

# ICLA BULLETIN

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## Presidential Address in Brussels

Manfred Schmeling

The International Comparative Literature Association represented here by its executive council and the chairs of its scholarly and administrative committees is the guest of the Free University of Brussels. As the president of this Association, which consists of more than 5000 members throughout the world, I would like to warmly thank those responsible for the invitation, especially the Dean who received us so cordially and Marc Maufort, Secretary General of the ICLA, who has been unstinting in his efforts to organize this meeting of the executive council as well as the subsequent colloquium. Certainly one should not celebrate the victory before the battle, but the theme of this colloquium, The European Literary Heritage in an Era of Globalization is a good topic in a good location among good colleagues. The Belgian comparatists have long been particularly active in the ICLA. In so far as the venue of this congress is concerned, it is here in Brussels that one meets all of Europe on the political and administrative level. And when the question of a decision on a broadly European basis arises, the discussion is no longer one of the European Commission. Rather the metonym “Brussels has decided” is used, and every European knows what is meant.

While Brussels represents Europe, it does not mean, though, that only matters relevant to Europe are considered here. In this era of globalization, dialectical processes are underway that make every compartmentalization absurd. Life punishes whoever isolates himself. That fact impinges on everything, be it politics, economics, education, or literature. The crossing of literary boundaries today constitutes an obvious fact. Hans Magnus Enzenberger, a very well-known poet at least in Europe, once said that national literature is an illusion, and it in fact does not exist. Or put in another way, no literature or culture is identical with itself. To begin with, this is true even within Europe: take for example the medieval troubadours or the literature associated with migrant labor; this applies as well in the case of the post-colonial literature of emerging nations that collides with the strongly European cultural norms.

However, in Europe, we must also take into consideration the ancestral traditions (one thinks of classical antiquity) whose influences on world literature

are interrogated scarcely more than those moving in the opposite direction, that is to say the European openness to influences emanating from abroad. These circumstances suppose that one appreciates the true value of the development of literature and that can only be done when one understands literature from comparative and inter-cultural perspectives. The program of this colloquium precisely fits into this methodological approach.

Marc Maufort has brought together here and now more than forty colleagues from nearly as many different countries or cultures. Because of this diversity, familiar and foreign perspectives on oneself and on the other will be found mixed together in the various presentations. Europeans and non-Europeans will discuss a common topic from different angles. In August of 2010, the next major congress of the ICLA will be held in Seoul, Korea. And it is anticipated that Paris (the University of Paris, Sorbonne IV) will be the venue of the next meeting in 2013. Such meetings are the expression of the enormous interest in cultural exchanges and intellectual advancement. That is why I say without any affectation: Long live comparative literature! I wish the congress in Brussels every success.

# Minutes of the Meeting of the ICLA Executive Council

Brussels, Belgium, 24-25 August 2009.

In Attendance: Hans Bertens, Jean Bessi re, Vladimir Biti, Assumpta Camps, CHO Sung-Won, CHUNG Chung-ho, Eduardo Countinho, Angela Esterhammer, Biagio D'Angelo, Theo D'haen, Lieven D'Hulst, Ibra Diene, Mario Domenichelli, Manfred Engel, Dorothy Figueira, Douwe Fokkema, John Burt Foster, Gerald Gillespie, KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi, KANO Takayo, Alfons Knauth, Marc Maufort, St phane Michaud, Chandra Mohan, Jean-Marc Moura, Virgil Nemoianu, Anders Pettersson, Randolph Pope, Manfred Schmeling, Steven Shankmann, Ross Shideler, Inaga Shigemi, Steven Sondrup, Monica Spiridon, Robert Stockhammer, Miceala Symington, ZHOU Xiaoyi.

*The First Session, 24 August 2009, 9:00 a.m.*

The session is opened at 9:00 a.m. by the President of the ICLA, Manfred Schmeling. He thanks Marc Maufort for having organized the meeting of the Executive council of the ICLA on the campus of the Free University of Brussels. In turn, Professor Maufort welcomes the assembly to his University.

The agenda calls first for an approval of the minutes of the meeting of the executive council in Bremen in August 2008. Dorothy Figueira requests that the minutes be amended in order to include her introductory remarks. Given that correction, the minutes are unanimously approved.

After the executive council has also approved the agendas, the President presents the report of his activities during the past year. He mentions his various communications with different recently organized committees. He notes the financial difficulties that the Association has experienced since last year, on the one hand as a result of the failure of Lloyds of London and on the other as a result of a decline in the value of the pound sterling. With a French account now having been opened in the name of the Association, these difficulties have been resolved. The President, moreover, favored various European associations by active participation in their meetings. He, thus, took part in the colloquium in Dijon organized by the French comparative literature Association; he took part in a colloquium of the Portuguese Association as well as in the meeting of the European Comparative Literature Network organized by Lucia Boldrini. The President is of the view that the ties between the ICLA and the European Network should be strengthened. The President also mentions his participation in the colloquium of the Coordinating Committee of the ICLA in Aarhus in May 2009, which was remarkably organized by Svend Erik Larson. Manfred Schmeling then takes up the subject of the 2010 ICLA Congress. He is pleased with the resolution of the crisis caused by the unforeseen necessity of changing the location of the

Congress. It will therefore take place in Seoul in August 2010. Accompanied by Steven Sondrup, Secretary of the ICLA, Manfred Schmeling went to Korea in May of 2009 and was able to resolve numerous technical difficulties. A considerable number of abstracts for presentations were submitted after the distribution of the second printed circular. Manfred Schmeling mentions then that he has received a proposal for the 2013 Congress from the University of Paris, Sorbonne IV. He would like the proposal's acceptance or rejection to be decided by the executive council during the meeting in Brussels in advance of the General Assembly in Seoul. In conclusion Manfred Schmeling refers to certain problems with the administrative management of the Association. He wonders, in particular, if the Liaison Committee is really necessary? Who must decide on the venue where the triennial congress will be held? How long can a research committee remain in place? These different issues will need to be debated by the Association. Gerald Gillespie thinks that the decision of whether to organize the 2013 Congress in Paris must be made by the executive council in Brussels and be presented as a formal recommendation to the General Assembly in Seoul. The report of the President is unanimously approved.

Randolph Pope then reads the report of the activities of the Coordinating Committee for the Comparative History of Literature in European Languages of which he is the chair. In a brief, he mentions holding the annual meeting of the Committee in Aarhus the 21 May 2009. The colloquium was brilliantly organized by Professor Svend Erik Larson of the Department of Comparative Literature at Aarhus University. Randolph Pope mentions that the volumes *Modernism* edited by Astradur Eysteinnsson and Vivian Liska have been awarded the prestigious prize of the Association for the Study of Modernism for 2008. Randolph Pope mentions the success with which the volumes on Romanticism have been met as well as the volumes on the literary cultures of east central Europe. He announces the publication of several volumes in 2010. The volumes on the history of Nordic literatures edited by Steven Sondrup and Mark Sandberg are making good progress. Randolph Pope requests that the Association renews its financial support for the work of the committee. A subvention of 2,000.00 USD for each volume is confirmed. The report of the committee is approved unanimously.

Theo D'Haen reads the report of the Research Committee of which he is the chair. Theo d'Haen begins by mentioning the difficulties met during the organization of his committee. His report raises the following questions: Should the proceedings of the congresses of the ICLA continue to be published *in extenso*? Without doubt, a strategy should be established for the selection of the themes of the congresses. Better coordination among the various committees of the ICLA should be implemented. Theo D'Haen recommends a greater collaboration between the ICLA and FILLM. Finally an evaluation of the activities of the Association during the last five years will be undertaken in order to make a number of recommendations. During the discussion, Steven Sondrup points out the possibility for committees to announce their activities on the ICLA web site. Manfred Schmeling favors a certain latitude of choice be left to the local organizers of the triennial congresses. Gerald Gillespie stresses the essential role

of the Research Committee in the evaluation of new proposals for the creation of the thematic research committees Dorothy Figueira stresses the importance for the Association of providing visibility of the work of the different committees. The report is then approved unanimously.

In the absence of Paola Mildonian, Lieven D'Hulst reads the report of the Committee on Structures. The Committee has looked into two specific problems: the procedures for the choice of a location for the triennial congress of the ICLA and the modalities of electing members of each new executive council. While the final choice of the venue of the triennial congress has always in practice been left to the General Assembly of the ICLA, it seems an opportune time to reconsider this procedure. It is proposed to establish a number of precise criteria for the selection of a location. The executive council will determine the venue of our congresses according to these criteria. The General Assembly will not be able to decide on the location of a Congress without the prior consent of the executive council. As far as voting electronically to elect the members of new executive councils is concerned, it appears that a number of questions with regard to legality and confidentiality arise. The General Assembly should, therefore, communicate its stand on a revision of the statutes of the ICLA. This report invites considerable reflection Gerald Gillespie stresses the necessity of announcing a proposition to modify the statutes now so that a valid vote can be taken in the General Assembly in 2010. The conclusion is reached, however, that the question of voting electronically is not yet ready for a decision to be made at the moment. Who will have the right to vote? Moreover, e-mail addresses of all of the members are not known. In conclusion Manfred Schmeling suggests further study of the problem be undertaken by the Committee and the preparation of a rough draft of the modifications of the statutes of the ICLA be made. It will be proposed that the executive council be charged with the responsibility of determining the location of the triennial Congress. The report is unanimously approved.

Vladimir Biti thereafter reads the report of the Liaison Committee. The work between the members of the Committee, the President, and the Korean colleagues took place in a most satisfactory fashion, Manfred Schmeling thinks that the existence of this committee occasionally makes matters too complex, and he wonders about the pertinence of turning to this Committee in the future. It was agreed that this point would be left to the discretion of the President after the Congress in Seoul.

The morning session concluded with the presentation of the report of the Nominating Committee presented by Virgil Nemoianu. He describes the work undertaken by his committee and gives a list of the colleagues nominated to become part of the executive council of the ICLA from 2010 to 2013. The vote on these nominations was taken according to the function of the various offices. The nomination of Steven Sondrup as president of the ICLA was unanimously accepted. The nomination of Hans Bertens ZHOU Xiaoyi, Monica Spiridon, and Eduardo Coutinho as vice presidents was unanimously accepted. The nomination of Suzanne Nalbantian and Marc Maufort to the office of secretaries was

unanimously accepted. The nomination of Kathleen Komar, Micéla Symington, and KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi as treasurers was unanimously accepted. Thereafter a discussion began concerning the list of assessors, to which it was decided to add the name of Anders Pettersson. This list consists of the following colleagues: Vladimir Biti, Lucia Boldrini, Benjamin Boysen, François Claudon, Ibra Diene, Angela Esterhammer, Isabel Capeloa Gil, CHO Sung-Won, Peter Hajdu, Achim Hoelter, Ute Heidmann, INAGA Shigemi, Haun Saussy, Anne Tomiche, Hein Viljoen, and ZHANG Longxi. Mario Domenichelli regrets that Italy is not represented. Virgil Nemoianu responds that certain countries will be represented in different cycles. The necessary number of nominations for the office of assessor being twenty-four, it is decided that three additional names will be proposed by e-mail addressed to Virgil Nemoianu. With this stipulation, the list of candidates for the office of assessor is unanimously approved

*Second Session, 24 August 2009, 2:00 PM*

Steven Shankman reads his report concerning the activities of the Intercultural Studies Committee. He notes the progress of his collaboration with Prof. Doron. Haun Saussy (Yale University) has become a member of the Committee. Steven Shankman has collaborated moreover with Dorothy Figueira on a project concerning religion, ethics, and intercultural comparative literature. The work presented on this topic during the sessions co-organized by Dorothy Figueira and Steven Shankman at the colloquium in Bremen will be published in 2009 in a special section of the proceedings of the colloquium. Two sessions on intercultural comparative literature will also be organized for the Seoul Congress in 2010. The book co-edited by Steven Shankman, *Epics and Other Higher Narratives: An Intercultural Approach* as well as his monograph *Other Others: Levinas, Literature, Trans-Cultural Studies* should be published by the Seoul congress. The report is approved unanimously

Biagio D'Angelo reads report of the activities of the Research Committee on Latin America. He mentions convening a round table within the the framework of the Third International Colloquium on Comparative Literature of the Southern Region of Brazil in October 2008 and the organization of the fourth Colloquium of the Peruvian Comparative Literature Association in December 2008. Biagio D'Angelo announces the forthcoming publication in October 2009 of the book on American mythes entitled *Comparaciones en Vertical: Conflictos Mitologicos en las Literaturas de las Americas*. The report is unanimously approved.

The report of the activities of the Literary Theory Committee is read by Vladimir Biti in the absence of the Committee's chair Galin Tihanov. The Committee held its annual colloquium conjointly with the Rio de Janeiro Congress in August 2007. Another colloquium was organized in 2008 in Ljubljana. The proceedings will be published in 2009 in a special issue of *Primerjalna knjizevnost*. At that colloquium Professor Robert Stockhammer was elected chair of the committee. The report was approved unanimously.

KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi then presents the report of the Research Committee on East Asia. He calls attention to the recent publication (September 2008) of the proceeding of the Rio de Janeiro workshop on comparative literature in East Asia and in South America. The book entitled *A Study of Northeast Asian Cultural Relationship* was also published in 2008. He announces the organization of the next two colloquia devoted to the themes close to the work of the committee, one in Seoul, the other in Nishinomiya (Japan). He regrets to have to mention the delay encountered in the publication of the second volume of the comparative literary history of East Asia. The report is unanimously approved.

In the absence of Sylvie André, Mark Maufort reads the account of the activities of the Research Committee on Literature of the Pacific. The proceedings of a colloquium organized by Prof. Raylene Ramsey from Auckland in November 2008, *A la crois e des Cultures: De la négociation des identités dans les littérature franco phone et anglo phone du Pacifique* will be published in 2010. A collective volume that focuses attention on the questions and problems peculiar to the literatures of the Pacific will be published by Champion in 2011. The report was unanimously approved.

The report of the Research Committee on Comparative Literature in the Digital Age, read in the absence of Professor Dolores López, mentions the recent appearance of a special issue of *Neohelicon Acta Comparationis Litterarum Universarum* entitled *Cyberliterature of the World* (No. 2, 2009). The report makes mention of the organization of a seminar in Tel Aviv in June 2010 on the topic "Western Canon in Digital Channels of Communication" and as well the meeting of a workshop entitled the "Digital Narrative 2.0: Aesthetics and Criticism Beyond Literature" at the ICLA Congress in Seoul in August 2010. The report is unanimously approved

Alfons Knauth presents the report of his Committee on Cosmopolitanism and Polyglossia. For logistic reasons, the first virtual meeting of the Committee will be organized during the month of December 2009. This meeting will serve to draw up a map of the metropolitan areas and major currents of multi-lingualism. It will endeavor to offer a comparative vision of the principal paradigms of multi-lingual literature. The second meeting of the Committee will be held in conjunction with the ICLA Congress in Seoul where a workshop entitled "Translation and Multi-Lingual Literature" will be organized. After a debate about the definition of the term multilingual, the report is approved unanimously.

The report of the activities of the translation committee sent in by John Milton is read in his absence. The report notes the fact that few colleagues have submitted proposals for the Congress in Seoul. The executive council regrets that the Committee cannot mention more activities but approves the report none the less.

The absence of Margaret Higonnet, the report on the Gender Studies Committee is read by Monica Spiridon. The committee organized a workshop during the meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Boston in March 2009: "Queering Voices: Comparative Approaches to

Voice/Gender Articulation.” A session will as well be organized during the Congress in Seoul: “Gender, Nature, and Cultural Difference.” Margaret Higonnet has as well edited a special issue of the review *Comparative Critical Studies* devoted to the place of gender in the history of comparative literature. A volume based on the work presented during the Rio de Janeiro Congress will be published shortly with the title *Women and Translation* by the University of Ottawa Press (autumn 2009). Jerrod Hayes, William Spurlin, and Margaret Higonnet continue their work on critical anthology entitled *Comparatively Queer*. The report is unanimously accepted by the executive council, which also agrees to renew the mandate of the Committee for a period of three years.

Robert Stockhammers reads a summary of the report of the activities of the Literary Theory Committee. A symposium was organized in June 2009 in Sydney on the theme “The Aestheticization of Emotion.” A workshop will also be organized in Seoul with the title “Cosmopolitan Literature—Literary Theory in a World with Proliferating Frontiers.” The work presented at the workshop “Ambiguity and Disambiguation” during the Rio de Janeiro Congress will soon be published in the review *Neohelicon*. The proceedings of the Ljubljana and of the Sydney colloquia will also be published. After a terminological debate on the concept of comparative literature and of literary theory, the report is unanimously approved.

Monica Spiridon presents the report of the activities of the Research Committee on Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The book *Nationality Building and the Breakup of the Empire: Balkan Literatures in the Era of Nationalism* was published in December 2000 by Bilgi University Press in Istanbul. The seventh colloquium of the Committee took place in Bratislava in May 2009 with the theme of “The ‘New Imagined Communities’: Identity Building Up in Eastern and Southeastern Europe in a Globalizing Era.” The proceedings thereof will be published by the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The report is unanimously approved.

With regard to the presentation of the reports of the activities of the research committee, Manfred Schmeling thanks the various colleagues for their collaboration.

*Third Session, 25 August 2009, 9:00 a.m.*

The session was opened at 9:00 a.m. by the ICLA President, Manfred Schmeling. Marc Maufort, the European secretary, reads his annual report. He stresses his involvement in the preparation of the minutes of the meeting of the executive council in Bremen, his regular collaboration with the President, Manfred Schmeling, and the American secretary Steven Sondrup. As authorized by the ICLA executive council in Bremen, he undertook the organization of the meeting of the executive council at the Free University of Brussels in 2009. He also organized on this occasion a colloquium on the heritage of European literatures and cultures. The report was unanimously approved.



Steven Sondrup, the American secretary, then presents his report. He mentions his work on the preparation of the minutes, the organization of the agenda for the meeting in Brussels, the continual maintenance of the Association website, as well as the collection of the electronic addresses of the members. More than 2,000 addresses are currently in his possession Steven Sondrup invites the Council members to encourage their different national and regional associations to send him the e-mail addresses of their members in order to facilitate this means of communication within the ICLA. He presents a diagram showing the percentage of members represented by the different regional and national associations. After having been in Korea in May 2009 in the company of the ICLA President, Steven Sondrup prepared and had printed a second circular with a call for papers. Although he was able to find the financial support that permitted the preparation and printing of the circular the cost of distribution will have to be paid in other ways.

A debate, thus, arose about the way in which the postal costs should be handled; the cost is in excess of 8,700.00 USD. The general consensus was that this sum should be paid by the local organizers. They, however, explained that they did not have a sum of this magnitude available. After a long discussion, it was determined that the Association will lend the sum to the organizers until their budget permits them to reimburse the Association. Given this stipulation, the report was unanimously approved.

The three treasurers, Micaéla Symington, Kano Takayo, and Ross Shideler present their financial reports. Micaéla Symington explains in summary form the various difficulties she encountered in the midst of the international financial crisis in trying to transfer ICLA fund from Lloyds of London to a French account in euros at the CIC Bank. It was a question of carrying out a decision made during the meeting of the executive council in Bremen. Micaéla Symington had to address an official letter of complaint to Lloyd's of London. In spite all of the losses occasioned by the depreciation of the pound sterling, the ICLA is still financially solvent. Finally Micaéla Symington recommends establishing the dues in Europe at €10. After a debate concerning the necessity of this equalization, the president decides to examine the problem together with the Committee on Structures. KANO Takayo subsequently presents the financial report for Asia. Ross Shideler does the same with regard to the Americas. The reports of the treasurers are unanimously approved.

John Burt Foster, the editor-in-chief of *Recherche littéraire*, reads his report. He explains the various financial difficulties with which he has been confronted. Although a subsidy from his university for *Recherche littéraire* was guaranteed through 2010, he requests that the financial support of the Association be paid before the the delivery of the review to the printer. He adds that it will be necessary to assure resumption of responsibility for the review by a university press beginning in 2011. He mentions that it will be necessary to consider a successor for him as editor-in-chief. Dorothy Figueira adds in this regard that she has has made contact with North Carolina University Press. The executive council encourages the continuation of negotiations. Dorothy Figueira

adds that the executive council will have to communicate its opinion by electronic means concerning the proposition that the press will make. In so far as the choice of a new editor is concerned, it is appropriate that Manfred Schmeling, Steven Sondrup, and Dorothy Figueira make the necessary contacts. The report of John Burt Foster is unanimously accepted.

Steven Sondrup presents his report in his capacity as editor of the association's *Bulletin*. He proposes that from now on the availability of the *Bulletin* on the Association web site be announced by means of an RSS feed. A demonstration of this procedure is offered for the benefit of the executive council. Steven Sondrup adds that the members of the Association will be informed of the means by which it will be necessary to subscribe to the new RSS feed in order to receive it. Steven Sondrup requests a subvention of 2,000.00 USD in order to assure the establishment of this new method of distribution to report and the financial request are unanimously approved

Dorothy Figueira presents the report of the Anna Balkian Prize Committee. She mentions that the deadline for the reception of the manuscripts is set for the month of December 2009. Up to this point just a single submission has been received. She suggests that an e-mail be sent to all the members in order to remind them of the requirements of the prize. She also think that it would be appropriate to think about means of augmenting the capital endowment of the fund. The report is approved unanimously.

Steven Sondrup explains the problem of the Tania Carvalhal Memorial Travel Fund whose minimal capital endowment is at risk of being absorbed by banking expenses. He proposes, therefore, that the funds be transferred to the Balakian Prize. This proposition is unanimously approved.

*Fourth Session, 25 August 2009, 2:00 p.m.*

During the resumption of discussion, Jean-Marc Moura summarizes the activity of the Program Committee for the Seoul conference. He explains in detail the complex work of the six subcommittees which were part of the program committee. Jean-Marc Moura mentions the excellent collaboration with the Korean organizers—CHO Sung-Won and Ashley Kim—from which he has benefited. Anders Petterson stresses the necessity of adopting selection criteria that are sufficiently broad. The question of knowing when the new deadline for the acceptance of submissions should be established given the large number of abstracts already submitted up to this point is raised. It is decided that the absolute deadline will be 15 September 2009. Having made this stipulation, the report of Jean-Mark Moura is accepted unanimously.

Our colleague CHO Sung-Won subsequently describes in detail the progress of the preparations for the Congress in 2010 in Seoul. The executive council congratulates the organizers for their work and approves the report unanimously.

The following point in the agenda calls for an examination of the proposal for the ICLA Congress in 2013. The proposal coming from the University of Paris

IV Sorbonne has been prepared by Professor Jean-Yves Masson in collaboration with Prof. Anne Tomiche, the president of the French Comparative Literature Association. The theme proposed for the Congress is “Comparativism as a Critical Approach.” Anne Tomiche and Jean-Yves Masson, invited by the executive council to present the proposal, also provide details concerning the logistic organization envisioned for the Congress. The proposal has received the official support of the University of Paris IV. During the debate that follows the presentation, it becomes clear, that the last fifteen days of the month of July represent the best period for the organization of the Congress. The executive council enthusiastically accepts this proposal, which will be recommended for the approval of the General Assembly of the ICLA during the Congress in Seoul. The proposal is approved by a majority of the members of the executive council. The following point concerns the dates of the next meeting of the executive council of the ICLA Professor CHO indicates that the meeting of the executive council will take place immediately before the Congress in Seoul, the 13 and 14 August 2010. The venue of the meeting remains to be determined. This proposition is approved unanimously.

Eduardo Coutinho subsequently makes a report on the publication of the proceedings of the Rio de Janeiro Congress. The proceedings will be published in the form of three volumes respectively entitled *Continuities and Displacements*, *Crossings and Contaminations*, and *Identities in Process*. Steven Sondrup congratulates Eduardo Coutinho for the speed with which the proceedings have been published, which is without precedent in the history of the Association. In conclusion Theo D’Haen mentions the possibility for the ICLA requesting a subsidy from FILLM, which is supported by Anders Petterson.

The ICLA President, Manfred Schmeling, closes the meeting of the executive council of the ICLA after thanking all the colleagues for their collaboration.

# The XIXth Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association

The nineteenth triennial congress of the International Comparative Literature Association to be held at Chung Ang University in Seoul South Korea is now just a few months away. The organizers have been hard at work preparing to receive delegates from every part of the world registration for the congress is now available at the official Congress website [www.icla2010.org](http://www.icla2010.org). Reservations for accommodations at various hotels at which convention rates have been negotiated can also be made at the same website. Hotel reservations must be made before June 15, 2010 and preregistration for the Congress by way of the website should be made by June 30, 2000. Nearly 1000 abstracts coming from scholars from all parts of the world were submitted, and this Congress,, may prove to be one of the largest yet organized. A wide variety of topics are being considered from extremely varied points of view representing critical interpretive strategies from a great variety of different cultures.

The local arrangements promise to be very pleasant and will offer something for every taste. The hotels are attractive, pleasant, and well situated they will be linked to the actual Congress venue at Chung Ang University by frequent shuttle service as well as public transportation a subway stop, for example, is located just outside one of the main gates of the University. Chung Ang University is located on a hillside overlooking the city, and its spacious grounds and attractive buildings will offer ample opportunity for informal contact with colleagues. The meeting rooms themselves come in many sizes and configurations and should be able comfortably to accommodate large plenary speakers as well as more intimate workshops. The arrangements that have been made for plenary speakers will be a source of great interest and delight to all participants.

Seoul, a city not well known outside of East Asia, is attractive, pleasant, and say. On its own, it will give visitors a perception of Korean history and culture that can be had in no other way. The organizers have, moreover, planned a rich variety of cultural opportunities for the participants in the Congress that draw attention to the glories of Korea's ancient culture as well as to its prominent presence in modern technological society.

As new information becomes available or details need to be brought to the attention of participants, announcements will be posted both on the congress website as well as on the official website of the ICLA, <http://ailc-icla.org>. We hope that regular RSS feeds as well as instructions on their use will be in place in time to make any last-minute announcements. What is certain, though, is that

participants in the Congress can look forward to a very hospitable reception by our hosts and a program that will be engaging, stimulating, and challenging.

## The Ukrainian Comparative Literature Association joins the ICLA

It is a pleasure to announce that a still relatively small number of comparatists have organized the Ukrainian Comparative Literature Association and have just recently affiliated with the International Comparative Literature Association. This new association and its members are heartily welcomed to the ranks of the ICLA. Olga Romanova has been elected the executive secretary and has carried out the numerous necessary organizational tasks. She explains that comparative literature is a relatively new discipline in Ukraine and, consequently the Ukrainian Association at present is small, but members remain very optimistic about the growth of the discipline in that part of the world. The Ukrainian Association is housed at the institute of literature named for the great nineteenth-century poet and humanist Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) about whom comparatists with a western European orientation will be richly rewarded to learn more. The Shevchenko Literary Institute is housed in the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev. It is gratifying to see another association organized on whose borders are countries with a long tradition of work with the ICLA. Colleagues in Hungary and Poland, thus, have reason to be pleased with collegial neighbors now on their border.