

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Literarischer Gesellschaften und Gedenkstätten e.V.

Panorama and Perspectives.

Literary Societies and Literary Museums in Europe

Panorama und Perspektive. Literarische Gesellschaften und Literaturmuseen in Europa

Newsletter 4 – 06/2010

■ Conference “The European Literary Canons”

Publication of the papers of the conference

■ From 4 to 6 March 2010 the conference “The European Literary Canons” took place in Budapest. The event was organised between the German ALG and the Hungarian Petöfi Museum. Participants from altogether seventeen European countries attended the second meeting of our group. – Now the papers of the conference are available as PDF document; please contact schubert@alg.de. Thanks to Adrian Grima/Malta and Katri Sarmavuori/Finland the document is also available on the following websites: <http://adriangrima.com> ■ www.inizjamed.org ■ www.aidinkielenopetustieteenseurary.com/31

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■ Belgium

■ Après avoir réalisé à la Bibliothèque Wittockiana une exposition consacrée à Pierre Mertens (1939), l'écrivain des “Bons Offices” qui soutint par ailleurs une thèse sur “L'imprescriptibilité des crimes de guerre”, les Archives et Musée de la Littérature déploient en leurs murs une exposition consacrée à trois écrivains engagés du XXe siècle. – Ces trois auteurs francophones belges appartiennent à trois générations différentes: O. P. Gilbert (1898-1972), l'auteur du cycle des Baudouin, D. Scheinert (1916-1996), C. Detrez (1937-1985).

A eux trois, ils ont voyagé partout dans le monde, découvrant l'Asie affamée, l'Afrique colonisée et des pays en guerre. Gilbert a témoigné pour les opprimés et les dominés et est entré en Résistance, Detrez s'est jeté dans la lutte pour libérer un peuple en Amérique latine. Scheinert s'est exprimé contre le racisme et la xénophobie en Belgique, s'est émerveillé parfois sans prendre distance sur les pays de l'Est...

Chacun a par ailleurs donné un cycle de romans autobiographiques plus ou moins romancés. Même si créer une forme personnelle n'était pas le premier objectif de ces écrivains, la manière qu'ils ont eue de développer l'écriture et son rapport à la réalité révèle forcément une esthétique et une mise en lumière de soi.

■ Au niveau *Publications*, les Archives et Musée de la Littérature éditeront cet été, ou viennent de faire paraître:

- 1) Dans le registre de l'analyse de la littérature européenne du Tournant de siècle
 - Emile Verhaeren, *Poésie complète 7: Les Visages de la vie. Les Douze Mois. Petites Légendes*. Édition établie par Michel Otten et présentée par Vic Nachtergaele, Bruxelles, AML Editions/Luc Pire, 2010 (coll. «Archives du Futur»). Avec la reproduction des vignettes de Théo Van Rysselberghe (22 euros).
 - Émile et Marthe Verhaeren, Rainer Maria Rilke, Richard et Ida Dehmel, *Correspondance (1905-1925)*, édition présentée, établie et annotée par Fabrice van de Kerckhove,

Bruxelles, AML Editions / La Renaissance du Livre (anciennement Luc Pire), (coll. «Archives du Futur»), (à paraître, 27 euros).

2) Histoire des avant-gardes européennes

- Geneviève Michel, *Paul Nougé, La poésie au cœur de la révolution*. Bruxelles, PIE-Peter Lang, 2010 (coll. «Documents pour l'Histoire des Francophonies», Série «Europe»). Une plongée dans l'articulation entre politique, éthique et esthétique au cœur d'une des œuvres surréalistes (44,50 euros).

3) L'Afrique centrale: les relations entre le Congo et la Belgique avant l'Indépendance

- *Les Années Lovanium, La première université francophone d'Afrique subsaharienne* (2 tomes). Préface de Marc Quaghebeur. Textes rassemblés par Isidore Ndaywel è Nziem. Paris, L'Harmattan, 2010 (Série «Congo-Meuse», n° 10, et 11). Une histoire mouvementée, faite d'un patchwork de témoignages, sur l'Université créée à Léopoldville, à Kinshasa, avant l'Indépendance (n°10: 29,50 euros; n°11: 23 euros).

- Paul Salkin, *L'Afrique centrale dans 100 ans* (retirage), Bruxelles, AML Editions, 2010. Comment, à travers la fiction, l'adjoint au procureur du Roi à Elisabethville (Lubumbashi) prévoit dès 1927 les Indépendances (14 euros).

4) Etudes transversales des lettres belges

- *Confluences, Mythes et Histoire*, textes réunis par Marc Quaghebeur et Laurent Rossion (Série «Confluencia», Série belge, n°2), Coïmbra, Instituto de Estudos franceses, Faculdade de Letras de Coïmbra (à paraître). Une somme de 19 articles rassemblant des études qui vont de Maurice Maeterlinck à Michèle Fabien et concernent les différentes formes du rapport à l'Histoire des écrivains belges francophones.

- *Album Belgique*, Bruxelles, PIE-Peter Lang (à paraître). Une mosaïque de contributions brèves toutes issues de professeurs ou chercheurs italiens en poste à l'Université de Salerne, réunies par Annamarie Laserra, permet de découvrir un pays singulier depuis le XVe siècle. Ce patchwork concerne aussi bien la littérature, que la peinture, la musique ou l'architecture, l'humanisme ou le cinéma, etc.

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■ Bulgaria

■ **8 - 11 September 2010 / Varna** – *The international conference “Dialogue on Key Competences and Literature in the Context of the Contemporary European Education” will take place* from 8 to 11 September 2010 in Varna (Bulgaria) at the Black Sea coast. The conference is organized in the context of the LLP project “Intercompetency and Dialogue through Literature” (IDiaL, Ref. No: 142075-LLP-1-2008-1-BG-COMENIUS-CMP), which is based upon the understanding that literature has the potential to participate in versatile activities within the educational process, directed to the personal growth of students. The project brought together institutions from six EU-member countries under the leadership of the Institute for Literature at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The project partners worked to provide school teachers with solutions for developing students' key competencies in a holistic way through the means of literature. The project aimed to elaborate a creative methodic, a teachers' handbook and an in-service teacher training course. One of the goals of the conference in Varna is to present the achievements of the project to the international audience.

The conference will be meeting point for literary scholars, school teachers in humanity subjects, representatives of local educational authorities and other stakeholders in the field of education, who will discuss and share their views on topical subjects related to the role of literature in the contemporary education and for developing of the key competences for lifelong learning. Not least the conference will be a forum for coordinators of running and accomplished LLP projects with relevant thematic to present their work and to disseminate the project outcomes. – A limited number of grants for participation in the conference are available. More information and application documents for the conference can be obtained from: iccf@mail.orbitel.bg or at the project web-site: <http://idial.iccfound.org>.

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■ Denmark

■ *Classical music in Denmark's Radio Program 2 is seriously threatened* by the governing right wing coalition which wants to change the cultural programme of the state radio into a commercial pop and news channel. *The literary societies are engaged in a protest campaign* against this attack on culture in the public service channel, not only because of the close relations between classical music and classical literature, but also as a defence of classical cultural values in general.

■ *The Nordic conference for literary societies at Biskops Arnö, Sweden, last August has published the report* of the discussions with a summary in English. The report of the conference "Leve de nordiska klassikerna!" / "Long Live the Nordic Classics!" is available from the DELS (Association of Literary Societies in Sweden): info@dels.nu

The Danish Convention is working constantly in order to organize a similar conference in August 2011, under the headline "The Classics and the Present". The Convention is in cooperation with the Danish Academy and Foreningen Norden (a NGO working since 1919 for an overall strengthening of the Nordic cooperation).

■ **14 - 15 August 2010 / Northern Zealand** – *The Pontoppidan Society has planned a summer meeting* in Northern Zealand mid August with gender thinking as main theme (www.henrikpontoppidan.dk/text/nyheder/nyhed31.html). The Nobel price winner and novelist Henrik Pontoppidan (1857-1943) is well known also outside Scandinavia.

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■ **21 September 2010** – In September we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the "Day of the Classic" (Danish: KLASSIKERDAGEN) – the annual celebration of a Danish literary classic: www.klassikerdagen.dk. For ten years we have been celebrating Danish poets and authors of whom the best known to foreigners are Hans Christian Andersen and Nobel-prize winner Henrik Pontoppidan. We take the opportunity of the anniversary to – once again! – put the question: What is a literary classic? For the opening program (in the main Library in Copenhagen) we have invited three poets to reflect on the question. We have also asked them to include their view on Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen) as a classic. She was born 125 years ago, so it is natural to celebrate her work as well. We provide libraries, schools etc. with a list of lecturers who will talk about literary classic all over the country – to spread the message, so to speak.

The organizing committee of the KLASSIKERDAGEN consists of representatives of The Royal Danish Library, The Society of Danish Language and Literature, Danish Library Association and The Convention of Literary Societies in Denmark.

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■ Estonia

■ In April 2010 *the museums of Estonian writers established the non-profit organisation Association of Estonian Writers' Museums*. The Association embraces almost all the museums in Estonia that are connected with writers or literature.

The main objectives are as follows:

- Valuing and protecting the Estonian literary heritage and organising dissemination activities.
- Presenting and advancing knowledge on Estonian literature, cultural history and writers in Estonia.
- Participation in Estonian and European networks and projects.
- In-practice schooling and training of the writers' museums' employees, protection of their professional interests.
- Advancing peer contacts in Estonia and other countries.

The Association arranges joint projects of museums, conferences, events, workshops, exhibitions and supports the development of Estonian museums. All together we are aiming at making the writers' museums more visitor-friendly, modern and professional.

Joint exhibitions are one form of the really essential activities. In May the first of them, "Writer in Caricature", was launched. This is a park exhibition in various towns that introduces Estonian writers through caricatures drawn about them. The jolly, even intriguing caricatures showing writers from the late 19th century to the present are not only entertaining but educational and enrich the urban space. The year of 2010 has been named the Year of Reading in Estonia and the caricature exhibition is one of the events to remind the people not only of the importance but also of the pleasure of reading and literature.



The Association is preparing its own website providing information about the activities of the Association and all the museums included: www.kirjanikemuuseumid.ee. The board of the society for the next three years consists of the following members: Kairi Toomet (Eduard Vilde Museum), Janika Kronberg (Estonian Literary Museum), Arne Tegelamann (Palamuse O.Luts' Parish School Museum), Maarja Vaino (A.H. Tammsaare Museum), Aune Suve (Foundation A.H. Tammsaare Museum in Vargamäe).

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■ France

■ The 22nd edition of the newsletter "Bulletin d'informations" published twice a year by the *French Fédération nationale des maisons d'écrivain & des patrimoines littéraires* is now at your disposal. You can download it from our website: www.litterature-lieux.com/ressources/bulletin-informations.asp where you will also find all the previous editions of the newsletter (since 1998).

The current edition contains a preliminary program of the 11th Meetings of Writers' Houses in Bourges (see below), a central article about the literary spots that we visited in March when our general meeting took place in Touraine and a lot of information about our members' activities.

■ **June - October 2010 / Moscow** – *French-Russian exhibition in Moscow "Le Lieu du génie"*

Within the frame of the French-Russian Year in 2010, French and Russian museums present, at the Pouchkine Museum in Moscow, from June to October 2010, an exhibition called "Le Lieu du génie" (Place of Genius) dedicated to famous writers of the French and Russian literature: A. Pouchkine, M. Lermontov, I. Tourguéniev, L. Tolstoï, M. Cholokhov, A. Rimbaud, G. Flaubert, G. Sand, J. Verne, L. Aragon and E. Triolet. Large panels of colour pictures and black and white drawings are presented. A room is dedicated to each writer. The participating French writers' houses are all members of the *Fédération nationale des maisons d'écrivain & des patrimoines littéraires*. Information: lieudugenie@gmail.com or Tel.: 8 495 6375674.

■ **19 - 21 November 2010 / Bourges** – *11th Meetings of Writers' Houses in Bourges (18)*

The *Fédération nationale des maisons d'écrivain & des patrimoines littéraires* organizes its next Meetings (taking place in Bourges every other year) in November 2010. The topic of the Meetings will be "Written Works and Writers' Houses". Two days of debates are scheduled – one in Bourges and one in St Amand-Montrond (nearby) and Noirlac Abbey (cultural centre). All necessary information you can find on our website: www.litterature-lieux.com.



Foto: Les 4 Vents

11th Meetings of Writers' Houses in Bourges "Written Works and Writers' Houses"

– Summary of the preliminary programme

19th November 2010, Bourges

- Morning** - **Reception** of the participants and **Introduction; Key-note speech** by a female writer N.N.
- Theory: *The Writer's House reveals the Works*, Pierre-Marc de Biasi/ Manager of ITEM -CNRS
- Afternoon** - **Panel 1: Place of the written works in the scientific and cultural project and in the visit of the writer's house**
Bernhard Lauer/ Grimm-Museum in Kassel (Germany); Alain Tourneux/ Rimbaud-Museum in Charleville-Mézières; André-Guy Couturier/ Member of the Board; Doriane Cadéac/ Student
- **Panel 2: Staging the written works**
Massimo Quendolo/ Producer of the exhibition "Writers' Drafts" at the National Library, Paris;
Nathalie Crinière/ Producer of the exhibition "Roland Barthes" at the Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris; *The Exhibition 'All about Simenon' in Liège, Belgium*, Jean-Pierre Colson/ Member of the Board of Collections et Patrimoines asbl

20th November 2010, Noirlac and St Amand-Montrond

- Morning** - **Reception** by Yves Dauge/ Chairman of Noirlac and **Presentation** by Paul Fournier/ Manager: *Noirlac's Project*, **Visit** of the Abbey
- Afternoon** - **Panel 3: Impact of the new information and communication technologies on the written works and the writers' houses**
Digitalisation: A Challenge for the Managers of Literary Places and Heritages?, Florence Abrioux/ Sociology lecturer at Orléans University; Marie-Luce Demonet (tbc)/ Prof. and research worker at the CESR in Tours; a speaker about educational questions (the development of a DVD collection about French writers' houses); *Impact on the Local Economy*, two speakers (tbc) from Bussière and Clerc printing-works in Saint Amand-Montrond
- **Conclusion; Visit** of Bussière printing-works
- Evening** - **Reception** by St Amand-Montrond's Local Council at the Gold Hall; **Concert**
- 21st November 21 2010, Ygrande (03)
- **Visit** of Emile Guillaumin's house in Ygrande

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■ Italy

■ The occasion of the first changeover in the Board of the *Case della memoria Association* seems like a good opportunity to present the organisation, which is still unique on a national level in the field of Italian house museums dedicated to great men and women – mainly writers and composers, but also painters, sculptors and historical figures.

Adriano Rigoli (representative for the houses of Agnolo Firenzuola and of Filippo Sassetti) has been elected as the Association's new president. He takes over from Diana Toccafondi, now general Archive superintendent for Tuscany, who had led the Association since its establishment with great skill and confidence.

The Case della memoria Association was officially founded in Prato October 24, 2005, after a long process during which some sites examined as part of a project promoted by Tuscany Regional Council (www.cultura.toscana.it/musei/case_della_memoria/) decided to set up an association with common goals and working methods. Although starting off as a project of the Tuscany Regional Council, the Association aims to have supra-regional characteristics – and in fact the birthplace of educator and philosopher Maria Montessori, in the Region Marche, is already part of it.

As laid down in its Articles, the Association intends to give added value to the specific nature of each house museum, considered in itself and together with the others as a vital cultural and tourist resource. To this end, the Association proposes in particular to:

- promote the image of the house museums belonging to the Association,
- promote the adaptation of the museum services to the highest European standards, also by setting up a common IT system and organising staff training initiatives,
- develop and manage promotional projects and programs, and to seek collaborations and forms of funding at a local, regional, national and European level,
- solicit the interest of the business world in the sectors of traditional and multimedia publishing, cultural tourism, and the production of goods and services related to historic and aesthetic values present in Italy.

The house museums dedicated to the following literary personalities are part of the Association at present: Dante (both, Firenze and Province of Massa); Petrarca (Incisa Valdarno); Boccaccio (Certaldo); Niccolò Machiavelli (San Casciano, near Florence); the English poets Elisabeth Barrett and Robert Browning (Casa Guidi, Florence); the writer and politician Piero Bargellini (Florence); the journalist Indro Montanelli (Fuavecchio, Province of Florence); the Renaissance writer Agnolo Firenzuola (at the Badia, Vaiano); the two Renaissance merchants and men of letters Filippo Sassetti (Villa del Mulinaccio, Vaiano) and Francesco Datini (Prato); the poet Giosuè Carducci (Santa Maria a Monte, Province of Pisa); the writer and politician involved in the Italian Risorgimento Domenico Guerrazzi (Villa La Cinquantina, Cecina, Province of Livorno); the educator and philosopher Maria Montessori (Chiaravalle, Province of Ancona). Other house museums of the Association are dedicated to the artists Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Pontormo, Benvenuto Cellini, Lorenzo Bartolini, Leonetto Tintori, as well as to the composer Ferruccio Busoni and the great singer Enrico Caruso.

The objectives achieved during the Association's first four years are as follows:

- creation of the Association's website with links to the websites of the various houses: www.casedellamemoria.it
- creation of the English version of the website (same address: [English site]),
- printing of a brochure presenting the Association as a whole and the individual houses, providing a map of the route that links the various sites,
- organization of events in the different homes, in order to show their individual character and atmosphere, also through readings of books and manuscripts,
- calendar of events organized by the various homes (website: events section).

A particularly significant event took place between 14 and 18 September 2008 in Prato, involving some of the Association's house museums: Our Association, which meanwhile had become a member of ICOM, organized the Annual Conference "Literary and Composers' Museums and Research" on behalf of the ICLM (International Committee for Literary and Composers' Museums), for the first time this meeting took place in Italy. The event was a great success with nearly 90 participants and made it possible to establish new relationships with foreign museums from many European countries.

Another international initiative for the Association was to attend the conference "Between Private Universe and Public Space: The Houses of Artists fitted out as Museums" (9 - 11 October 2009, Museo Vincenzo Vela in Ligornetto/Switzerland: www.bundesmuseen.ch/museo_vela/00287/00357/00593/index.html?lang=it and www.vkks.ch/de/akt/tagung09/index.html). The conference was organized by the Swiss Association of Art Historians, the Museo Vincenzo Vela and DEMHIST (International Committee for Historic House Museums of ICOM).

For the near future the new Governing Council has set itself the goal of continuing on the path of cultural research, but also of opening our house museums to cultural tourism respectful of the sites' specific characteristics. To this end, an agreement to promote tourism is being drawn up, in collaboration with the foundation of Italian Literary Parks. Another purpose is to make the Association attractive to other possible national partners and thus expand its membership base. A further item on the agenda is that of starting working arrangements with the state-owned house museums which under Italian law cannot join the group as members.

In the near future, the new Board of the Association will appoint a scientific committee of multidisciplinary experts. The Board will also be involved in adapting the Association's museum standards to bring them in line with new national and regional legislation, in collaboration with ICOM.

Last but not least, the Association is aiming to work with European house museums and umbrella organizations in order to extend its fields of activity, and actively seek new international partners also with a view to taking part in projects and tenders promoted by the European Union.

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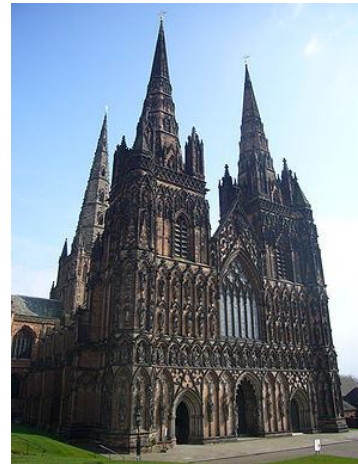
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■ United Kingdom

■ **9 - 11 July 2010 / Helpston** – *The John Clare Society annual festival* takes place 9 to 11 July in Helpston, near Peterborough in Cambridgeshire. Full details are on the website at www.johnclare.org.uk. Helpston is a traditional English village – with cream teas in the village hall; two pubs (one thatched – The Blue Bell, which will be running its own local beer festival during the JCS festival); traditional folk dancing in the street on the Saturday; and also guided walks, talks, and lots of friendly visitors with a common interest (literature in general, and John Clare in particular). Anyone is welcome to attend. There will also be children's poetry workshops and a coach trip around Clare countryside – and the John Clare Cottage will of course be open.

■ **21 - 22 May 2011 / Lichfield** – *The Alliance of Literary Societies annual weekend*. Each year this is hosted by a different member society – giving us a great opportunity to learn more about different writers. In 2011, it will be the Johnson Society of Lichfield (in Staffordshire) from 21 to 22 May. This will be a great weekend of talks, walks, and of course food and drink – all in the company of people from a wide range of literary societies across the country. Samuel Johnson was the compiler of the first English dictionary and there is a very interesting museum dedicated to him in the city. There is also the Erasmus Darwin House – father of Charles Darwin. Lichfield itself is a quaint city boasting a particularly impressive medieval church (the only one with three spires).

More detail will appear on our website at www.allianceofliterarysocieties.org.uk in due course, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone from the European network to join us if they were able to attend. The nearest airports are Birmingham and Manchester with good train links into Lichfield itself.



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■ Further Newsletters

The next newsletter is planned to be issued in late Summer or early Autumn 2010. Please send us continually news you would like to communicate to the group.

Suggestions for improvement of our newsletters are welcome as well as hints on persons who could be interested in receiving them. Please send them to: schubert@alg.de ■

**"Some books are
undeservedly forgotten;
none are undeservedly
remembered."**

– W. H. Auden

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