

THE 2011 BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

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**LETTER FROM THE ACLA PRESIDENT
FRANÇOISE LIONNET**

Dear friends and colleagues,

Even in Los Angeles, summer arrives. It is a little different here, because the marine layer, rolling in from the Pacific, gives us some of the coolest and grayest mornings yet this year. Under the clouds, and with the relative quiet of the season, it is a good time to reflect on the year past and the challenges ahead. I am truly honored to be presiding over our association during this time of transition, with many changes already implemented and many more in store for the next few months.

Comparison can induce a sense of “productive discomfort” I once remarked in my contribution to the 1995 Bernheimer volume on *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Being “in between” (languages, cultures, traditions, disciplines, genres) creates discomfort but also opens new possibilities as boundaries shift and territories are reconfigured by new currents. The study of comparative “national” literatures is increasingly complemented by approaches that are more global or creolized, taking into account “world literature,” “worlds within,” “transnational poetics,” as well as what some historians are now calling the “new thalassology” of oceanic contact zones on our terraqueous globe.

From New Orleans in 2010 to Vancouver in 2011, and on to Providence in 2012, the ACLA continues to thrive as our annual conference travels along the shores of North America. Plans are now well underway for 2012, with the help of our colleagues at Brown University. It is indeed an exciting time to be a comparatist, even though crises had to be averted at institutions where programs were threatened with closure. As it happens, the telling theme of the 2012 conference will be “Collapse/Catastrophe/Change,” and I invite you to meet the challenge set, and to join us in Providence. Please consult our website for updates about seminar and paper submissions, starting in the fall, at <http://www.acla.org/annualmeeting.html>

As many of you know, the members present at the ACLA Business Meeting in Vancouver voted unanimously to approve major modifications in the governance structure. These include a one-year term for the presidency, in keeping with the best practices of many other learned societies that meet annually (as ACLA has now been doing for quite some time!). The changes will allow many more colleagues to rotate as president and to serve as officers of the association. Congratulations to both Lois Zamora and Eric Hayot who have been elected First and Second Vice President, respectively.

Under the capable leadership of Haun Saussy, another major change was successfully negotiated in the past few months. On July 1, the ACLA Secretariat is moving to its new home at the University of South Carolina, where Alexander Beecroft, Director of the Comparative Literature Program, takes on the responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza served the association in that capacity during the time of its most challenging growth. We are all in your debt, Elizabeth, for keeping the ACLA

vibrant for more than a decade, and we know that you will continue to contribute your insights and indefatigable good humor to the association.

One of the current priorities is to finalize conference venues for the next few years, and to enlist the support of universities as local hosts (that merely provide free meeting rooms and discounted A/V) rather than have costly hotel venues. A plan to set up a website that makes fund raising simple is also in the works. We will keep you informed of these new developments as they are finalized. Meanwhile, I wish you a restful, but dynamic, season of warm weather. May all your discomforts be productive!

Most cordially yours,

Françoise Lionnet
UCLA

**LETTER FROM THE ADPCL PRESIDENT, CAROLINE D. ECKHARDT, AND
SECRETARY-TREASURER, CORINNE SCHEINER**

Dear Colleagues,

We're glad to provide you with this annual update on the ADPCL, the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature. Affiliated with both the ACLA and the MLA, the ADPCL is the administrators' organization for Comparative Literature. As in previous years, we aim to provide a forum and a community for colleagues who have any kind of administrative responsibility for Comparative Literature, such as program or committee chairs, department heads, or graduate or undergraduate coordinators, whether located in academic units called Comparative Literature or in other institutional settings. As advocates for our discipline, we benefit from sharing our projects, joys, sorrows, and dilemmas.

In addition to much informal networking, the ADPCL holds sessions each year at the ACLA and the MLA. At the ACLA, we collaborate with the Graduate Caucus in presenting an annual panel on the job-market, and sometimes also sponsor a session on a topic such as journal editing or grant-writing. Similarly, our MLA sessions focus on professional concerns such as publishing, curriculum, and the changing shape of our discipline— and, yes, strategies for surviving, or even flourishing, despite the current decrease in public support for the humanities (and other fields).

At the January 2011 MLA meeting, our session, “Collaborative Strategies for Hard (and Good) Times: Local, Regional, International Options,” was part of the MLA's special programming on the theme “The Academy in Hard Times.” Chaired by Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College), the ADPCL session included presentations on “Designing Joint Doctoral Degrees Internationally,” Caroline D. Eckhardt (Penn State); “Teaching Together Across Institutions,” Ross Shideler (UCLA); and “Conducting Research Together, Locally or Internationally,” Adam E. Miyashiro (Richard Stockton College).

At the March-April 2011 ACLA meeting in Vancouver, the ADPCL held a breakfast meeting for program and department chairs and joined the Graduate Caucus in sponsoring a Round Table on “Looking Beyond the Academic Job Market,” with moderator Chandani Patel (U of Chicago) and participants David Damrosch (Harvard U), Kathleen Komar (UCLA), and Kris Magnusson (Simon Fraser U). We also co-sponsored the panel “Internationalizing the Curriculum while Eliminating Foreign Languages,” a session organized in response to the widespread institutional downsizing of the humanities, with moderator Haun Saussy (Yale U) and participants Karin Beeler (U of Northern British Columbia), Jean-François Brière (State U of New York at Albany), Jonathan Hart (U of Alberta), and Neil ten Kortenaar (U of Toronto).

Information about our session at the upcoming 2012 MLA meeting in Seattle, “The Americanization of Comparative Literature, the Comparatization of American Studies,” is given nearby in this Bulletin. And we hope that many ADPCL members will attend

the first ACL(x) conference, on innovation and experimentation in Comparative Literature, to be held at Penn State on September 29-October 1, 2011.

If your Comparative Literature department, program, committee, or other structure (current or prospective) isn't yet an institutional member of the ADPCL, you are warmly invited to join. Whether through informal contacts or conference sessions, we can strengthen our advocacy and improve our administrative toolkits by working together. Membership forms are available on the ACLA website (<http://www.acla.org>): choose the institutional category of ACLA membership, which includes ADPCL membership as well.

Best regards,

Carey Eckhardt (President, e82@psu.edu)

Corinne Scheiner (Secretary-Treasurer, cscheiner@ColoradoCollege.edu)

Join or Renew Membership

Contact the ACLA



An Invitation to Join the ACLA

Why join the ACLA?

- We keep you informed about the latest developments in the discipline and the profession through our journal, *Comparative Literature*, the ACLA Bulletin, our website, and regular emails to the membership.
- Our annual meetings are collegial, intellectually stimulating, and rewarding. They combine intimate conversation within seminars with defining disciplinary presentations. In 2012 we will meet at Brown University in Providence, RI. We also sponsor a panel and co-host a social event with the School of Criticism and Theory at the annual MLA meeting.
- Our website, www.acla.org is the primary resource for the field in North America and internationally. It provides an up-to-date and dynamic virtual resource and meeting place for scholars and students in the field. We hope you will let us know at the Secretariat (info@acla.org) how we may enrich it and make it even more useful.
- ACLA members receive a subscription to *Comparative Literature* and membership in the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), which meets triennially in cities around the world. Members may subscribe at reduced rates to additional Comparative Literature journals: *Comparative Literature Studies*, *World Literature Today*, *Yearbook of Comparative & General Literature*, and *Symploké*.
- When you become a member, you become a part of our database which will ensure that you receive timely email notification of important events, publications and opportunities in the field both in North America and elsewhere.
- When your department or program becomes an institutional member of the ACLA/ADPCL, you and your colleagues will help to define and support the discipline and will be able to nominate your students for the Bernheimer Award.
- The ACLA is defined by the commitment, intellectual energy and scholarly distinction of its members. We need your presence, contribution and support to continue to thrive and to become an ever more crucial voice in shaping our field and the humanities. We hope you will join us!

Please Note the New ACLA Fee Schedule:

Students: \$25 ACLA membership only/ \$35 including ICLA membership; does not include *Comparative Literature* subscription

Student members have the option of adding a *Comparative Literature* subscription for an additional \$25.

Regular/Faculty, Part-Time, Emeritus, Currently Unemployed:

Income under \$40,000: \$35 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income \$40,000-\$80,000: \$55 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income \$80,000-\$100,000: \$65 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income over \$100,000: \$75 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Institutional/Departmental: \$100 ACLA and ADPCL membership

Please make or renew your membership on line at: www.acla.org

Or write to us at: ACLA Secretariat,

The University of South Carolina

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

1620 College Street, Rm. 813A

Columbia, SC 29208

Questions? Please contact us at info@acla.org or 803-777-3021.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PRESIDENTIAL PRIZES

The Presidential Master's Prize

In support of its mission to promote the discipline of Comparative Literature, the American Comparative Literature Association is proud to announce the establishment of two new prizes recognizing student accomplishment in Comparative Literary study. The President's Awards for Best Master's Thesis and for Best Undergraduate Essay on a Comparative Topic together honor comparative work broadly construed at these important stages of educational achievement. Work will be judged based on theoretical rigor, comparative breadth, and lucidity of exposition. Though not a formal requirement, especially for the Undergraduate essay prize, work that engages in comparison across linguistic boundaries will be especially valued by the committee.

The Presidential Master's Prize goes to the best thesis, report or substantial essay nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. The project must be completed by July 1, 2011. Each institutional member may nominate one student in the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$500 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, complimentary ticket to the banquet and a travel grant of \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the 2012 conference at Brown University at which the prize will be awarded.

Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated project to the Secretariat (info@acla.org), and to the Secretary-Treasurer (ABecrof@mailbox.sc.edu). Copies of the nominating letter should also be sent, along with copies of the work, to each member of the committee. Deadline for submission is November 15th, 2011.

The prize committee for 2011-12 is Nergis Erturk (Penn State University), Debarti Sanyal (Berkeley University), and Leerom Medovoi (Portland State University).

Further information on the Presidential Undergraduate prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/presidentialmasters.html>

The Presidential Undergraduate Prize

In support of its mission to promote the discipline of Comparative Literature, the American Comparative Literature Association is proud to announce the establishment of two new prizes recognizing student accomplishment in comparative literary study. The President's Awards for Best Master's Thesis and for Best Undergraduate Essay on a Comparative Topic together honor comparative work broadly construed at these important stages of educational achievement. Work will be judged based on theoretical

rigor, comparative breadth, and lucidity of exposition. Though not a formal requirement, especially for the Undergraduate essay prize, work that engages in comparison across linguistic boundaries will be especially valued by the committee.

The Presidential Undergraduate Prize goes to the best substantial essay nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. The project must be completed by July 1, 2011. Each institutional member may nominate one student in the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$250 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, and a complimentary ticket to the banquet to facilitate the recipient attending the 2012 conference at Brown University at which the prize will be awarded.

To nominate a student's work for the 2012 Presidential Prizes, please notify the Secretariat (info@acla.org), the Secretary-Treasurer (ABeecrof@mailbox.sc.edu), and the members of the committee by November 15, 2011. Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated essay. Copies of the nominating letter should be sent, along with copies of the student's work, to each member of the committee. Deadline for submission is November 15th, 2011.

The prize committee for 2011-12 is Nergis Erturk (Penn State University), Debarti Sanyal (Berkeley University), and Leerom Medovoi (Portland State University).

Further information on the Presidential Undergraduate prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/presidentialundergraduate.html>

**MLA ANNUAL MEETING
January 2012, Seattle
ACLA ALLIED ORGANIZATION SESSIONS**

The ACLA and ADPCL sponsor panels at the MLA Convention in Seattle. The convention will begin on Thursday, 5 January and end on Sunday, 8 January.

(Session 481) **Title: "On Comparison"**

Date/Time/Location: Saturday, January 7th, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton

Moderators:

Rita Felski, University of Virginia

Susan Stanford Friedman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Panelists:

Haun Saussy (University of Chicago), "Axes of Comparison"

Shu-mei Shih (University of Southern California), "Comparison as Relation"

Longxi Zhang (City University of Hong Kong), "Crossroads, Parallelism, and Distant Killing: On the Ethics and Politics of Comparison"

Walter D. Mignolo (Duke University), "On the Knowing or Understanding Subject: Who Is Comparing What and What For?"

(Session 322) **Panel title: "The Americanization of Comparative Literature/The Comparatization of American Studies." Session sponsored by the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature (ADPCL).**

Date/Time/Location: Friday, January 6th, 3:30-4:45 p.m., 305, Washington State Convention Center

Presiding: Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College)

Panelists:

Wail Hassan (University of Illinois, Urbana), "Intercontinental American Literature"

Djelal Kadir (Penn State, University Park), "Incomparably Concentric: America and Comparatism"

Sylvia Spitta (Dartmouth College), "Transamerican Studies and American Comparativisms"

Ali Behdad (University of California, Los Angeles), "What American Studies Can Learn from Comparative Literature"



CFP: ACLA ANNUAL MEETING 2012

“Collapse/Catastrophe/Change”

Providence, RI

March 29- April 1, 2012

“there is a hollow murmuring underground; a confused movement is felt that threatens a general earthquake in the political world.”

Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

“enforced uniformity, sooner or later, is the greatest occasion of civil war”

Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island

From the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 to 9/11 to the recent upheavals in the Middle East, the language of collapse and catastrophe, of crisis and change has come to dominate the public sphere. What figures and tropes produce and recuperate such events? How have they been represented differently in different periods and across linguistic and national boundaries? Economic meltdown, financial collapse, environmental depletion and disaster, trauma, the crisis in the humanities, in the foreign languages, in comparative literature itself: we are besieged by a discourse of crisis. At the same time, discourse itself seems to be in crisis, on the brink of collapse from the strain of having to reinvent itself with each new cataclysm without becoming redundant or incommensurate. What remains of terms like “revolution,” “democracy,” “justice,” “tragedy,” “community,” “freedom”? How are they mediated culturally? nationally? globally? Can the literary re-imagine so as to renew? What is the relation between figuration and change?

We invite proposals and submissions on comparative topics addressing such issues and their representation in texts, film and other media for seminars of from eight to twelve persons or individual paper proposals which should be submitted via the "Propose a Paper or Seminar" link at the ACLA conference website: <http://www.acla.org/acla2012>

Seminar Proposal Deadline: October 1, 2011

Deadline for Paper Proposals: November 1, 2011

For more information, contact conference@acla.org

MEMORIAL NOTICES 2010-2011



Richard Maxwell, 1948-2010

Richard Maxwell, who taught comparative literature at Valparaiso and Yale Universities, died in New Haven on July 20, 2010. He was author of *The Mysteries of Paris and London* (1992), *The Historical Novel in Europe, 1650-1950* (2009) and editor (with Katie Trumpener) of *The Cambridge Companion to Fiction in the Romantic Period* (2008), as well as of essays and fictions describing the European emigration to Los Angeles in the wartime and postwar years.



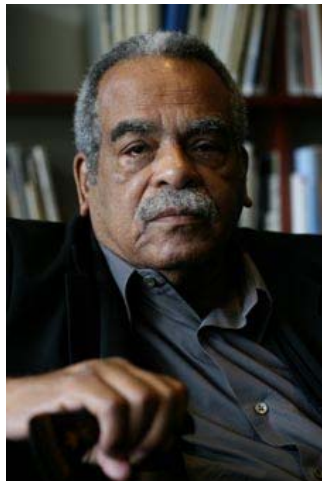
Cyrus Hamlin, 1936-2011

Cyrus Hamlin, professor emeritus of Comparative Literature and German at Yale University, died on January 19, 2011 after a long illness. One of the first professors in the newly-founded graduate program in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto, he returned to Yale in 1983 in time to help design the undergraduate Literature Major. A student of René Wellek, Cleanth Brooks, William Wimsatt, and Paul de Man at Harvard and Yale, he chose to specialize in the history of German Romanticism and its reception. His teaching included courses on Hölderlin, Goethe and Wagner, as well as a Comparative Literature proseminar. He was the general editor of the Suhrkamp edition of Goethe's works in English. His essays are collected in *Hermeneutics of Form* (1998).



Eugene Vance, 1934-2011

Eugene Vance, scholar of Late Classical and Medieval Literature. Vance received his BA from Dartmouth and his MA and PhD from Cornell. He taught at Yale, the Université de Montréal and Emory University, before arriving at the University of Washington in 1990, where he served as a Professor of French and Italian Studies, and of Comparative Literature and Comparative Religion. He was the author of *Reading the Song of Roland*, *Mervelous Signals: Poetics and Sign Theory in the Middle Ages*, and *From Topic to Tale: Logic and Narrativity in the Middle Ages*, and the co-editor of *L'Archéologie du Signe (The Archeology of Signs)*, and *Rhetoric And The Discourses Of Power In Court Culture: China, Europe, And Japan*, and a pioneer in the application of semiotic, narratological and theoretical approaches to texts ranging from Augustine's *Confessions* to Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*.



Édouard Glissant, 1928-2011

Édouard Glissant, novelist, poet, and theorist. Born on Martinique in 1928, he studied ethnography at the Musée de l'Homme, and history and philosophy at the Sorbonne, in Paris, beginning in 1946. Author of numerous novels and collections of poetry (of which his first, *La Lézarde*, was awarded the prix Renaudot in 1958), Glissant was also the

author of many theoretical and critical texts, notably *Soleil de la Conscience* (Paris, Gallimard, 1956), *Poétique de la Relation* (Paris, Gallimard, 1990), *Traité du Tout-Monde*, (Paris, Gallimard, 1997) and *Philosophie de la relation* (Paris, Gallimard, 2009). His work emphasized notions of creolization and hybridity, of what he termed “la pensée archipélique;” notions which immensely enriched the fields of postcolonial studies and comparative literature, among many others. An active member of the American academic community, serving as Distinguished University Professor first at Louisiana State University, then at the CUNY Graduate Center, Glissant retained an active engagement in political and cultural life in Martinique (founding there the Institut Martiniquais d'études in 1965) and in Paris, where he edited for many years the *Courrier de l'Unesco* (1982-88), and acted as an outspoken public intellectual with respect in particular to issues of immigration and of the status of the Caribbean regions of the French Republic.

**RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ACLA ENDOWMENTS AND
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The ACLA wishes gratefully to acknowledge the generous contributions made this year to our endowments: the Charles Bernheimer Endowment for Outstanding Graduate Research in Comparative Literature, the Haskell M. Block Endowment for the Support of International Students, and the general ACLA endowments. These funds, which honor the year's outstanding dissertation, fund graduate student travel to the annual meeting of the ACLA, and support the association's mission, assure and enhance the future of the field of Comparative Literature through our graduate students and colleagues by recognizing their achievements and assisting them to participate fully in the scholarly life of the association.

Particularly generous benefactors of the ACLA this year included: Sandra Bermann, David Damrosch, Haun Saussy. We also wish to thank the dozens of members whose contributions have made possible the enhancement and growth of our travel grant programs.

The ACLA would also like to thank our institutional members for their support. The ACLA's 2010 institutional members comprised:

Louisiana State University
Binghamton University
Georgetown University
Penn State
Brown University
University of Utah
Colorado College
Reed College
Princeton University
University of Vienna

Australian National University
University of Alberta

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PRIZES FOR 2012

The Harry Levin Prize

The Harry Levin Prize, given in alternate years with the René Wellek Prize, is this country's most prestigious book award in the discipline of Comparative Literature. Those books eligible for the Levin Prize emphasize literary history or criticism as opposed to theory; in the spirit of Comparative Literature, they are engaged with more than one national literature or with issues of literary study in general. The 2011 Levin Prize comprises books published in the triennium 2008-2010.

The winners of the 2011 Harry Levin Prize were Jahan Ramazani for his book, *A Transnational Poetics* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2009), Andrew Piper for his book, *Dreaming in Books: The Making of the Bibliographic Imagination in the Romantic Age* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2009), and Margaret Cohen for her book *The Novel and the Sea* (New Jersey: Princeton UP, 2009).

The prize committee for 2011-12 is: Rita Felski (Chair, University of Virginia), Gauri Viswanathan (Columbia University), and John Burt Foster (George Mason University).

Announcing the 2012 René Wellek Prize

The René Wellek Prize recognizes an outstanding work in the field of literary and cultural theory. The 2012 René Wellek Prize comprises books published in the triennium 2009-2011, and the award will be presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting in 2012. Please consult the ACLA website for additional information about the competition at: <http://www.acla.org/levinandwellek.html>

The prize committee for 2011-13 is: Marc Redfield (Chair, Brown University), Efrain Kristal (UCLA), and Anne-Lise Francois (UC - Berkeley).

The A. Owen Aldridge Prize

The A. Owen Aldridge prize is awarded to the best graduate student essay selected from a competition. *Comparative Literature Studies*, at the Pennsylvania State University Press, publishes this annual prize-paper. The winner also receives a monetary prize as well as complimentary registration, a complimentary ticket to the banquet, and a travel reimbursement grant of up to \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the ACLA conference at which the prize will be awarded. The purpose of this competition is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarship among graduate students and to reward the highest achievement by publication. This project is sponsored by *Comparative Literature Studies* in cooperation with the ACLA and supported by the Department of Comparative Literature at Penn State.

The winner of the 2011 A. Owen Aldridge prize was Michelle Jansen (SUNY - Binghamton), for her essay, "Exchange and the Eidolon: Analyzing Forgiveness in Euripides's Helen." The winning essay is determined by a panel of judges that is selected annually by the ACLA. The prize committee for 2011-12 is: Salah D. Hassan (Michigan

State University), Wendy Faris (University of Texas-Arlington), and Taiwo Osinube (University of Montreal).

Graduate students in a Comparative Literature department or program are encouraged to submit a polished paper in English, approximately 15-20 pages long (double-spaced), preferably following the Chicago endnote style (MLA-style papers will be accepted, but, must be converted for publication) and prepared for anonymous evaluation. The deadline for the 2012 Aldridge prize competition is November 15, 2011. Further information on the Aldridge prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/aldridge.html>

The Charles Bernheimer Prize

The Bernheimer Prize goes to the best dissertation nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. Each institutional member may nominate one dissertation in the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$1,000 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, complimentary ticket to the banquet and a travel grant of \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the ACLA conference at which the prize is awarded.

The winner of the 2011 Bernheimer Prize was Bishopal Limbu (Northwestern University), for his dissertation, "Fiction, Theory, and Social Justice: Disproprative Readings." The prize committee for 2011-12 is: Brankaa Arsic (SUNY), Sangeeta Ray (University of Maryland) and Jonathan Hart (University of Alberta).

To nominate a dissertation for the 2012 Bernheimer Prize, please notify the ACLA Secretariat (info@acla.org), the Secretary-Treasurer (ABeecrof@mailbox.sc.edu), and the members of the committee by November 15, 2011. In order to be eligible the dissertation must have been completed by July 1, 2011. Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated dissertation. Copies of the nominating letter should be sent, along with copies of the dissertation, to each member of the committee. Further information regarding the Bernheimer Prize is available at: <http://www.acla.org/bernheimer.html>

The Horst Frenz Prize

The Horst Frenz Prize is awarded to the best paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA. The Horst Frenz Prize consists of a \$300 Amazon.com book coupon, complimentary registration, and a complimentary ticket to the banquet, and a travel reimbursement grant of up to \$300 to attend the following year's ACLA Conference to receive the award in person, as well as publication of the paper in the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

The winner of the 2011 Horst Frenz Prize was Eugenia Kelbert (Yale University), for her paper, "Reborn as René: the Interplay of Self and Language in Rilke's Late French and German Poetry." Honorable Mention was awarded to Bhavya Tiwari (University of Texas at Austin), for her paper, "Comparative World Literature in India." The jury for the ACLA 2012 conference is: Eugene Eoyang (chair, Indiana University and Lingnan University, Hong Kong), Virginia Jackson (Tufts University) and Pericles Lewis (Yale University).

Nominations of a graduate student whose presentation at the 2011 conference in Vancouver was especially outstanding should be sent, with as much information as possible (name of presenter, paper title, e-mail, etc.) and an explanation of what distinguished the paper, to the Secretariat (info@acla.org), and to the Secretary-Treasurer (ABeecrof@mailbox.sc.edu). The deadline for 2011 nominations has passed. Further information on the Frenz prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/frenz.html>

2011 Harry Levin Prize

2011 Prize Winner:

Jahan Ramazani (University of Virginia) for his monograph,

A Transnational Poetics. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2009)

Jahan Ramazani, whose renown as a scholar of poetry is reflected in his editorship of *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* as well as in his comparative studies of the modern elegy and postcolonial poetry, has produced in *A Transnational Poetics* a volume breathtaking in its global scope and critical incisiveness. The spectrum of issues and poets treated in this book is nothing short of stunning. Developing the study's primary focus on the pervasive influences of transnationalism, Ramazani explores such topics as the effects of globalization on a range of modernist and contemporary poets; the ways in which stylistic devices serve to traverse geographic boundaries; the treatment of transnationalism in the poetry of mourning; the uses of Western modernism in exploring postcolonial hybridity; the response to technology and alienation by high modernist poets, poets of the Harlem Renaissance, and postcolonial poets; poetic reactions to decolonization on the part of both the colonizers and the colonized; and impressions of England in the eyes of black poets, both British and postcolonial, through the lens of African and Caribbean cultures. Ramazani illustrates these questions through the work of some thirty poets from the United States, the Caribbean, England, Ireland, Nigeria, Uganda, Hong Kong, and India.

Ramazani's central theme of transnationalism leads to innovative and elucidating connections that cross conventional boundaries of chronology and geography, such as the affinities between high modernism, which flourished in Europe and the U.S during the first half of the twentieth century, and postcolonial poets of the global South, who emerged after World War II in the wake of widespread decolonization. Given his enormous cross-cultural, cross-temporal breadth, it is all the more impressive that Ramazani is also adept at analyzing stylistic devices in individual poems—language, structure, imagery, voice, rhythm, allusion, and the like. Yet he grounds this analysis too in the writers' transnational contexts. Ramazani's observation about the work of Langston Hughes applies to his own study as well: both are informed by “an understanding of poetry as a discursive space that—by means of place-leaping lineation, cross-cultural symbols, and aesthetic hybridization—affords a remarkable freedom of movement and affiliative connection” (62-63). Whether on the global or the textual plane, Jahan Ramazani's combination of multicultural erudition, keen insight, and critical ingenuity renders this book a masterful resource that will be consulted for decades.

2011 First Runner-Up Prize:

Andrew Piper (McGill University) for his monograph, *Dreaming in Books: The Making of the Bibliographic Imagination in the Romantic Age* (Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 2009)

In this important and cogently written study, Piper explores what he terms the “bibliographic imagination” that characterizes the Romantic age, both in terms of the unprecedented explosion in the mass of books published in the nineteenth century across various western cultures, and in the exploration of the ways in which the international circulation of books (in many forms) began to foster a transnational sensibility of local differences.

Recalling Balzac’s famous observation about reading as a new addiction (“The European imagination feeds on the sensations that it demands from literature in the same way that the Turk demands dreams of opium”), Piper’s interdisciplinary study of the “Romantic bibliocosmos” straddles different facets of this Romantic bibliomania, from the shaping of new social practices and spaces centered around the organization of books, to the rise of new book-centered professions, and—especially—to the intermediality of Romantic book culture, whereby it engaged with a variety of non-book, non-print and non-text practices.

Beyond its value as a contribution to the broader history of the book, Piper’s relational study of the book aims to reassess today’s pervasive discourse of anxiety about the end of book culture in the digital age, suggesting instead that the book and the computer (along with other media) have existed and will continue to coexist side by side.

2011 Second Runner-Up Prize:

Margaret Cohen (Stanford University) for her monograph, *The Novel and the Sea* (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2010)

What is the relation between fiction and sea-faring, words and water? In *The Novel and the Sea*, Margaret Cohen rewrites the history of the novel by highlighting the significance of stories of maritime adventure. Canvassing a wide range of examples from different national traditions, she explores the many ways in which writers and artists have imagined and represented the sea. At the same time, the book offers a tribute to a now vanished way of life, expounding on the lost skills of maritime craft and conjuring up the unimaginable difficulties and dangers of the sailor’s world. A major contribution to both comparative literary history and literary theory, *The Novel and the Sea* makes a lucid, eloquent, and compelling case for the centrality of the ship and the sea to the modern literary imagination

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
January 1, 2010 – November 30, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ACCOUNT	
Balance Forward 01/01/2010	\$134,166.89
Retroactive Adjustments for 2009	-\$4,349.57
Income (Memberships)	\$ 67,011.00
Income (Donations)	\$1,775.00
Income (Conference Proceeds)	\$124,011.00
Income (Royalty Check)	\$396.93
Total Income	\$203,056.24
Expenditures/Transfers (itemized below)	-\$228,259.05
Final Balance	\$104,614.51
UT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES	
ACLA Professional Staff	-\$13,384.16
Journal Subscriptions	-\$22,454.00
ICLA/SCLA joint memberships	-\$22,060.00
Prizes	-\$2,859.12
Membership Dues (NHA and ACLS)	-\$622.00
Conference Expenses	-\$147,810.58
Travel & Misc. Reimbursements	\$18.47
Travel Grants (student and faculty)	-\$7,980.94
Office Expenses and Server Fees	-\$5,467.74
Bank/Credit Card Fees	-\$4,688.98
CPA Tax Filing Fees	-\$950.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS	-\$228,259.05
Highlander/Pershing Investment	
Value 01/01/2010	\$183,867.03
Dividends	\$375.77
Value 11/30/2010	\$184,581.56
University of Texas Contribution	
Expenses (staff salaries and office expenses)	-\$35,428.00
UT Contribution	\$35,428.00
TOTAL ASSETS	
COMBINED BALANCES 11/30/2010	\$
COMBINED BALANCES 1/1/2010	\$129,817.32
NET CHANGE	\$

Respectfully submitted by
Alexander Beecroft, Secretary–Treasurer