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# Newsletter

Volume 23, no. 2, December 2006

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The RSAA Newsletter is published twice a year.

**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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Panels at

2005 MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, 27-30 December 2006

**#485 Living at the Outskirts: Cinema and East European Countries**  
Friday, December 29, 2006, 1.45-3.00 p.m. Adams, Loews

Program arranged by RSAA.

Presiding: Catalina Florina Florescu, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette

1. "Collapsing Worlds before and after Communist Regime in Lucian Pintilie's *Balanta* and Nae Caranfil's *Filantropica*," Catalina Florina Florescu, Purdue Univ.
2. "Border Hieroglyphs in Cristian Mungiu's *Occident* and Hans-Christian Schmid's *Lichter*," Ramona Uritescu-Lombard, Harvard Univ.
3. "Émigré' Nostalgia as Cinematic Self-Reflective Exercise in Philip Kaufman's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*," Oana Chivoiu, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette
4. "Do You Know What Slovaks Do to American Tourists?: Explaining the Unknown in Elie Roth's *Hostel*," Nicole McClure, Univ. of Connecticut, Mansfield
5. "Eastern Brides: Power, Gender, and European Integration in Contemporary Romanian Film," Mihaela Petrescu, Indiana Univ., Bloomington
6. "Failures of Integration: Representations of Europe in Recent East European Cinema," Zoran Samardzija, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

### **#585 West Goes East: (Re)turning to East Central Europe After 1989**

Friday, December 29, 2006, 7.15-8.30 p.m. Adams, Loews

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Romanian Studies.

Presiding: Anca L. Holden, Univ. of Georgia.

1. "An Invisible Other: The New Eastern Europe and the Shaping of Transnational American Studies," Joseph I. Benatov, Univ. of Pennsylvania
2. "Back to the Balkans: Re-Imagining Alterity through the Gaze of post-1989 Balkan Cinema," Gabriela Stoicea and Lucian Ghita, Yale Univ.
3. "An Aesthetic of Withdrawal: Democratization, Art and the Palace of Parliament," Anthony Gardner, Univ. of New South Wales, Australia
4. "French-Czech Exile and the Unbearable Great Return in Kundera's *Ignorance*," Jeanine Teodorescu, Loyola Univ., Chicago
5. "My Life for a Photograph: Second Generation Encounters with Eastern Europe," Susan Jacobiwitz, Queensborough Community College, City University of New York
6. "'I Am What They Think I Am': Contemporary Cultural (Mis)Constructions in Eastern Europe," Chris Bell, Nottingham Trent University, UK.

### **#718 Mircea Cartarescu at Home in the World: Comparative Approaches to His Work**

Saturday, December 30, 2006, 12.00 noon-1.15 pm Washington B, Loews

Program arranged by RSAA.

Presiding: Laura Elena Savu, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro.

1. "Narrative Hybridity and the Politics of Dream Worlds: Mircea Cartarescu's *Nostalgia*," Marcel H. Cornis-Pope, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
2. "Memory in Nostalgia by Mircea Cartarescu, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* by Milan Kundera and *Dictionary of the Khazars* by Milorad Pavic," Lenka Pánková, Univ. of Pittsburgh.
3. "The Androgyne Imagination in Mircea Cartarescu's *Nostalgia*," Laura Elena Savu, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

Respondent: Christian Moraru, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

**RSAA Annual Meeting: December 28, 5:30 p.m. in Adams, Loews**

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## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Volume 2 of *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe*, edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope and John Neubauer, (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Co.) has just been published! Congratulations!

All contributors to vol. 1 and 2 can purchase a copy of both volumes at a 70% discount against the book's advertised price. Contributors to vol. 2 will also receive tear-out pages of their contribution.

Please order your copy of vol. 2 (or vol. 1 if you missed it) directly from John Benjamins, at the following address:

**Isja Conen**  
Acquisition Editor  
John Benjamins Publishing Co.  
P.O. Box 36224  
1020 ME Amsterdam  
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Tel: +31 20 630 4747  
Fax: +31 20 673 9773  
email: [isja.conen@benjamins.nl](mailto:isja.conen@benjamins.nl)

The editors hope very much that you will assist them in approaching the important libraries in your area and country to buy a copy (if they do not have already a subscription for the series). Concerning reviews, which are very important, please use whatever connections you have with journals to generate some interest in reviewing this important book. John Benjamins will send a review copy to journals if these request one.

Congratulations to the authors of vol. 2.!

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## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Nicholas Catanoy**, whose collection of poetry *Vederi de pe aripa lui Icar*, was published by Editora Galateea in 2004 (ISBN 3-9809358-5-X), is the subject of a book long study by Ion Cristofor: *Nicholas Catanoy sau Avatarii unui peregrin*, (Cluj: Napoca star), the second edition of which was published in 2005 (ISBN 973-647-173-x).

**Oana Chivoiu** chaired the panel "Beating the Mother's Breast" at North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, West Lafayette, IN, August 2006. She also presented the paper "Modeling Sites of Cultural Hybridity in Maria Edgeworth's *Ennui*" at Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2006.

**Monica Grecu** presented two papers: "Voiculescu: Self-challenge and National Identity" and "Myth and its Function in Crystallizing Narrative Identities" in different sessions at "The European Mind: Narrative and Identity" Conference (Malta, July 23-27, 2006). At the meeting of RMMLA, held in Tucson, AZ (October 12-14, 2006) she delivered the paper "The Lyricism of the Inner Withdrawal."

Dr. Grecu was also active in giving public talks within her Reno, NV community: "Susan Glaspell and Her One Act Plays" (at North-West Library); "Ch. P. Gilman: 'The Yellow-Wallpaper'" (at Elder College); "Ch. P. Gilman: 'The Yellow-Wallpaper'" (at both North-West Library and Elder College); "Humor in Langston Hughes' *Salvation* and Woody Allen's *Death Knocks* (at both North-West Library and Elder College).

**Nicolae Harsanyi** presented the paper "The Eye of the Beholder" at the "The European Mind: Narrative and

Identity" Conference (Malta, July 23-27, 2006).

**Anca Luca Holden** published the book chapter "Liminality, Hybridity, and the Aesthetic of Experimentation with Language in the Works of Carmen-Francesca Banciu" in *Bodies and Representations. Women's Voices in Post-Communist Eastern Europe 2*. Ed. Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, Madalina Nicolaescu, and Helen Smith. Bucuresti: Editura Universitatii, 2006. 91-115.

**Mihaela Marin** authored the following article: "Un cœur simple: variations sur un paysage normand", forthcoming in *The Romanic Revue*, 2007. She also presented the following two conference papers: "The Haunted House of Naturalism: Tragedy and the Working Class Novel in 19th-century France (at the International Conference 'The Locus of Tragedy,' The University of Antwerp, Belgium, November 2006) and "Aperçu sur la pneumatologie du texte naturaliste," (at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, University of Indiana, Bloomington, October 2006).

**Calin-Andrei Mihailescu** published the collective volume *Cum era? Cam asa... Amintiri din anii comunismului* (românesc) (What Was It Like? Something Like That... Memories from the years of (Romanian) communism), which he edited for Curtea veche Publishing in Bucharest (ISBN (10) 973-669-277-9; (13) 978-973-669-277-2 (pbk.)) The book, launched this fall in Bucharest, Timisoara and New York, is a best seller in Romania. Website: <http://www.curteaveche.ro/Amintiri/aminte.html>

**Ileana Orlich** is currently on a Fulbright assignment in Romania at the University of Bucharest (2006-7).

**Stefan Stoenescu** published the essay "Ontological Relativity and the Paradox of Time", *Caiete Internationale de Poezie / International Notebook of Poetry*, LiterArt XXI, Norcross, GA - USA, No.7/2006, pp. 100-110. The Romanian version of this text, "Relativism ontologic si timp paradoxal", *Euphorion, Revista de literatura si arta / Sibiu - Fondata de Uniunea Scriitorilor din România in 1990, Anul XVII / 3-4 / martie-aprilie / 2006*, pp. 4; 22, is based on the Preface the author wrote, back in 1983, to his translation into English of a volume of selections from Mircea Ivanescu' poetry / 120 poems totaling about 3,000 lines /, issued as *other poems, other lines* by Eminescu Publishing House of Bucharest. The Romanian version of the Preface has been commissioned by Euphorion and was published for the first time in the Mircea Ivanescu issue of the Sibiu-based review, as a tribute to the poet's 75th anniversary]

Stefan Stoenescu's essay "Destin poetic românesc: 1944-2004 -- în Statele Unite si Canada" / *The Fortunes of Romanian Poetry Written in the United States and Canada between 1944 and 2004*, is the Preface (pp. V-XVIII) to the volume, *Timpul - rana sângerânda. Poeti români în Lumea Noua / Time - A Bleeding Wound. Romanian Poets in the New World*, Stefan Stoenescu and Gabriel Stanescu, Editors, Criterion Publishing, Bucharest, 2006, XVIII + 474 P. The volume is a collection of 377 'exilic poems' by 36 poets, belonging to three generations, which came over to America from communist Romania either as political refugees or immigrants.

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

A proposed collection on filmic representations of Dracula that transcend genre and identity. Submission deadline: January 15, 2007

This collection of essays seeks to investigate and explore the impulse by which global communities continue to reinvent Dracula in film, whether in an attempt to confront oppression or repression, or to embody social ills and taboos. Thus, theoretical analyses of the transnational generation of Dracula's cinematic offspring are highly sought. Contributions to this collection of essays should examine Dracula films and the ways in which Dracula's movement across borders of nationality, sexuality, ethnicity, gender, and film genre since the 1920s

has engendered conflicting conceptualizations about the formation of the "other," identity, and ideology that oscillate between conservative and liberal spheres of normalcy. While this collection is concerned with the complex web of interrelationships between the historical, cultural, and literary counterparts that make up the conventional body of cinematic work from mainstream studios like Universal, Metro, Hammer, Columbia, AIP, equally important is the significantly larger, yet predominantly under-appreciated body of cinematic work that has poured out of other global markets. We are searching for essays that address these concerns by using single-film or period-based analysis.

With the focus of this collection targeting Dracula and Dracula-type characters in films from not only the United States and England but from other global markets, this collection welcomes submissions that seek to ground Dracula depictions and experiences within a larger political, historical and cultural framework, seeking to identify how different ethnic groups represent themselves and their distinct movements across borders in the Dracula cinema myth. Chapters may focus on isolating new, developing tendencies toward transnational modes of cultural production, or may instead excavate and trace past tendencies from older depictions.

We seek perspectives engaged in the fields of literature, media studies, cultural studies, history, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, health, medicine, criminology, and theology.

As payment, each contributor will receive 1 copy of the completed book.  
Please submit your manuscript electronically as an email attachment to:

John Edgar Browning  
Adjunct Lecturer of English  
First-year Writing Program  
Southern Methodist University  
E-Mail: [jbrowning@smu.edu](mailto:jbrowning@smu.edu)

or

Dr. Caroline Joan (Kay) Picart  
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