

The ESSE President's Column

Liliane Louvel

In December, the former and the current ESSE Executive and Messenger editors had a meeting in Alcalá de Henares, hosted by the University of Alcalá and its Rector, Professor Fernando Galván (our former President). The city is close to Madrid and, while I was having a foretaste of Madrid and the Prado, I was attracted by the sound of a man playing the guitar close to the Museum. All things Spanish were there, even if a bit touristy..., still, the music, the language, the buildings, the clear bright light of a fine December morning, made me think of Europe. How close we all are, we Europeans, how different and yet similar, with the intermingling of our histories, a fact which, in a subtle way, distinguishes, but also unites us all. We can live and move on together, and this precious diversity is also a fruitful symbol of what ESSE is. I would like to insist on the wonderful opportunity ESSE represents for us all, academics. It is a link of the utmost importance and I will do my best to ensure that this link is not forgotten, but will stand first and foremost in our minds, while we also pay attention to the activities of our own national associations. The ESSE Executive will answer all invitations to national conferences, and current financial difficulties should not be a hindrance, as visiting and maintaining contact in-between our biennial conferences and annual board meetings is clearly one of our important missions.

It is of the highest importance for European countries and European academics to communicate, exchange information and establish links in these recessionary times, which cannot but have repercussions on our academic life. We are all striving to maintain our mission and the high level of training that our students have a right to expect, but it is more and more difficult to do so in good conditions. Research is impeded by shortcuts and various kinds of obstacles, though we are, to a certain extent, still lucky that the humanities do not require heavy equipment and laboratory fittings. We can still write and do our research in the secret space of our own studies and rooms. Still, it becomes more and more difficult to save time for this, as shortages make it a complex endeavour, often at the expense of our own private lives. That is the reason why meeting across frontiers and exchanging ideas, theories, tips and book projects, is to my mind, so vital. For we are all working on a subject distantly related to our everyday lives and we have to keep in touch with all things “English” (in a broad sense) while living in “another country”.

Therefore it is in my new capacity as President of ESSE that I am writing to you and, once more, I want to give my hearty thanks to the former team, its President, Professor Fernando Galván, as well as to its treasurer, Tim Caudery, and its secretary, Slávka Tomaščíková, who will both stay with me till the end of this year. I take this opportunity to remind you that their two positions are now open and that the deadline for applying for them is June 1. See all manner of detail in *The Messenger* 21.2, winter 2012 (p. 19).

As you may have noticed, Marina Dossena has stepped down from the position of editor, and I would like to thank her too for the good job she has done and the fine evocative picture she gave us, as a farewell sign, on the back cover of the winter 2012 *Messenger*. I also take this opportunity to welcome Hortensia Pârlog, who has accepted to take over and will be our dynamic, no nonsense, careful new editor.

In Alcalá, we discussed at length issues related to the future of ESSE and I will now share with you some of the points the ‘extended’ Executive thought it might be helpful to remind you of.

As a link, and a modern one at that, we want to remind you of the very useful ESSE website you can easily visit. We even have a Facebook page. Please take advantage of our 'electronic ESSE', for you will find there useful information: conference dates, calls for papers, new books, back issues of *The Messenger*, *EJES*, announcements for the Book Awards or Bursaries, etc..

Once more, I would like to call your attention to the fact that our bursaries are awarded every year and that the deadline is usually March 1. When you receive this issue, the date will be passed. Should you have failed to seize this opportunity, better store the information for next year.

And next year, our 12th ESSE conference will take place in Košice, Slovakia (Friday, August 29 - Tuesday, September 2, 2014); registration will begin on March 1, 2014. Please make sure you are ready to propose lectures, seminars, and round tables. The conference will be hosted by SKASE (The Slovak Association for the Study of English) and Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, and the chair of the academic programme committee is Slávka Tomaščíková. Good news: the registration fees will be around 100€, there will be relatively cheap accommodation, and everything will be within walking distance of the conference venue. So we hope you will attend it and make a success of it. If we look back only at our last two conferences, Turin 2010 and Istanbul 2012, we can say that ESSE conferences are quite successful and have gained momentum. So, good luck to the Košice organizing team and to us all.

In January of this year (24th -26th), I had the honour of being invited by HUSSE, The Hungarian Society for the Study of English, to their conference held in Budapest, to give a plenary lecture and performatively open the conference. It was a very warm (not weather wise!) and lively conference. About 200 people attended it and there were quite a great number of young scholars attending, which is really a matter for rejoicing. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and by the four departments of English and American studies. Professor Nóra Séllei was reelected president of HUSSE during the conference. So she will continue to sit on the board of ESSE, to our greatest pleasure. There I also met again Hortensia Pârlog and Slávka Tomaščíková, who also gave a plenary lecture. A great number of workshops in the various subdisciplinary fields took place during the three days of the conference. They were very stimulating and varied. Research in «things English» is going strong in Hungary.

Special events also were given pride of place, in particular the Hungarian Book Award (senior and junior categories), and the Hungarian Scholarship in English and American Studies, with its presentation of the books and summaries of recent HUSSE publications. Our former Board member and HUSSE president, György Endre Szönyi (Szeged) and Professor Ádám Nádasdy (Budapest) were awarded a Grand Award for their work of a lifetime. You can see the pictures on our website.

The next Board meeting will take place in Cluj, at the invitation of Professor Adrian Radu, whom I thank here for opening the doors of his Romanian University to us. In Cluj, the Board will elect its future secretary and treasurer and select its award bursaries winners, as well as prepare the Košice conference, by analyzing the various reports, in particular that of the Academic Programme Committee. We will also welcome the organizing team of the 2016 ESSE conference in Galway, Ireland, who have already started planning the event.

In the meantime, I wish you all across Europe a fruitful, not too stressful academic year till June, as well as a restful, although often busy, summer.

The Editor's Column

Hortensia Pârlog

In the village where I was born and lived as a child, at one end of my street, there was a canal (*the Bega*) built by the Austrians in an attempt to drain the swampy region, after they drove the Turks away in 1716. We kids would spend our summers on its banks or swimming downstream and upstream in it, employing a variety of weird swimming styles that kept us afloat, but would be mocked at by today's specialists. The important thing, however, was that there were no stories of drowned children in those days: we simply jumped in and swam, with no fear of the flowing water. It is true that my father made me wear a kind of *sui generis* flotation device - the gas-mask metal container, to which he had attached some straps, so I could put it on my back (either that or no swimming).

For some reason, my taking over the editorship of *The Messenger* for a three year term reminded me of my childhood jumping into the Bega. I hope to be able to acquire equally fast the arm strokes and breathing techniques and kicks and tricks of accomplished newsletter swimmers, and, with the help of my editorial team, keep afloat and get to produce six decent, readable *Messenger* issues.

Besides information on ESSE matters, the current issue contains articles meant to pay a tribute to Charles Dickens, whose 200th birthday we celebrated in 2012; they reflect the considerable interest that this great writer still holds for many members of the academia nowadays. I have always found his use of language fascinating and remember how I used examples from his work to demonstrate the difficulty of translating synonymic strings into my native language (think of how you would translate the much quoted '*Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind-mill, Scrooge! – a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner*' (*A Christmas Carol*)), or to illustrate the use and meaning of modal-auxiliary verbs ('*I may not and I cannot go home; and I might not, could not, would not, and should not go home*' (*Great Expectations*) or various rhetorical techniques, like two-part contrasts¹ ('*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, ...*' etc. (*A Tale of Two Cities*) or three-part lists ('*It was very odd, to see what old letters Charley's young hand had made; they, so wrinkled, and shrivelled, and tottering*' (*Bleak House*)).

Nowadays, in our global age, when our lives have a more international dimension, our need to communicate fast, via the internet of course, and our eagerness to be knowledgeable about everything and interconnect with people with whom we do not share a common mother tongue have influenced our use of language; two papers by reputed linguists pay attention to this topic and its practical and theoretical outcomes. Europe's multilingual policies are also presented in a project report. Skimming through the book that has resulted from this survey of multilingualism in Europe, it occurred to me that a good example of sound language policy (which for some reason was neglected in the survey) would have been my own hometown, which boasts schools in Romanian, German, Hungarian, and Serbian, as well as theatres in the first three of these languages.

Readers will also find of interest some contemporary poetry pages, with presentations of the authors, conference reports, and several book reviews.

I wish you pleasant reading!

The password for the online edition of this Messenger issue is ***bodley2013***.

¹ Atkinson, Max. 1984. *Our Masters' Voices: The Language and Body Language of Politics*. London: Routledge.

12th ESSE CONFERENCE in KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA



Friday 29 August – Tuesday 2 September, 2014

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

DEADLINES

Proposals for posters, individual papers at seminar sessions and PhD students' workshops: 28 February 2014. The deadline for proposing seminar and round table topics has already passed.

Registration will begin on 1 March 2014.

SEMINARS

Seminar topics will be announced on 30 September 2013 on the conference website, and proposals for papers to be presented within each seminar can then be submitted to the seminar convenors. 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 presented in no more than 15 minutes and reduced versions of the papers will be circulated beforehand among the speakers. Further directions will follow in the call for papers for seminars that will be published on the conference website on 30 September 2013 and in the Winter 2013 issue of *The Messenger*. The deadline for individual paper proposals will be 28 February 2014.

ROUND TABLES

Round table topics will be announced on 30 September 2013 on the conference website. Round tables are not sequences of papers but debate sessions, with speakers selected in advance by the round table convenors.

POSTERS

Posters will be devoted to research-in-progress and project presentations of the doctoral students. The aim is to provide additional opportunities for feedback and personal contacts. Further details will appear on the conference website on 30 September 2013 and in the Winter 2013 issue of *The Messenger*. The deadline for poster proposals will be 28 February 2014.

WORKSHOPS FOR PhD STUDENTS

Young scholars who are writing their PhD theses in English Studies and are at least in the second year of their studies at the time of the workshops 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 received 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. Further details will appear on the conference website on 30 September 2013 and in the Winter 2013 issue of *The Messenger*. The deadline for the submission of applications will be 28 February 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. Livia 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)

**GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ESSE 2014 CONFERENCE IN KOŠICE
SHOULD BE SENT BY E-MAIL TO: esse2014info@upjs.sk**

www.esse2014kosice.sk

IN MEMORIAM: LJILJANA INA GJURGAN (1950-2012)

Aidan O'Malley
University of Zagreb

On 23 September 2012 I received the news that my friend and colleague, Professor Ljiljana Ina Gjurgjan, had passed away. For the previous two months I and many others had been following with trepidation her battle with a sudden and devastating illness. While we feared the worst, it was a real shock to hear that Ina had died. Those of us who knew Ina felt that her innate dynamism and determination would ultimately prevail over her illness. Indeed, evidence of her spirit emerged later, when we learnt that even as she struggled for life in a hospital in Zagreb, her thoughts turned frequently to the paper she was to present at the ESSE conference at Istanbul, the *EJES* issue she and I were editing, and the courses she was teaching in the next semester.

Ina held the Chair of English Literary Studies at the University of Zagreb, where she had also done her studies. Her PhD was written under the supervision of Professor Ivo Vidan, one of the most important figures in Croatian English Studies. In many respects, Ina's career can be seen as preserving and expanding upon Vidan's intellectual legacy. From him she developed an abiding interest in intertextuality and in Joyce and Yeats, which is reflected in her two books: *Kamov and the Young Joyce* (Zagreb, 1984), and *Myth and Nationhood in Turn-of-the-Century Literature: Vladimir Nazor and W.B. Yeats* (Zagreb, 1995). As these titles indicate, she sought to establish lines of communication between Croatian literature and its Anglophone counterparts, and she taught for periods in the Slavic Departments at the University of Michigan and Yale University, as well as at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (University of London). These books further point towards the ways in which her interests would evolve—towards explorations of the diverse intersections of literature and notions of national, cultural and gender

identities. Prompted by her abiding devotion to Joyce and Yeats, Ina was especially drawn to developments in the interdisciplinary field of Irish Studies and embedded this in the English Department's curriculum by creating a Visiting Professor of Irish Studies post at Zagreb. She believed that the ways in which literary, cultural, social, gender and political experiences were being thought together in Irish Studies could illuminate the dynamics operating between these in Croatia. Some of these correspondences were unveiled in the collection of essays she edited with Tihana Klepač, *An Irish Mirror for Croatian Literature* (Zagreb, 2007), others were brought out in a 2011 conference, *Ireland: East and West*, at which participants from around the world experienced her instinctive hospitality. Along with Professor Eve Patten (Trinity College Dublin), I am editing a volume that uses this conference as its basis and which will be dedicated to Ina. Ina and I were also in the process of editing a forthcoming issue of *EJES*, 'Myths of Europe: East of Venice' when she died. While it has been a somewhat uncanny task to work on this alone over the last few months, it has also been a way of both coming to terms with her passing, and honouring her work, in particular her dedication to bringing literatures from Central and Eastern Europe into dialogue with Anglophone literatures. In this, she was an exemplary European Anglicist.

IN MEMORIAM: DIETER KASTOVSKY
(December 26th 1940 – November 23rd 2012)

Teresa Fanego
University of Santiago de Compostela

Dieter Kastovsky, Professor Emeritus of English Linguistics at the University of Vienna and one of the most influential morphologists of recent times, died of a heart attack on November 23rd 2012 during a visit in Poznań (Poland).

Born in Freudenthal (Bruntal, The Czech Republic), Kastovsky grew up in Esslingen (Schwaben, Germany), and studied English, Romance and German Philology at the universities of Tübingen, Berlin (Free University) and Besançon. Important influences in those early years were his supervisor in Tübingen, the Anglicist Hans Marchand, and Eugenio Coseriu, with whom he studied Romance philology.

After receiving his PhD, Kastovsky worked with Hans Marchand in Tübingen from 1967 to 1973. He was then appointed Professor of English Philology and Linguistics at Bergische Universität, Wuppertal, and, since 1981 until his retirement in 2009, held the chair of English Linguistics at the University of Vienna, where he was head of the Department of Interpreting and Translation (1986-1990, 1994-2004), head of the English Department (1990-1992), and director (dean) of the Centre for Translation Studies (2004-2006).

Ever since writing his dissertation on Old English deverbal substantives (Kastovsky 1968) at the University of Tübingen, his scientific interest was captured by the structure of English words, the dramatic changes undergone by English morphology in the transition from Old to Middle English, and the typological questions raised by those changes. In one way or another, these early interests are reflected in much of his published work; witness the monumental chapter on Old English semantics and vocabulary that he contributed to the *Cambridge History of the English Language* (Kastovsky 1992), and studies such as Kastovsky 1999, 2001, 2005, 2006, among many others, where he explored the nature of drifts, that is, global changes extending over several centuries, sometimes even millennia, to work their way through the community and the language. Along with this life-long concern for morphological and typological restructuring, following his marriage to Barbara Kryk, Dieter developed an interest in

fields new to him, including pragmatics and discourse analysis; see, for instance, Kryk-Kastovsky & Kastovsky (2006), Kastovsky & Kryk-Kastovsky (2008).

Beyond his research activities, Dieter, as aptly pointed out in a recent obituary, was “an ‘activist’ who believed in the importance of ... building networks of personal and professional contacts” (Beck 2012). His fondness for networking was manifested, for instance, in his commitment to the two most important European organizations in the fields of linguistics and English studies respectively, the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) and the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). In the case of the former, he was actively involved in setting it up in the late 1960s, serving from 1991 to 2006 as its Secretary and Treasurer. He also showed unfailing support for ESSE from the moment of its establishment in 1990, serving as President of the Austrian Association (AAUTE) and as Austria’s representative on the ESSE Board. He also had a deep connection and friendship with the east of Europe, no doubt rooted in his family history in the Czech town of Freudenthal, while his long membership and active role in AEDEAN, the Spanish Association for English and American Studies, bears witness to his passion for building bridges between all corners of the continent. Indeed, it is symptomatic of Dieter’s status as a true European that his last, and posthumous publication (Kastovsky 2012) is a written version of the plenary talk he delivered at the *22nd Conference of the Spanish Society for Mediaeval English Language and Literature (SELIM 2010)*, held at the University of La Rioja, Spain, in September 2010.

The world of English studies has become an emptier place following his loss. We will dearly miss Dieter - the professional scholar, the generous colleague, and the great friend.

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EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ENGLISH STUDIES

The general editors would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new ESSE President Liliane Louvel on her election and to welcome Hortensia Párlog as the new Editor of the *European English Messenger*. We would also like to thank Jacques Ramel for his untiring efforts to update the EJES website. Warmest welcome and thank you.

Calls for proposals for Volume 19 (2015) have gone out. Please note that the deadline for **proposals** for all of the issues is **31 October 2013**, with delivery of completed essays by **31 March 2014**. The new proposals illustrate EJES' continued emphases on new approaches to periods and contexts, posthumanist studies, and in postcolonial approaches to English Studies

MENDACITY IN EARLY MODERN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Guest Editors: Ingo Berensmeyer and Andrew Hadfield

Studies of early modern English literature and culture have rarely explored discourses and practices of lying and deception. This issue will therefore seek new ways of discussing the complex relationship between truth and falsehood, aiming to rethink the social, cultural and epistemological underpinnings of mendacity in early modern England (c. 1500-1750). While truth-telling is often assumed to be a universal paradigm (as attested by the Gricean maxim of quality), the codes of truth and lying are subject to historical change. What might appear to be an egregious falsehood at a particular time might seem relatively benign at another. In early modernity, what were the cultural norms of truthfulness and lying, and on what basis were they constructed? What were the consequences when someone did not share the assumed common project of truth-telling and deliberately tried to avoid telling what they knew to be the truth, or to claim as true what they knew to be false? What were the pragmatic (legal, political, social or gender-based) strictures on mendacious discourse, and which media, art forms or genres were exempt from these strictures?

Contributions may explore but are not restricted to topics such as the following:

- discursive and/or epistemological foundations of truth and lying in early modern culture and philosophy;
- lying in particular genres, discourses, media or art forms;
- particular cases of deception, fraud and slander;
- mendacity and religion;
- rhetoric;
- early modern popular culture and journalism, censorship;
- crime and fear.

Detailed proposals (500-1,000 words) for articles of c. 5,000-6,000 words, as well as all inquiries regarding this issue, should be sent to both the guest editors: Ingo Berensmeyer <ingo.berensmeyer@anglistik.uni-giessen.de> and Andrew Hadfield <a.hadfield@sussex.ac.uk>.

MODERN CREATURES

Guest Editors: Virginia Richter and Pieter Vermeulen

The notion of “the creature(ly)” has historically played a decisive but under investigated role in negotiating the flexible borders between the supernatural and human and animal life. This issues proposes to focus on the literary, cultural, and material histories of the creature(ly). It wants to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the contested zone where the natural and the supernatural meet in the modern age; it also aims to develop the notion of the creature(ly) as a powerful tool for future analyses of the affects, affinities, and anxieties that have marked this zone since the advent of modernity, and especially since Darwin.

Contributions can explore, but are not restricted to:

- how the notion of the creature(ly) has shaped and reflected changing gender relations and legal institutions of personhood, and has cut across the binary human/animal.

- the affinities between the notion of the creature(ly) and the diachronically related term “creativity,” which places the notion at the heart of modern conceptions of authorship and anxieties about artificial creation.
- the religious resonances in the notion of the creature(ly); its relation to religious notions of Creation and the Creator and political theological approaches.
- postcolonial and gender dimensions of the ways in which the notion of the creature(ly), like that of the monstrous, has historically served to police the borders of Western subjectivity.
- the relations between animal, human, and supernatural life in popular culture and children’s literature.
- the ways in which these relations have been shaped (and often triggered) by scientific discourses and practices, and have been sedimented in a broad range of material practices (like zoos).

Detailed proposals (500-1000 words) for articles of c. 5000-6000 words, as well as enquiries about this issue, can be sent to the guest editors: Virginia Richter <richter@ens.unibe.ch> and Pieter Vermeulen <pieter.vermeulen@english.su.se>.

POETICS AND PARTITION

Guest Editors: GJV Prasad, Stephanos Stephanides

Bapsi Sidhwa, author of the South Asian partition classic *Ice-Candy Man* aka *Cracking India*, has famously said ‘memory demands poetic license’. This issue invites contributions that work to develop a ‘poetics’ of partition by considering the *licentia poetica* of the diverse literary and cultural productions relating to the partitions of South Asia and Cyprus. Both South Asia and Cyprus experienced partitions and exchanges of populations in their transitions from British colonialism to post-colonial nation-states, yet have seldom been studied in counterpoint in the same context.

The issue thus queries: how is cultural memory formed in the afterlife of a partition, and what is the role of post-memory and prosthetic memory? How do people remember the world prior to partition, and how does this process shape possibilities for the future? What is the relationship between nation-state forms of memory, diasporic imaginaries, and cultural and personal memory for the victims of partition? What license has been taken and to what effect to re-imagine ways of being in the world in film, fiction, poetry, memoir, and testimony and how do these unsettle ideas and feelings of home/land, nation and community, or other ways of belonging?

Contributions may focus on either of the regions; transregional and comparative perspectives are also welcome. Please note that the deadline for proposals for all issues of this volume is 31 October 2013, with delivery of completed essays by 31 March 2014. Volume 19 will appear in 2015.

Detailed proposals (500-1,000 words) for articles of c. 5,000-6,000 words, as well as all inquiries regarding this issue, should be sent to both guest editors: GJV Prasad gjvprasad@yahoo.com; Stephanos Stephanides steve@ucy.ac.cy

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. Issues may be guest edited by one or two or individuals and, more occasionally, by three (ideally from different locations in Europe). 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 *EJES* 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.

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