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# Newsletter

Volume 21, no. 2, December 2004

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The RSAA Newsletter is published twice a year.

**RSAA YEAR BOOK:** Dr. Paul Teodorescu, Editor in Chief

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**REMINDER:** All RSAA members who have changed their mailing address and institutional affiliation, or who now also have an e-mail address, are kindly requested to update these data by contacting the editor. Annual dues (\$15.00, payable to RSAA) are to be sent to Anca-Elena L. Holden, 40 Greenwich Hill, Belchertown, MA 01007.

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## **2004 MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, 27-30 December 2002**

### **Panel #740 Paris as Promised Land: Francophilia in Eastern Europe.**

Panel organized by RSAA

Thursday, 30 December 2004, 1:45-3:00 pm Regency Ballroom C1, Loews

Organizer: Roxana Verona, Dartmouth College

Chair: Marianne Hirsch, Professor, Department of English, Columbia University.

1. "Panait Istrate, Francophile," Roxana Verona, Dartmouth College.
2. "From Brasov to Paris: Brassai's visions of 1930s Paris," Sylvie Blum-Reid, University of Florida, Gainesville.
3. "Paris meets Prague: The Reception and Representation of the Eiffelka," Martha Kuhlman, Bryant College, Smithfield, RI.
4. "Paris in the Dialogue Between Two Bulgarian Poets -- Athanas Dalchev and Lachez Stanchev -- and the South-East European Literary Context of the 1920s," Roumiana Stancheva, Balkan Institute, Sofia.

Respondent:

Jeanine Teodorescu, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL.

### **Panel #519 Constructing Post-Communist Eastern Europe: New Faces of the Imaginary.**

Panel organized by the Discussion Group on Romanian Studies

Wednesday, 29 December 2004, 3:30-4:45 pm Tubman, Loews

Organizer and Chair: Letitia Guran, University of Georgia, Athens.

1. "Literary and Cultural Reconstruction after 1989: Postmodernism, Postcommunism, Postcoloniality," Marcel H. Cornis Pope, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.
2. "Ninotchka's Return: Exiles Past and Present from Lubitsch to Boym," Peter G. Christensen, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI.
3. "Constructing Post-Communist Eastern Europe through Criticism: Perspectives and Polemics," Letitia Guran, University of Georgia, Athens.
4. "Photographs in Transition: Dubravka Ugresic's 'Museum of Unconditional Surrender'," Monica Popescu, Penn State University.
5. "Barbarism Re-Inscribed: The Yugoslav Wars as Travelogue," Zoran Samardzija, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

### **Panel # 387 Eastern European Women as Creators of Humor--Culture, Literature, and Film.**

Panel organized by RSAA

Wednesday, 29 December 2004, 10:15-11:30 am Anthony, Loews

Chair: Domnica Radulescu, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

1. "Satire and Humor in Jan Lam's Portrayal of Galician Women," Agnieszka B. Nance, University of Texas, Austin.
2. "Funny Girls: Romanian Comediennes Onstage in Bucharest," Jeanine Teodorescu, Elmhurst College, Chicago, IL.
3. "Humor and Sarcasm in Karl Emil Franzo's Representation of East European Women," Valentina N. Glajar, Texas State University, San Marcos.
4. "Eastern European Humor and Carnival: Theoretical and Performative Perspectives," Domnica Radulescu, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA.

## **RSAA Business Meeting at the MLA in Philadelphia**

The Executive and General Meeting of RSAA will take place in Adams, Loews, on December 28, at 5:50-7pm. After the meeting, around 7:30pm., dinner is planned at a restaurant in the neighborhood of the hotel.

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## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Raymonde A. Bulger** organized a session on Dumitru Tsepeneag's works in French, which was held in June at Liège University, Belgium, during the 18th Congress of the Conseil International des Etudes Francophones (CIEF). Presenters Nicolas Barna (Bucharest), Virgil Tanase (Centre Culturel Roumain, Paris), Jean-Pierre Longre (Lyon, France), Jenő Farkas (Budapest), Margareta Gyurcsick (Timisoara), and Raymonde A. Bulger discussed *Le mot sablier*, *Roman de Gare*, *Pigeon vole*. The session was also attended by Dumitru Tsepeneag himself, who is also Editor of the review *Seine et Danube*. In October, Professor Emerita Bulger spoke about Ana Novac's play *Le Grabat* at Fordham University during the Centennial Congress of La Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones en Amérique (SPFFA). The play, produced at the Festival d'Arsonval in 1988, deals with women in a concentration camp.

Professor Bulger also sends out a call for papers for her next session on "La Francophonie Roumaine dans les Arts et les Lettres" at the CIEF 19th meeting in Ottawa, Canada, at the end of June 2005. The due date is the end of December. Please contact her at: [rbulger990@earthlink.net](mailto:rbulger990@earthlink.net). Thank you.

**Marcel Cornis-Pope** published this year vol. 1 of a major project entitled the *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th- and 20th- Centuries* (coedited with John Neubauer). Vol. 2 is ready to go to the publisher in early spring. Two more volumes will round off this 4-volume project. Here's a description of the project:

National literary histories based on internally homogeneous native traditions have significantly contributed to the construction of national identities, especially in multicultural East-Central Europe, the region between the German and Russian hegemonic cultural powers stretching from the Baltic states to the Balkans. The *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe*, which covers the last two hundred years, reconceptualizes these literary traditions by de-emphasizing the national myths and by highlighting analogies and points of contact, as well as hybrid and marginal phenomena that traditional national histories have ignored or deliberately suppressed. The four volumes of the *History* configure the literatures from five angles: (1) key political events, (2) literary periods and genres, (3) cities and regions, (4) literary institutions, and (5) real and imaginary figures. The first volume, which includes the first two of these dimensions, is a collaborative effort of more than fifty contributors from Eastern and Western Europe, the US, and Canada. Vol. 1 can be ordered at JOHN BENJAMINS PUBLISHING COMPANY, P.O. Box 36224, 1020 ME Amsterdam, Netherlands & P.O. Box 27519, Philadelphia PA 19118-0519, USA.

**Domnita Dumitrescu**, Professor of Spanish Linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at California State University, Los Angeles, has received the University Outstanding Professor Award for 2003-2004. Congratulations!! This is the second important teaching award she has received, since in 2000 she was named Professor of the Year by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

**Monica Grecu** presented a paper on "Romanian Literary Responses to the Theme of Jeanne d'Arc" at the RMMLA 2004 Convention in Boulder, CO (September 29 - October 2), in a Special session, "Romanian Contributions to the World Literature and Art," she initiated three years ago and which has since become permanent. Next year she will be the chair of a special session again. Currently, Professor Grecu is working on a book-size project concerned with the theme of Jeanne D'Arc viewed through critical approaches to world drama. In September, she spent two weeks of intense research in France visiting the collections of libraries, museums, and places of historical importance relevant to her project.

**Aleksandra Gruzinska** published, together with Murray D. Sirks, a translation of Antoine Pecquet, *Discourse on the Art of Negotiation. Currents in Comparative Romance Languages and Literatures* 140. (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2004.) ISBN 0-8204-7436-3; ISSN 0893-5963.

Professor Gruzinska also presented her paper "Cioran and Noica: Friends Despite the Iron Curtain" at a session on "E.M. Cioran: Philosophy, Themes, Genre and Style" held at the RMMLA meeting in Boulder Colorado, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2004.

**Letitia Guran** contributed the article on "Romanian Literature under Stalinism" published in the *History of the Literary Cultures of East Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries*. vol. 1. Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, eds. (Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2004.) pp.115-124.

Congratulations to Ms. Guran for securing the following awards:

- Completion of Dissertation Award from the Graduate School of the University of Georgia for 2004-2005 academic year. The award is decided after a university-wide competition and this year she was the only one in her department to get it.
- Excellence in Teaching Award

In September 2004, Ms. Guran presented a paper on "Post-Communist Literary History: the Challenge of Rereading and Rewriting the Canon" at the Annual Conference of the Southern Comparative Literature Association held at Columbia, South Carolina. As 2004 Chair of the Romanian Discussion Group, Ms. Guran organized the session on "Constructing Post-Communist Eastern Europe: New Faces of the Imaginary" at the 2004 MLA Convention.

**Maria M. Manoliu** published two articles in 2004:

"Vanishing Discourse Markers. Lat. et vs. sic in Old French and Old Romanian." In *Selected Papers from the XVIth International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, Amsterdam: Benjamins, 2004.

"Déictiques temporels et marqueurs conversationnels: Signes de la mémoire de travail." *Verbum*, 2004.

Professor Manoliu also presented the following papers:

"Agentivity and Grammar: Prolegomena to a Multi-variable Model of Romance Voices," The Second Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, January 8-11, 2004, University of Hawaii, Oahu, HI.

"Universaux et diathèse," XXVIe Congrès International de Linguistique et Philologie romanes, University of Wales, 1-6 August, 2004. Aberystwyth, UK.

"Grammar and Politics: the Present tense in Political Discourse," International Colloquium on the Expression of Time and Space, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, September 23-26, 2004.

**Noemi Marin** published the following two articles:

"Romanian Dirge: Women's Ritualistic Narratives of Life and Death as Cultural Construction of Identity in Southeastern Europe." Chapter included in *Intercultural Communication and Creative Practice: Music, Dance, and Women's Cultural Identity*. Ed. L. Lengel. (Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger Press, 2005) pp. 107-120.

"Rhetoric of Exilic Identity: A Search for Redefinition," in *Migrazioni, Interazioni e Conflicti Nella Construzione Di Una Democrazia Europea* (Migration, Interaction and Conflict in Construing European Democracy), Dario Melossi, Ed. Dott. A. Giuffrè Editore, Milano, Italy, 2003, pp. 261-279.

In 2004 Professor Marin participated with the following papers in several professional conferences:

"Old and New Agendas of National Redefinition: Romania's Presidential Discourse in Transition," Rhetoric Society of America, Austin, Texas, May 28-31, 2004.

"Performing Traditions of Passage: Women's Voices and Cultural Constructions of Identity in Romania," OSCLG (Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender), Notre Dame, IN, October.

14-17, 2004.

"Edward Said: Rhetoric, Exile and Voice" and "Computer-Mediated Communication and Higher Education Challenges in Eastern Europe," National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, November 11-14, 2004.

In addition, Noemi Marin is Co-President of the Human Communication and Technology Division within the National Communication Association, 2004-2005 ([www.hctd.net](http://www.hctd.net)). For the second year, she was invited as Fulbright Expert to teach at the Fulbright Summer Institute, Pamporovo, Bulgaria, August, 2004 ([www.fisi.org](http://www.fisi.org)).

**Calin-Andrei Mihailescu** is currently Director of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada ([www.uwo.ca/theory](http://www.uwo.ca/theory)), and Editor-in-Chief / Rédacteur en Chef, of *Literary Research /Recherche littéraire* (Journal of the International Comparative Literature Association) [http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/100/201/300/literary\\_research-ef/](http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/100/201/300/literary_research-ef/)

Professor Mihailescu's recent publications include:

- Books:

*Don Global suit pe cal* (The Coming of Don Global). Stories in English, trans. into Romanian by the authors, written in collaboration with Ilinka and Andrei Mihailescu; illustrations by Sasha Meret. (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, Feb. 2003), 64 pp; ISBN: 9738356849 (hbk.) <http://www.anticariatonline.com/carte.php?id=11370>

*Calindar de noapte* (Nocturnal Calendar /Romanian). Illustrations by Ion Barbu. (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, Nov. 2003) 400 pp.; ISBN: 973-669-036-9 (pbk.)

[http://www.dol.ro/pagina\\_produc.php?cod=car3fd6e4ebb6503&nrf=1&rid=3&rkode=elibris](http://www.dol.ro/pagina_produc.php?cod=car3fd6e4ebb6503&nrf=1&rid=3&rkode=elibris)

- Shorter texts:

"Death Is the Meaning of Life." *Literary Research/Recherche littéraire* 20.39-40 (2003), pp. 258-62.

"Vultur la jilt" (Eagle in situ/Romanian), preface to the Romanian translation - Jiltul vulturului - of Carlos Fuentes' *La silla del águila*, (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, 2004).

"Unde-i jena nu-i placere la nevoi si la durere" (Shooting straight/Romanian) preface to the Romanian translation - *Crezul meu* - of Carlos Fuentes' *En esto creo*. (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, 2004).

"Borges Night at the Movies." Subtitles, special issue of *Alphabet City* no. 9. Atom Egoyan & Ian Balfour, eds. (Toronto: Alphabet City & Cambridge: MIT Press, 2004) pp. 112-120.

"Holes in the Map." *Die Lektüre der Welt/Worlds of Reading*. Festschrift for Walter Veit. Helmut Heinze & Christiane Weller, eds. (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2004) pp. 305-311.

"Vampiropos" (Heimatogram/Spanish). Gaborio: *Artes de releer a Gabriel García Márquez*, Julio Ortega, ed. (Xochimilco: Jorale Editores, 2003) pp. 57-60

"Uite" (Look!/Romanian) Afterword to the Romanian translation of Charles Bukowski's *Women*, (Iasi: Polirom, 2003,) pp. 357-366.

**Domnica Radulescu** co-edited with Valentina Glajar the following volume:

*Vampirettes, Wretches, and Amazons. Western Representations of East European Women*. New York: Columbia University Press, Eastern European Monograph Series, 2004. Professor Radulescu also contributed the article on "Tragicomic and Performative Dimensions in Romanian Theater after the 1989 Revolution," included in the *History of the Literary Cultures of East Central Europe: Junctures and Disjunctures in the 19th and 20th centuries*. vol. 1. Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, eds. (Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2004.)

**Adam J. Sorkin** is the recipient of a Fellowship Grant for Literature in Translation awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Congratulations!!

Professor Sorkin's outstanding activity as a translator and promoter of Romanian poetry was materialized this

year in the following volumes:

*The Bridge by Marin Sorescu* (translated with Lidia Vianu). Marin Sorescu's last book of poetry, 75 poems. Translator's Foreword by A.J.S. (Newcastle upon Tyne: Bloodaxe Books, 2004.) 96 pp.  
*The Past Perfect of Flight*. 188 selected poems by Marin Sorescu (translated with Lidia Vianu, Gabriela Dragnea, Bogdan Stefanescu, and without co-translator). (Bucharest: The Romanian Cultural Institute Publishing House, 2004.) 310 pp. "My Sorescu: Translator's Foreword" by A.J.S.  
 Lunacies. 65 poems by Ruxandra Cesereanu (translated with the poet and with Claudia Litvinchievici). (New York: Spuyten Duyvil / Meeting Eyes Bindery imprint, 2004). 52 pp.

Professor Sorkin also gave an invited talk at the Writers' Union Festival and Colloquium in Neptun, Romania, in September, and placed translations of Romanian poets in numbers of American literary magazines including Poetry Daily, Jubilat, Words Without Borders, Fence, Crazyhorse, Hotel Amerika, Seneca Review, River City, and abroad including Prague Literary Review and Apostrof.

**Stefan Stoenescu** translated from Romanian into English the poems in the second half of the volume of poetry *Born Again--in Exile: Poems in the Original American & in Translation (from the Romanian)* by Mirela Roznoveanu, (New York/Lincoln/Shanghai: iUniverse, 2004). 143 pp.

**Jeanine Teodorescu** was invited to give two lectures this year:

"Rhinoceritis or the Totalitarian Temptation," SUNY-Oswego, N.Y. (April 2004), and "French-American Cultural Differences and Business," Elmhurst College, IL (October 2004). Professor Teodorescu had her article "Nu, Nu, and Nu: Ionesco's 'No' to Romanian Literature and Politics" published in the *Journal of European Studies* 34(3), pp. 267-287.

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#### BOOKS OF INTEREST

Mirela Roznoveanu - *Born Again--in Exile: Poems in the Original American & in Translation (from the Romanian)*. (New York/Lincoln/Shanghai: iUniverse, 2004.) 143 pp., ISBN 0-595-31831-2.

Mirela Roznoveanu - *The Life Manager and Other Stories*. (New York/Lincoln/ Shanghai: iUniverse, 2004.) 262 pp. ISBN 0-595-31861-4.

Dana Cojocaru - *You Can Speak Romanian! Manual de limba româna pentru cei care chiar vor s-o învete*. (Bucuresti: Compania, 2003.) 536 pp. ISBN 973-8119-62-6.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
 SARBATORI FERICITE!  
 LA MULTI ANI!

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#### **Romanian Studies Association of America**

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