

The European English Messenger

Volume 19.2 – Autumn 2010

Contents

ESSE MATTERS

- Fernando Galván, *The ESSE President's Column* 3
- Aoife Leahy and Päivi Pahta, *New Procedures for Book Reviews in the Messenger* 6
- Marina Dossena, *Editorial Notes and Password* 7
- ESSE Book Awards 2010 8
- ESSE Bursaries for 2011 12
- *EJES: European Journal of English Studies* 13
- ESSE 11, Istanbul 2012 17
- *In memoriam: Carmelo Cunchillos* 19

OBITUARIES

- David Musselwhite, Marcello Pagnini, Edwin Morgan 22

AUTHORS

- Anthony Rowland 26

RESEARCH

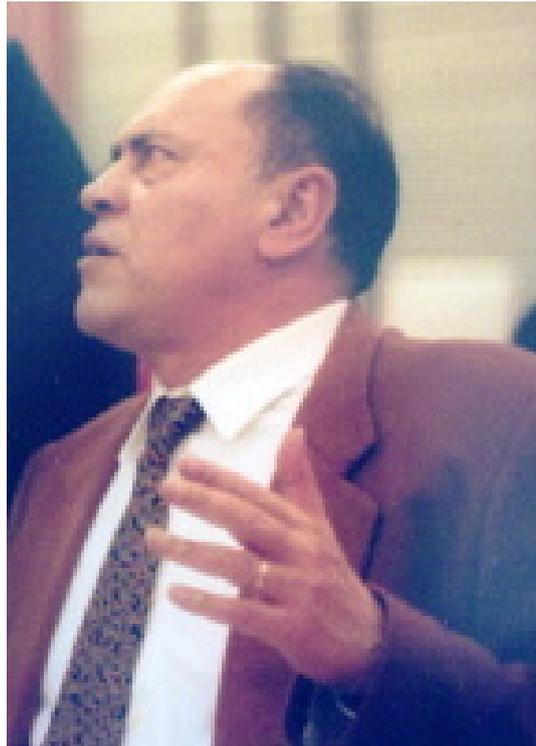
- Hans-Jürgen Diller, Hendrik De Smet, Jukka Tyrkkö,
A European Database of Descriptors of English Electronic Texts 29
- Ian Brown, *Reputations, Walter Scott and the ASLS* 36
- Mihaela Irimia, "... purchase the commodity you want", or *Quixote goes English in the Public Sphere: A Case in Canonical Revalorization* 39
- Lidia Vianu, *The Poetry pRO Project* 48

REPORTS AND REVIEWS

- Christopher Rollason, Jan Chovanec, Vanessa Leonardi, Yordan Kosturkov, Yolanda Morató, Robert Reay-Jones, Eleonora Rao, José Carlos Redondo-Olmedilla, Lothar Fietz, Julia Straub, John Wrighton, Adolphe Haberer, Ute Smit, Raymond Hickey 50

- CALLS FOR PAPERS: NOVELTIES AND REMINDERS** 93

- ESSE BOARD MEMBERS: NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES** 96



Carmelo Cunchillos,
Professor of English Literature at the University of La Rioja,
passed away on 9th April 2010 in Logroño, aged 61.

He had served ESSE on the Executive as Treasurer from 1996 to 2001,
leaving many happy memories of his inimitably wonderful company.

The ESSE President's Column

Fernando Galván

I am writing these words upon my return from the 10th ESSE Conference in Turin, with still very vivid memories of the exciting week shared with our Italian colleagues who organised the conference and the hundreds of ESSE members who were present there. This was our first Conference held in Italy, the country where ESSE came officially into being twenty years ago (Rome, January 1990), and I must begin by saying that it was very successful, possibly the best attended conference ever, or at least in the last decade. The head of the organising committee, Pina Cortese, has informed me that there were 808 registered delegates, which is certainly a record among the ESSE conferences I have known. Even if not all of us were together at the same time, the participation in the plenary events and for the conference dinner was impressive. The heat—though at times verging on the suffocating – proved no deterrent to the hundreds of indefatigable participants who never failed to turn up at conference sessions. The feedback I have received – which also the organisers have confirmed – has been very positive, with the majority of delegates reporting their general satisfaction with the academic quality of lectures, round-tables and seminars. We also had time for leisure and conversation over a cup of espresso during the coffee breaks and at lunch and dinner time. Let me warmly congratulate and thank once again our colleagues in Turin for their splendid work and the results of this conference.

My deepest gratitude also goes to all the participants, who contributed so much to the success of this conference. The fact that so many hundreds of colleagues registered helped organisers, for instance, to be very generous with fee waivers (83 total fee waivers and 56 partial fee waivers were granted, above all to colleagues coming from Eastern and Central Europe, as well as to junior scholars). But let me add that this ESSE Conference, as has also been the case in the past, was not open exclusively to members of the 32 national associations affiliated to ESSE, because delegates in Turin came from 44 different countries, some very far from Europe, such as the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, China, Japan, Taiwan, Cameroon, or South Africa. This says a lot, I think, about the increasing visibility of ESSE beyond the frontiers of Europe and the attraction that our biennial conferences exert over colleagues worldwide.

One of the most memorable features of this 10th Conference were the Book Awards, because this time we received more books – many of them excellent – than in any year so far in the short history of these awards, so that all six prizes – one for each of the two categories (established and junior scholars) in each of the three fields (English Language and Linguistics, Literatures in the English Language, and Cultural Studies in English) – were awarded on this occasion. I would like to congratulate again the six winners and the three other authors who received honourable mentions for their books; in particular I would like to thank publicly those of them who decided to come to Turin especially for the award ceremony (five out of the six winners attended the General Assembly), as some were not

participating in the conference itself. It was indeed very stimulating for me to read in public the praise for each winning book in front of the authors, who also had the chance to deliver short speeches on the receipt of their awards. This was, moreover, the first time we gave awards in the “junior scholars” category, designed for those who had published their first book in English in 2008 or 2009. You can find out more about each of the six winning books in this issue of *The Messenger*, or on the ESSE website, and I hope many of you will heed the judges’ recommendations and go on to read them.

You will also find in this edition some very sad news, that of the death of the former ESSE Treasurer Carmelo Cunchillos. Carmelo’s obituary has been written by four friends and colleagues on the ESSE Board and Executive, namely former Secretaries Graham Caie and Hortensia Parlog, former Treasurer Lachlan Mackenzie and former President Adolphe Haberer. The current Executive joins them in expressing our condolences to Carmelo’s wife Carmen and his many friends. We miss his bonhomie, his generosity and his laughter so much!

But now that the Turin conference has come to its end, after two years of dedication and preparation, we have already started working with the local organising committee in Istanbul, our venue for the 11th ESSE Conference on 4-8 September 2012. Information about the first stages of this conference (deadlines for the submission of proposals for seminars, round-tables and parallel lectures) is provided in the pages of this issue of *The Messenger*. Details of the conference are of course sketchy at this stage, but with such an exotic location it can hardly fail to be an exciting as well as academically stimulating occasion.

May I also draw your attention to some other pieces of news which are published in this edition of our newsletter? Please note that we are introducing a new feature for the Istanbul conference, namely special sessions for doctoral students who would like to discuss their PhD projects with their peers and established scholars. ESSE will adopt the format for these sessions from the French SAES conferences (the “doctoriales” sessions), and we have commissioned our French colleague Liliane Louvel to organise them (further details are provided in the description of the conference). In order to encourage the participation of junior scholars at the conference, reduced registration fees will also be offered to PhD students (50% of the regular fee). Other small changes have been made for the Bursaries in 2011 in order to allow established scholars from anywhere in Europe to apply for financial support (please note the details in the announcement in this edition of *The Messenger*).

Our Webmaster, Jacques Ramel, is starting a new feature on our website, which is a forum for discussion among ESSE members. I do encourage you to visit www.essenglish.org and participate in the forum. And on a festive note, let me also add in connection with the website that those of you who want to evoke memories of the Turin conference, as well as of the previous conferences, will find a link on our web to a site which contains a gallery of photographs taken or compiled by Jacques.

This autumn column must now come to a close, but not without some good news from the ESSE Board. The first is the unanimous agreement to accept the newly established Albanian Society for the Study of English (ASSE) into membership of ESSE as of 1 January 2011. My warmest congratulations and heartiest welcome go to our Albanian colleagues. The

ESSE Executive will work with them in whatever way we can to develop this new national association, and as a first step we intend to hold a meeting of the Executive in Albania in 2011 in order to get to know them better.

The second piece of good news is that the ESSE Board also decided to appoint two new editors of our academic journal, *EJES*, to replace Ansgar Nünning and Angela Locatelli, who will step down from their posts at the end of 2010. The two new editors, who will join Martin Kayman in the editorship of *EJES* in January 2011, are Greta Olson (from the University of Giessen, in Germany) and Stephanos Stephanides (from the University of Cyprus). My congratulations to both of them, as well as my heart-felt thanks to Ansgar Nünning and Angela Locatelli, who have worked so competently and generously for ESSE for a number of years.

The third piece of good news is particularly happy for me, on a more personal note, as the Board also decided to re-elect Slavka Tomascikova and Tim Caudery as Secretary and Treasurer of ESSE respectively for a new term of office starting in January 2011 and ending in December 2013. Congratulations to Slavka and Tim! I must confess that, after working with both for the last three years, I am overwhelmed by their dedication and work for ESSE, and think we are truly fortunate to be able to have them working for ESSE for three more years.

My final words are for those who like to organise themselves many years ahead. The Board also took a decision on where we'll be holding our 12th ESSE Conference in 2014. We shall return to Central Europe, where we have only had one conference so far (in Debrecen, Hungary, in 1997). The venue for the 12th conference will be P. J. Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia, in late August or early September 2014. See you there! But first, don't forget the Istanbul conference in 2012. The Executive, the Board and the conference organisers are looking forward to seeing you on the banks of the Bosphorus.



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New Procedures for Book Reviews in the Messenger

Aoife Leahy and Päivi Pahta

Books available for review are listed (in alphabetical order by author) in the ESSE site at www.essenglish.org/books-for-review.html. Potential reviewers are cordially invited to contact one of the two Reviews Editors, indicating the title(s) in which they are interested:

- **Aoife Leahy:** aoife.leahy@ireland.com (RE for Literature and Cultural Studies)
- **Päivi Pahta:** paivi.pahta@uta.fi (RE for Language Studies)

Readers are also encouraged to email the REs offering to review a book that is not listed in the abovementioned page. If the book in question has not been previously received, the REs may contact the press and request a review copy. The deadlines for reviews (approx. 1,000 words) are 1 April and 1 September of each year. When submitting a review, please provide full details of the book, followed by your name and affiliation – e.g.:

Name and surname of the author/editor of the book, *Title of the book*. Place of publication: name of the publisher, year of publication. Number of pages, price(s), ISBN(s).

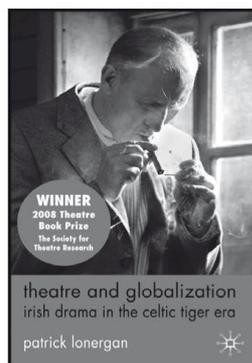
Name and surname of the reviewer (affiliation, country)

Please provide your contact details and postal address in an accompanying message.

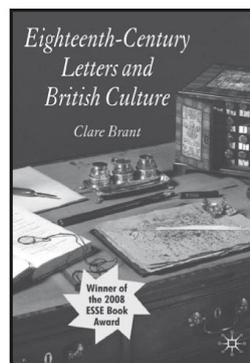
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ESSE Book Prize Winners

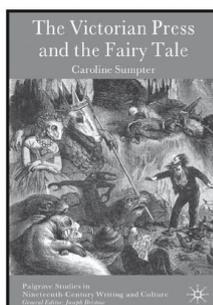


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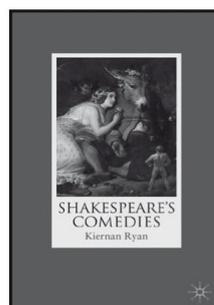


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Editorial Notes

Marina Dossena

As this issue prepares to go to press, memories are still fresh of the very successful ESSE 10 Conference in Turin – congratulations again to prof. Giuseppina Cortese, her team, and all involved for a very special event. Both those who could attend, and those who unfortunately couldn't, will be able to get a glimpse of the academic richness of the conference in the next issue of the *Messenger*, most of which will be devoted to ESSE 10 Conference reports, thanks to an agreement between ESSE and the Turin organizers.

For now, this issue provides important updates on other ESSE matters. First of all, we renew our congratulations to the winners of the ESSE Book Awards for 2010, summaries of whose works are provided in the next few pages, and who we hope will contribute to future issues of the *Messenger*. The Palgrave ad featuring in this issue, then, is a sign of gratitude, as it is published free of charge, courtesy of the ESSE Board, to acknowledge this publisher's "willingness to cooperate with junior scholars". As for *EJES*, the recent changes in its Editorial Board are outlined, together with a detailed report on the current health of the journal. Finally, readers will be interested to see preliminary information on the next ESSE Conference, to be held in Istanbul in September 2012, and on ESSE Bursaries.

Such welcome news is, sadly, followed by some obituaries concerning leading figures in our fields: Carmelo Cunchillos (whom many of us will remember as ESSE's erstwhile Treasurer and for whom warm recollections are offered by former ESSE Executive members), David Musselwhite, Marcello Pagnini, and Edwin Morgan. As news of the death of Edwin Morgan reached us as this issue was virtually ready, a more extensive outline of his work and his contribution to contemporary poetry will appear in a future issue.

The pages that follow will, I hope, provide the familiarly stimulating kind of reading that ESSE members expect. As always, this newsletter features poetry, reports and reviews (this time also including a few items of a more specifically linguistic interest), and the discussion of research issues: not least Mihaela Irimia's extensive article on 'canonical' issues and the presentation of a new "European database of descriptors of English electronic texts" provided by Hans-Jürgen Diller, Hendrik De Smet and Jukka Tyrkkö. To all those who contributed I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude, and apologize to those whose submissions have not yet found their way out of the current backlog: their patience is greatly appreciated, and I can assure everybody we will do our best to keep waiting times to a minimum. In fact, I would like to invite everybody to send their contributions for future issues at their earliest convenience: the floor is open!

As for the online edition of the *Messenger*, the password for this issue is *foliage05*.

ESSE Book Awards 2010

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Category A (ESSE Book Award 2010):

David Banks. *The Development of Scientific Writing. Linguistic Features and Historical Context.* London, Oakville: Equinox, 2008.

This is a thorough book, which deals with a subject that is topical in English historical linguistics, viz. the evolution of a historical genre (the English of scientific writing), from the medieval period up to the present day; it has a good introduction and a good presentation of previous studies in the field. The texts studied may be justifiably regarded as representative of their times and disciplines. The framework used is Systemic Functional Linguistics, whose basic tenets are excellently introduced in the opening section of the book, and the author can reasonably claim to have added flesh to the bones of Halliday's more impressionistic studies.

The analysis takes into account three linguistic features of clauses: the use of passives, of first person pronouns, nominalizations and thematic structure. These features are correctly identified in the texts chosen as examples. The major conclusion, which the author seems to have argued for convincingly, is that the occurrence of passive in scientific texts is dictated by thematic considerations, that is, by the desire to create a coherent text through specific choices at clause-initial position, rather than – as has often been claimed – by any desire to conceal the author's individuality.

The book is well structured, the argument is well supported by examples, which enliven a text that inevitably is full of totals and percentages.

All in all, this is a competent academic book, undoubtedly highly relevant to English studies, and may stimulate further research. It may prove helpful for other scholars working on the same or similar questions or perhaps following up its author's ideas.

Category B (ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars 2010):

Lucía Loureiro-Porto. *The Semantic Predecessors of Need in the History of English (c 750-1710).* Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Based on a very rich bibliography on modal verbs in general and the verb *need* in particular, the book deals with the historical evolution of *need* and of four other verbs expressing necessity, used at some point in the history of English; it discusses their semantic, morphological and syntactic development as well as the causes of their survival in the language, disappearance or change.

The book is written in a professional style, and shows an excellent balance between the initial well-structured review of the literature and the later presentation of the results of the author's own extensive research. Loureiro-Porto succeeds in the central portion of the presentation in subordinating the views of other authors to her own, and in stating quite precisely how her own findings relate to those of her predecessors. She manages to open up

a new vista in the well-trodden ground of the history of English modal verbs, which is no minor achievement. The methodology of corpus linguistics is exploited in a creative way and with a documentation amounting to encyclopaedic precision in terms of the three-way perspective of modality, grammaticalization, and impersonality, adopted as the backbone of the study.

Loureiro-Porto comes up with a range of important new findings (for example, the unicity of the verb *need* and many hitherto unknown details of the verb *behave*). The quality of the argument is high, testifying time and again to the author's intelligence, for example in her denial that the evolution of *need* has involved degrammaticalization.

The book is a solid piece of research on the subject, albeit providing a challenge for readers not familiar with the history of the modal verbs in English and associated theories of their origin. The author does, however, provide a great deal of assistance for the reader by means of helpful tables, graphics, and excellent examples that are both qualitative and quantitative arguments for her positions, the latter notably with reference to the relation between frequency and grammaticalization. This allows her to offer striking insights into the variation in encoding the conceptual domain of necessity/need, and also to show how the individual verbs undertake complex meanderings through the domain of modality.

LITERATURES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Category A (ESSE Book Award 2010):

David Duff. *Romanticism and the Uses of Genre*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

This is a stimulating, erudite and thoroughly researched comparative study which challenges the widespread interpretation of Romanticism as a period of the "extinction of traditional genres", and which persuasively demonstrates the importance of genre-consciousness in Romantic literatures for the transformation of the genre system in the age of Romanticism.

Based on German and English Romantic theories and their interactions (exploring, for instance, Coleridge's notion of "genial criticism") and on modern and contemporary methodologies (including those of Russian Formalists such as Yuri Tynianov, Bakhtin's "novelization" of literature, Harold Bloom's notion of "internalization", the hermeneutic interpretation of genres as "preconditions of reading texts", and numerous recent views that genres may have expressive, ideological and even economic power), Duff's book discusses genres no longer as normative categories but focuses on "their broader patterns" as products of multiple tensions within Romantic theories as well as specific examples of a literary practice which Friedrich Schlegel calls "the combinatorial method".

The book's extraordinary, innovative role in Anglo-American Romantic studies is given not only by its systemic, theoretical and simultaneously historical, perspective but also by its comprehensive range, most unusual in contemporary romantic studies. Apart from a detailed analysis of the Pre-Romantic transformation of the Classicist genre system, it deals with problems of genre theory, didacticism, archaism and the innovation and mixing of genres. This almost compendious view is supplemented by a detailed case-study of the ode as a representative genre of English Romantic poetry.

All these features guarantee that the book will be a useful tool for the comparative study of European Romanticism as well as for the interpretation of English Romantic literature.

Category B (ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars 2010):

Matthew Rubery. *The Novelty of Newspapers: Victorian Fiction after the Invention of the News.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

In this resourceful study Matthew Rubery, a Lecturer in Victorian Literature at Queen Mary, University of London, sets out to show the profound influence that the Victorian daily newspaper had on the novel of the time. Learned and rigorous, it provides a number of original insights into the narrative conventions borrowed from journalism and offers a fresh discussion of well-known Victorian novelists, including Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, Joseph Conrad, Henry James and Anthony Trollope. The book includes a fine balance between a wealth of historical details and insightful close readings of selected passages. Written in a clear, crisp and accessible style, Rubery's valuable contribution is an appealing book that every scholar interested in Victorian fiction will find useful.

CULTURAL STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Category A (ESSE Book Award 2010):

Laurence Talairach-Vielmas. *Wilkie Collins, Medicine and the Gothic.* Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2009.

The Gothic is defined as a genre that "deals with illegal and immoral practices, such as the violation of taboos, and the breaking of boundaries" (7), but Talairach's book also demonstrates how the same genre opened up all kinds of creative and transformative possibilities. Through an informed and thorough focus on a selection of Wilkie Collins's works, Talairach-Vielmas delineates the causes and implications of social fears around degeneration, mental decay, and anxiety over the individual's psychosomatic entity. According to the writer, Collins's fiction reflects contemporary scientific and social debates which are traced with comprehensive vision throughout the book. While the focus is on body's treatment in medical terms as well as in terms of social norms and limitations, the book is very erudite and observes with acuity standards of literary analysis. It carries out textual analysis of a not-so-canonical author who is nevertheless very important for this period. The book's methodological approach is somewhat orthodox but this does not mean that the book is conservative. There are radical and significant implications for cultural studies in the areas of the body, pathology, and criminology. Indicative is the fact that many Hollywood films as well as contemporary novels (especially detective or mystery) rely on concepts similar if not identical, to those that Talairach-Vielmas analyses in this book. More specifically, it is the fact that mental degeneration, criminal disposition and mental instability are very often invisible that creates an ever lurking fear and insecurity in human relations even within a family.

Category B (ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars 2010):

Patrick Lonergan. *Theatre and Globalization*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

This book analyzes the Irish theatre with a new critical paradigm. It provides a deeper and original understanding of theatre by looking at how globalization has been changing the ways theatre is being made and received. Focusing on Irish drama of 1990s from multiple perspectives such as mobility, branding and eventing Lonergan explores an interesting combination of themes that are current and urgent in our contemporary world. Watching the action unfold on the book's stage, we achieve an understanding of twentieth century developments in Irish drama and how these developments reflect and are, in turn, an agent of globalization. With care and richness in his methodology the author establishes insightful connections across and within issues of national, regional, temporal, and global scope. While these issues are explored with Ireland always in focus, the conclusions drawn relate to cosmic relationships between identity and the body in their social and cultural dimensions. However, what gives the book its strongest currency is its incorporation of global migration patterns in its analysis. Being a phenomenon of tremendous socioeconomic significance, the movement of peoples across national borders has the possibility of acting as a register of postcoloniality and postmodernity. Most importantly, this movement is a process that radically revises our manner of relating to the local versus the global. And with this radical revision Lonergan reconceptualizes globalization portraying his theorizing within an activist frame. With its distinctive style, directness, and informative and challenging approach to theatre studies and to the interconnectedness between culture and economics, this book reflects the spirit of the award and promises to add significantly to further work in the field.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS IN LITERATURES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars 2010 FOR:

- Jorge Braga Riera. *Classical Spanish Drama in Restoration English (1660-1700)*. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2009.
- Teresa Prudente. *A Specially Tender Piece of Eternity: Virginia Woolf and the Experience of Time*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009.

HONOURABLE MENTION IN CULTURAL STUDIES IN ENGLISH, ESSE Book Award 2010 FOR:

- Gustav Ungerer. *The Mediterranean Apprenticeship of British Slavery*. Madrid: Editorial Verbum, 2008.

SPECIAL MENTION FOR PALGRAVE MACMILLAN "for the Publishers' willingness to cooperate with junior scholars".

ESSE Bursaries for 2011

In 2011, ESSE continues to offer TWO types of Bursaries:

- 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!)
- 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.

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 2012. 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 2011**. 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 (www.essenglish.org/bursaries.html) 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:

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

- Prof. **Işil Baş**, Dept. of Western Languages and Literatures, Bogaziçi University, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Istanbul, Turkey. E-mail: isil@boun.edu.tr
 - Prof. **Smiljana Komar**, Dept. of English, University of Ljubljana, Askerceva 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. E-mail: smiljana.komar@guest.arnes.si
-

EJES: EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ENGLISH STUDIES

NEW EDITORIAL TEAM

The team appointed in 2006 to relaunch *EJES* under the Routledge imprint has come to the end of its term of office. Angela Locatelli and Ansgar Nünning are standing down (the latter after ten years at the helm) and will be replaced by Greta Olson and Stephanos Stephanides, whose nominations were confirmed by the ESSE Board in Turin. Martin A. Kayman (www.cardiff.ac.uk/encap/contactsandpeople/profiles/kayman-martin.html) will continue, as will the Reviews Editor, Adam Piette (www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/staff/profiles/adampiette.html).

Greta studied at Vassar in the USA and at Freiburg in Germany and is currently professor of American and English Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen; she has a strong interest in the development of European perspectives on American issues (for more information, see www.greta-olson.com/index.htm). Stephanos was trained at University College, Cardiff and is presently Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cyprus, of which he was a founder member. He is also a leading figure in the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies and an award-winning poet and translator (www.hum.ucy.ac.cy/ENG/people/stephanides.htm). While Greta extends our concerns towards the Atlantic, Stephanos brings a volume of intercultural experience at the margins of Europe and Asia. Together, they amplify significantly our vocation to engage with English Studies in Europe 'and beyond' (see the journal's editorial policy at www.essenglish.org/ejes.html#policy).

REPORT

Reporting to the Board meeting at ESSE10, the outgoing team were pleased to be able to transmit the satisfaction of the publishers at the on-going success of the project. The journal is performing well, with online agreements with libraries – increasingly the primary form of access to academic journals – having tripled in number since 2006. In addition to the standard electronic platforms, articles can also be accessed (following a year's delay) by a growing number of institutions via EBSCO (<http://plip.eifl.net/negotiations/p/databases/ebSCO>).

While downloads of articles through the standard informaworld platform have continued their steady rise since 2006, access through EBSCO has been increasing at an impressive rate and now represent the clear majority of downloads. On the one hand, this is excellent news, since it indicates that we are reaching new readers in places which cannot afford regular access. On the other hand, the bundle of resources included in EBSCO agreements varies from year to year, and there is no guarantee that *EJES* will continue to be available in all cases. Furthermore, when it comes to regular subscriptions, the hard decisions that subscribing libraries will be making in the coming period regarding the viability of their subscriptions are bound to be based on statistics of usage relative to other publications. It is therefore paramount that those of us fortunate enough to

have access to a library that subscribes to *EJES* encourage colleagues and students to access the journal frequently and to download articles. If you have not done so already, bookmark the *EJES* address (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13825577.asp).

Another aspect of the success of the (relatively) new *EJES* is that a recent issue (*Intercultural Negotiations*) has been chosen by the publisher for re-publication in book form. We hope that, in the future, more issues will be selected as hardback volumes. Colleagues should note that *EJES* is rated by the European Science Foundation's initial Reference Index for the Humanities as category 'B' and should therefore count well in research assessments that use the ERIH.

The out-going team believes that, since the relaunch in 2006, we have managed to create a distinctive and attractive identity for the journal. We have sought to publish varied, innovative, distinctive, and pertinent topics that attract contributions from as broad a range as possible of the disciplines and sub-disciplines involved in English Studies in Europe. Although the general editors occasionally commission particular topics, in our attempt to establish *EJES* as, above all, the Society's research journal, the topics selected have in the main been proposed by the members. These have included issues directed explicitly at areas of cross-disciplinary innovation (New Directions in English Studies; New Englishes; New Textualities); at general and at specific themes in literary and cultural history (Cultural Memory; Reading the Modernist Past for the Future; The Uses of the Past in XXI-Century Europe; *Cultural Histories*; *The Esoteric in Post/Modernism*), at topics exploring questions of linguistic and cultural exchange (Cultural Exchange; Intercultural Negotiations; Translation, Culture and the Media; Travelling Concepts; *Dislocations & Ecologies*; The Rhetoric of National Character; Crime Narratives: Crossing Cultures), and at topics which, explicitly or implicitly, privilege exchanges between disciplines (Law, Literature and Language; Literature, Epistemology & Science; *Matter and Material Culture*; *Housing Fictions*; *Gender Resistance*). With a forthcoming issue on *Medievalism*, we are initiating a series of issues relating to specific periodological questions – we particularly welcome proposals, for example, relating to European approaches to Renaissance, Restoration, Enlightenment, Victorianism, etc. – all, no doubt, in the plural.

The editorial team has also sought to obtain contributions from a broad range of sites across Europe 'and beyond'. Excluding the general editors themselves, 21 women and 17 men have been or are involved in guest editing volumes 10-16. As a matter of policy, most have worked in teams of two or three, although it has not always been possible to ensure that these come from different parts of Europe, as would be desirable. A few issues are now being co-edited with scholars based in the USA, which will, we trust, attract further readers from overseas. Guest co-editors have been based in Germany (8), Italy (6), Greece (5), France and the UK (4 each); the Netherlands and Poland (2 each). Denmark, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland have contributed one each. While we are very pleased to have commissioned issues from a good range of different national associations, there are thus still a number of member countries which have yet to provide a guest-editor for an issue. The same is true in relation to contributing authors. Besides the very successful reviews section, edited by Adam Piette, we are pleased to have included articles from authors based in 18 member countries, as well as the USA, China, Australia, New Zealand and India. We should note, however, that almost half the authors published in the 15 issues from volume 10 to 14 were based in the UK (28%), Germany (14%) and Italy (7%). Spain, France, the Netherlands and Denmark have been reasonably well represented,

¹ Italics indicate forthcoming titles.

and other countries have registered at least one contribution. However, there are still a number of associations whose members have yet to publish anything with us since the relaunch of the journal in 2006. We hope that this situation will continue to evolve, as more members submit proposals to the journal.

Which brings us to the call for papers and call for topics.

CALL FOR TOPICS / UPCOMING CALL FOR PAPERS

The new team will continue our successful policy of commissioning theme-based issues, with topics largely suggested by the guest editors themselves. We will also continue to attempt to shape, coverage and topicality by occasionally commissioning topics ourselves. We will 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 at 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.

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 version of submitted articles.

By the time you receive the *Messenger*, the deadline for proposals regarding the three topics to appear in 2012, whose CFPs appeared in the last issue, will have passed. But the call for papers for the next three issues will be announced early in the New Year, after the editors have had an opportunity to review proposals for Volume 17 (the deadline for which is mid-November). **Please keep an eye on the ESSE website for the next call for papers for our 2013 publication and for topics for Volume 18.**

MAINTAINING THE SUCCESS OF EJES

EJES is proving a success and showcasing innovative work – much of it from scholars at early stages in their careers – across the world (around half the downloads are made from 'beyond' Europe). Two things are necessary for the journal to continue to thrive.

First, we need members to contribute with proposals for topics and proposals for contributions. We hope that leading scholars across Europe, as well as those ambitious to make their names, will give the example.

Second, we need readers, as well as the continued support of the publishers – which amount to the same thing. This means maintaining, and, if possible in these difficult times, improving subscriptions and the volume of access. Colleagues can help here, for example, by including material published by *EJES* on student reading lists.

There are a number of other ways in which you can help raise the profile of the journal:

- subscribe to eUpdates and Table of Contents alerts via the publisher's webpage;
- publicise *EJES* at conferences you are attending: Routledge will be happy to provide material – contact the managing editor, Adam Burbage, at Adam.Burbage@tandf.co.uk;
- set up a link to *EJES* on your department's webpage or your own blog;
- request free sample copies from the website;
- inform colleagues and students of free articles available on the *EJES* homepage;
- lobby to have your library subscribe, if it does not do so already.

FINALLY

The outgoing team would like to thank all the guest editors and the authors with whom they have worked over the past five years, as well as the publishers and the ESSE Executive and Board for their constant support and encouragement. The incoming team would like to thank Angela and Ansgar for all their hard work in building the platform from which we hope to take *EJES* forward to continued success.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

2010

14.3: *Cultural Histories*, eds Karin Bigand & Logie Barrow [in honour of François Poirier]

2011

15.1: *Matter and Material Culture*, eds Maurizio Calbi & Marilena Parlati

15.2: *Medievalism*, eds Andrew James Johnson & Ute Berns

15.3: *The Esoteric in Post/Modernism*, eds Pia Brînzeu & György E. Szönyi

2012

16.x: *Dislocations and Ecologies*, eds: Alexa Weik, alexa.weik@unfr.ch & Christoph Irmischer, christoph.irmscher@gmail.com.

16.x: *Gender Resistance*, eds: Evgenia Sifaki, evsifaki@gmail.com & Angeliki Spiropoulou, aspirop@uop.gr.

16.x: *Housing Fictions: The house in writing and culture, 1950 to the present*, eds: Janet Larson, jl Larson@andromeda.rutgers.edu, Francesca Saggini, fsaggini@unitus.it & Anna Enrichetta Soccio, esoccio@unich.it.

CALL FOR PAPERS (VOL. 17)

CALL FOR TOPICS (VOL. 18)

TO BE ANNOUNCED VIA THE ESSE WEBSITE EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR

General Editors (from January 2011)

Martin A. Kayman, KaymanM@cardiff.ac.uk, Cardiff University

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Adam Piette, a.piette@sheffield.ac.uk, University of Sheffield

Editorial Advisory Board

The Advisory Board will be updated in the New Year.

**Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey
Department of Western Languages and Literatures
and**

IDEA (English Language and Literature Research Association)

look forward to welcoming you to the

11th ESSE CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL (4-8 SEPTEMBER 2012)

CALL FOR SEMINARS, ROUND TABLES, LECTURES AND POSTER SESSIONS

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). National Associations are invited to nominate potential lecturers. Proposals for seminars and round tables should be submitted directly to the Academic Programme Committee (APC, see address below). Suggestions for sub-plenary speakers should be sent to the Presidents or representatives of the National Associations.

Programme Format

SEMINARS

Proposals for seminars on specialised topics 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 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 members of the audience. **NB: proposals for individual papers should NOT be submitted at this stage.**

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.

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*, together with the call for papers.

NEW FEATURE!!! PhD STUDENTS' SESSIONS

Young scholars writing their PhD theses will be able to present their work-in-progress in workshops covering the three main fields mentioned above. These presentations should deal with the problematic of the thesis (i.e. the thesis of the thesis), the methodology, the corpus and the results so far obtained, with the purpose of getting feedback from peers and established scholars in the field. Each workshop will be coordinated by an international expert, who will supervise and select proposals from PhD students and will convene the corresponding sessions. Enquiries about this new feature should be addressed to Professor Liliane Louvel (University of Poitiers): liliane.louvel@univ-poitiers.fr. Deadlines and further details will be announced in the spring 2011 issue of *The Messenger*.

DEADLINES

- For Lectures (nomination by national organizations): **31 January 2011.**
- For Seminars and Round Tables (proposals from prospective convenors): **31 January 2011.**
- Deadlines for *posters, individual papers* at seminar sessions, and PhD students' sessions will be published later.

PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SENT BY E-MAIL TO: cfp@esse2012.org

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Professor Işıl Baş (Boğaziçi University) (chair)
Professor Himmet Umunç (Hacettepe University)
Professor Özlem Öğüt (Boğaziçi University)
Professor Didar Akar (Boğaziçi University)
Professor Giuseppina Cortese (University of Turin)
Professor Alberto Lázaro (University of Alcalá)
Professor Martin Procházka (Charles University in Prague)
Professor György Endre Szönyi (University of Szeged)

In memoriam: Carmelo Cunchillos, ESSE Treasurer 1996-2001

The notes that follow are an unusual obituary, in the sense that they are rather witnesses to the multifaceted contribution that Carmelo Cunchillos gave to the life of ESSE. It is therefore appropriate that many voices should express their recollections, on behalf of us all. These voices belong to those who worked with Carmelo on the ESSE Executive and Board, to all of whom we are grateful.

Prof. Lachlan Mackenzie (ESSE Treasurer 2002-2007)

Carmelo was my predecessor as Treasurer of ESSE. He carried out his duties with exemplary thoroughness and was instrumental in building our Society up to its current proportions. He established ESSE's financial security, insisting with forceful charm on timely payment of fees, while also showing understanding for the difficulties of Associations from countries with currency problems. He is also to be remembered for having set up a complex cost-saving arrangement for the production of the *Messenger*, printed in Portugal (as it still is) and distributed from Spain (now no longer possible).

I visited him in Logroño four times: first, to learn the ropes; second, to relieve him of back issues of the *Messenger*; third, when passing through on a holiday; and fourth, when he was already very ill. Thinking back on all four occasions, I remember, undiminished by the passing of the years, his warmth and humanity, the sparkle of his eyes and the boom of his voice. ESSE was very dear to his heart, and on the fourth visit he listened with interest to my tales of the latest happenings. But he soon tired. When I took my leave of him, he suggested I have lunch in a nearby restaurant. On asking for the bill, I was told "Prof. Cunchillos has taken care of that." A remarkable man, who combined scholarship and financial acumen with a true generosity and democracy of spirit.

Prof. Graham D. Caie (ESSE Secretary 1999-2001)

I have such good memories of Carmelo, both personal and as a superb Treasurer of ESSE. He was elected Treasurer at the Glasgow Conference, ESSE-3, having been introduced to us by Prof. Susana Onega, the Spanish representative on the Board. When he began his work in 1996 we noticed an immediate improvement in the ESSE finances. He worked tirelessly to strengthen our previously perilous financial state and thereby made it possible for ESSE to increase its activities and initiatives when Helmut Bonheim and Ado Haberer were Presidents. The *Messenger*, Bursary Scheme, *EJES* and many more projects were strengthened and the Society's future was certain. Lachlan has commented on the ingenious method he devised of having *The Messenger* printed in Portugal and posted from Spain, which saved us a vast amount of money. I know that he spent many, many hours on the complexities of foreign exchange (before the euro) and bank accounts in different locations (one being in Glasgow).

But that is just the business side of Carmelo. He became a good friend and we worked extremely well together as Treasurer and Secretary. It was always a pleasure to meet him at ESSE executive and board meetings and conferences. He taught me all I know about Rioja wines, as he was a connoisseur as one might expect from someone coming from the Universidad de La Rioja. He would arrive at meetings in his beloved BMW with a case of wine for the Rioja-deprived members of the Executive to enjoy. Even when he was becoming increasingly unwell he insisted on working overtime for ESSE and he was undoubtedly one of ESSE's great heroes.

Carmelo studied at Zaragoza and began his career at the University of La Rioja which initially had been attached to the University of Zaragoza. His research interests were wide and included American literature and translation studies. His PhD thesis was on English translations of Don Quixote. Carmelo was involved in the creation of Universidad de La Rioja as an independent University and he founded and was the first head of the Department of Modern Languages. I'm told by many that he was an inspiring and caring teacher, much loved by his students and colleagues alike. Not only in his own university but throughout Spain he has played a major and active role in English studies, e.g. in the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies (AEDEAN).

So many of us have such warm memories of this caring, gentle, gifted man. He suffered greatly in his final years, but he never lost his deep humanity and generosity of spirit. He will be sorely missed and our love and best wishes go to Carmen and the family.

Prof. Hortensia Parlog (ESSE Secretary 2002-2007)

Our memories help us to hold on to the persons we love and value. I recall so vividly arriving in Sheffield as the representative of Romania on the ESSE Board in 1996 and meeting Carmelo at the entrance of the residence hall. That was my first Board meeting, I knew no one, and was not sure what was expected of me. He immediately made me overcome my apprehension and feel welcome, and then invited me to dinner. During the six years that we worked together on the ESSE Board, he was extremely supportive of me, and I owe him a deep debt of gratitude for that.

Carmelo had an innate capacity of making a friend of everyone he met. He was a great joke teller and his presence filled a room with energy, vitality, and warmth; his delighted, infectious laughter still rings in my ears.

He faced his disease with courage. I last saw him at the very end of October 2009, when, although physically diminished, his joy at seeing me brought tears to my eyes. He will be dearly missed.

Emeritus Professor Adolphe Haberer (ESSE President 2001-2006)

He was an immensely lovable man, jovial, joyful, generous, with a great sense of humour, an extraordinary talent for telling jokes and stories, invariably punctuated by sonorous outbursts of his inimitable laughter. That was the sunny side of Carmelo Cunchillos, the one that shone so memorably when the serious business was over and the time had come for conversation and conviviality. As a scholar, I know he was deeply respected by all his

colleagues in Spain, and much admired and loved by his students, some of whom now hold teaching posts at the University. But it is as Treasurer of ESSE, during the six years of his tenure, that he earned his reputation and became the prominent figure so vividly remembered across Europe by all those who at the time worked with him on the Executive or represented their national associations on the Board of ESSE.

I think the very first time I met Carmelo was in rather festive circumstances, at the 1990 AEDEAN Conference held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, when he ran a guided tour of part of his beloved Rioja country and of some of its wineries. Then, during the following years, he often represented the Spanish association at SAES conferences in France, always accompanied by his wife Carmen. I got to know him better when I attended my first Board meeting, in Debrecen, and admired the competence, the energy and the passion with which he reported on ESSE's finances, with impressive sheaves of documents handed out to all. When I got elected to the Chair of ESSE in Helsinki I was greatly reassured to know that I was going to team up with, and be shown the ropes by, such friendly and experienced people as Graham Caie and Carmelo Cunchillos. Few people were aware, then, of the first signs of Carmelo's illness, but he already needed oxygen at night and he was unable to attend the first Executive meeting in April 2001. Graham and I went over the agenda together, but Carmelo was consulted by telephone when necessary. The following September, in Vienna, the situation was reversed, Graham being unable to arrive in time, and Carmelo and I had another rump meeting and prepared together the first Board meeting I was to chair the next day, with Carmelo giving his last Treasurer's report. In Vienna Lachlan Mackenzie and Aba Pârlog became members of the Executive, respectively as Treasurer and Secretary, and my life as President took a new turn.

I stayed in contact with Graham and Carmelo, though, especially with Carmelo for the transition from one Treasurer to another was not made easy by the banks, and we had six different accounts to deal with and new signatures to be authorized. Also, as Graham wrote, Carmelo had for years been responsible for the distribution of *The Messenger*, and was left with more than a cubic metre of back numbers stacked in his office. I had already visited him once in Logroño to check the ESSE accounts — the most pleasant and sought after of missions, considering the sort of reception he gave his guests. But that time, it was more like an expedition, with Lachlan hiring a spacious car and the two of us driving all the way to Santiago de Compostela to attend the 2002 AEDEAN conference, and on the way back stopping in Logroño to meet Carmelo and collect all the back numbers.

Over the more recent past years, I never let more than two or three months pass without calling Carmelo on the telephone. I was fond of the man. It was not very easy to reach him, what with Spanish hours and he not answering the phone when Carmen was at work. I also kept contact with Pedro Santana who kindly kept me informed. The last time I talked to him was in September last year, and though he was permanently under oxygen he was fairly cheerful, having a friend taking him for a drive everyday, reading a lot, he said, sometimes doing crosswords, and, being allowed a glass of wine a day, drinking nothing but the best he still had in store. After that I never managed to get through to him. The day of his death was a dark cold day.

Obituaries

David E. Musselwhite, 1940-2010

Roberto del Valle Alcalá
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

David Edward Musselwhite was born in Bristol on 3rd December 1940, although he grew up in South Wales. He died in Essex on 23rd February 2010.

The David Musselwhite I knew was a passionate, uncompromising intellectual whose understanding of the critical profession left little room for the ordinary. As a lecturer, he was a matchless source of energetic brilliance. As a friend, he remains irreplaceable.

Dr. Musselwhite's broad range of expertise included innovative contributions to the study of Latin American literature, the European Enlightenment, and most notably, the great tradition of the English novel. His ground-breaking monographs on the subject, *Partings Welded Together: Politics and Desire in the Nineteenth-Century English Novel* (1987) and *Social Transformations in Hardy's Tragic Novels: Megamachines and Phantasms* (2003) combined a rare instinct for close textual analysis and a dazzling mastery of theoretical sources which he typically turned into a highly original and combative idiom. In later years, his extraordinarily rich revision and textual application of the psychoanalytic notion of the phantasm, drawing on a variety of influences from Laplanche and Pontalis to Deleuze and Lacan, gave rise to a remarkable body of work (including essays on Coleridge, Scott, Dickens and Conrad) which might soon have resulted in a major new volume.

After graduation from Cambridge in 1963, Dr. Musselwhite spent a number of years teaching in Argentina, an occasion which provided him with a solid background in the Latin American tradition (and with a gentle Argentine lilt in his flawless Spanish). Following a three-year appointment at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Dr. Musselwhite – who would also work in Australia for a short time – took up a position at the University of Essex in 1974, where he launched, two years later, the successful Sociology of Literature conferences which would eventually earn the Department of Literature its international reputation. He was also a permanent source of inspiration and an unrelenting contributor to the University's equally renowned foundation course on the Enlightenment, helping to shape a viable model of interdisciplinarity in the Humanities well before the term reached its buzzword status. Up to the moment of his death, David Musselwhite remained a devoted teacher, bold, outspoken and unflinching in his vision of literary criticism as a socially relevant and politically efficient form of intervention.

Marcello Pagnini, 1921-2010

Franco Marucci
University of Venice, Italy

Marcello Pagnini, who died last July aged eighty-nine, taught English and American Literature at the Universities of Bologna, Pisa and Florence, where in the Sixties and Seventies he founded a school of local disciples which also attracted young scholars from elsewhere in Italy who were searching for up-to-date critical bearings in the cultural fluidity of the post-Prazian era of English Studies in our country. His seminal teaching may be gauged by the fact that his manuals of hermeneutics and several of his theoretical essays are still cited today and continue to constitute authoritative works of reference for anyone interested in the exploration and definition of the literary text.

Over half a century of activity and critical militancy Pagnini was an excellent general critic of English and American Literature, and one may easily cite his illuminating contributions on George Chapman, on Shakespeare, on William Collins, on Wordsworth, on Coleridge, on T. S. Eliot. Surveying his complete bibliography, one is impressed by the extension of his literary exploration, both – so to speak – horizontally and vertically. He was one of the last Italian Professors of English *and* American Literature, and purely as a critic of English Literature he left very few literary periods unvisited, only perhaps the origins and the Victorians. Yet, one realizes, he never wrote the classic, full-scale monograph, the Life and Works of any author complete with accurate bibliographical apparatuses. His best and most inspired *book* is (significantly, in my opinion) *Lingua e musica* (1974), a sophisticated investigation of the relationships between verbal and musical texts and of the meaning of music – therefore not a book dealing strictly with literary interpretation. Rather, his most frequented and cherished critical measure became the short essay, and several of his volumes – notably *Semiosi. Teoria ed ermeneutica del testo letterario* (1988) – are collections of previously printed material. In the essay he patented and perfected an analytical procedure which, opening with a close reading of a short poem or poetic excerpt (mainly), verified therein some of the workings of the literary text, showing at the same time how sound, style, tropes, symbols etc. mutually adhered to content and how the whole signic unity cohered with the episteme of the period to which the text belonged. All Italian scholars are even now familiar with his fascinating readings of Emily Dickinson and John Donne, in addition to others, which appeared in the prestigious, *avant-garde* Italian journal “Strumenti critici” (and some of which were collected in *Critica della funzionalità*, 1970). Pagnini surprised and stung to the quick professional Italian scholars when in 1974, with a foray into alien territory, he applied his critical tools to Ugo Foscolo’s most famous sonnet, ‘A Zacinto’, bringing to light a number of complexities and sound and sense textures hitherto hidden or overlooked.

Pagnini’s activity became closely identified with a brand of home-grown, *Italian* formo-structuralism of the Sixties and early Seventies. With others he officiated at the demise of *crocianesimo*, still predominant or more exactly petering out. In private he was willing to concede that Croce was a perceptive interpreter, immensely well-read and seldom

wrong, but publicly he slighted Croce's well-known distaste for everything formal, structural or technical, and what was preeminent for Croce, the vague "shaping spirit" of the work of art itself, seen as dangerous, because it encouraged or perpetuated critical impressionism. Against Croce he liked to repeat Mallarmé's dictum, that poems are made primarily with words, and to all those who insisted on the *meaning* or the message of a text rather than on form, he retorted with MacLeash's famous statement that "a poem should not mean, but be". His own version of theoretical and practical criticism was an original blend of disparate but coherent and converging suggestions drawn from Saussure, Jakobson and the Russian formalists, from Richards's *Principles of Literary Criticism*, from the American new critics and above all from the French *nouvelle critique* of Barthes and Greimas.

The basic, underlying tenet of the text as a coherence of levels, from the ground stratum of sound and morpheme to those pertaining to semantic and symbolic organization, was subsequently integrated with a theory of text as a complex of linguistic, formal and symbolic isotopies. His vision then evolved towards a pragmatics of the literary text – a critic's progress from *Struttura letteraria e metodo critico* (1966) to *Pragmatica della letteratura* (1980). At the end of the golden age of formo-structuralism Pagnini, ever curious, open-minded, capable of critically assimilating new theoretical suggestions from abroad, and therefore to adjust and reshape his conceptual equipment, embraced enthusiastically the enlargement (or dissolution?) of structuralism into semiotics. He hailed, in fact, the restoration of the "temporal and socio-historical series" to the study of the literary text, which formalism and even structuralism had been guilty, so to speak, of eclipsing. Lucien Goldmann had his full and unconditional approval because he found the way to join even the political to the literary in a kind of (oxymoronic?) Marxist structuralism, i.e. through *semiotic* – rather than rough and primitive – mediations. For the same reason he was responsive to the typology of culture of Lotman and the Tartu school. He may have felt that he had anticipated or intuited Lotman ten years in advance, having been one of the first to point out how, say, Donne, Shakespeare, or Coleridge were not writing in a vacuum but using semiotic codes aligned with their cultural type. Lotman even contemplated the exceptional case of an *untypical* writer: one, that is, writing at and from the margin of a cultural type, or even outside.

While Pagnini would certainly have defined himself a structuralist and a semiotician, he refused to be called a poststructuralist when that vogue came on. As early or as late as 1976 he wrote against the "indiscriminate use" of the "interpretive grids of psychoanalysis", only admissible when they cooperate to found the "global functionality of the text", while insisting on the "conscious work" and the "rational relationship with the signs" proper of the artist and work of art. He could never bring himself to fully accept the post-Freudian and poststructuralist view of the subject as "possessed by language" and by the *id*, and therefore deprived of critical vigilance over his doings and writing performances. Yet he kept abreast of the critical literary debate until his health permitted him, and never denied audience to the books by the likes of De Man, Bloom and Derrida, though never agreeing with their positions.

Very much in this brief memoir, I realise, is missing. Pagnini was a careful editor (*Lirici carolini e repubblicani*, 1961) and in his late years a very personal translator (*Bussy D'Ambois*, *Midsummer-night's Dream*). He was also, from 1986, the general editor of the series "I contesti della letteratura inglese", practically a History of English Literature, in several volumes anthologizing seminal essays by the best critics and cultural historians. His culminating achievement as a translator and editor is an edition with facing text, and beautiful reproductions of the original illustrations, of Blake's *Jerusalem* (1991). In 2000 he eventually published *Letteratura e ermeneutica*, a selection of his best essays written after *Semiosi* (1988). Pagnini's work received international recognition from the Seventies, when *Struttura letteraria e metodo critico* was translated into Spanish, some of his essays appeared in German and Polish journals and miscellanies, and *The Pragmatics of Literature* was published in 1987 by the Indiana University Press.

The foregoing remarks may leave an erroneous impression of coldness or aridity. Pagnini's university lessons were indeed legendary for the formal and polished precision of his manner. In private he was a different man. Those who knew him intimately can witness the deep interest with which he read his pupils' manuscripts, and his accuracy and promptness in annotating and discussing them. He was one of the few directors of studies that I know to refrain from dictating to pupils what they should research and write about. Whenever he invited people to visit him at his home in Pistoia, full of *objets d'art*, precious editions and original engravings, his conversation was magnetic and flowed natural, what with projects, anecdotes, memories of the past, references to essays and books he was writing or reading. While sipping cups of tea and tasting delicious chocolates that were always on a tray, no guest realised the passing of time.

Professor Pagnini could unfortunately complete just a few short essays in the last ten years of his life. As I said above his name will go down as that of a leading figure in the history of English Studies in Italy and in that of the theory of literary text.

Edwin Morgan, 1920-2010

Robyn Marsack

Scottish Poetry Library, Edinburgh, Scotland

Edwin Morgan died on 19 August 2010, at the age of 90, having published a new collection in April. He was not only our national poet – widely read, studied at school, much loved by fellow authors as well as readers – but our international poet: a marvellous translator from many languages, notably French, Russian, Hungarian and Italian, and equally, translated into many languages, particularly Polish, Hungarian and French. He was a star of the international concrete poetry movement of the 1960s. His inventiveness is matched by his accessibility, a rare combination of formal skills, intellectual curiosity and emotional power. These qualities made him an energising model for other poets, and the most influential Scottish poet of the last fifty years. His words and his example will remain inspiring.
