

The European English Messenger
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The ESSE President's Column

Fernando Galván

I am writing this column a few days after the ESSE Board meeting at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania. This was a superbly organised meeting thanks to the efficiency and hospitality of the Lithuanian representative on the Board, Regina Rudaityte. Some important issues were discussed during the two days we spent in Vilnius, which I wish to report to all our membership. Twenty-four national associations sent their representatives to the meeting, and we had the pleasure of welcoming new Board members (such as the representatives of the Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish associations, whose names appear in the last two pages of this issue of *The Messenger*), as well as Stavros St. Karayanni and Åke Bergvall, deputising respectively for the representatives of the Cyprus and Sweden associations, who were unable to attend. We were also especially happy to welcome Yelena Chernozemova, from the Russian association, who had not been able to attend the Board meetings for a number of years. In addition to the new members and the "old" ones, we also invited, as observers, two colleagues from the suspended Latvian association, Sigma Ankrava and Ināra Penēze, as well as a colleague from the University of Minsk, in Belarus, Yuri Stulov. The purpose of having them as observers was, on the one hand, to encourage the Latvian association to organise itself again and apply for readmission, and on the other, to inform colleagues in Belarus about ESSE and to learn about the prospects of their constituting an association of English Studies with a view to its future incorporation into ESSE.

The meeting was indeed very fruitful, because the renewal of contacts with our Russian and Latvian colleagues, as well as the beginnings of relations with Belarus, are both good evidence of ESSE'S growing involvement in Eastern Europe, and of course of the Society's solidarity with Eastern European colleagues. I do hope that sooner rather than later we shall

be able to strengthen the ties between these national associations and ESSE. The bad news in this respect, however, was that the Board had to suspend the Estonian association for the same reasons that led the Board at last year's London meeting to suspend the Latvian association, namely lack of activity, lack of contacts with ESSE, and failure to pay fees. In the last few months the Executive has been trying hard to re-establish contact with colleagues from the Estonian association, but to no avail. The decision taken by the Board was, thus, to suspend its affiliation to ESSE as of January 2008, unless reasonable contacts and activities are resumed before that date.

I also wish to recall other important matters discussed at the meeting. One was, of course, the election of a new Secretary and a new Treasurer who, according to our constitution, will have to replace Aba Pârlog and Lachlan Mackenzie in January 2008. The outgoing Secretary and Treasurer, who will have held these positions for six years at the end of 2007, have done their jobs so efficiently that I am sure most members of the Board would have supported an extension of their terms in office for a number of years. But our constitution does not allow it, as it clearly states that no officer can hold a position for more than two consecutive terms. Let me take this opportunity, then, to warmly thank Aba Pârlog and Lachlan Mackenzie for their extreme generosity and sterling work for ESSE. This first year of mine as President has only confirmed, day after day, what I already knew: that they are excellent professionals, who constantly and carefully attend to their duties as officers of the Executive. Over this past year their personal support, knowledge and wisdom have been of invaluable help to me. Thus, on behalf of the ESSE Board, let me echo here the heartfelt congratulations and gratitude that the Board extended to both of them in Vilnius, their last meeting as members of the Executive.

But at the same time as I must say a sad good-bye to Aba and Lachlan, I am also happy to welcome the new officers of the Executive, both elected by an ample majority of the Board. Slávka Tomaščíková, the incoming Secretary, is a founding member and currently the President of the Slovak Society for the Study of English (SKASE), and a very active scholar in linguistics (especially pragmatics), media studies and British cultural studies at the Pavel Josef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia. Slávka also holds a Masters degree in Russian language and literature, which she gained at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow, and has pursued further studies in the UK: at Norwich, Glasgow, Oxford, Warwick and Ulster. Tim Caudery, the incoming Treasurer, is a graduate of the University of Leeds, with postgraduate studies from the Universities of Leeds, Reading and Aarhus (Denmark), where he now teaches English Language, particularly the phonetics and the history of the language and does research in Applied Linguistics (second language acquisition and teaching). He is the current President of the Nordic Association for English Studies and has been a very active member of the ESSE Board for a number of years, with particular experience in financial matters, having twice audited the ESSE accounts. In short, I think that the ESSE Nominations Committee (formed by Fritz-Wilhelm Neumann, Marina Bondi and Martin Procházka) made a good selection, and the Board elected two excellent candidates. I very much look forward to working with them closely from January 2008.

The Board also decided unanimously to appoint the former President of ESSE, Adolphe Haberer, Honorary Life President as a token of respect, consideration and recognition of the splendid work he did during his Presidency, in his enthusiastic and unflagging efforts to join all our forces in the admirable task of expanding the ESSE project throughout Europe. Another important agreement adopted by the Board was the decision to finance in 2008 the publication of the second volume of the *European History of English Studies* (also known as *EHES 2*), edited by Balz Engler and Renate Haas, which, like the first volume (*European English Studies: Contributions towards the History*

of a Discipline, 2000), will be published by The English Association. This new book, which we hope to present at the Aarhus conference next August, will certainly be another step forward in our knowledge about English Studies in Europe.

A particularly exciting item on our agenda at the Vilnius meeting was the demonstration of the Database of European Journals in English Studies by Fritz-Wilhelm Neumann, Chair of the Committee behind the database project. The database has been developed at the University of Erfurt and, by decision of the Board, is now accessible through the ESSE website. Although still at an early phase of technical development, it is a useful research tool containing information about more than 400 journals in our field. You are warmly invited to visit the Database (www.essenglish.org) and send suggestions for improvement, because it has been designed deliberately to help all scholars in English Studies across Europe and to disseminate knowledge of our research and publications.

I would also like to call your attention to our next conference in August 2008 at the University of Aarhus in Denmark. On behalf of the organising committee, Dominic Rainsford explained the main decisions taken by the APC (Academic Programme Committee) and other details of the organisation. The Board studied the programme, made suggestions and adopted several decisions on fees, registration dates, and deadlines for submissions of proposals for papers and posters. This information is available in this issue of *The Messenger* as well as on the website. Our conference-machine is now up and running and my final words are, logically, to encourage all of you, on behalf of the organising committee of ESSE-9 and of the Board of ESSE, to attend and actively participate in this conference. As you will see, there are some exciting new features in the academic area (more plenary lectures, or posters, for instance); and, in the financial sphere, more generous fee-waivers, directed especially at our Eastern European colleagues, and cheaper fees for everybody, much lower than for the London conference. Not to mention the attractiveness of a place like Aarhus! In short, there is no excuse this time for failing to attend.

Finally, it would not be fair if I do not add just a few words about the tireless and excellent work done by both the Editor of *The Messenger*, John Stotesbury, and the ESSE Webmaster, Jacques Ramel. The success of many of the initiatives I have mentioned in the previous paragraphs would be utterly impossible if these two important channels of communication between the Executive and the Board, on the one hand, and general membership, on the other, did not work properly. John keeps us duly informed twice a year, with such interesting and readable stuff, and also keeps an alert eye on the best ways to generate income for ESSE by means of academic advertisements. Some members of the Board publicly voiced in Vilnius a feeling that many colleagues share all over Europe: that *The Messenger* is a basic tool of communication among our associations and also constitutes a distinctive token of what ESSE is as a common and shared value of all European colleagues in English Studies. The feeling of belonging to ESSE is certainly reinforced every semester by the presence in our hands of a new issue of *The Messenger*. Jacques's work on the website is also superb. This has been fortunately noticed and remarked upon to me

by many colleagues from different countries, who appreciate the massive amount of innovative work that Jacques Ramel has been contributing for a number of years now to our website. It is constantly updated, with references to new appointments, new initiatives, new graphic designs, new materials, new links with the websites of our associations. You can always find the most recent information about conferences, calls for papers, the latest issues of *The Messenger*—and all sorts of documents pertaining to our fields of study. Once you get used to <www.essenglish.org>, you cannot live without it. It is our most effective and quickest channel of communication with the rest of the world. New features are being constantly posted and updated, one of them, by the way, being this modest column of mine every six months, which tries to encourage members and general public alike to acquaint themselves with ESSE and its work across Europe. John Stotesbury and Jacques Ramel clearly deserve our gratitude and recognition. It is thanks to people like them, and the many other colleagues mentioned in this column, that ESSE keeps abreast of current trends and optimistically marches ahead into the future.

Editorial Notes, Password, Erratum

Thanks are due, as usual, to the many contributors to this issue of the *Messenger*. Once again, the bulk of the issue will be made accessible in pdf format on the *Messenger* pages of the ESSE web-site at <www.essenglish.org>. Following our agreement with EBSCO, the main articles will also become available online through any library with an agreement with that company.

The web-site password for this issue is **StJohn**.

Material of all kinds for inclusion in future issues of the *Messenger* is, as ever, extremely welcome.

The deadline for copy to reach me for the Spring 2008 issue will be 15 March 2008.

It has been rightly suggested that I should have made it absolutely clear that in the last issue of the *Messenger*, 16.1, the article on pages 25-32, "Editing Shakespeare for the Twenty-First Century," by Professor Jonathan Bate and Dr Héloïse Sénéchal, was a promotional essay supplied by arrangement with the publishers Macmillan Palgrave in connection with the appearance of their advertisement on page 28 of the same issue. The same is partially true for the ad on page 51 in the present issue.

John A Stotesbury

Joensuu, Finland, 15 October 2007

ESSE Treasurer's Column

Lachlan Mackenzie

On 31 December 2007, my period as Treasurer of ESSE will come to an end, and I will transfer the books to my successor, the current Board member for Scandinavia, Tim Caudery – an excellent choice, if I may say so. Back in 2001, I agreed to take on this job as a way of prolonging my involvement with ESSE. As Board member for the Netherlands, I had enjoyed the cosmopolitan company of the annual meetings and believed firmly in the value that ESSE adds to our profession. I knew that my predecessor, Carmelo Cunchillos, had instilled rigorous financial discipline into the Society and imagined that my task would involve little more than continuing on the track he had beaten so effectively. To some considerable extent, this was indeed how things turned out: in fact, he left me with such copious reserves that I asked the Board's permission to keep the annual fees fixed at Euro 7 and to meet rising costs by gradually eroding the treasure trove. Only this year have we finally had to raise the fee by Euro 2, "the price of a cup of coffee in many restaurants", as someone remarked.

Yet so many other aspects of the job turned out to be unpredictable in January 2002. I had not foreseen that opening a bank account for an international society in Amsterdam, with Executive officers from three different countries and official registration in a fourth (Switzerland) would prove so complex and time-consuming; and transfer of access to ESSE's London account took almost two years of letters, e-mails and phone calls. The European legislative combat against money-laundering has rendered life for the financial officers of an organization such as ours much more challenging! On the positive side I had not predicted the extent to which, under Ado Haberer's enlightened Presidency (2001-2006), his colleagues in the Executive – my excellent colleague Aba Pârlog as Secretary, and myself – were to be involved in the day-to-day deliberation and decision-making; and there was almost equally frequent

e-mail correspondence with Martin Kayman and John Stotesbury as Editors of the *Messenger* and Jacques Ramel as our Webmaster. I felt that the first engineer had been given a place on the bridge of the ship and greatly enjoyed my participation in the project of expanding the scope of our Society. Another thing I did not fully realize when I began was how my role would put me at the hub of a network of Association Treasurers, with whom I have had very pleasant relations over the years. These were often initially virtual relations which turned personal during ESSE Conferences. The Association Treasurers are the unsung heroes and heroines who ensure that this newsletter reaches its readers wherever they move in the world.

Alongside the collection of fees from the member Associations and the invoicing of advertisers, one major task of the Treasurer is to update ESSE's database of names and addresses, from which the labels attached to the *Messenger's* address cards are generated. The database is also used to check that applicants for the ESSE Book Award and Bursaries are indeed entitled to apply. Most of the mutations to the database come from Association Treasurers and Secretaries, but others reach me directly. As I implement the changes, I often sense the pulse of life behind the data: the arrival in France of fresh-faced English-speaking *lecteurs* and *lectrices*, often with a *chez* in the address; enthusiastically submitted changes of name and address betokening a marriage of people who have found each other through a common commitment to English Studies; quiet, confidential requests for double-barrelled names to be reduced to a single barrel presumably in consequence of a divorce; proud demands that the titles Prof. Dr. be added on the first acquisition of a professorial chair; and sadly, after years of receipt of the *Messenger* at "Résidence Le Soleil Couchant", a

sober indication from the manager that delivery will no longer be required.

Another annual source of pleasure comes from the letters and reports submitted by beneficiaries of the ESSE Bursaries. Whereas the Treasurer's only official tasks are to transfer the bursaries to the recipients' bank account and after their return to gather in their statements of expenditure and the report on their activities, it is heart-warming to find that many of them express their gratitude to me personally, and enthusiastically send details of their experiences in their place of study. And, *mutatis mutandis*, this is no less true of those senior colleagues to whom an ESSE Book Award is granted.

All in all, then, I wish to thank ESSE for the trust they have put in me over the years. This

was not blind trust, of course, since my books were audited annually by two colleagues selected by Board! But I was pleased to be given scope to try and derive maximum benefit for the members of the Associations from the limited resources available to the Society. In future years, ESSE will have to be even more inventive in finding ways of increasing income to face rising costs and hopefully to expand its activities. It will also have to adapt itself to the changing face of English Studies in Europe as our teaching practices evolve under Bologna, as the financing of research takes on new forms, and as the globalization of our profession encourages contacts beyond our continent. The new team is raring to go under Fernando Galván's leadership, and I wish them all well!

ESSE Budget for 2008

Income	Euro
Fees	56700
Withdrawal from the reserve	7650
Advertisements in the <i>Messenger</i>	2500
Sales of <i>EHES I and II</i>	1500
Interest	1500
Total	69850
Expenditure	
<i>The Messenger</i>	
Printing and postage	32000
Editorial expenses	700
Executive and website expenses	14500
Incl. Executive's guests	
Printing and postage of <i>EHES II</i>	2700
Postage and stationery	350
Board dinners and lunches	2000
Bank charges	450
ESSE Book Awards	4500
Bursaries	12000
Auditing	650
Travel; hotel	
Total	69850

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Christopher Norris

Duchamp' Ego - Jean-Michel Rabaté

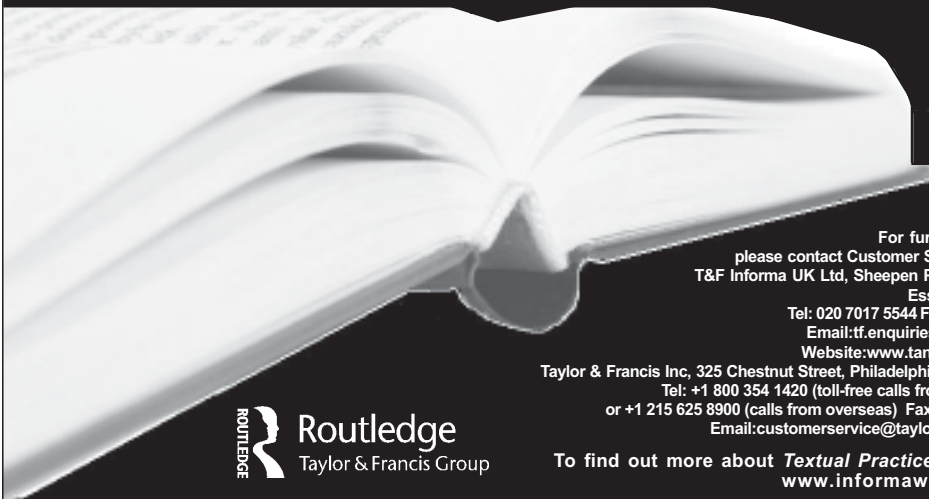
When did Hamlet become modern? - Margreta de Grazia

Celan's folds and veils - Charles Bernstein

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Joys of an ESSE Secretary

Hortensia Pârlog

In Romanian folk tales, the main character (Prince Charming or an emperor's youngest son or a poor, but extremely smart and brave young man) goes *over seas and over lands* – “peste mări și peste țări” – (often nine or seven, but also an unspecified number), in other words, he goes far away, to the end of the world, where things are done differently, and woods are darker, springs clearer, birds and other creatures more helpful, and the number of fairies per square meter higher. He goes there not only driven by his thirst for knowledge; he usually pulls off some extraordinary feats single-handedly – most frequently cuts off the seven or nine heads of a dragon (a kind of primitive terrorist) or saves a breath-takingly beautiful young lady, who had been kidnapped and kept in an isolated tower by a dragon, as an expression of his love of and admiration for beauty. He thus becomes a hero, highly praised for his courage and noble qualities not only by his own people, but also by the real world “beneficiaries” of the tales – their listeners and readers, who end by cherishing recurrent dreams that one day they will also travel *over seas and over lands*, and will perform marvellous deeds in some mysterious, distant regions (the dragon part is usually absent in the dreams).

This introduction will serve, I hope, not only as a plausible explanation for a topical problem exploited by the media – the obsessive Romanian migration towards the West these days, but will also make you somehow understand why, six years ago, I was so very pleased to have been entrusted by ESSE with the task of watching, from a secretarial position, over activities in the field of English Studies all over Europe. The job has entailed some paper work, a lot of message/letter writing, but it has also entailed travelling over more or less distant lands and waters (not seas, mind you!), and coming into contact with brilliant academics, of

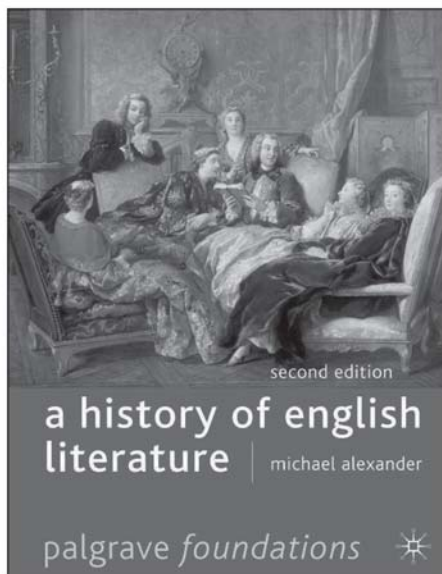
whom I had heard, but whom I had never hoped to meet in flesh and blood. I have enjoyed doing this enormously. I have not performed extraordinary feats, I have not beheaded any dragon (except perhaps, here and there, a very sly one - that of indifference), and, of course, I have done nothing single-handedly, as I was privileged to be a member of a wonderful ESSE Executive, for whom the key-words were “collaboration” and “trust”; but I have done my duty to the best of my knowledge, keeping ESSE membership informed about ESSE activities, being in constant touch with all ESSE affiliates (at times, it seemed, even against their wishes!), reacting promptly to all queries and requests, initiating ESSE projects. This has been a very rich, fruitful six year period for me. I have met most interesting people, made life-long friends, learned a lot more about human nature – dreams, hopes, ambitions, fears – and about what makes academic institutions function properly. And last, but not least, I was given the chance to set foot in some of the oldest, most famous universities in the world.

Therefore, I can only end by saying “Thank you, ESSE!”

P.S. To get to the far away lands, the folk tale hero rides a fiery horse, that also serves as most trusted personal adviser. He gets to his destination with all his belongings in perfect state – mace, scimitar, dagger, spear and all. In the 21st century, as ESSE Secretary, I have traveled by air, have always reached my destination, but the state of my belongings was usually pitiful: as a rule, my carrier would have a cracked or missing handle, or one (or two) missing or torn wheel(s), or a missing lock or all these combined; or sometimes it would be all tattered and torn and delivered in a plastic bag, as if it were a corpse with scattered entrails, or, even worse, it would be totally missing. This, however, has never affected my work!

'If I had my way, every student of English would be supplied with a copy of this book.'

Gary Day, the *Times Higher Education Supplement*



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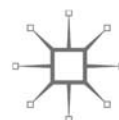
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ESSE BURSARIES for 2008

In 2008, ESSE continues to offer TWO types of Bursaries:

1. A number of bursaries of up to 1000 euros each will be available for scholars in need of support to pursue a project or programmes of research leading to the writing of a PhD dissertation.

2. A number of bursaries of up to 1500 euros each will be available for scholars already holding a doctorate or its equivalent and employed at Universities in Central and Eastern Europe who are in need of support to pursue a project or programme of research.

In both cases, winners are expected to make a short-term visit to an outstanding English-speaking country in order to use resources there relevant to their research.

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

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 2008**. Notification to the applicants should be in the post by 15 April 2008. There is no application form proper. Applicants should send:

- a letter requesting ESSE support and stating briefly how the funds will be used
- a provisional budget (a model can be found on the ESSE web-site)
- a CV and a list of publications
- a detailed description of the project (between 500 and 1000 words)
- a letter issued by the president or the secretary of the national organization to certify the membership of the applicant (or of his/her supervisor in Germany and the UK)
- for the first type of Bursary, a letter of recommendation, sent directly by the supervisor of the PhD candidate.

These documents should be sent (*preferably in one, unified, MS Word or PDF document*) by e-mail, by fax or by snail mail to each of the three members of the selection committee.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Professor Maria Georgieva, Department of English and American Studies, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 15 Tsar Osvooboditel blvd., 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria. E-mail: <mageorg@nlcv.net>.

Professor Liliane Louvel, UFR Lettres et Langues, Université de Poitiers, 95 avenue du Recteur Pineau, 86022 Poitiers Cedex, France. E-mail: <liliane.louvel@univ-poitiers.fr>.

Professor György Endre Szönyi (Chair of Committee), Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, H-6722 Szeged, Egyetem u. 2, Hungary. E-mail: <geszonyi@freemail.hu>

ESSE BOOK AWARDS

A book prize of 1500 euros will be awarded by ESSE every two years, coinciding with the biennial conference, for books in each of the following fields:

- a) **English language and linguistics**
- b) **Literatures in the English language**
- c) **Cultural studies in English**

The deadline for the next book award is **1 February 2008**. The winners will be announced on the occasion of ESSE/9 in Aarhus. The books that may be submitted for consideration will have to be *books published in 2006 or 2007*.

The requirements are as follows:

(1) Books eligible for prizes will be those published in English; they should have an ISBN number. PhD dissertations published in book format, with an ISBN number, are accepted. Editions of collected essays will **NOT** qualify for these prizes. The books must be works of scholarly research in the field of English studies. Undergraduate textbooks will not be considered.

(2) Any number of books may be submitted by the same author (provided that they are published within the admitted period of time).

(3) No age, geographical or nationality discrimination will be made; books will be evaluated strictly on the basis of their academic value.

(4) **Authors must be members of national associations affiliated to ESSE**, and should submit for consideration **THREE REVIEW COPIES** of the book. Three copies of the submitted book are absolutely necessary.

(5) The book(s) submitted **shall not** be returned.

(6) The candidates will first write to the ESSE President <fernando.galvan@uah.es>, informing him of their intention to participate, declaring their affiliation to a national association which is a member of ESSE, giving their university address, mentioning the field to which their book belongs, and indicating whether the book will be sent by the author or by the publisher.

(7) After receiving the President's approval, the three review copies will be sent to him (*Professor Fernando Galván, Vicerrectorado de Planificación Académica y Profesorado, Univeridad de Alcalá, Plaza San Diego, s/n, 28801 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain*) **BY 1st FEBRUARY 2008. The deadline must be observed.**

(8) The selection committees (three members each) will be appointed by the Board of

ESSE in each of the three fields named above. Their composition will not be made public. Board members shall not pass on any information concerning this matter to the members of their associations. The Executive will replace any members who are unable to carry out their duties.

The Chairs of the selection committees will report progress regularly to the President. The members of the three committees can be Board members or ESSE members invited by the Board to do the selection job.

The members of the committees are excluded from submitting their own books.

(9) Two months before the opening of the conference a shortlist of a maximum of five books in each field will be announced on the ESSE Web site. Board members are asked to report to the President any misgivings that they may have about the propriety of awarding a prize to any book on the short list, with the President passing on such comments to the committees if he deems it appropriate. The Committees will recommend the awards to the Board, or they may recommend that no award be made in a particular field. The President will report to the Board whether the work of the committees has been satisfactorily conducted. The Board may then approve the recommendations of the committees or they may reject a recommendation, in which case no award will be given in that field. Winners will be informed immediately in confidence, and the awards will be publicly announced at the General Meeting of ESSE, in Aarhus.