Northeast Modern Language Association

The Northeast Modern Language Association will hold its thirty-fourth annual convention in Boston, 6–9 March 2003, at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. NEMLA remains the only regional MLA to hold its convention in the spring. Massachusetts Institute of Technology will serve as host institution under the directorship of Ann A. Snodgrass.

Any current NEMLA member may submit a panel proposal for the convention by completing a proposal form at our Web site. The call for papers for the Boston convention will be published in the June newsletter and at the Web site. Abstracts and papers are sent directly to the session chairs for panel consideration and must be postmarked by 15 September; chairs will send completed forms, including audiovisual requests, to the executive director no later than 1 October.

Anyone interested in joining NEMLA may complete a membership form, found at our Web site, and submit it to the executive director. The NEMLA Web site (www.nemla.org) includes membership information and conference information. Membership in NEMLA includes a subscription to *Modern Language Studies*, edited by Michael J. Kiskis, of Elmira College. Members and other scholars are encouraged to submit essays for consideration and for publication.

2001 was an incredibly difficult year for all of us in academia—particularly for those of us who live and teach in and around New York City. Many of us New Yorkers awoke to a glorious morning with the sun shining brightly in the clearest sapphire sky on 11 September. We bustled to work, riding the cramped trains, navigating our cars through the endless traffic, or walking along the crowded streets, and began our classes in literature, film, composition, or language by asking for questions, collecting homework assignments, or simply talking with our students about a first paper assignment. However, after 9:00 that same morning, many of us would find ourselves struck dumb, watching with horror as those glorious twin towers were struck to the ground.

Returning to school over the following days, many of us struggled to help our students comprehend what had happened, and we struggled with them to put words to the unspeakable witnessed over and over again on the news. As the weeks have passed into months, I have personally struggled with what to say in my annual remarks. The tragedy has caused me to reflect on those who assist me daily in making my life and career meaningful to me. Our convention in Toronto was hit hard financially because many members could not cross the border, and many others lost valuable funding from the colleges and universities frightened because of low enrollments. Therefore, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the loyal NEMLA members who did come to Toronto for assisting me in helping to make NEMLA a meaningful organization dedicated to the principles of free speech and a free exchange of ideas

Specifically, I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people who have helped keep NEMLA together this year: Céline Philibert, our outgoing president; Rocco Capozzi, our local arrangements chair; Linda Materna, Marilyn Rye, and Neil H. Donahue (of our Board of Directors) and Yasmin De Gout, who all worked hard to create a welcoming Toronto meeting. NEMLA is also most appreciative of Lisa Joyce and Juliette Rogers, of the NEMLA Book Award committee, and Elizabeth Abele and Jason Haslem, who maintain our Web site.

With Rocco, I would like to acknowledge his staff of dedicated scholars and conventioneers: Many thanks to Luca Somigli, assistant host committee chair, and to the local arrangements committee members, Bruno Magliocchetti, Laura Mosco, Marisa Ruccolo, Dario Branvcato, Paolo Chirumolo, Patrizia DiVincenzo, and Kevin Reynolds. And special thanks go to the State University of New York, College at Potsdam, and the University of Toronto, whose unique generosity is helping us to make this year's convention possible.

The NEMLA Book Prize is an annual award bestowed on the best unpublished, book-length manuscript by a member. Details are available at the Web site. This year, the book award went to Julia M. Wright (Univ. of Waterloo), for her work on William Blake and nationalism, to be published in 2003.

NEMLA officers for 2002–03 are *President*, Laura Nisen deAbruna (Susquehana Univ.); *First Vice President*, Antonio Cao (Hofstra Univ.); *Executive Council*, representing English and American Literature: Rocco Marinarra (Manhattan Coll.); representing Modern Languages and Literatures: Linda Materna (Rider Univ.) and Neil H. Donahue (Hofstra Univ.); representing the *Gay and Lesbian Caucus*, Tramble T. Turner (Penn State Univ., Abington); representing the *Women's Caucus*, Marilyn Rye (Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.); representing the *Two-Year College Caucus*, Annette Magid (Erie Community Coll.); and representing the *Graduate Student Caucus*, Gretchen Woertendyke-Rohde (State Univ. of New York, Stony Brook).

SCOTT F. STODDART
Executive Director

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