

# *The European English Messenger*

Volume 21.2 – Winter 2012

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Professor Fernando Galván's Honorary Degree at the University of Glasgow,  
13 June 2012

(in this photo, from left to right:  
Fernando Galván, Ann Caie, Graham Caie, Hortensia Pârlog,  
Lachlan Mackenzie and Slavka Tomaščíková)

### *The ESSE President's Column*

*Fernando Galván*

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Some weeks after the ESSE-11 Conference in Istanbul of 4-8 September, I still have very vivid memories of a fantastic city and a highly successful academic gathering. Boğaziçi University proved to be a splendid venue for our lectures, seminars, round tables, posters and other special events. All delegates present were able to enjoy the numerous papers and academic activities as well as the gardens and the magnificent views of the Bosphorus from the Boğaziçi campus, which provided a restful backdrop between sessions to talk to colleagues and friends and to initiate or renew contacts with scholars from all over the world. The Chair of the APC and local organiser, Prof. Işıl Baş, tells me that delegates from each and every ESSE national association were joined by others from all corners of the world: the US, Canada, Argentina, India, Australia, China, Korea, South Africa..., so that about fifty different nationalities were represented at the conference, attended by some 800 scholars of English Studies.

Let me take this opportunity to once more express my gratitude to the organisers for their time, effort and dedication to ESSE in the preparation of the conference, and to all those who participated in it. I do hope that some of the logistical and transport inconveniences, mainly due to the tremendous size of Istanbul, were sufficiently compensated by the quality of the academic activities, by the pleasure of meeting so many interesting colleagues, and by the chance to discover or revisit one of the most beautiful and fascinating places on earth.

The conference was a success in many respects. I heard many delegates praising, for instance, the new feature we introduced at Istanbul, the PhD sessions, which were an excellent opportunity for young scholars to present their work-in-progress and share views on their research with established and distinguished colleagues in their fields; feedback on seminars and round tables, as well as on the plenary and sub-plenary lectures, has also been very positive. My sincere congratulations are due to all participants and organisers for this.

The Book Awards ceremony held during our General Assembly on Friday 7 September was very well attended and almost all the winners were able to come to Istanbul to receive in person their awards and the public recognition of the numerous ESSE members present. Information about those awards is available in this issue of *The Messenger* and on the ESSE website ([www.essenglish.org](http://www.essenglish.org)), which contains several photographs of the ceremony, along with many other pictures of the conference, the Board meeting, the gala dinner, and of Istanbul itself.

One day before the conference started, on 3 September, the ESSE Board met as usual and took important decisions about the appointment of various committees, the acceptance of the new Danish Association of English Studies as a member of ESSE as of 1 January 2013, the organisation of our next two conferences: in Košice (Slovakia) in 2014 and Galway (Ireland) in 2016, as well as the election of a new President of ESSE and a

new Editor of the *Messenger*, both of whom will take office on 1 January 2013. In this respect, my thanks go again to all the ESSE Board members for their commitment and dedication to the advancement of English Studies in Europe and their cooperation in all ESSE affairs, and especially to all those who give up part of their valuable time to serve on a variety of committees. Let me also thank our Danish colleagues for their renewed trust in ESSE: they were already part of ESSE as members of the Nordic Association, but now that they have established a national association of their own and have formally been accepted as members of ESSE, it is indeed a pleasure to welcome them as such, as the Danish Association of English Studies within ESSE.

My gratitude also goes to our Slovakian and Irish colleagues who will be organising the next two ESSE Conferences, ESSE-12 in Košice (2014), and ESSE-13 in Galway (2016). This issue of the *Messenger* contains the first description and call for proposals for the ESSE-12 conference in Košice, so please keep an eye on that and the first deadlines for the submission of proposals. Our venue will be Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, a relatively small and young university (8,000 students and 700 research and teaching staff), established in its present form in 1959, although some studies, and particularly those in the Arts and Humanities, began in Košice in the mid-17th century, 1657 to be precise. Košice is strategically located in central-eastern Europe: before becoming the second largest city in present-day Slovakia, it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Slovak Republic of Councils, the first Czechoslovak Republic, the World War II Slovak State, Hungary and, finally, Czechoslovakia. Indisputably the cultural centre of eastern Slovakia and one of the most vibrant and illustrious cities in the region, it is no wonder that it has also been chosen to be Cultural Capital of Europe for the year 2013. An additional advantage which, if I may say so, guarantees a well-organised conference, is that the chair of the APC and the local organising committee for this conference is the current Secretary of ESSE, Dr Slávka Tomaščíková, also Vice-Rector for International Relations, who commands a vast experience in ESSE affairs and conferences, which will be invaluable in making the ESSE-12 conference in Košice an event you should not miss!

Among the many decisions taken by the ESSE Board in Istanbul, those concerning the election of a new President and a new Editor of the *Messenger* are certainly very significant and show to my mind and satisfaction the high level of excellence achieved by ESSE in its short 22-year history. For both positions well-known female professors have been elected, each with extensive experience in ESSE.

The new ESSE President as of January 2013 is Professor Liliane Louvel, Professor Emerita of English Literature at the University of Poitiers (France), who has been extraordinarily active in ESSE as a member of its Board for six years (2004-2010) and Vice-President and President of the French association (SAES) for another eight years (2002-2010). She is a distinguished scholar in the field of British literature and word/image relationships, with an impressive record of publications and academic honours. This issue of *The Messenger* contains a few words introducing herself and outlining her main ideas for the future. I am sure her academic prestige and experience will be very beneficial to our organisation. Congratulations, Liliane, and all the best for the years to come!

The new Editor of *The Messenger*, also as of January 2013, is another well-known colleague and recent Professor Emerita in English Language and Linguistics at the University of Timișoara (Romania), Hortensia Pârlog, best known to most of us as “Aba” Pârlog. She served ESSE as Secretary (2002-2008) and was also a member of the ESSE Board and chair of the Romanian Society of English and American Studies (RSEAS) (1996-2002). She has been instrumental in developing the Romanian association and in forging links with many other associations in Eastern and Central Europe at least since 1990. All that activity on behalf of RSEAS and ESSE and her numerous publications in the fields of phonetics, translation studies and practical lexicography, as well as her long experience since 1996 as editor of *BAS* (*British and American Studies*), are bound to make her an excellent editor of this newsletter. Her own words of self-introduction also appear in these pages. Congratulations, Aba, and all the best as well for the years to come!

As this is the last column I write in my capacity as ESSE President, let me conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude for the great privilege ESSE granted me when its Board elected me in London in 2006 and reelected me in Szeged in 2009. Over the last six years I have tried to serve ESSE to the best of my abilities and strengths. I must say I have greatly enjoyed the job, in spite of the difficulties, and particularly the honour of cooperating in friendship with so many distinguished and dedicated scholars of English Studies throughout Europe. Let me take this final opportunity as well to thank all members of the ESSE Board, past and present, for their splendid work and excellent spirit of academic and personal commitment to ESSE matters, and to all those in our national associations who have so generously given me their friendship and help, and of course to all of you who have been reading these columns (and this is my twelfth!) over the last six years.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to those who have worked so closely with me during this time as members of the ESSE Executive: Aba Pârlog and Lachlan Mackenzie in 2007, as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and of course Slávka Tomaščíková and Tim Caudery in the last five years in the same positions. I have learned so much from them, particularly lessons in generosity and friendship which I will never forget. ESSE is indeed very lucky to have had such wonderful colleagues serving in those positions. My thanks are also due, naturally, to the two editors of *The Messenger*, John Stotesbury and Marina Dossena, to our excellent webmaster Jacques Ramel, and to the editors of our journal, *EJES*, Martin A. Kayman, Angela Locatelli, Ansgar Nünning and, more recently, Greta Olson and Stephanos Stephanides. All of them have been instrumental in making ESSE progress during this six-year period: may these words serve to express my public homage and personal indebtedness to them all. And last but not least, these few words by way of apology for the mistakes I must have made during the two terms of my Presidency. I trust your kind understanding will excuse my errors. Many thanks and see you in Košice!

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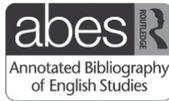
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## Editorial Notes

Marina Dossena

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“Time flies like an arrow”, many of us often tell our undergraduates, as they prepare to embark on more adventurous journeys among the intricacies of English syntax, grammar, and vocabulary. When I took on my new post as Editor of the *European English Messenger*, I thought it would be a very long journey: as many as six issues to edit! As I look back, however, I find that these three summers and these three winters have really flown by, literally as fast as in a Shakespearean sonnet.



If my task has been so pleasant and my sailing so smooth and plain, I owe it entirely to the great support I have had from all the people who have contributed in various ways to the creation of each individual issue: first of all, my heartfelt thanks go to the contributors, reviewers, and members of the ESSE Executive and Board. Many thanks also go to Aoife Leahy and Päivi Pahta, invaluable Reviews Editors, and to Michele Sala, David Giannoni and Daniela Côrtes Maduro, whose three pairs of eagle’s eyes have prevented the occurrence of many inconsistencies in the text (though I am sure I occasionally overlooked their corrections – sorry!)

I am confident that the new Editor, prof. Pârlog, with her great experience of ESSE matters and her dedication, will improve the *Messenger* even further, while maintaining the balance between contributions of literary and linguistic interest which I have tried to achieve during my term – as ESSE conferences have shown, it is a blend of considerable appeal for our membership, allowing us to open windows onto new fields of interest. To Aba and her team, all my good wishes for a very successful term. And all good wishes also go to Liliane Louvel, ESSE’s new President. I am sure that taking up Fernando Galván’s role will be both enjoyable and very fruitful – and as we are talking about our current President, I am sure ESSE will join the *Messenger* team in congratulating him on the Honorary Degree awarded to him by the University of Glasgow last spring!

But unfortunately, not all ESSE news is always so happy, and in this issue we remember Norman Blake, ESSE Secretary between 1996 and 1999, who passed away this summer: Graham Caie’s obituary is followed, just by one of those uncanny combinations of life, by Ben Parsons’ article on ‘*The Fall of Princes* and Lydgate’s knowledge of *The Book of the Duchess*’ – a topic certainly dear to professor Blake’s academic interests.

Now that the time has come for me to step down, I will not hide that I do feel a bit sad; however, I am glad to leave our readers with another very good issue, comprising very important ESSE news: the results of the 2012 Book Awards, the call for applications for bursaries and for nominations for the positions of ESSE Secretary and Treasurer, and the first announcement concerning the 12<sup>th</sup> ESSE Conference, to be held in Košice in 2014.

To these, we add information on EJES, pieces of research, reports and reviews which I hope will be of interest for many of us.

I will conclude recapping the passwords used in the previous issues of the *Messenger*, and wishing every success to all our readers. I look forward to seeing many of you at future events, and thank you all again for your encouragement, your patience and your support.

Vol. 19.1, Spring 2010: *daffodil61*

Vol. 20.2, Autumn 2011: *eclipse23*

Vol. 19.2, Autumn 2010: *foliage05*

Vol. 21.1, Summer 2012: *sagebrush43*

Vol. 20.1, Spring 2011: *equinox19*

Vol. 21.2, Winter 2012: *thistle06*.

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**'Like' the ESSE Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/essenglish>**

*Jacques Ramel, ESSE Webmaster*

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We all know the website that ESSE has been running for years. The ESSE website is a wonderful complement to *The Messenger*, on which you can find everything connected with ESSE, its activities, conferences, bursaries, book awards etc. — and of course a list of available academic positions, and the list of current calls for papers. This list of calls for papers can also be brought to you straight to your website, to the website of your department or university or national association, or to your smartphone, by the ESSE newsfeed: see more information on the ESSE website.

The ESSE Facebook page is more recent: it was created after being authorized by the ESSE Board meeting at Prague in August 2011. It is of course not designed to compete with the ESSE website, but rather to complement it, as another facet of "ESSE on the web". You can publish on the ESSE Facebook page any item of news or of information that may be of interest to the ESSE community, but that somehow does not fit into the pages of the ESSE website: a new book that you have just published or that you just happen to find useful, the url of a website, the release of a new issue of your favourite journal, an article in the press that might be of interest, the launch of a new programme, a campaign to save a place with historical or literary connections, etc. — your imagination is the limit. A great advantage of the ESSE Facebook page is that you yourself can post on it. All you need is a Facebook account. In case you do not have one, I am sure that a colleague or a friend of yours has one and will be happy to oblige. Conversely, no account is necessary to read what has been published by colleagues on the ESSE Facebook page: the information is available to all.

If you are familiar with the jargon used by Facebook, you may know that visitors who approve of a page are supposed to click on a "Like" button. The ESSE Facebook had gathered over 950 "Likes" by the time of the Istanbul Conference. A characteristic of the visitors to the ESSE Facebook page is their age: nearly half the "Likes" are by people in the 25-34 age range. In other words, the ESSE Facebook page is particularly good at reaching our younger colleagues, or even perhaps our future members who are still writing their PhD Dissertations.

Another characteristic is that a significant proportion of the visitors to the ESSE Facebook page are not actually ESSE members, but are academics who reside outside ESSE's area. For instance, it is interesting that Turkey should provide one visitor to the ESSE Facebook page in ten - that is, more visitors than it has actual ESSE members. India is the place of residence of one visitor in twenty. Among other regular visitors to the site are a number of academics from the North African countries. The ESSE Facebook page thus makes it possible to address not only ESSE members, but also our colleagues beyond the limits of the ESSE constituency.

So, why not visit the ESSE Facebook page — and give it a “Like”?

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### **Liliane Louvel is the new ESSE President**

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Dear ESSE members, dear colleagues and friends,

In beautiful Istanbul, on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day before the official opening of our 11<sup>th</sup> ESSE conference, I had the honour of being elected by the board of ESSE to the position of president of ESSE. This is a great privilege and I will do my best to live up to my colleagues' expectations and trust and to serve all the members of our federation to the best of my abilities.



I want to thank here professor Galván, who dedicated so much of his time and talents to our society, and the ESSE executive, Slávka Tomaščíková (general secretary) and Tim Caudery (treasurer) who both helped make ESSE the present active and attractive association it is. They will both stay with me for one more year before the board elects two new colleagues to their positions during our next board meeting in Cluj, Romania, in August 2013. Under the guidance of Prof. Fernando Galván and following in the wake of former president Adolphe Haberer, ESSE has now developed quite a number of concrete and exciting developments. Over the years and all along my different involvements with our federation and its people, I have seen it evolve and become stronger and stronger, thanks to its former and present-day presidents, and their boards. This is not paying lip service to them because if we look back to the late 90s and early 2000s we can see that great steps have been taken ensuring the cohesion of our federation and the multiple services it is now able to render unto its members.

With its almost 7400 members and 33 national associations ESSE represents quite a strong and unique organization. It has become a modern association well-suited to our times and demands. ESSE now has a whole range of wonderful tools: two types of bursaries, 6 book awards (senior and junior scholars) granted according to our different fields of research, the *Messenger*, *EJES*, a website, and as of ESSE-11 the PhD doctoral sessions which will guarantee the presence of our future young colleagues. Thus exchanges between European scholars are greatly facilitated thanks to our website and social network.

As for the future, I think that ESSE has a role to play both in the direction of our younger (even our potential, i.e. doctoral, students) researchers and in the direction of our European recognition. It is a great opportunity for a European-based association to play a part in the exchange of ideas and the circulation of our students and colleagues in the present-day difficult international context. It is of primary importance for the humanities (literature, cultural studies, linguistics and Teaching English as a foreign language) to be recognized by our different organizations, by academic and political powers as well. I will do my best to help our organizations to make their voices heard by bringing our support to their own actions when necessary. I base this assertion on my experience as President of the French association when I had to go and visit the Ministère to make our demands heard.

I will also try to maintain a link between our national organizations and ensure that they are informed of what is going on in Europe in terms of research and academic life. The *Messenger* is a unique bond between us and we must try and redefine its role both as a scientific tool and as means of information. I want to welcome here Aba Pârlog who has just been elected as editor of the *Messenger* and to thank Marina Dossena who did the job in a most efficient way. I also want to thank the editors of *EJES*, Martin A. Kayman, Greta Olson and Stephanos Stephanides who also do a great job supervising the different issues proposed by all of us. The website also is a quick and easy medium to have access to information in all kinds of realms. All the modern means of information and social network must be implemented to serve ESSE's goals. I seize this opportunity to thank Jacques Ramel, our tireless webmaster, who keeps up with all modern developments on the web and elsewhere. A great help indeed !

Organizing meetings between our associations and spreading the best of our scientific results is, I think, one of the objectives ESSE has fulfilled and will continue to do so. As a network based on esteem, respect and friendship across Europe, ESSE is of paramount importance. Thus PhD co-directions, Summer universities if ESSE can develop them, co-organized conferences between different countries, exchanges between colleagues might greatly be facilitated thanks to our website and network. We might also try and organize some kind of focus (i.e. smaller) conferences in-between our biennial conferences dedicated to doctoral students and focussing on a specific topic. It might coincide with our board meetings and correspond to a kind of Summer University. It might run on a smaller scale than our biennial conferences. This might serve two purposes : developing our help to young researchers across Europe and maintaining our bonds and network (and visibility for our own colleagues). It might run on a much shorter period than our main conference.

I also think that in the format of our main conferences we might try and dedicate some time to round tables on specific and more pragmatic issues and confront our experiences and savoir-faire. For instance, we might offer some space to electronic publication and its requirements (define criteria across Europe) and other subjects as required by current necessity. We might evoke the question of the role of humanities in our societies, the role of language learning in universities, the changes in training and research, the evolving types of language teaching and the new careers opened by new media and innovations (films, computers and related technology, linguistics, ELT). The

Europeanization of our academic life might require our reflection and maybe, when necessary, ESSE might commission a small committee to work together and bring up proposals on specific items. All ideas welcome !

Let me add that I also very much enjoy the friendly exchanges, the serious dedication and the congenial atmosphere of our ESSE meetings. As former president of SAES, France (and as a member of the board of ESSE as a matter of consequence) let me say that this was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life as an academic. This was also one of my motivations in daring stand for election. To prolong the experience on the European level and to give back to the organization what it gave to me. I am also very happy to think that the president-elect was not elected because she is a woman (as there were two of us), which is nice, nor because of her country or field of research, but because the board decided that she was a good choice. In this respect I also want to pay homage to Marina Bondi from Italy, who was a serious contender, besides being not only an eminent linguist, but also a great person.

*Liliane Louvel*

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### **Hortensia Pârlog is the new Editor of the *European English Messenger***

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The honour of having not only been considered as a candidate for the position of Editor of *The European English Messenger*, but also actually voted for by the ESSE Board is overwhelming, and I would like to thank all the national representatives for their confidence in my being the right choice.

I am a retired professor, still affiliated with the University of Timișoara, Romania, where I continue to supervise doctoral degrees. I graduated from the University of Cluj in 1965, received my PhD from the Centre for Research in Ethnology and Dialectology, Bucharest, in 1980, worked for three years at the University of Iași (1965-1968), and then, ever since 1968, at the University of Timișoara. I have been a member of RSEAS (the Romanian association) since its foundation in 1991. I have performed an active role in ESSE, both as a member of its Board (national representative of Romania, 1996-2002; chair of the bursary committee), and as a member of the Executive (Secretary, Jan. 2002-Jan. 2008), therefore I am fully cognizant of its aims and purposes as well as problems. For eight years (1997-2005), I was editor of *University English*, the RSEAS 40-page-newsletter, and, since 1996, I have been editor of the *B.A.S./British and American Studies* journal ([www.litere.uvt.ro/vechi/BAS/index.htm](http://www.litere.uvt.ro/vechi/BAS/index.htm)).

Editing a newsletter like *The Messenger*, addressed to thousands of academics, is no easy matter, but I shall do my best to meet the readership's expectations. *The Messenger* has already a long tradition (its zero issue was published in 1990), so I shall endeavour to follow the track established by its former noteworthy editors, and preserve it mainly as a means of communication among ESSE members. I shall strive to offer literary, linguistic, cultural, as well as institutional information, well balanced, and with a wide geographical coverage, so that ESSE members may become aware of the more recent issues in the various fields, and of current and coming events. Therefore, I shall

make sure that *The Messenger* will continue to publish material relating to all ESSE matters, conference announcements, conference reports, information from the various associations, as well as articles, reviews, interviews, translations, projects meant to stimulate research, etc. in the general field of English Studies.

Although I know quite a number of people all over Europe, which I think is important for widening participation in *The Messenger*, I shall, of course, rely on the advice and experience of former editors, and I shall definitely need the support of past and present national representatives on the ESSE Board; I shall always be open to suggestions and proposals from them and from the Executive, as well as from ESSE members, because I see *The Messenger* as a useful instrument at the service of ESSE, its Board and its Executive. I plan to work in close association with the ESSE webmaster, as I deem it important that we should all collaborate closely on the spreading of ESSE activity across the continent and beyond. Wish me "Godspeed"!

Hortensia Pârlog

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## ESSE Book Awards 2012

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### ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS:

**Award in Category A:** Hugo Bowles. *Storytelling and Drama: Exploring Narrative Episodes in Plays*. John Benjamins, 2010.

This book provides a highly successful combination of linguistic and literary approaches to the study of narrative episodes in a wide range of dramatic texts from Aeschylus to Pinter. The basic notions of narrative and dramatic discourse (Ch.1) together with the interactional model (2) provide the foundation for the analysis, which falls into two parts, the first (1-4) dealing with the overall methodology, the second (5-8), focusing on the tellability of the narrative episode. Insights from interactional sociolinguistics, narrative theory, conversation analysis, and discourse analysis are utilized in the discussion of the material. An innovative feature is the use of Conversation Analysis techniques for the local or micro-analytical analysis.

There is a rich inventory of examples of stories from older and more contemporary drama and some longer case studies. However, the numerous illustrations are occasionally somewhat decontextualized, giving the impression of a series of single-case studies. For linguists it may be somewhat unsatisfactory that the examples of story-telling are not collected systematically.

The book is written with great elegance in a style which makes it accessible both to an audience already familiar with conversational analysis and discourse analysis and newcomers to the field. It is clearly structured moving from a micro-linguistic to a macro-linguistic or interactional perspective in the analysis.

The author's thorough discussion of a variety of theoretical and methodological postulates together with the detailed classification of narrative types and subtypes are particular strengths of the study. The work shows that linguistic techniques can contribute to literary analysis. The findings should therefore also be relevant to literary scholars.

### Honourable Mentions:

- Alwin Frank Fill. *The Language Impact. Evolution-System-Discourse*. Equinox, 2010.
- Anita Naciscione. *Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse*. Benjamins, 2010.

**Award in Category B:** Carlos Prado-Alonso. *Full-Verb Inversion in Written and Spoken English*. Peter Lang, 2011.

This book is a corpus-based study of full-verb inversion types of written and spoken discourse. The terminological premises are clearly set out and the previous work on the subject is thoroughly analysed and commented on. The corpus investigation of written and spoken corpora is based on two main groups: non-obligatory and obligatory full inversions. The results indicate that speech and writing do not differ strongly in the number of full inversions but rather in the different types of full inversion used.

The study is a truly impressive piece of research. Although the topic in general has attracted a lot of research, the study of full inversion in speech has been neglected. The overview of previous work within different formal and functional theories is excellent and also 'pedagogical' for readers who for example are not experts in formal generative theory or cognitive linguistics. The author's argumentation is convincing and the monograph is a pleasure to read. The corpora are well chosen. The ICE corpus is, for example, excellent for identifying full inversion automatically. The corpus also makes it possible to give detailed information about the frequencies of different types of inversion in speech and writing (or fiction and non-fiction) and test hypotheses in previous work. The author makes excellent use of the Finnish linguist N-E. Enkvist's Principle of Experiential Iconicity to explain variation in the linguistic order of elements. The idea that the full inversion structure can be regarded as a construction with variations from a more salient or prototypical construction is very promising for future research.

**Honourable Mentions:**

- Laura Cano Mora. *This Book Will Change Your Life! Hyperbole in Spoken English*. PUV Universitat de València, 2011.
- Cristiano Furiassi. *False Anglicisms in Italian*. Polimetrica, 2010.

**LITERATURES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Award in Category A:** Faye Hammill. *Sophistication: A Literary and Cultural History*. Liverpool University Press, 2010.

Faye Hammill's *Sophistication* is an innovative, well-written and clearly structured book, well-researched in terms of literary and cultural history. It covers an impressive historical and literary breadth, ranging from canonical texts (e.g., Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*, Henry James's *Daisy Miller*, Noël Coward's *Private Lives* or Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*) to once popular but now obscure texts (e.g. Max Beerbohm's *Zuleika Dobson* or Winifred Watson's *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*). It connects sophistication with recent and contemporary nostalgia for modernism, but also, in wider terms, with "nostalgia for earlier technologies, or even pre-technological eras" and recent "retro" fashions. Its principal contribution is the establishment of productive links between the study of literature, fashion and technology in a wide historical scope, from Sentimentalism to late Modernism. This makes the book a unique contribution to both literary and cultural studies.

**Honourable Mentions:**

- Elizabeth Eger. *Bluestockings: Women of Reason from Enlightenment to Romanticism*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- Claire Jowitt. *The Culture of Piracy, 1580-1630: English Literature and Seaborne Crime*. Ashgate, 2010.

**Award in Category B:** Michelle J. Smith. *Empire in British Girls' Literature and Culture: Imperial Girls, 1880-1915*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

In this stimulating study Michelle Smith, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Melbourne, sets out to trace representations of girl characters in British children's texts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to show how they are shaped by the British Empire. To carry out this challenging and interesting task, the author brings together evidence from a wide variety of sources, that include the popular magazine *Girls's Own Paper* of the period 1880-1907, a handbook of the Girl Guide organization, as well as a large corpus of novels. The book provides a detailed and engaging discussion about a type of cultural production that has often been neglected, that of girls' literature, and manages to bring to the forefront of modern scholarship little-known novels, such as Angela Brazil's school stories and Bessie Marchant's adventure fiction. The arguments are presented in a cohesive and logical manner, with full awareness of the theoretical and methodological aspects that currently characterize the study of these literary and cultural products. Written in a clear, precise and readable style, this valuable research work succeeds in showing the diversity and complexity of the ways in which the late Victorian and Edwardian girl was portrayed in print culture as a reflector of the imperial project. It may serve as a reliable source of erudite research for the specialist, but also as a volume of pleasant, intellectual reading for those interested in the history of imperial Britain, seen from a less common perspective.

**Honourable Mentions:**

- William May. *Stevie Smith and Authorship*. Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Ana Raquel Lourenço Fernandes. *What About the Rogue? Survival and Metamorphosis in Contemporary British Literature and Culture*. P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2011.

**CULTURAL STUDIES IN ENGLISH**

**Award in Category A:** Martin Willis. *Vision, Science and Literature, 1870-1920*. Pickering & Chatto, 2011.

This is a highly original work and a landmark study whose impact is likely to be long lasting. Victorian perceptions of visibility and modes of seeing are explored in great and fascinating detail with an eye to (pun intended) delineating this Victorian legacy in the contemporary world. Even the organization and structure of the book are intricate and reminiscent of 17<sup>th</sup> century metaphysical poetry, in that they bring together images and realities which seem to be quite remote from one another, and yet whose connections are demonstrated to be much stronger than one might have suspected (the telescope and H. G. Wells' fiction, for example). The book is a "tour de force", and Willis demonstrates with great skill and precision that there is a complex and fruitful interaction between literature, science, and the imagination.

**Honourable Mention:**

- M.O. Grenby. *The Child Reader 1700-1840*. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Award in Category B:** Katherine E. Russo. *Practices of Proximity. The Appropriation of English in Australian Indigenous Literature*. Cambridge Scholars, 2010.

Through an innovative approach that employs a variety of theoretical approaches knowledgeably and astutely, Russo's book challenges a number of assumptions concerning 'genuine' Indigenous Australian culture and its relationship with English. It also challenges those essentializing anthropological approaches that argue for the authenticity of what they regard as valid oral productions in Indigenous languages, as opposed to more recent artistic forms such as rock or rap.

*Practices of Proximity* treats the term 'appropriation' in ways that allow the term to expand fluidly within a constantly shifting English language frame. Ultimately, Russo gives this contested and ambiguous term a new dimension in the process of exploring oral and written text as a site of contact. 'Proximity' suggests a zone of endless possibilities for authors, readers and language users to share and reinvent meaning and agency in the context of the painful colonial encounter. The Indigenous peoples of Australia have adapted and adopted the language of the colonizers to make it their own and to suit it to their own needs of self-expression. This well-written book makes a valuable intervention in the field of postcolonial studies. Yet, this intervention has a universal scope. Russo's discussion offers ways of reading and understanding cultural and historical as well as linguistic paradigms that are pertinent to any situations of conflict, colonial domination, neocolonial power systems and questions of minority cultural production.

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### ESSE Bursaries for 2013

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In 2013, ESSE continues to offer TWO types of Bursaries:

- **Type A:** a number of bursaries of up to 1500 euros each will be available for scholars in need of support to pursue a project or programmes of research leading to the writing of their PhD dissertation. (The age limit for this type of bursary is 40).
- **Type B:** a number of bursaries of up to 1500 euros each will be available for scholars already holding a doctorate or its equivalent.

Applications are invited from all member countries. Awards are made on the basis of academic merit. Priority will be given to scholars employed at Universities in Central and Eastern Europe who are in need of support to pursue a project or programme of research. Only one application is permitted by any candidate.

Bursaries may not be used to support research trips begun or completed before the Bursary Committee has announced the outcome of the competition.

Applications for bursaries will not normally be entertained from candidates who have previously been successful in that competition.

In the case of both competitions A and B, winners are expected to make a short-term visit to a country where they identify an outstanding holding, collection, or other type of material relevant to their research. Conference participation is not supported by these bursaries; award winners may extend their visit at their own expense to attend a conference in the country concerned, but no part of the conference expenses will be covered by the bursary. Bursaries must be utilized and the study trips completed by the application deadline for next year's bursaries, that is 1 March 2014.

After completing the research trip, winners will be asked to send a financial report to the Treasurer of ESSE and a report about their results to both the Treasurer and the Chair of the Selection Committee.

Applicants for the first type of bursary are required to be members of their national associations affiliated to ESSE, except for those whose associations do not consider PhD students eligible as members; in this case, their supervisors or the department to which they are affiliated must be ESSE members. Applicants for the second type of bursaries must be registered members of their national associations affiliated to ESSE.

**The deadline for applications for both types of Bursaries is 1 March 2013.**

Notification to the applicants should be sent (electronically) by 15 April.

Applicants should send electronically to all three members of the Selection Committee:

- the completed application form (see below) with sections on personal information, a list of the applicant's most important publications, a research plan, and a provisional budget proposal;
- a scanned or electronically generated letter issued by the president or the secretary of the appropriate national organization to certify the membership of the applicant (or his/her supervisor in Germany and the UK);
- for Type A bursaries, a letter of recommendation, sent directly via email to all three members of the Selection Committee by the supervisor of the PhD candidate.

**Selection Committee:**

- Prof. Ebbe Klitgärd (Chair): [ebbek@ruc.dk](mailto:ebbek@ruc.dk)
- Prof. Karin Aijmer: [karin.ajmer@eng.gu.se](mailto:karin.ajmer@eng.gu.se)
- Prof. Lilla Maria Crisafulli: [lilla.crisafulli@unibo.it](mailto:lilla.crisafulli@unibo.it)

**APPLICATION FORM for ESSE Bursaries, Type A and B, for 2013**

Application deadline: 1 March 2013. Notification about decision: 15 April 2013.

Bursaries to be utilized by 1 March 2014.

**I. PERSONAL SECTION**

- NAME OF APPLICANT:
- TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT
- BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESEARCH PROJECT (no more than 5 printed lines)
- AFFILIATION AND POSITION (for Type A indicate your PhD Program, for Type B your University and Department):
- BEST EMAIL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER (the latter in case of emergency):
- MA DEGREE (year and major/s):
- PhD DEGREE (for Type B only; year, university and topic):
- OTHER DEGREES (if applicable):
- MOST IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIPS:

**II. PUBLICATIONS** (The list below applies only to Type B applications. For the pre-doctoral Type A application simply list your publications if you have any, or disregard this section. Please provide translations into English of any titles and other details in languages other than English)

- a) BOOKS AUTHORED BY APPLICANT
- b) BOOKS EDITED BY APPLICANT
- c) FIVE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS
- d) FIVE MOST IMPORTANT PAPERS IN COLLECTIONS OR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**III. THE RESEARCH PROJECT** (Should be no longer than 2 printed pages!)

- a) RESEARCH QUESTION, GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC
- b) THE PROJECTED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES DURING THE BURSARY PERIOD
- c) EXPECTED RESULTS

**IV. BUDGET PROPOSAL** (Please see the guidelines page in the ESSE website). Please remember that while € 1500 is the maximum award, smaller requests are welcome! Conference participation expenses are not eligible for coverage by ESSE bursaries.

- a) TRAVEL EXPENSES
  - b) ACCOMMODATION
  - c) EVERYDAY EXPENSES (€ 25 per day)
  - d) BOOKS, SUPPLIES, MISCELLANEOUS COSTS
  - e) TOTAL OF EXPENSES
- 

### **Doing research in the UK – on an ESSE bursary**

*Laurence Lux-Sterritt*  
*Aix Marseille Université, France*

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Thanks to the kind consideration of the French Conseil National des Universités (CNU - section 11), I enjoyed a semester's research leave from January to July 2012. This sabbatical was intended to allow me to gather a vast corpus of primary sources for my current monograph project, provisionally entitled *Living Spirituality. The English Benedictines in Exile and their Convents, 1598-1687*. This project necessitated much travelling, since the manuscripts of English Benedictine nuns are scattered in various libraries and archives, twelve of which I hoped to visit in northern France, Belgium and England. Since such an enterprise was to prove costly, I applied to various funding bodies to help with the costs of travelling and accommodation. I am grateful to the French Société des Anglicistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur (SAES) for its contribution, and I extend my sincere thanks to ESSE for their generous bursary of €1,500, which financed my travels to public libraries and monastic archives in England in April and May 2012.

This research work took place in very different types of archival depositories. The manuscript collections of the British Library keep the correspondence of the abbess of the Dunkirk community, Mary Caryll, with her brother John, whilst the Special Collections of the Oxford Bodleian Library, hold the letters intercepted by Thomas Cromwell's informer and spy, John Thurloe. These visits to major libraries were easy to organise thanks to the detailed online catalogues which nowadays enable researchers to know precisely what they will find in any particular archive.

The organisation of visits to private ecclesiastical archives proved, however, much more complex, since these are not open to the general public. The archdiocesan archives at Westminster, for instance, do not open every day, and then only for a few hours, which can be limiting to the travelling academic who is pressed for time. Where for monastic archives were concerned, contact was initiated a long time before the proposed date of my visits in order to establish *bona fide* status with the archivist and obtain the necessary authorisation of the abbot or abbess of the community. I am deeply grateful to Abbot Geoffrey, at Douai abbey (Midgham), Dr Simon Johnson at Downside abbey (Stratton-on-the-Fosse) and Sister Benedict at St Mary's abbey (Colwich), for allowing me to spend

endless hours consulting their invaluable age-old treasures, sometimes late into the night, and sometimes even within the abbey's enclosure.

Early modern English convents have been subject to many upheavals over the years, and it was something of a challenge simply to locate their manuscripts; in France, many were destroyed during the Revolution, whilst others were seized by the state and are now kept mostly in county record offices (archives départementales). However, English convents managed to keep some of their manuscripts, and these travelled back to England with the nuns in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, only to be passed on from one house to another as convents moved or were gradually closed down for lack of new postulants. For instance, the bulk of the manuscripts belonging to the Brussels community found their way back to England when the nuns settled in Winchester in 1794; they then moved to East Bergholt in 1857 and Haslemere in 1948. With each relocation, the nuns entrusted the custody of some of their papers to other convents, which led to the dissemination of their library; finally, with the closure of Haslemere, the papers which remained were donated to Downside abbey, where they remain to this day.

There exist no online catalogues for the seventeenth-century Benedictine manuscripts; indeed, in some archives, there is no catalogue at all for this particular collection. This was the case at the magnificent Douai library, where I was overwhelmed to discover the existence of 70 boxes (recently acquired after the closure of St Scholastica's abbey at Teignmouth), containing material related the Benedictine nuns. Not all of this material was relevant to my research, but it all required careful examination nonetheless. At the archdiocesan archives of Westminster, my questions and requests led to the re-discovery of a very interesting box documenting a long-running and acrimonious dispute in the Brussels convent; this collection had been mislaid for several years and was considered lost.

In such conditions, it was very difficult to estimate in advance how much material I could expect to find in each archive, and how long my stays would need to be. Fortunately, the archivists in charge of these collections were kind enough to allow me to take digital images of their manuscripts. Thus, even when faced with hundreds of folios, I was able to keep to my initial schedule and move from place to place as planned, without incurring delays or extra costs.

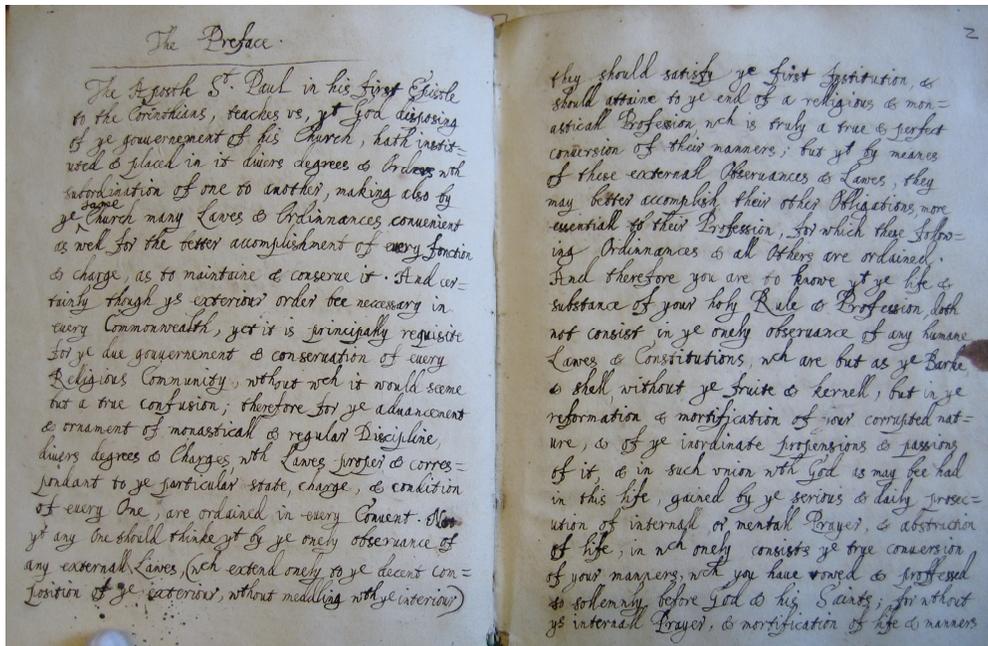
All in all, I collected over 900 photographs of manuscripts. Since May, I have focused upon the transcription of the most relevant documents, as well as the translation into English of those which were in French or Latin. My first work on this corpus is soon to be published by Ashgate in a collection of essays edited by Dr. Caroline Bowden and Dr. James Kelly,<sup>1</sup> and I am currently focusing on the first chapters of the monograph. The research undertaken during those archival visits has yielded much more material than

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Caroline Bowden and Dr. James Kelly (Queen Mary Univ. of London) co-ordinated the AHRC-funded project *Who were the Nuns? A Prosopographical Study of the English Convents in Exile 1600-1800* (<http://www.history.qmul.ac.uk/wwtn/>). It was my privilege to be associated to this project since 2008, and to edit the second volume of a series of six, publishing for the first time a wealth of primary sources documenting all English convents in exile (*English Convents in Exile, 1600-1800*, vol. II, *Spirituality*, London: Pickering & Chatto, 2012).

anticipated, and has opened up new prospects for further projects, which will occupy me in the near future.

This round trip to English archives was a truly extraordinary experience, yet without the ESSE bursary, none of it would have been possible. One of the inestimable advantages of this grant is the fact that it is paid to the recipient so promptly, a mere few days after the announcement of the board's decision. This allows researchers to plan their intended travels more serenely; the generous amount of €1,500 was enough to cover both accommodation and travel costs, including a return flight from Marseilles to London, and all the train journeys necessary to move from archive to archive. Moreover, ESSE offers an additional sum to cover the costs of living, such as food or bus and underground tickets, if necessary. This bursary is a remarkable asset to European academics in the field of English-speaking studies, and one for which I am deeply grateful.



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**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS  
FOR THE ESSE POSITIONS OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

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The Nominations Committee of the ESSE Board seeks applications for the positions of **Secretary** and **Treasurer** of ESSE, which fall vacant in January 2014. The usual term of office is three years. Candidates, who should preferably have been involved in ESSE affairs or have had similar positions in their national associations, should submit, as e-mail attachments:

*The European English Messenger*, 21.2 (2012)

- A letter of application
- A short (2-3 page) CV
- Letters of support from two national associations

Each national association can also nominate candidates for any of these two positions (only one candidate for each position). In this case, national associations will submit, as e-mail attachments:

- A letter, signed by the association's President, describing the candidate's competence for the specific office
- A short (2-3 page) CV of candidate(s) proposed
- A letter, signed by another association's President, seconding this proposal

**Applications and nominations must be submitted electronically, by 1 June 2013** at the latest, to the members of the **Nominations Committee**:

- Klaus Stierstorfer (Chair): [stierstorfer@wwu.de](mailto:stierstorfer@wwu.de)
- Efterpi Mitsi: [emitsi@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:emitsi@enl.uoa.gr)
- Nóra Séllei: [sellei.nora@arts.unideb.hu](mailto:sellei.nora@arts.unideb.hu)

From the applications and nominations received, the Committee will select the best candidates (maximum of three for each office). The two officers will be chosen by vote at the ESSE Board meeting in Cluj-Napoca, 29-30 August 2013.

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## EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ENGLISH STUDIES

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### *Forthcoming issues*

#### **2012**

16: *Housing fictions: The House in Writing and Culture, 1950 to the Present*,

eds. Janet Larson, Francesca Saggini & Anna Enrichetta Soccio

16: *Dislocations and Ecologies*, eds. Alexa Weik & Christoph Irmscher

16: *Gender Resistance*, eds. Evgenia Sifaki & Angeliki Spiropoulou

#### **2013**

17: *Myths of Europe: East of Venice*, eds. Ljiljana Ina Gjurgjan & Aidan O'Malley

17: *The Rhetoric of Science*, eds. Maria Freddi, Barbara Korte & Josef Schmied

17: *Visual Text*, eds. Judy Kendall, Manuel Portela & Glyn White

### **Reflecting back on Volumes 15 and 16 and looking forward to Volume 17**

EJES continues to engage with English Studies in Europe 'and beyond'. It has been the explicit aim of the (partially) new editorial team to expand the concerns of the study of English in Europe geographically as well as in disciplinary terms. Thus we were very happy to have seen the first issue of EJES to be ushered into print by a Romanian and Hungarian guest editor team: 15.3: *The Esoteric in Post/Modernism*, eds. Pia Brînzeu & György E. Szönyi. The disciplinary expansion of English Studies was witnessed by issues that worked to reassess Medievalisms and to address the centrality of the study of material culture and spatiality:

15.2: *Medievalism*, eds. Andrew James Johnston & Ute Berns, and 15.1: *Matter and Material Culture*, eds. Maurizio Calbi & Marilena Parlati.

2011 was a year in which the concept and material conditions of the European project were severely challenged. Thus the general editors would like to express our solidarity with our Greek colleagues during this very difficult time. We were most pleased that despite the current hardships their country is undergoing the Greek guest editors Evgenia Sifaki and Angeliki Spiropoulou brought 16.3: *Gender Resistance* to a happy completion. The general editors were also pleased to see two other issues into print; one, that examines meanings of the house in Anglophone texts from postcolonial and gendered perspectives and, the other, on the ecologies of travel: 16.1 *Housing Fictions: The House in Writing and Culture, 1950 to the Present*, eds. Janet Larson, Francesca Saggini & Anna Enrichetta Soccio; and 16.2 *Dislocations and Ecologies*, eds. Alexa Weik & Christoph Irmscher.

The general editors note new emphases on post-colonial approaches, visibility, ecology, posthumanism and in continuing to test and query the nature and borders of Europe, as in the upcoming issues on “the East of Europe” and Scottish Renaissances. The new attention to multi-mediality and visibility in English Studies is also reflected in the increasing use of photographs and other visuals in recent EJES issues.

EJES continues to perform well with an enormous growth in online subscriptions for collections of titles and via EBSCO. Its circulation figures reflect the general move in the humanities towards the use of downloaded digital materials rather than, or in addition to, traditional print subscriptions. The transition to a new editorial team has been made successfully. The publisher reports that Alan Durant and Ifan Shepherd’s “‘Culture’ and ‘Communication’ in Intercultural Communication” was the most frequently downloaded article from standard platforms in 2011, with Ute Berns’s and Andrew James Johnston’s “Medievalism: A Very Short Introduction” following thereafter.

### **Future Work**

Calls for papers have gone out for Volume 18 (2014) with special issues being offered on *Scottish Renaissances*, eds. Wolfram R. Keller, J. Derrick McClure and Kirsten Sandrock; *Translating Ethnicity*, eds. Silvia Bruti, Roberto A. Valdeón and Serenella Zanotti; and *European Posthumanism*, eds. Stefan Herbrechter, Ivan Callus and Manuela Rossini. Kindly consult the EJES homepage for the selection of topics for Volume 19.

While the deadline for proposals for special issues and for essay contributions is 31 October of each year, the general editors are happy to engage with prospective guest editors about topics at any time. The general editors seek to ensure that issues are varied and broad in scope; that they focus on topical issues in and across the disciplines embraced by English Studies in Europe; and that they showcase cutting-edge research from a range of academic traditions. The journal manifests its ‘European’ character not by restricting access to scholars working in Europe, but by publishing peer-reviewed research of international quality on the topic in hand from a range of disciplinary viewpoints, thereby promoting interdisciplinary discussion on matters of cultural and intellectual concern across the fields of English Studies in Europe and beyond. EJES continues to evidence an excellent record in the gender representation of its contributors; the general editors also wish to encourage work from thus far under-represented nations.

We are happy to explore possible ideas with colleagues who are interested in developing proposals for special issues. Issues may be guest edited by one individual or by

two or three (ideally from different locations in Europe) as the proponents wish. Full support is provided by the general editors throughout the process of assembling an issue. Please ensure that your proposal demonstrates how it advances the ambitions of the journal for a distinctive 'European' approach to English Studies.

For further details regarding the journal's Aims and Scopes and its Editorial Policy, visit the *ESSE* website, or feel free to contact any of the general editors. Potential contributors and guest editors should note that, in order to ensure fairness in the selection of articles and to guarantee the quality of the material published by the journal, proposals for submissions are subject to peer review, as are the final versions of submitted articles.

#### **General Editors**

- Martin A. Kayman <KaymanM@cardiff.ac.uk>, Cardiff University
- Greta Olson <Greta.Olson@anglistik.uni-giessen.de>, Justus Liebig University, Giessen
- Stephanos Stephanides ,<steve@ucy.ac.cy>, University of Cyprus

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## **12<sup>th</sup> ESSE Conference, Košice 2014**

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Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia  
The Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts  
and  
SKASE (The Slovak Association for the Study of English)  
*look forward to welcoming you to the*  
12th ESSE CONFERENCE  
in  
**KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA**  
**FRIDAY 29 AUGUST – TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

#### **DEADLINES**

- For **Lectures** (nomination by National Associations): **1 May 2013**
- For **Seminars** and **Round Tables** (proposals from prospective convenors): **1 May 2013**
- For **posters** and individual **papers** at seminar and PhD students' sessions: **31 January 2014**
- **Registration will begin on 1 March 2014**

#### **CALL FOR SEMINARS, ROUND TABLES AND LECTURES**

ESSE members are invited to submit proposals for seminars and round tables on topics related to our fields of study: English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural Studies (broadly defined). Proposals for seminars and round tables should be submitted directly to the Academic Programme Committee (APC) at [esse2014proposals@upjs.sk](mailto:esse2014proposals@upjs.sk). National Associations are invited to nominate potential lecturers. Suggestions for lecturers should be sent to the Presidents or representatives of the National Associations who will send the nominations to the APC.

## Programme Format

**SEMINARS** - Proposals for seminars on specialised topics within our field should be submitted jointly by two ESSE members, preferably from two different National Associations. The degree of international appeal will be one of the selection criteria used by the APC. Proposals will not be entertained if they come from two people in the same institution. In exceptional cases the APC may permit one of the two convenors not to be an ESSE member (e.g. because they come from outside Europe), if it is argued that their presence is especially important for the seminar. Seminar proposals must include the names, affiliations and e-mail addresses of the convenors and a 100-word description of the topic. Unlike round tables, seminars are not pre-constituted events and will therefore be included within the APC's future call for papers, although convenors may take an active role in approaching potential participants. The seminar format is intended to encourage lively participation on the part both of speakers and of members of the audience. For this reason, papers will be orally presented in no longer than 15 minutes rather than read. Reduced versions of the papers will be circulated beforehand among participants. Further directions will follow in the call for papers.

**NB: proposals for individual papers should NOT be submitted at this stage.**

The deadline for individual papers will be the 31 January 2014.

**ROUND TABLES** - The aim of round tables is to present topics and problems currently seen as shaping the nature of the discipline. At a round table a pre-constituted panel discusses issues of fairly general scholarly or professional interest in front of (and subsequently with) an audience. In other words, round tables are not sequences of papers but debate sessions. Proposals should include a 100-word description of the topic and the names and affiliations of at least three participants (including the convenor), who must be drawn from more than one national association. The maximum number of speakers will be five.

**LECTURES** - A number of distinguished keynote speakers, including at least one representing each of the three main fields covered by ESSE (English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural Studies), will give plenary lectures by direct invitation of the organisers. In addition, there will be approximately 10 sub-plenary or parallel lectures given by ESSE members nominated by their National Associations. These lectures are expected to have a wide appeal and to reflect recent developments in scholarship in one of the three areas mentioned above. They will be fifty minutes in length. National Associations should forward a description of their nominee's proposed topic together with a brief summary of his or her CV. Each national association can propose up to three lecturers, each of them in one of the three main fields mentioned above, so that the APC can have a wide range of options for the final selection. Please note that ESSE will not finance the sub-plenary lecturers' costs of attending the conference, but that their conference fees will be waived.

**POSTERS** - Posters will be devoted to research-in-progress and project presentations. The aim is to provide additional opportunities for feedback and personal contacts. Further details will appear in a future issue of the *Messenger* and the deadline for posters will be the 31 January 2014.

**SESSIONS FOR PhD STUDENTS** - Young scholars who are writing their PhD theses in English studies may apply to make a brief presentation of their work-in-progress at one of three workshops in the fields of English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural Studies respectively. These presentations should deal with the issues/hypotheses addressed in the thesis, the results so far obtained and above all the methodology applied, with the purpose of getting feedback from peers and established scholars in the field. Each workshop will be coordinated by two international experts, who will select from the applications and convene the corresponding

sessions. Enquiries about this feature should be addressed to Professor J. Lachlan Mackenzie (VU University Amsterdam, NL and ILTEC, PT): [lachlan\\_mackenzie@hotmail.com](mailto:lachlan_mackenzie@hotmail.com).

Further details will appear in a future issue of the *Messenger* and the deadline for the submission of applications will be 31 January 2014.

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- Associate professor Slávka Tomaščíková (P. J. Šafárik University in Košice) (*chair*)
- Professor Işıl Baş (Boğaziçi University)
- Professor Andreas H. Jucker (University of Zürich)
- Dr. Lívía Körtvélyessy (P. J. Šafárik University in Košice)
- Professor Pierre Lurbe (Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3)
- Professor Socorro Suárez (Universidad de Oviedo)
- Dr. Soňa Šnircová (P. J. Šafárik University in Košice)
- Professor Pavol Štekauer (P. J. Šafárik University in Košice)

Addresses for

- PROPOSALS FOR SEMINARS, ROUND TABLES AND LECTURES  
[esse2014proposals@upjs.sk](mailto:esse2014proposals@upjs.sk)
- GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ESSE 2014 CONFERENCE  
[esse2014info@upjs.sk](mailto:esse2014info@upjs.sk)

**[www.esse2014kosice.sk](http://www.esse2014kosice.sk)**

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**In memoriam: Norman Blake (1934-2012), ESSE Secretary 1996-1999**

*Graham Caie  
University of Glasgow, Scotland*



It is with the greatest regret that we report the death of one of ESSE's greatest friends and supporters, Norman Blake, who served as Secretary of ESSE from 1996-99. He suffered a major stroke in 2004 which left him severely handicapped and he died on 29 July this year. These final years were extremely frustrating for a man with such energy, enthusiasm and with so much more to contribute to the scholarly world. He was one of the most prominent and influential scholars of Middle English literature and language, in particular Chaucerian scholarship.

I had the privilege of following Norman as Secretary of ESSE and he was a major source of help and support to me in that role. In addition to working with

him in the field of Chaucerian studies, I got to know him well as a fellow assessor of English departments in the UK and in Denmark (he spoke Danish well) and Finland. In these assessment visits he gained the name of Stormin' Norman, which he relished, but his bark was much fiercer than his bite! I also assessed Sheffield's English Department when he was Head of Department and was most impressed both by his large personal workload, as he refused to lessen his teaching commitments while Head, and by the respect in which his colleagues and the Vice Chancellor held him.

In these assessment visits Norman would tell me about his childhood. He was born in 1934 in Ceara, Brazil, as his English father was in the banking world there and his mother was half-Brazilian and half-German. The young Norman was sent to boarding school in England when four-years old, and, as war intervened and travel was difficult, he rarely saw his parents until 1946, spending summer holidays with relations in England. In 1944 he attended Magdalene College School and thence Magdalene College, Oxford, in 1953. At Oxford he was taught by famous scholars such as C.S. Lewis, J.A.W Bennett and Turville-Petre, who inspired his interest in Old Norse. After his first degree he completed a BLitt at Oxford by editing an Icelandic saga and his knowledge of Danish came from many visits to Copenhagen where he studied Old Icelandic manuscripts at the Arnamagnaeian Institute and from where he toured much of Scandinavia.

Norman's first full-time academic appointment was at the University of Liverpool at the age of twenty-five. He met Valerie in Liverpool and they were married in 1965 and their daughter, Dorinda, joined the family in 1973. He was characteristically very academically productive at Liverpool, editing the Old English *Phoenix* (1964), a model of a critical edition, and cultivating his growing interest in Caxton. Here he wrote *Caxton and his World* (1969), an edition of *Caxton's History of Reynard the Fox* (1970) and *Caxton's Own Prose* (1973). In 1973 Norman was appointed to the Chair of English Language at the University of Sheffield. At Sheffield he played a major part in the senior management of that institution while maintaining an exemplary research output. He was a highly successful Head of Department for many years, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts and finally Pro-Vice-Chancellor. A post he cherished was being Public Orator at Sheffield, which meant he had to devise and deliver official speeches, such as the orations at honorary graduation ceremonies.

One of his scholarly triumphs was the editing of the Hengwrt Manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales* in 1980. He promoted the idea that Hengwrt was more significant than the previously acknowledged Ellesmere manuscript and wrote many books and articles to promote this theory, such as *The Textual Tradition of the Canterbury Tales* in 1985. At this time he developed another major research area, namely historical linguistics and stylistics, culminating in the impressive *The Cambridge History of the English Language 1066-1476* (1992). One might also mention *The English Language in Medieval Literature*, *English Historical Linguistics*, *Introduction to the Language of Literature*, *The History of the English Language*, and many more. He also wrote some excellent books and articles on the language of Shakespeare.

When he retired from the Chair at Sheffield he took a research professorship first at the Humanities Research Institute at Sheffield University and then at Leicester's De Montfort University. His main responsibility there was leading the massive *Canterbury*

*Tales* project in collaboration with Peter Robinson. The aim was to digitize as many manuscripts and early editions of the *Tales* as possible. In this role he continued to supervise a number of PhD students, most of whom now have senior positions in academia.

And so we mourn the passing of a great scholar, a gifted administrator, a much-loved and inspiring teacher and supervisor, a brilliant colleague, a great supporter of ESSE, and a good friend.

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## Research

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### *The Fall of Princes and Lydgate's knowledge of The Book of the Duchess*

**Ben Parsons**

*University of Leicester, UK*

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Among John Lydgate's various tributes to Chaucer, one of the most puzzling is his reference to the *Book of the Duchess* in the *Fall of Princes* (c. 1438). In the prologue of this lengthy retelling of Boccaccio's *De Casibus Virorum Illustrium*, Lydgate introduces an extensive homage to 'my maistir Chaucer', which lists several of Chaucer's literary accomplishments: it opens with stanzas on 'Troilus & Cresseide', 'Boeces book, The Consolacioun', and 'a tretis, ful noble & off gret pris/ Vpon thastlabre' (Lydgate 1924-27, 1: 8-9). About midway through this catalogue, Lydgate turns to Chaucer's elegy for Blanche of Lancaster:

He wrot also ful many day agone,  
Dante in Inglissh, hymself so doth expresse,  
The pitous story off Ceix and Alcione,  
And the deth eek of Blaunche the Duchesse,  
And notabli dede his bisynesse (ibid).

What is remarkable here is not that this text is mentioned, but that it appears to be listed twice. In consecutive lines Lydgate refers to 'the deth... of Blaunche the Duchesse', acknowledging the putative occasion of the *Book*, as well as naming the 'story off Ceix and Alcione'. This apparently refers to the Ovidian episode Chaucer retells in lines 69-230 of the text, as his narrator turns to the *Metamorphoses* 'for defaute of slep', and recites the story of 'dreynte Seys the kyng' he reads there (Chaucer 2008, 333). What Lydgate refers to, then, is an episode embedded in the larger structure of the *Book of the Duchess* itself, which he seems to treat as a separate item.

One possible solution to this issue is that proposed by the great Victorian editor Walter Skeat, who argues that Lydgate is simply conflating similar lists made by Chaucer across his works, pulling together scattered references from the *Legend of Good Women* and the *Canterbury Tales*. Skeat writes: 'it is clear to me that Lydgate is simply repeating