

A C L A N

AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, No. 1

Spring 1969

Editor: Wolfgang Bernard Fleischmann

Associate Editors: J. William Hunt
Sally N. Lawall

Regional Editors: MIDWEST
Evelyn Bristol
Department of Slavic Languages and Literature
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

SOUTH-SOUTHWEST
Calvin S. Brown
Comparative Literature Department
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

NORTHEAST-MIDDLE ATLANTIC
Robert J. Clements
New York University
New York, New York

CANADA
Eva Kushner
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ont. Canada

WEST-NORTHWEST
Thomas G. Rosenmeyer
Department of Classics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Editor of C.L.
Concerns in the
Secondary Schools: George S. Weiler

ACLAN is published twice yearly, in May and November

Editorial Offices: 808 Thompson Hall, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

Mailed gratis to members of the American Comparative Literature Assoc.

Subscription Rates: \$4.00 per year; \$2.00 per single copy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	NATIONAL ACLA NEWS (Burton Pike)	1
II.	REGIONAL NEWS	
	Northeast-Middle Atlantic (Robert J. Clements and H. Richmond Neuville)	4
	South-Southwest (Calvin S. Brown)	7
	Midwest (Evelyn Bristol)	8
	West-Northwest (Thomas G. Rosenmeyer)	9
	Canada (Eva Kushner)	12
III.	INTERNATIONAL NEWS	18
IV.	BYZANTINE STUDIES AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (Paul Alexander)	19

REPORT OF THE
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE CHAIRMEN'S MEETING
AT THE MLA

The meeting this year was a fruitful discussion of a chronic problem: What should be the nature and function of an undergraduate program in Comparative Literature? Panel participants were Professors Gros-Louis (Indiana), Guillen (La Jolla), Malone (U.S.C.), and Nichols (Dartmouth). What follows is a brief summary of the views of the panel and the audience.

The panelists stressed that Comparative Literature can be meaningful only if conceived as an integral part of a broad liberal undergraduate education. It should not primarily be thought of as a pre-professional training. We should incorporate our obligations to future graduate students in Comparative Literature within this broader framework, and not subordinate a college program to the training of future graduate students. After all, what are we primarily training graduate students in Comparative Literature for, if not to teach in undergraduate programs?

The panel thus posited a difference in the nature and function of graduate and undergraduate programs in Comparative Literature. Professor Freedman (Princeton) cogently objected that we perhaps think too much about what graduate students are to teach and too little of what they are to learn. He further raised the question of a formal distinction between undergraduate and graduate work. Could not "Comparative Literature" best be kept as a graduate discipline, and undergraduate programs be called something else? If the nature and function of the two levels are different, why confuse matters by trying to deal with them under the same rubric?

All agreed that command of at least one foreign language was essential to a successful undergraduate program; not only in terms of substance, but also in terms of revealing to the student the pitfalls and problems of translation, and to put him on guard against over-confidence in reading other texts in translation.

Professor Guillen warned that the teaching of literature in translation effectively excludes poetry, and forces one into the neoclassical canon of "Great Books" and the comparative study of prose. The panelists took a dim view of the double major as a proper form of Comparative Literature; they felt it was more a doubling of a major in a single literature, and not an effective way to deal with problems on a broad basis. The panel also felt that whatever its form, the undergraduate major or program should be kept flexible and experimental. An undergraduate program should include courses in such areas as classical mythology, problems of literary history (more stress on that and less on specialized courses in literary criticism and its rhetoric would be welcome), and the relation of Western literature to other areas.

Within literary studies, period and theme courses and courses in such areas as Romanticism, Symbolism, and the Baroque might be valuable, especially if they could involve the student's knowledge of one or more foreign languages. Another opinion was that we should not emphasize critical or thematic courses at the undergraduate level at the expense of a historical overview; an undergraduate major should be aware of the full range of the western tradition in literature. Professor Gros-Louis outlined the unusually comprehensive undergraduate program at Indiana.

A problem coming fast upon us is the proliferation of Comparative Literature-type courses outside of Comparative Literature. Freshman English courses seem to be yielding to humanities courses, many of which would qualify as "ours," and recent Ph.D.'s in English and the foreign literatures seem to be more sympathetic to the comparative approach than to the more traditional one. This might augur a loosening of the traditionally narrow conception of literature departments; a welcome development, but will Comparative Literature as a formal entity within the college or university then wither away, its task accomplished?

The Secretary mentioned that a possible topic for next year's meeting had already been suggested, that of the relation of Comparative Literature to other disciplines such as history, philosophy, anthropology, art, music and linguistics. He will welcome expressions of opinion on this or other possible topics for discussion in Denver next Christmas.

Burton Pike, Secretary
ACLA

As the Secretary's report of the Chairmen's Meeting clearly shows, there is still widespread disagreement about the nature and function of Comparative Literature. The discussion has focused recently upon graduate versus undergraduate studies, and the relationship of Comparative Literature to other disciplines, but the question as a whole comes back to the definition of Comparative Literature. The editors feel that it would be useful at this point to have the opinion of the membership at large. We would appreciate your taking the time to send us your answer to the question below - either on this sheet or on your own stationery. Answers will be collated and reported in the fall issue of the Newsletter, ready for further discussion at the December meeting in Denver. Please send your definitions to ACLAN, 808 Thompson Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01002.

Query:

WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE?

REGIONAL NEWS

The editors wish to thank all those who have contributed material, either directly or indirectly, to the regional reports in the Newsletter. We would like to remind you that we are totally dependent on your contributions; if you feel that any areas are insufficiently represented, please be sure to send your corrections and information to the regional editors in time for the next issue.

NORTHEAST - MIDDLE ATLANTIC

New Programs: Comparative Literature on the undergraduate level will be introduced in the fall of 1969 by Livingston College of Rutgers University, State University of New York at Albany, and the University of Massachusetts. Such undergraduate majors are reportedly already in existence at Brandeis University and Queens College of the City University of New York.

New Courses: Among the many new courses being initiated in the field of Comparative Literature, the following can this year be noted:

Catholic University of America: Seminar: Existentialism and European Fiction.

Seminar: American and Its Vision of Europe from the 18th Century to the Present Petrarch and Petrarchism in Europe.

Harvard University: Continental Naturalism; Dr. Thure Stenström (University of Uppsala).
Studies in the Don Juan Theme; Professor Ronald Grimsley (University of Bristol). English Culture and the French Enlightenment; Professor Grimsley. Scandinavia and the Existentialist Tradition; Dr. Stenström.

Pennsylvania State University: Literature of the Occult; Professor Robert Lima.

Comparative Literature Events: News of the following lectures, conferences, symposium, etc. which has been gathered reflects the wide range of events taking place this year in the northeastern region.

Catholic University of America: Comparative Literature Symposium, April 16-17, 1969, dealing with the theme: "The Transformation of Classical Mythology in Modern Literature" proceeds last year's Symposium held April 3-4, 1968, on "The Medieval Drama and

Paul Claudel." The participants in the 1968 Symposium included: Professors Alessandro S. Crisafulli (Catholic University), Catherine Dunn (Catholic University), O. B. Hardison (University of North Carolina), Helmut Hatzfeld (Catholic University), Gilbert Hartke (Catholic University), A. Mavrocordato (Université de Nantes, Harvard), Bert Nagel (University of California), James Kerby Neill (Catholic University), Ruth Steiner (Catholic University) and Reverend Richard B. Donovan (University of Toronto).

Harvard University: Lecture by Dr. Elias Bredsdorff, Reader in Scandinavian Languages at Cambridge University, on "Moralists versus Immoralists: The Great Battle in Scandinavian Literature in the 1880's."

The Renato Poggioli Memorial Lecture in European Literature will be given in May by Professor Eugène Vinaver (University of Manchester).

New York University: Speakers at the Monthly Comparative Literature Colloquium of NYU this year included: Professors Fred Nichols (Yale), Olga Ragusa (Columbia), Seymour Flaxman (CUNY), Lienhard Bergel (CUNY), George Wellwarth (Pennsylvania State), Robert Clements (NYU), and Victor Lange (Princeton).

The Sixth Annual Regional Conference on Comparative Literature was held on March 22, 1969. Dean Jules Brody (Queens College) was on hand to moderate the panel discussion on "Structural Criticism: A Balance Sheet," in which Professors Anna Balakian (NYU), Peter Caws (CUNY) and Robert Champigny (University of Indiana) participated. Professor Maurice Valency (Columbia) served as moderator for the topic "After the 'New Novel'," with Professors Peter Demetz (Yale), Laurent LeSage (Pennsylvania State) and Mr. Roger W. Straus, Jr., President, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, Publishers.

The annual cooperative lectures given by the Asia Society and Comparative Literature have been continued this year with Professor William T. de Bary (Columbia) who spoke on the "Intellectual in Ming China." A reading of oriental poetry is scheduled for the late spring.

Ohio State University: The Ninth Annual Conference on the Humanities, sponsored by The Ohio State University Graduate School, took place on April 18-19, 1969, at Mershon Auditorium. The theme of the Conference was "Arabic Culture in the Medieval West."

The lectures dealt with cultural interrelationships, contrasts, and/or influences on the West, including the following disciplines: literature, philosophy, historiography, history of science, art, architecture, and music.

Among those participating in the Conference were Professors Gerold Hilty (University of Zurich) speaking on "The Mozarabic Lyric;" Gustave Von Grunenbaum (UCLA), on "Style and Form of Arabic Literature: Transmission to and Convergence in Europe;" Franz Rosenthal (Yale), on "The Two Faces of the Medieval Clio;" George F. Hourani (SUNY-Buffalo), on "The Transmission of Philosophy from Muslim Spain to Christian Europe;" and Dorothy Shepherd (Cleveland Museum of Art), on "Islamic Influence on Medieval Art in the West."

Pennsylvania State University: Visiting Professor in Comparative Literature, Albert Gérard of the University of Liège, in residence during spring term, 1968, offered a course on African literature.

The Second Annual Comparative Literature Conference was held on May 3-4, 1968. The Third Annual Conference will be held in the fall of 1969. (Unfortunately details of these conferences were not reported).

Professor Burton Pike of Cornell delivered a lecture on Thomas Mann's Felix Krull, October 24, 1968.

Princeton University: The Modern Greek Studies Association, supported by a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, will sponsor a Symposium on Modern Greek literature and its European background at Princeton University from October 29 to November 1, 1969. The Symposium will be conducted in cooperation with the Princeton University Council of the Humanities. A number of foreign scholars in the field of Modern Greek literary studies will be invited to join their American colleagues in the presentation of papers on the relation between Modern Greek literature and the European tradition. The session on European sources in twentieth century Greek literature will be open to papers by members of the Modern Greek Studies Association. The Symposium will also offer several panels on the teaching of Modern Greek language and literature at the university level.

The selection of papers by MGSA members will be made by Professor Peter Bien, Department of English, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755. The deadline for submitting papers to him is June 1. Professor Bien will be acting as coordinator for the Symposium in the United States, and all inquiries mailed in this country should be addressed to him. Professor Edmund Keeley, who will be on leave from Princeton at 17 Loukianou Street, Athens, Greece, during the spring and summer, will act as European coordinator. Application for membership in the Modern Greek Studies Association should be made to Professor John Nicolopoulos, SS 379, College of Arts and Sciences, State University of New York at Albany, N.Y. 12203 (regular membership: \$10.00; student membership: \$5.00).

SUNY - Buffalo: Professor Stith Thompson of Indiana gave a lecture in February entitled: "Unfinished Business: Folktale."

University of Massachusetts: Comparative Literature lectures have been given throughout the academic year by Professors Burton Pike (Cornell University), Jacob Klein (St. John's College, Annapolis), Friedrich Bischoff (Indiana University), J. Hillis Miller (The Johns Hopkins University), and Theodore Ziolkowski (Princeton University).

Professor Stanlake Samkange, Rhodesian novelist and historian presently at Fisk University's Center for African and Caribbean Studies, will offer a course in African literature during the second session of summer school.

The Future: The growth and interest in Comparative Literature is expanding rapidly each year. The City University of New York has planned to transfer all graduate courses in Comparative Literature to the Graduate Center on 42nd Street, thereby coordinating and strengthening the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. The interdepartmental Policy Committee of Comparative Literature at N.Y.U. has recommended a change of status from doctoral program to department. In the 1969-70 Newsletter we shall undoubtedly have more new programs and departments to report on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Robert J. Clements
H. Richmond Neuville

SOUTH - SOUTHWEST

University of Tennessee: The University of Tennessee has announced the beginning of a Comparative Literature Program to be administered by an interdepartmental committee, with Harry C. Rutledge (Classics) as Chairman. Beginning with an undergraduate minor, the Program will move on to an undergraduate major, and then to graduate work.

At the formal opening of the program, January 30-31, Professor Harry Levin (Harvard), presented a lecture, "Toward Comparative Literature," and joined with the Comparative Literature Committee in the presentation of a seminar.

University of Georgia: The University of Georgia's Comparative Literature Department (missed in the list of programs in the last ACLAN), is in its first year of operation as an independent department.

Graduate Degrees Awarded: In 1967, the latest year for which figures are available, 19 graduate degrees in Comparative Literature were awarded in the area of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, by four institutions: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Vanderbilt. Thirteen of these were the M.A., and six were the Ph.D.

Calvin S. Brown

MIDWEST

University of Chicago: Edward Wasiolak's edition of The Notebooks for 'The Possessed', translated by Victor Terras, was published by the University of Chicago Press in December, 1968. This is the third in a series of five volumes of Dostoevsky notebooks.

In November, 1968, Edward Wasiolak lectured on "Russian Formalism and American New Criticism" at Cornell University. In March, 1969, he will lecture on "Dostoevsky, Camus, and Faulkner" at the University of Michigan.

University of Illinois: The Program in Comparative Literature and The Hispanic Society of America will sponsor a Conference on the Ibero-American Enlightenment at the University of Illinois on May 9th and 10th, 1969. The program will include thirteen guest speakers as well as A.O. Aldridge and Luis Leal of the University of Illinois.

Indiana University: The Department of Comparative Literature will have three major lectures this spring - by Horst Rüdiger on March 7, René Wellek early in April, and Anthony Thorlby early in May.

The department has had for the last year and a half student-elected graduate and undergraduate advisory committees. These committees have been a great help and are now beginning to participate in administrative matters of the program.

University of Iowa: On Tuesday, April 29th, the British poet, critic, and translator, George MacBeth, will meet with translation classes and give an evening lecture on the topic "In Defense of Bad Translation."

On Tuesday, May 6th, it is hoped that Michael Hamburger will come on a similar arrangement.

The Program of Comparative Literature announces the addition

of two special courses given during the second semester, in March and April of 1969. They were taught by Geoffrey Hartman, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Yale University, and J.C. Brandt Corstius, Professor of Comparative Literature and Director of the Institute for Comparative and General Literature, Utrecht University. Each of the courses was given intensively during a two-week period. Professor Hartman taught National Literary Traditions in the Romantic Period, and Professor Corstius taught Literary Text and International Context: Poe, The Tell-Tale Heart.

On April 4th and 5th the department hosted a meeting of the chairmen of Comparative Literature at CIC institutions and certain others.

Purdue University: The Comparative Literature Program has added another assistant professor for next fall, Robert Magliola (Ph.D. Princeton). The student enrollment continues to increase.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: In recent weeks the department has co-sponsored two lectures. On February 12 under the auspices of the French and Comparative Literature Departments Professor Benjamin Bart, University of Pittsburgh, spoke on the subject "Flaubert and the Concept of Realism." On September 26 Professor J. Mitchell Morse, Temple University, under the auspices of the Comparative Literature Department presented a lecture entitled "The Never on Sunday Motif in Literature."

Evelyn Bristol

WEST-NORTHWEST

California at Berkeley: James L. Larson is a newly appointed Assistant Professor of Scandinavian and Comparative Literature. On the other hand, Ruth Rosenberg, lecturer in Hebrew and C.L., has returned to Israel to take up a position at Hebrew University.

Among graduate seminars taught this year, the following topics were covered: "The Byzantine Epic and its Tradition;" "The Grail in Arthurian Literature;" "The Symbolist Movement;" "Computer Processing of Literary Texts;" "The Platonic Tradition in Literature;" and "The Anti-Novel."

California at Irvine: The first bachelors' and masters' degrees were conferred in 1967 and 1968 respectively, and a doctoral program was approved in the spring of 1967. The first doctoral student will probably receive his degree in June of 1969. Each student

in the doctoral program is allowed to plan his own Area of Specialty, which in addition to the traditional material may involve such subjects as the relation of literature and psychology, politics, or the arts; the theory and practice of translation; or general problems in literary theory. The Program sponsors a number of conferences, lectures, and public seminars on the UCI campus, including an annual round table on Problems of Translation. Beginning in 1969 Title IV NDEA Fellowships, along with Teaching Assistantships, will be available to graduate students.

California at Los Angeles: The University is about to launch a C.L. program, which is to be restricted to the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. This spring monthly colloquia are being held to inaugurate the program; the first classes are scheduled to be offered in the fall of this year.

California at San Diego: The new Ph.D. program at the University of California at San Diego, under the direction of Professor Claudio Guillén, has developed from an unusual background for Comparative Literature studies. The department offering this program is in the special position of having operated as a single department of Literature since it came into being. It offers a choice between doctorates in English, Spanish, or German literature (for example) complemented with a "comparatist project," or a doctorate in Comparative Literature based upon the cooperation of several national literatures. Each student in Comparative Literature works with an adviser in developing an individual program which will be examined by a Review Committee of Comparative Literature staff members. Individual programs will take advantage of courses in other departments such as Philosophy, History, Linguistics, and Anthropology. The Comparative Literature Program as a whole, however, plans to develop the study of literary theory, and to serve in this way as a centralizing section of the single department of Literature.

University of Denver: There is the prospect of a basic curriculum change for undergraduates, which if enacted will facilitate the introduction of a new undergraduate degree in C.L.

University of Oregon: Six M.A.'s were awarded in 1968; the expectation is that two students will receive their Ph.D. during 1969.

San Diego State College: A new major in Comparative Literature has just been approved by the Chancellor. In addition to C.L. courses taught in the past, the program to be offered next year will include C.L.

courses on The Epic; World Poetry; Literature of the Middle Ages; Continental Renaissance; Afro-American Literature; Literary Movements; and The Literary Use of Legends. Upper division requirements include 12 units in C.L., 6 units in Foreign Language, and 6 optional units.

University of Southern California: The Third USC Comparative Literature Conference

was held on April 24-25; the topic was: "The Frontiers of Literary Criticism." The conference was open to the public. Among the scheduled speakers were Donald Davie, Ihab Hassan, Peter Demetz, René Wellek, René Girard, Michael Riffaterre, Edward J. Brown, and Edward Wasiolek.

Stanford University: Herbert Lindenberger has been appointed professor of Comparative and English Literature. He will be in charge of a university-wide C.L. program; he will be assisted by a committee including, among others, Professors Walter Sokel, Robert G. Cohn, Lorenz Either, Gordon Craig, David Halliburton, and Dean Lawrence Ryan. So far, one required course has been established, a two-quarter seminar in literary criticism and theory. A year-long lecture and seminar series has been started to celebrate the new development. Among the speakers have been Philip Damon, Geoffrey Hartman, Ernst Behler, Werner Vortriede, Paul de Man, and René Wellek.

University of Utah: David Mickelsen, who is getting his Ph.D. from Indiana University this summer, has been appointed Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature.

University of Washington: The C.L. faculty now has 21 members. Course offerings on the graduate level have been expanded from 17 to 27, and on the undergraduate level to 8. At present the program enrolls 30 undergraduate majors, 16 candidates for the M.A., and 36 for the Ph.D. Teaching assistantships are available through the seven participating departments of language and literature. Among the graduate courses listed are: "Comparative Study of French and German Courtly Epic;" "Recent Trends in European Literary Criticism;" "Classical Rhetoric and Literature;" "Literature of Islam and Europe;" "Studies in Irony;" "The Art of Translation."

Horst Ruediger, Renée Lang, and Hans Eichner are among those who have visited the campus and given lectures or participated in symposia.

Washington State University: A new Ph.D. program in Literary Studies has just been installed. It is administered jointly by the Departments of

English and Foreign Languages. All the members of the Graduate Faculty of the two departments are involved in the new program. The Literary Studies student is expected to develop the ability to work at an equally advanced level in English and one other language, and at a sufficient level in at least one additional language. He will specialize in a single area of study: a literary movement, or a style, or a genre, or poetics, and the like. After a general examination emphasizing his special area, the student will write his dissertation on a particular aspect of the area. Heavy emphasis is placed on independent study. It is expected that the first degree will be awarded in 1971

University of British Columbia: The UBC Graduate Program in C.L. offers 11 courses, including a Translation Workshop; Studies in Myth, Theme and Tradition; Studies in Genre, and others. A Ph.D. curriculum is in the process of being worked out. University fellowships of \$2,000-\$3,000 are available to qualified candidates applying through the Comparative Literature Committee.

Philological Association: At the annual meeting of the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast, in Tucson, Arizona on November 28, 1968, a new group called the Comparative Literature Association of the Western States was established. The Association will meet annually in conjunction with the PAPC to discuss matters of interest to C.L. Membership is open to any one in the western states who is at present or hopes to be in the future involved in teaching or research related to C.L. The first officers of the Association to be elected were: David Malone (USC), President; Peter Carr (California State College, Long Beach), Vice-President; Charles Wells (University of Nevada), Secretary.

T. G. Rosenmeyer

CANADA

Comparative Literature in Canada: Lest the title of this article appear overambitious, I hasten to define its objective: to report on the recent development of Comparative Literature studies and research in Canadian Universities, and on the forming of a Canadian Association of Comparative Literature, rather than to describe fully the "état des études littéraires comparées," taking into account theses, books and articles written in Canada which are of a comparative nature without having been announced as comparative literature studies. It would be quite unhistorical not to make

this distinction and to claim that, just because in 1968 several Universities have begun to offer formal programmes in Comparative Literature, or because in 1967 a need was felt to form a national association of Comparative Literature, this discipline did not exist in Canada in previous years. A look at course offerings under the sponsorship of Language and Literature departments in the Canadian Universities, or at Professor Wiles' compendium on scholarly work in the Humanities, "The Humanities in Canada," would quickly prove the contrary.

In his talk to a meeting of Canadian comparatists at Calgary, in June 1968, Professor Eugène Joliat emphasized the young character of the International Comparative Literature Association itself, which was formally founded in Venice in 1955, that is, before any of the national associations. The Société française de littérature comparée and the American Comparative Literature Association were the first to arise in the past thirteen years as distinct national associations. The latter has been the Western Hemisphere division of the International Association, so that Canadian comparatists so far have been, quite appropriately, members of the A.C.L.A. and through it of I.C.L.A.

In his address, Professor Joliat also showed that the only valid reason for changing this affiliation pattern, itself so recent and so beneficial to Canadians since its inception, would be an inner need arising from the situation of comparative teaching and scholarship in Canada. And he adds that this need now exists, both because of the desire of Canadian comparatists to define themselves as Canadian (and here one might add that search for national identity is a recurrent concern both in English and French Canada nowadays) and because of the recent gains of Comparative Literature as a discipline in Canadian universities.

The Formation of a Canadian Association of Comparative Literature:

As individuals, a number of Canadian scholars have attended, all along, meetings of the I.C.L.A., of the A.C.L.A., of the F.I.L.L.M., of the Comparative Literature section and discussion groups of the M.L.A. At the IVth Congress of the I.C.L.A. in Fribourg (1964), Canada was represented by approximately 15 persons; the same can be said of Canadian attendance at the Vth Congress (Belgrade, 1967). Scholarly papers were read at both these meetings by several Canadians. It should also be mentioned that Professor Eugène Joliat of the University of Toronto was for many years a member of the I.C.L.A. Executive and that Professor Gordon Andison, then of the University of British Columbia, was on the I.C.L.A. Board at its inception. To these examples, many could undoubtedly be added without altering the general impression that the history of Comparative Literature studies in Canada until a quite recent past has been mostly one of individual initiatives.

At the Belgrade Congress the Canadian group met as a Canadian group for the first time to discuss the possibility of forming a Canadian association. It was felt that a specifically Canadian learned society devoted to Comparative Literature studies would stimulate research, teaching, and quest for methodology; and that, since the rise of Comparative Literature as a discipline in several Canadian universities, whatever degree of readiness their programmes may have reached, calls for the exchange of information about the organizing of such programmes within the specific structure of Canadian universities, a Canadian Comparative Literature Association might provide the medium for this exchange, as well of course as permitting the sharing of news concerning research in progress, publications, scholarly meetings and even course offerings. The Belgrade meeting chose Professor Georges-Paul Collet of McGill University as co-ordinator of the preparatory work. The formula proposed for thought and discussion back in Canada consisted in fostering the formation of a separate branch of the American Association. The main reason for the mildness of this initiative was hesitancy to contribute to the proliferation of learned societies in Canada, with the consequent scattering of time and energy which should be devoted first and foremost to teaching and research.

Professor Collet called a meeting which took place during the M.L.A. Congress in Chicago. At this meeting the majority declared itself in favour of a separate Canadian organization. Several members felt that the need for such an organization is based, not on the number of universities where Comparative Literature is now being taught, but on the number of individual Canadian scholars active in research, and capable of teaching in this field. It was agreed that a Canadian Comparative Literature Association should be created and that it should cooperate closely with the American Association. An ad hoc Committee was formed and asked to prepare the nomination of an executive, to draft a constitution and to arrange for a national meeting at which the new association could officially begin to exist. This Committee is fulfilling its mandate at present. It consists of Professors Armin Arnold (McGill), Constantine Bida (Ottawa), Milan Dimic (Alberta), Eva Kushner (Carleton), Martin Mueller (Toronto), and Philip Stratford (Montréal). At a subsequent meeting the Committee asked the undersigned to assume chairmanship. Professor Milan Dimic offered on behalf of the University of Alberta to issue a newsletter dealing with Comparative Literature in Canada.

During the ensuing period a questionnaire was circulated to gather information concerning the actual state of, as well as interest in, Comparative Literature in the various Canadian universities. One of the results of the questionnaire was to show the desire of many colleagues to have

the meetings of the proposed Association held in conjunction with those of other Canadian learned societies. Though it was not possible to organize the first official congress in time for the June 1968 Learned Societies meetings which took place in Calgary, the Canadian Comparatists did meet under the chairmanship of Professor M.V. Dimic, discussed the first draft of the constitution, and heard Professor Joliat's paper (which I quoted at the beginning of this report), on "The Present Situation in National and International Comparative Literature Associations." At the 1969 meetings of the Canadian Learned Societies which will take place, again in June, at York University in Toronto, the Canadian Association hopes to become one of the Learned Societies after electing an executive and adopting its constitution. It was thought that a slate of invited speakers would best befit this particular occasion. The ad hoc Committee has informed the I.C.L.A. Executive of the coming into existence of the new association; it has applied for affiliation and was told that this would be considered by the Executive when the Association becomes officially a Canadian Learned Society.

University of Alberta: Professor Milan V. Dimic is Chairman of the Comparative Literature Committee, and the University is now considering the establishment of a Department of Comparative Literature for July 1969. It offers both the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees in Comparative Literature studies. It lists the following courses in 1968-69: "Theory of the Study of Literature;" "Studies in Folklore;" "Greek and Latin Tradition in European Literature;" "Comparative Studies in Medieval Literature;" "Comparative Studies in the Renaissance and Baroque Literatures of Italy, Spain and France;" "Socialist Realism, Theory and Practice;" "Comparative Studies in French and English Literature (1830-1900);" "Franco-German Literary Relations During the 19th Century."

University of Calgary: An ad hoc Committee has been set up with Professor Breugelmans as Chairman, to implement a Comparative Literature Programme; at present, some courses in General Literature are already being taught.

University of British Columbia: A programme at the M.A. level was created in the fall of 1968. The Chairman is Professor Zbigniew Folejewski. The following courses are listed: "Introduction to Comparative Literature;" "Studies in Genre;" "Studies in Literary Movements and Periods;" "Studies in Myth, Theme and Tradition;" "Topics in Comparative Literature;" "New Problems in Comparative Literature;" "Comparative Studies in Oriental and Occidental Literature;" "Studies in Criticism;"

"Comparative Dramatic Literature;" "Translation Workshop;"
"Comparative Slavonic Literature."

Université de Montréal: Here too a programme at the M.A. level was created in the fall of 1968. The Chairman of the Committee is Professor Philip Stratford. The following courses are listed: "Parallélismes en littératures canadiennes;" "Le mythe de Maria Chapdelaine;" "Le thème de Faust dans les oeuvres de Marlowe, Goethe, Valéry et Mann;" "The Classical Tradition in Literary Criticism: Plato to Dryden;" "Boileau and Pope: The Satires;" "Le symbolisme européen: Baudelaire, Norwid, Blok et D'Annunzio;" "Etude de trois romans réalistes: Trente arpents, Grapes of Wrath, Le Don paisible;" "Le pétrarquisme dans la poésie française de 1580 à 1630."

Carleton University: Carleton University in Ottawa also began its M.A. programme in Comparative Literature in the fall of 1968, although courses in Comparative Literature were taught for the two previous academic sessions and could be selected by honours and graduate students in the participating departments as options. The chairman of the Committee is Professor Eva Kushner. The following courses are listed for 1968-69: "Literary Archetypes (Faust in World Literature);" "Seminar on Literary Theory (Comparative Methods and Their Applications; Problems in Renaissance Literature);" "Special Topics in Modern Fiction (Relationship of Narrative Structure to the Portrayal of Inner Life in the Works of Dostoievski, Hesse, Hamsun, D. H. Lawrence, Svevo, Gide, Butor, Natalie Sarraute, Robbe-Grillet);" "Development of the Medieval Courtly Epic (Perceval, Parzifal, Sir Gawain and Morte d'Arthur)."

Université de Sherbrooke: This University has initiated literary studies of a comparative nature this year with a different slant from those just mentioned - it gives a Master's degree in Comparative Canadian Literature. Professor Ronald Sutherland is the Chairman of the English Department which offers this programme of studies. The programme is intended to give candidates "a broad cultural background" and knowledge in depth of the two literary traditions of Canada. The following comparative courses are listed: "Points of Comparison in French and English Literature Renaissance Period;" "Comparative French-Canadian and English-Canadian Poetry;" "Comparative French-Canadian and English-Canadian Novel;" "Littérature canadienne comparée I et II."

Queens University: This University has an Institute of Commonwealth and Comparative studies. The Calendar description of the former does not reveal the amount of attention devoted to specifically literary studies, but does list the French and English Departments as participating in this inter-disciplinary effort.

University of Toronto: Here is an announcement just received:

"A proposal to establish a Ph.D. programme in Comparative Literature has been approved by the Graduate Council of the University of Toronto. Work on the submission of the proposed programme to the Appraisals Committee of the Ontario Council on Graduate studies is now well under way, and it is hoped that the programme will be able to enroll students in 1969-70. The proposed programme calls for the establishment of the M.A. and the Ph.D. It will be administered by a committee, the chairman of which is Professor Northrop Frye...The programme may be of special interest to students who want to work in the following areas: 1. Theory of Literature, 2. Renaissance Literature, 3. Classical Heritage of European Literature."

Projects: This article was originally intended to mention some of the research work which is being done in Canada at the present time. Rather than to single out names and subjects arbitrarily, I shall simply mention three projects which are at various stages of acceptance by the I.C.L.A. Coordinating Committee on the work in History of European Literature: Professor Dimic, U. of Alberta has assumed editorship of the studies on Romanticism and Folklore; Professor Sarkany (Université de Moncton) works on describing "l'état présent de la sociologie littéraire dans le monde" as a contribution to the comparative study of criticism; and Professor Chavy (Dalhousie University) has begun a Guide historique et bibliographique des traductions françaises which will provide insights into translation as a medium of literary transmission.

Eva Kushner

BYZANTINE STUDIES AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Byzantine Studies is a relatively recent discipline. Prior to the late nineteenth century a few daring scholars pursued the impact of the classical tradition into the period of the Byzantine commentators on Homer, Plato or Aristotle, frequently in the pursuit of fragments from classical authors, but even they normally turned away with a shudder from centuries when the preposition apo was followed by the accusative. In the late nineteenth century, under the influence of philhellenism and of the new historicism which established with new intensity the principle of the wholeness of national and cultural traditions, French, Russian and German scholars such as A. Rambaud, V. G. Vasilievsky and K. Krumbacher called attention to the Byzantine component of the Hellenic tradition and laid the foundations for the new discipline. From Paris, Moscow and Munich Byzantine studies spread all over Europe. In the twentieth century, especially at the end of the Second World War with the establishment of the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D.C., American scholarship began to play an ever increasing role in the international development of Byzantine Studies. It is no exaggeration to say that during the last two decades progress has been extraordinarily rapid in the study of Byzantine history, in the history of Byzantine art and archaeology, of Byzantine music, of the history of the Greek language in Byzantine times, in Europe as well as in the United States.

There is, however, one aspect of Byzantine Studies that has so far suffered from neglect in the United States: Byzantine literature. While in Italy, for example, the existing professorships in the field of Byzantine studies are all defined as chairs of literature and philology, few such positions exist in the United States. Yet Byzantine literature offers vast opportunities to the literary historian and critic; in fact large areas of the field are still terra incognita. How often have I been asked, with a kindly smile and a patronizing tone: how much Byzantine literature is there? And how often have I replied, with sad awareness of my insufficiency even to survey this vast field, that the Greek series of Minge's Patrologia containing most of the theological Byzantine texts fills more than one hundred and sixty printed volumes, the Bonn Corpus of Byzantine historians almost fifty, not to mention the works of Byzantine grammarians, antiquarians, religious and secular poets, hagiographers and the like, or the innumerable works of Byzantine literature waiting for their editors on the shelves of the great manuscript collections of Europe. True, certain literary genres such as drama and lyric poetry were neglected by the Byzantines and much of extant literature is marked by an inordinate emphasis on rhetoric and formalism and by stubborn, often slavish imitation of classical models. Obviously,

also, there are great variations in the quality of Byzantine literary works. Yet there is general agreement today, at least among scholars, that Byzantine literature contains masterpieces which deserve their place among the great literature of the world. I am thinking, for example, of the dramatic and vivid poems on Biblical subjects by Romanos (sixth century), of the lively portrayal of monastic life in Palestine by Cyril of Scythopolis (sixth century), of the polished though tendentious *Life of the Emperor Basil* by his grandson Constantine Prophyrogenitus (tenth century), of the great epic poem *Digenis Akritas* (tenth century), or of the witty and malicious *Chronography* of the eleventh century by the leading statesman, philosopher and polyhistor of the period, Michael Psellos. Some of these and other works are not available yet in reliable critical editions. None of them has received adequate attention from a literary point of view. Even greater is the need for specialized treatment of separate genres or particular literary periods. The latest and fullest general history of Byzantine literature is still the second edition of K. Krumbacher's great work on the subject in 1897. This was a masterpiece which has the distinction of having created a scholarly field *ex nihilo*, but it excluded the crucial fourth and fifth centuries and because of the astounding progress of Byzantine scholarship it is now obsolete in many details.

Thus, quite literally, everything remains to be done (or redone) in the field of Byzantine literature. This field, moreover, lends itself particularly to comparative treatment, indeed it requires it more than any other literary discipline. The principal reason lies in the universal character and claim of Byzantine civilization, in the absence of national prejudice and in the pretence to be the earthly replica of divine governance. Consequently, the gates of Byzantine civilization stood open not only to its classical heritage, but also to cultural and literary influences from the Empire's neighbors: Persians, Syrians, Arabs, Turks, even Indians and Chinese. More important, many of its neighbors were indebted, for all or part of their literary origins, to Byzantine civilization. This is particularly true of the literatures in Old Church Slavonic and other Slavic languages, in Armenian and in Georgian, the beginnings of which consisted, wholly or in part, of translations from Byzantine Greek. Even medieval Latin literature contains a large number of translations from Byzantine works. In fact, Byzantium has rightly been called the great clearing house of East and West. Now the Byzantines, in translating into their own language a piece of Near or Far Eastern literature such as the story of Buddha or of Sindbad the Sailor or the *Life of Aesop*, naturally adapted it to their own ways of thinking and modes of feeling. So did the Old Church Slavonic or Armenian translators who borrowed from the Byzantines a piece of church poetry or a medieval chronicle. Often, of course, the borrowing concerned not an entire literary work but a motif or an episode. In all such cases of literary migration a comparison of the original

with the translation or dependent version often sheds considerable light on the literary purposes, values, procedures of authors and translators, frequently even on the social ethos both of the originating and the borrowing peoples. Even where a process of specific borrowing is excluded or unlikely, the comparative literary approach to generically related literatures will occasionally produce important insights into the nature and development of an entire literary genre. Thus for instance Henri Grégoire's researches starting from the Byzantine epic Digenis Akritas have illuminated the development of epic poetry in France, Germany and Russia. So has Kenneth Setton's memoir on Byzantine literary and philosophical influences upon the Italian Renaissance. Conversely, Albert B. Lord's analysis of the procedures of oral poets in modern Yugoslavia and ancient Greece has raised interesting problems for the Byzantine epic.

Vast as the opportunities for a comparative treatment of Byzantine literary topics are, there arises the practical question whether and how they can be realized within the framework of the American academic structure. In view of the existing interest in Byzantine Studies it is usually not difficult to find a publisher for studies on topics in Byzantine literature. For editions of Byzantine texts there exist various facilities for publication: for example, a new series of text editions inaugurated by the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies and its German counterpart published by the firm of Walter de Gruyter, both under the auspices of the International Society of Byzantine Studies. Another practical problem concerns the linguistic preparation of American students. Whether Byzantine literature is a graduate student's primary interest or one of his minor fields, he must know Greek, the language in which all of Byzantine literature was written after the sixth century, and for a variety of reasons he must know Latin. Moreover, in my experience at least, given the archaizing nature of much of Byzantine literature, his knowledge of Greek should be based on the classical language rather than on the Greek of the New Testament or on Modern Greek. Classical Greek is a subject that cannot be mastered in a year or two, but requires long and sustained efforts, yet the days when Classical Greek and Latin were learned in high school are past. This may be a blessing in disguise as it is now approached by persons with a stronger motivation and a more mature outlook. The study of Classical Greek should ideally begin at the earliest possible stage of a student's college career and continue throughout his period of study, but the case is by no means unusual where a student discovers his need for Greek late in his undergraduate years or even in graduate school and succeeds in acquiring a good knowledge of it. A training in the classical languages also has this advantage for the student of Byzantine literature that he will be introduced to the theory and practice of textual criticism. As explained above, textual and editorial problems will face him in all stages of his study of Byzantine literature. Such a student, especially

a comparatist, will want to learn many languages in addition to Classical Greek and Latin. A knowledge of Modern Greek is very helpful, especially for that portion of Byzantine literature written in Demotic Greek which flourished from the thirteenth century onward. French, German and Russian are needed for the voluminous critical writings on Byzantine literature. Syriac, Arabic, Armenian, Georgian and Old Church Slavonic all in their own way will prove important for specific texts and problems. Naturally, nobody will be expected to know all these languages equally well and most of them can be acquired by the student of Byzantine literature at later stages of his career. An expert knowledge of Greek and Latin, however, is basic and indispensable and any effort made to learn them thoroughly will be amply rewarded. Admittedly, this is no easy task, but once the initial and elementary obstacles are overcome, the advance will be steady and noticeable. Indeed, it is difficult to overstate the spirit of exhilaration and satisfaction that develops from the progressive mastery of an ancient idiom like Greek with a succession of great literatures spanning more than two and a half millennia from the poems of Homer to Kazantzakis.

Paul J. Alexander
University of California
Berkeley, California