

Editorial Notes

This is my twelfth, and final, issue as the editor of the *Messenger*. No doubt it's as much behind schedule as ever, but, hopefully, most of you will have long ago got used to checking the ESSE website for the most up-to-date information about conferences, bursaries, book awards and suchlike. Soon, at the turn of the year, my successor, Marina Dossena, of the University of Bergamo, will be facing up to the same kind of problems as those that confronted me almost six years ago, and after scratching her head for a while, like me she'll be finding practical solutions of one kind and another.

As she will soon also discover, editing a newsletter like *The European English Messenger*, with its circulation of more than 7,500 copies that go out to colleagues of all descriptions throughout Europe and further afield, is a curious and possibly unique experience. It has put me in contact with countless people, many of whom I would otherwise never have encountered, and I've been grateful for each and every one of their contributions, even those whose English required more than a little "tweaking." Sometimes, dauntingly, I've found that there's relatively little "feedback" (another unpleasant "neologism" that always reminds me of one of the less attractive habits of budgerigars and other parrot-like creatures) from the *Messenger's* putative readership, other than brief messages of receipt and thanks from the ESSE Executive and, usually, from one or both of my own immediate editorial predecessors (thanks, Martin and Neil!), and perhaps also from a few other "eccentrics." I've spent long moments in the dark silence of the Finnish winter (i.e., a major part of the past six years) wondering (a) whether the plastic-wrapped little monsters have reached their multitudinous destinations, or (b) whether they've been "binned" (another annoying neologism) unopened, unread, unappreciated.... Now that the end of my editorship is nigh, however, it seems that such doubts have been unnecessary. Delivery of the *Messenger* has indeed been erratic in some parts, and in others, it would seem, copies mailed in bulk to departments are sometimes neglected. But most, apparently, reach their destinations; they're unwrapped, the covers admired, the Contents page scanned for familiar names, and, when time and interest permit, contributions are read. Who could ask for anything more.

So, with mission accomplished, I'll be handing over the numerous editorial tasks to Marina with more than a sigh of relief, and, like each of my own predecessors in their turn, I'll wish her the very best of luck, and much editorial pleasure, for the coming years.

But do, please, remember, sometimes, to write to the editor and help to give her a sense that somewhere, out there, a readership exists!

Cheers!

John A Stotesbury

University of Joensuu (soon, from 1 January 2010,
to become part of the newly-formed University of
Eastern Finland)

14 October 2009



Messenger Passwords

Since Spring 2006 (issue 15.1), most of the contents of the *Messenger* have been made available on the ESSE website in PDF so that subscribers could download and print out sections of the newsletter in their original, printed format. And more recently it was decided by the ESSE Board that, after a period of two years, the contents should become freely available. But to preserve the perhaps less immediately tangible (but nevertheless significant) benefits of the original, printed version of each issue of the newsletter, immediate access to the electronic versions has always depended – and will continue to depend – on the possession of a password that appears in the Editorial column of the respective issue.

Now, obviously, the password could have remained unvarying, although arguably that might have persuaded the occasional penny-pinching member to cease paying his or her national association's annual subscription fee! For your convenience, therefore, and to gratify my own narcissism, these are the passwords:

Spring 2006 (15.1): SirJohn

Autumn 2006 (15.2): LongJohn

Spring 2007 (16.1): DemiJohn

Autumn 2007 (16.2): StJohn

Spring 2008 (17.1): John Doe

Autumn 2008 (17.2): DearJohn

Spring 2009 (18.1): johnnycake

– and, in true Lawrentian style, the final password of the series:

Autumn 2009 (18.2): John Thomas

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Literature Collections

Chadwyck-Healey Literature Collections make the works of canonical writers as well as their lesser-known contemporaries accessible in electronic form for sophisticated analysis. All users – from specialist researchers to undergraduates – can make new connections and create fresh avenues for critical debate, scholarly dialogue and linguistic research.

African Writers Series and Twentieth Century Drama are just two of these collections...

African Writers Series is an electronic edition of the Heinemann print series and contains hundreds of volumes of fiction, poetry, drama, myths, memoirs and reportage, including works by Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Doris Lessing, Nelson Mandela, Dambudzo Marechera, Christopher Okigbo, Okot p'Bitek, and Tayeb Salih.

Twentieth Century Drama includes contemporary authors such as David Mamet and August Wilson, as well as canonical figures ranging from George Bernard Shaw and Noël Coward to Eugene O'Neill and Thornton Wilder.

Both these collections will be completed in 2009

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The ESSE President's Column

Fernando Galván

During the past six years John Stotesbury has been editing this newsletter with great professionalism and devotion to ESSE. He was elected by the Board in Oxford in 2003, and re-elected in London in 2006 for a second term of office. So this autumn issue is the last issue to be edited by John. He succeeded Martin Kayman, who had also been in charge of *The Messenger* for six years (1998-2003), during which time it was transformed and greatly improved. When John was elected in 2003 he really had a great challenge before him, because it was obviously not easy at all to succeed Martin, but he has certainly done a very good job over the last six years, giving *The Messenger* a new and more attractive look, creating or improving several features, such as the book reviews section (in this particular case with the help of Ton Hoenselaars as reviews editor), and making this newsletter more easily and widely accessible through the agreement with EBSCO. Many readers can attest to that, and the Executive and the Board of ESSE, on behalf of the whole community of ESSE members across Europe, expressed our gratitude to him at the last Board meeting held in Szeged (Hungary) on 28-29 August. The classics said that *verba volant, scripta manent*; let us then record our gratefulness in the more permanent form of these lines, in faithful testimony and recognition of his generosity, efforts and talents, and all the time he has dedicated to ESSE.

At that same meeting in Szeged, the Board elected as new editor Marina Dossena, who will take over from John in January 2010. Professor of English Language at the University of Bergamo (Italy), she will become the first linguist ever to edit our newsletter. Marina, who introduces herself to you all in this issue, has rich and broad experience of editing or co-editing books, is a member of several editorial boards of national and international peer-reviewed journals and series, and has been assistant editor of the Italian newsletter (*AIA Newsletter*), as

well as Treasurer of her national association for a number of years. In addition, other aspects of her CV provide evidence of her long and fruitful service to English Studies in Italy and in Europe. I am sure she will bring all that expertise to bear in her editorship of *The Messenger*. On behalf of ESSE let me warmly welcome her and all her new ideas and projects (you will learn about this in her message to you), and wish her every success in her new task.

The Board meeting this year also honoured me by re-electing me for a second three-year term (2010-2012). I thanked them for their generosity as I thank all the Executive members (past and present) who have worked so closely with me (Aba Pârlog, Lachlan Mackenzie, Slavka Tomascikova, and Tim Caudery), and my predecessor, Ado Haberer, as well as the editor of *The Messenger*, John Stotesbury, and the webmaster, Jacques Ramel, to all of whom I owe a big debt of gratitude. This debt is also extended to many Board members, past and present, who have equally served ESSE as part of many committees, thus showing the depth and seriousness of their commitment to this collective endeavour. All that has been done would not have been possible without their assistance and their time. The Board's unanimous support has given me further strength and courage to continue with my duties as President. I shall do my very best not to disappoint the expectations so many people have again put on me.

But the Board took other important decisions which all members need to be aware of. One is concerned with the academic details of the ESSE-10 conference, which will take place on 24-28 August 2010 in Turin. As you will find information about this in this issue of *The Messenger*, let me simply draw your attention to the huge interest that this conference has raised among members all over Europe. The APC proposed, and the Board accepted, the organization of seventy-five seminars, for which

the period of submission of proposals of papers is now open (**the deadline is 31 January 2010**), as well as a good number of round tables, plenary and sub-plenary lectures, and poster sessions. I wish to thank again all national associations for their support and cooperation, and all individual members who have put forward their proposals for their massive response. As I wrote in my previous column in the spring, in a time of crisis and recession such as the one we are now going through, what we need more than ever is to come closer together, to participate in a huge conference as a manifestation of our solidarity and cooperation with colleagues who are having a rougher time of it. The registration fee, as announced in the spring, will be very similar to the previous conference in Aarhus, namely €20, but many colleagues in countries with currency problems, or young scholars poorly funded for their research, are eligible for reductions or fee waivers. The more delegates paying full fees that attend the conference, the greater number of reductions and fee waivers the organisers will be able to award to those who need them. Low-price accommodation will also be available, since the local organisers in Turin are making every conceivable effort to facilitate your presence in Turin. So please look out for the submission and application deadlines concerning accommodation applications, registration, etc. as they appear at our website <www.essenglish.org> and the ESSE-10 website <www.unito.it/esse2010>.

A new initiative addressed to young scholars was also accepted by the Board, and is now being implemented, as you will notice in the announcement of the ESSE Book Awards for

2010. Following the recommendations of the judging panels of previous rounds of the Book Awards, we have established a new category of prizes, in order to avoid competition between junior and senior scholars. This new category is aimed at junior scholars who have published their first research book in English in the years 2008 or 2009. Three prizes will be awarded under this category, in the same fields as the other awards, that is, a) English language and linguistics; b) Literatures in the English language; and c) Cultural studies in English. All young researchers, regardless of their nationality, publishers, or country of publication, are thus invited, and warmly encouraged, to submit copies of their books. The ESSE Board wishes to make these Awards an instrument of promotion and prestige in the careers of our most promising junior scholars across Europe.

Further changes will surely crop up in 2010, as we shall have to renew the editorial team of our peer-reviewed journal, *EJES*, and I am confident that at least two new national associations of English Studies will be established in eastern Europe which will probably become candidates for ESSE membership. I also hope that the Dutch association, which, having fallen dormant and inactive, has now been suspended from ESSE membership, will re-establish itself very soon. My wish is also that the existing associations will become bigger and more powerful, thus endowing all of us with a growing feeling of belonging to a large and strong community, a community of scholars in English Studies fully committed to the expansion of our knowledge and research across Europe, irrespective of national or supranational borders and interests.



Don Fernando y Sancho Tim

Marina Dossena

The New Editor of *The European English Messenger* (2010-13)

Times of change are always special, as they encourage us to consider achievements and assess challenges. And it is indeed with this sense of being at a very special point in time that I introduce myself to the readers of the *Messenger*. It was a great honour for me to be nominated as a candidate for the position of Editor, and it is now an even greater honour to take up the appointment: I am very grateful to the ESSE Board for their vote. And I'm very grateful to the current and previous Editors for all the advice and guidance they will provide. It will be difficult to keep up the standards set by my predecessors, but I'll do my best, and I am confident there will be many helping hands along the way, to whom I wish to express my gratitude in advance.

But readers will be more interested in what I intend to do than in my fears and hesitations, so here are a few words about myself and my vision for the *Messenger*.

Born in 1961, I have been a member of AIA, the Italian branch of ESSE, since I graduated in July 1985. I have therefore been a member of ESSE since its foundation. I was the AIA Treasurer between 2001 and 2005; before then I was involved in the editorial work concerning the preparation and distribution of its electronic Newsletter. I am Full Professor of English Language in the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Bergamo (Northern Italy, less than 50 km north-east of Milan), where I have been Head of the Department of Comparative Languages, Literatures and Cultures since 2006. My main research interests focus on 19th-century English (especially the language of correspondence), historical dialectology and Scottish Studies. As for the *Messenger*, I have always read it with great interest, and it is to my new charge that I now intend to turn.

1. Three keywords

The European English Messenger is now a well-established and prestigious newsletter in the scientific community. For this success we are certainly indebted to the people who, in various ways, contributed to its development: its Editors; ESSE Presidents and members of the ESSE Board; ordinary ESSE members who submitted articles, interviews, announcements and reviews; and all the

people whose invaluable work has made this newsletter a concrete reality. It will be vital, therefore, to ensure that the enthusiasm that has surrounded the newsletter over the years should be maintained, so that it may continue to flourish and indeed to improve its visibility and impact. To that end, it will be important never to lose sight of, indeed to highlight the three keywords that make up the name of the newsletter: 'European', 'English' and 'messenger', as they summarize both the mission and the communicative scope of the initiative.

1.1. A European newsletter

National associations have newsletters and scientific journals, the importance and significance of which is undeniable. *The European English Messenger* is thus expected to be a newsletter with added value, on account of its international perspective. The main aim is to highlight trends and developments in English studies in Europe, though not excluding the possibility of wider perspectives. This should be achieved by encouraging contributions from as many national associations as possible, so that the potential for and actual realization of teaching and research interaction may be discussed from a variety of angles. The newsletter's approach will thus be pluricentric, and to achieve that aim it would be ideal if my work were supported by a network of correspondents (one or two per national association), so as to ensure that contributions are not just spontaneous or invited by the Editor, but may also be invited by the national correspondents, who have more direct knowledge of the state of the art in their area.

It is my sincere hope that national associations will soon be able to let me have the contact details of the colleagues who might be my correspondents in their countries, so that the network can be established as soon as possible.

1.2. 360° English

It is a somewhat unfortunate fact that many scholars have recently associated ESSE with mainly, if not exclusively, literary studies. The increasing number of teaching, administrative and academic commitments in European universities appears to have affected English Language scholars more than

English Literatures ones, for the very simple reason that the former are typically fewer in number; the resulting time constraints have prevented many people from submitting contributions in their field of expertise, preferring to present their views and findings in other more specific contexts, instead of offering them for *The European English Messenger*. A number of other factors have exacerbated this tendency, namely that ESSE Conferences have recently been held and are actually scheduled to be held at the same time as the most important international conference on English Historical Linguistics; that *EJES* is listed under 'Literature' in the ERIH 'Initial' Lists; and, finally, that 2008 has seen the establishment of another international association, aiming to cater specifically for the interests of English linguists, which has further contributed to the estrangement of potential contributors.

It is my belief that ESSE should consider these trends very carefully. It is of course fundamental to maintain the current very high standards in the publication of literary articles, interviews and translations, but I hope to be able to re-awaken also the interest of linguists, so that disciplines may resume their dialogue, without allowing readers to assume that one has little, if anything, to say to the other. My experience as Head of a Department called 'Comparative Languages, Literatures and Cultures' and in the International Committee of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies has shown me that the potential for cross-fertilization between apparently contrasting but actually complementary interests can only be fruitful. Interviews, for instance, might concern poets and novelists, but also historians, sociologists, dialectologists and other scientists whose work is contributing to the creation of new interdisciplinary approaches. New tools, such as electronic atlases, second-generation corpora and complex websites, might be discussed in terms that highlight the usefulness they may have at various levels of investigation and for different types of research questions.

This is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the new Editor of *The Messenger*, and it will require a great organizational effort, but it is a result that is possible to achieve if it becomes a collective effort.

1.3. A timely messenger

It would be reductive to understand the function of *The European English Messenger* as a mere source of information: the ESSE website, in addition to numerous others, is already an excellent platform on which to announce events, upcoming positions, the TOCs and CFPs of books and journals, without the time gap and danger of obsolescence of information that a printed text inevitably faces. At the same time, *EJES* has a very important role as a scientific forum for more in-depth studies. In my view *The European English Messenger* should therefore be a newsletter in which, in addition to the more 'classical' features that have appeared so far, readers may find information on recent research trends, outlines of projects under way, preliminary findings and assessments of methodological tools. The aim would be to ensure that readers are encouraged to contribute on account of the prominence given to the textual form of the argument (which, in a printed newsletter, is much greater than in many electronic discussion groups), while preserving the timeliness that present-day research activities require.

2. Facing a new challenge

Times of change are typically times when we broaden our horizons; at the same time, however, we also need to maintain those lines of continuity that ensure stability and homogeneity. It is my sincere hope that Gráfica de Coimbra will be available to continue its cooperation with us, so that the current quality standards in print and distribution may be maintained. I also hope the current Book Reviews Editor will continue to help us, at least in these early stages of the new enterprise. In fact, it would probably be useful to have two Book Reviews Editors: one for literary studies and the other for language studies, so that potential contributors may have specific interlocutors; authors and publishers would also be interested in providing review copies of new publications if this section were sufficiently focused, so I think it is a possibility worth exploring.

Above all, I do hope readers will be willing to forgive any 'teething troubles'. I hope and expect that the President and the ESSE Board will be generous with comments and suggestions: I will definitely need everybody's support, and everybody's views will be very welcome at all times.

ESSE BURSARIES for 2010

In 2010, ESSE continues to offer TWO types of Bursaries:

1. 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. (NB The age limit for this type of bursary is 40.)

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 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 2011. 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 2010. 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, downloadable from the website, with sections for 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. Maria Georgieva, Department of English and American Studies, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel blvd., 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria. E-mail: <mageorg@nlcv.net>.

Prof. Isil Bas, Department of Western Languages and Literatures, Bogaziçi University, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Istanbul, Turkey. Email: <isil@boun.edu.tr>

Prof. Marcus Walsh, School of English, University of Liverpool, Modern Language Building, Chatham Street, Liverpool L69 7ZR, UK. E-mail: <marcus.walsh@liv.ac.uk>.

ESSE BOOK AWARDS 2010

For books first published in 2008 or 2009

ESSE Book Award (Category A): A book prize of 1500 euro will be awarded by ESSE in 2010, coinciding with the 10th Conference to be held in Turin, for books first published in 2008 or 2009 in each of the following fields:

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

ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars (Category B): A further book prize of 500 euro will be awarded by ESSE in 2010 to a junior scholar for a first research book published in English in each of the three fields mentioned above, provided that publication was in 2008 or 2009.

The deadline for submission of books is **1 February 2010**. The winners will be announced on the occasion of ESSE-10 in Turin.

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), except for category B, since junior scholars are expected to submit their *first research book* published in English.

(3) All books will be evaluated strictly on the basis of their academic value, without regard to publisher, country of publication or nationality of the author.

(4) **Authors must be members of national associations affiliated to ESSE.**

(5) **Three copies** must be provided of each book submitted for consideration. No book will be considered for an award unless three copies have been received. The copies **will not be returned**.

(6) Candidates should first write to the ESSE Secretary, Dr Slavka Tomascikova <slavka.tomascikova@upjs.sk>, informing her 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 copies of the book will be sent by the author or by the publisher. Candidates for the Category B award should also include a brief CV which must contain at least their date of birth, university affiliation, main field(s) of research and previous publications.

(7) After receiving the Secretary's approval, the three review copies should be sent to her (Dr Slavka Tomascikova. Department of British and US Studies. Faculty of Arts, P. J. Safarik University. Petzvalova 4. 040 11 Kosice. Slovakia) by **1 FEBRUARY 2010. 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 and for the two categories 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 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 and category will be announced on the ESSE Website. 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 shortlist, 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 committees can also recommend the conferment of “honourable mentions” to any shortlisted books. 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 or category. Winners will be informed immediately in confidence, and the awards will be publicly announced at the General Meeting of ESSE, in Turin.

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

The Nominations Committee of the ESSE Board seeks applications for the positions of **Secretary** and **Treasurer** of ESSE, which fall vacant in January 2011. The usual term of office is three years. Candidates, who should preferably have been involved in ESSE affairs or have held similar positions in their national associations, should submit, as e-mail attachments:

- **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 2010 at the latest, to the members of the Nominations Committee:

- **Smiljana Komar (Chair): <smiljana.komar@guest.arnes.si>**
- **Alberto Lázaro: <alberto.lazaro@uah.es>**
- **Risto Hiltunen: <risto.hiltunen@utu.fi>**

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 Turin, 23-24 August 2010.