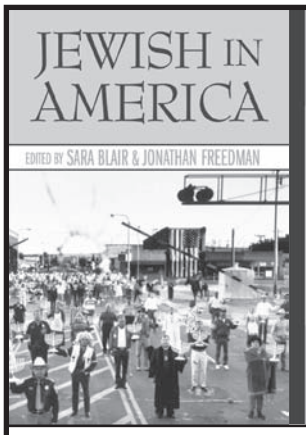
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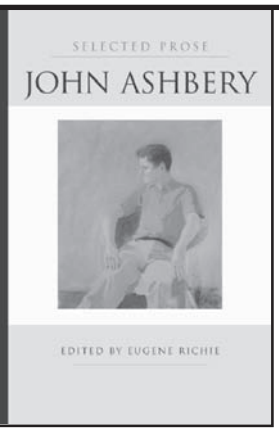
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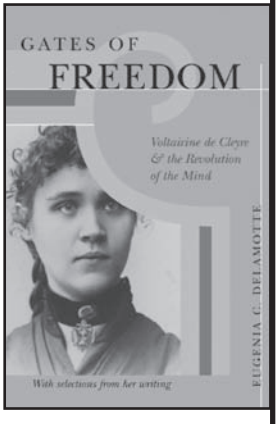
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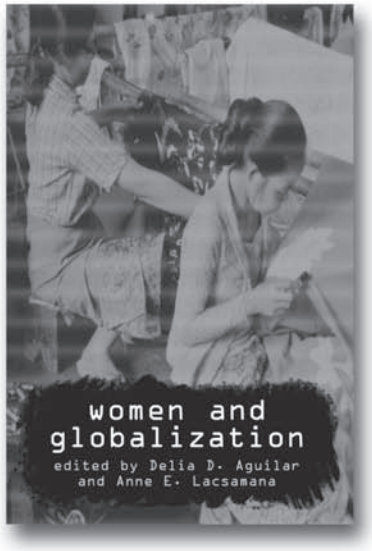
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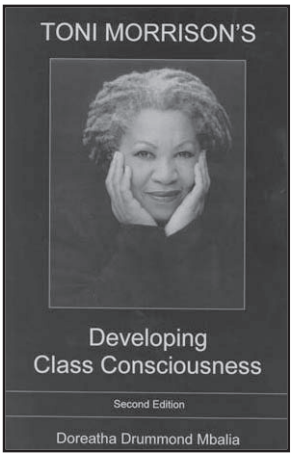
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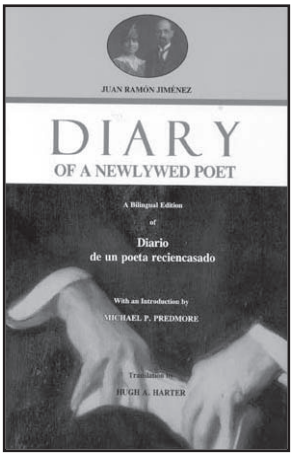
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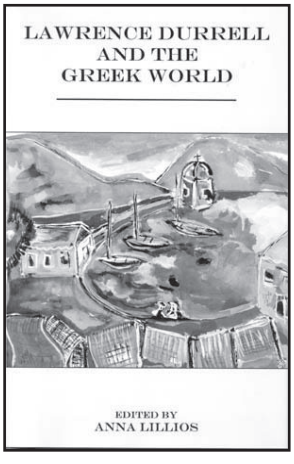
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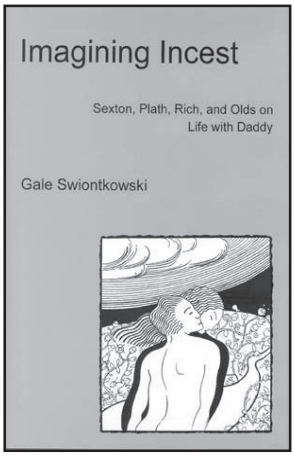
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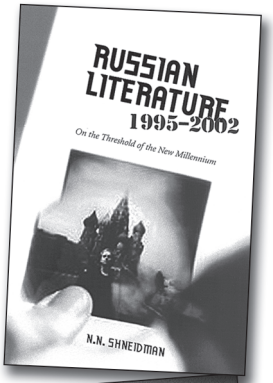
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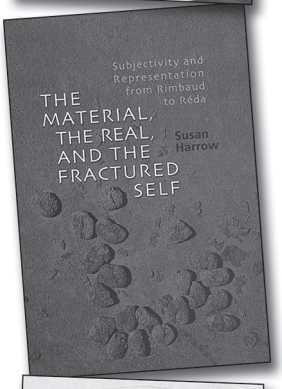


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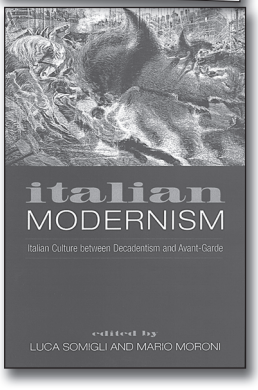


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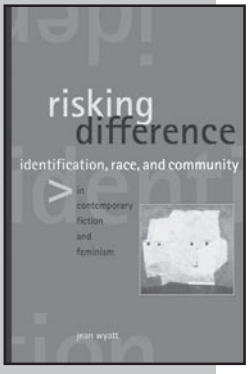
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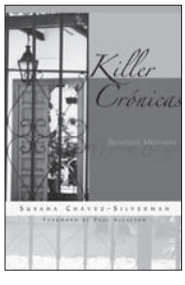
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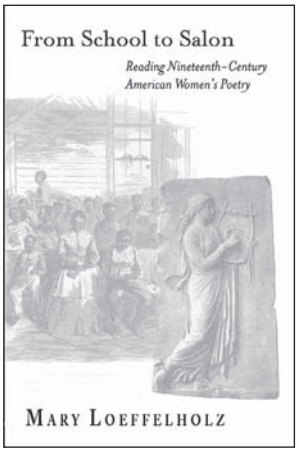
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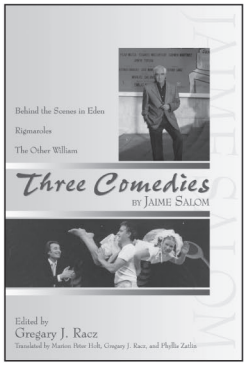
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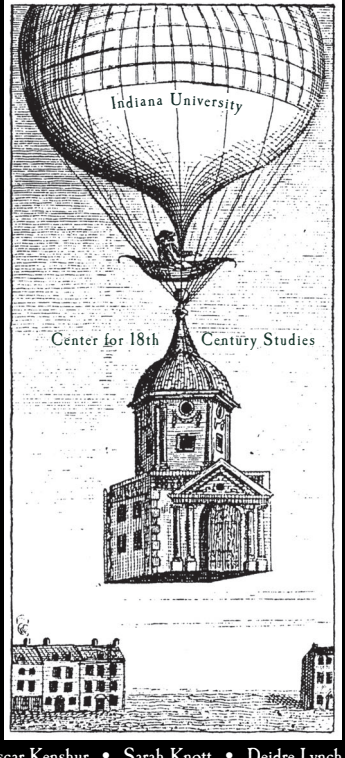
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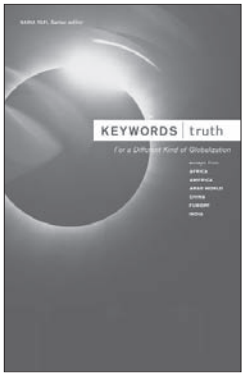
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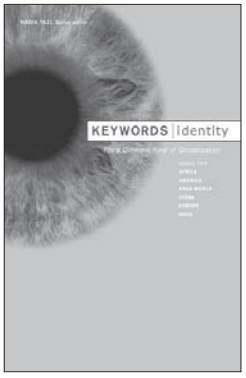
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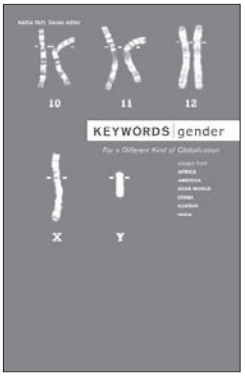
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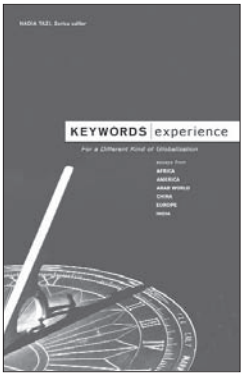
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