

NEWW newsletter

7.1

June 2013



Pictured above: in front of Schloss Hülshoff, at the end of the Münster workshop, April 2013.

COST-WWIH final conference

Very soon we will meet for the final conference of our COST-WWIH Action, which will take place 19-21 June 2013 at Huygens ING in The Hague.

During the conference we will present and discuss what we have achieved over the last four years, as well as the directions in which the network will continue in the future. The program is available in the NEWW-site: http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/European_Female_Authorship_Networks_and_Obstacles.

Most importantly: the NEWW network will continue operating, collaborating together in groups and subgroups and meeting each other in annual conferences. This will also be discussed during the last COST-WWIH MC meeting which will be held in Zürich. For the next four years four colleagues already announced that they plan organizing such meetings:

Amelia Sanz for the 2014 meeting in Madrid;
Carmen Dutu for the 2015 meeting in Bucharest;

Isabel Lousada for the 2016 meeting in Lisbon;
Séverine Genieys-Kirk for the 2017 meeting in Edinburgh.

For each of these meetings the theme will of course be decided by the organizer(s), but they will certainly take into account the lines of interest which have appeared as common and important to the network members. Before the official ending of the COST-WWIH Action (30 September), we will provide more information about these future meetings, and also about the structure to be created, which forcibly will be slightly different from what it was as a COST Action, given that the financial aspects will of course be handled differently.

This open, collaborative NEWW network structure, will help us reaching our common long-term goals.

HERA project TTT: *Travelling Texts*

For this HERA collaborative research project which we earlier announced as being submitted

last fall, we can now announce its being also granted!

Starting 1st of September 2013, *Travelling Texts 1790-1914: The Transnational Reception of Women's Writing at the Fringes of Europe* includes colleagues from the UK (Henriette Partzsch, project leader), Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Slovenia. It will have duration of three years; the final conference has already been planned for end of August 2016 in Henriette's university of St. Andrews (Scotland).

This project, although concerning "only" five of our 25 countries, is of considerable importance for all NEWW members. In the first place, we can see it as a pilot for larger IT-supported research into the reception of women authors' writings. But in the second place, it is clear that while working on reception documents in these five countries, we are bound to discover and document the reception of women authors from *other* countries. As this will be documented in the *WomenWriters* database, there will be an important benefit in new knowledge concerning the impact of women authors also from countries not officially participating in this HERA project. Besides, the HERA researchers will of course also participate in the upcoming NEWW annual conferences (see above) in order to discuss their findings. See also:

http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Travelling_Texts.

CLARIN-NL project COBWWWEB

The COBWWWEB project (Connections Between Women and Writings Within European Borders) has also been granted, as we were informed already some months ago. It involves colleagues from the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. One of the objectives is to establish digital connections between the *WomenWriters* database (then: Virtual Research Environment) and online projects of the participating members. Development will be carried out at Huygens ING in the Netherlands.

The project has been officially launched in Münster (see below), and activities have started beginning of June. In a Think-Tank meeting to

be held 18th of June, immediately before the final conference, all the colleagues and developers concerned will come together and discuss the way in which we will proceed. The project has duration of one year. See also:

<http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/COBWWWEB>.

Final COST-WWIH MC meeting

The last and final meeting of the MC of the Action is currently being prepared by the organizers Tatiana Crivelli and Caterina Nosdeo. It will be held in Zürich, 10 September 2013. It will be, again, combined, with a last Think-tank meeting (8-9 September) involving the developers working on implementing features in the database/VRE, which had been discussed during Training Schools and decided during the preceding Think-tank meetings. This will allow continuity between the preparatory work done during the Action and the follow-up research which will have the benefit of the tool corresponding as much as possible to our needs.

After the final June conference invitations will be sent to all MC members and substitute members, who will be asked to contact each other per country, and to decide about delegating two representatives to this meeting which will be the administrative closure of our activities.

For the final reporting to the COST office all Action members will again be asked to send (by 1st of September) all relevant information about activities, publications, teaching, networking, conference organizing, etc.

COST-WWIH conference Poznan

The conference held 26-28 November 2012, organized by Magdalena Koch and her team, and entitled *Transcultural, Transnational, Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Women's Literary History* was very fruitful. It concentrated on the different "TRANS" categories mentioned in the title, which turned out essential for COST Action WWIH participants at this stage of their research: they provide a critique of binary oppositions and take into account the migration,

mobility, different forms of nomadism which are characteristic for women's authorship in different European literatures.

The keynote speech, opening the conference, was given by Ewa Kraskowska and Brygida Helbig Mischewski, who treated the eminent Polish female writer Maria Komornicka. She was a distinctive figure of transgender, trans-disciplinary categories and a particular "gender transgression" for which she is well known, took place in Poznan. That is the reason why her picture was placed in the logo of the conference.

Adopting this "Trans" perspective showed once again the contradictions which exist between *norms* and *images* regarding women's behaviour and their actual *desires* and *activities*.

This was in particular discussed during the central session, which was devoted to the different ways in which our data can be visualized in order to understand connections between authors and readers, and to create starting points for studying gender characteristics of the women's texts. IT specialists from different countries (GertJan Filarski – collaborating with Astrid Kulsdom –, Ronald Dekker, Aleš Vaupotič and Jan Rybicki) showed and commented different possibilities, some of which will be realized soon, thanks to the CLARIN-NL funding which has been granted.

A different and very interesting illustration of „TRANS" categories was a Monday (November 26) afternoon guided walk entitled "Poznan as a Transnational Women Writers' Space". It was devoted to visiting places connected with the life of Greater Poland Women Writers. When in front of one of the writers' houses (that of Sofia Casanova-Lutosławska, 1861-1958) we even met her granddaughter, coming by and appreciating this international interest for her grandmother's life and writing.

The guides during the tour were Lucyna Marzec, Adriana Kovacheva and Katarzyna Kończal from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. For participants of the walk it was a beautiful example for developing similar tours in their own cities and countries. The online "Greater Poland Dictionary of Women Writers" was also shown to the participants by Adriana Kovacheva and Lucyna Marzec.

International workshop Münster

Beginning of April (3-5) we had our last international workshop, which was beautifully organized by Hendrik Schlieper. We were living and meeting in one and the same impressive building right in the middle of Münster: the Liudger Haus, a former Seminary next to the Überwasserkirche.

This meeting was directly preparatory to the final conference to be held in The Hague in June. Here, as in The Hague, presentations were done by small groups of colleagues, collaborating together on larger problems, using as cases "their own" authors. Thanks to well working technology, Amelia Sanz, who was unable to come over from Madrid, did participate in the presentations and discussions using Skype.

Here again the presence of IT specialists was noted: in particular we celebrated the official launch of the CLARIN funded COBWWWEB project (see above). Gertjan Filarski was present as well as CLARIN-NL representative Arjan van Hessen. Thanks to this project a number of required adaptations of our online research tool (which had been discussed during Training School sessions) will be realized.

At the end of the conference, with a number of colleagues, we visited Schloss Hülshoff, where lived the famous 19th-century poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff. Here we found another example of the way in which "our" authors can be presented to an audience larger than just the colleagues-scholars.

Submitted: *Where is the Difference?*

Last May Huygens ING, and in particular those responsible of the *WomenWriters* database, has been invited for participation in a "Digging-into-Data" project. Led by Susan Brown (*Orlando project*, Alberta, Canada), and including partners from US and UK, this project is entitled: *Where's the Difference? The Ontological Challenges of Writing and Social Identities for the Semantic Web*. Aim is to succeed in connecting to each other large-scale databases. In that sense it can be compared to the

COBWWWEB project, apart from the scale and the degree of theoretical reflection.

The “statement of significance” reads: Markers of differences and diversity are often lost in the quest for larger patterns in big data representations. This loss is counter to the humanities' work to recover, re-specify, and contextualize difference. “Where’s the Difference” highlights the ways diversity in datasets has been obscured and pushes against this problem with new techniques in shared data for the semantic web. It brings important new datasets that emphasize difference to the semantic web and develops tools, including a “difference engine,” to enable humanists to work across those datasets with an eye to difference. In short, this project aims to ensure that difference and diversity are not lost in the move to “big data”.

This collaboration, if granted, will allow direct connections to large and important online projects such as *Orlando* and *Brown Women Writers Project*.

Short Time Scientific Missions

During the last months some of our young researchers have also benefited of the possibility offered by COST to collaborate with foreign researchers in the context of the so-called Short Time Scientific Missions. Different international contacts were established: Finnish Jasmine Westerlund – working on a Finnish translator of Selma Lagerlöf – went to Gothenburg to work with Jenny Bergenmar and others working at the the Selma Lagerlöf Archive; Serbian Vladimir Djuric went to Poznan to collaborate with Magdalena Koch about French influences on Serbian women’s literature; Polish Lucyna Marzec and Katarzyna Kończal went to Germany for collaborating with Gudrun Wedel about methodological aspects of research on the connections between a Polish and a German 19th-century woman author: Julia Woykowska and Bettina von Arnim.

The connections created or confirmed between the Early Stage Researchers and the supervisors from the host institution will certainly prove to be very important.

Training School

The fifth and last Training School of the COST-WWIH Action was held last February in The Hague. For the first time we now also had three “virtual” participants, who were part of the Training School in the sense that like the other Trainees they entered data corresponding to their own research needs, and had the possibility of discussing the work: by using e-mail and skype (as much as possible). The communication was not always easy: in a way this also proved that coming *physically* together and having the permanent exchange with colleagues sitting at the very same table – without any concern about children being ill, etc. – is essential and cannot yet be completely replaced. However for all of us it was an interesting experience. See also:

http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Fifth_Training_School

Interesting news

Ele Carpenter who, as some of you will remember, participated in the Belgrade workshop and in the Chawton conference of 2011 with her *Embroidered Digital Commons project*, now announced that the film made after our contributions to this project is ready and available at <http://vimeo.com/68306562>.

Awards

Juliana Jovičić is now doing her 3-months research stay in Weimar, granted by the Goethe-Society. In the Anna Amalia Library and the Goethe und Schiller Archiv she explores Goethe’s private correspondence with women of his time. She researches in particular tactics and strategies women used in their letters to Goethe in order to get his support in making a career, resp. in reaching the public sphere. She also studies Goethe’s impact on women’s careers and support to talented women. Furthermore, she enters data on Goethe’s reception of women writers in the NEWW database, and will study them.

Suzan van Dijk was conferred the Award of Honorary Member of the University of Nova Gorica by the Senate of this University. The conferral of the award will take place 17 October 2013.

Celebrating

In Norway 2013 is a year of celebration. We celebrate the anniversary of women's suffrage (1913) and the birth of the Norwegian writer Camilla Collett (1813). The celebrations are intertwined as the official program of the women's suffrage anniversary also focuses on Camilla Collett as a writer and feminist pioneer.

So far several members of the Norwegian network (which is connected to the COST-WWIH Action), have contributed to the Collett-anniversary. Research librarian Hege Stensrud Høsøien at the National Library has been in charge of a new Camilla Collett-bibliography, which is available online [<http://www.nb.no/bibliografi/collett/>].

Hege was also one of the organizers of the conference about Camilla Collett, which was arranged by the National Library in January, with Toril Moi as a key-note speaker. Several members of the Norwegian network were lecturing at the conference (Kristin Ørjasæter, Torill Steinfeld).

The National library will also open an exhibition in June, to celebrate both Collett and the anniversary of women's suffrage. And there are other arrangements by The National library with Hege involved. In January Torill Steinfeld published a revised and enlarged edition of her Collett-biography. The anniversary has obviously revitalized the public interest in Collett's life and work, and Torill has been lecturing at several places in Norway and has also been interviewed in newspapers and radio-programs. She now teaches a course about Collett at the University of Oslo.

This year the celebration of the International *Women's Day*, on 8 March, at the University of Oslo focused on Camilla Collett. The program included film, music and a panel on her writings and her impact as a feminist. Tone Brekke at the Center for Gender Research and a member of the

Norwegian network, was in charge of the arrangement (with Torill as a co-planner of the program). Several members of the Norwegian network were panel-speakers. The arrangement attracted a public of 80-100, mostly women.

In May Tone Selboe, who was lecturing on Collett at the COST-WWIH meeting in Oslo (August 2012), will publish a new book about Collett's essays. Tone also contributed to the January-conference and the March 8th panel.

Members' activities

Mojca Sauperl successfully defended her doctoral dissertation *The Role of Fanny Mongellaz in the European Women's Thought of the First half of the 19th Century* at Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis – Ljubljana Graduate School of the Humanities. Her advisor was Professor Svetlana Slapšak.

Mónica Bolufer organized the International seminar: *Identidad y alteridad. Experiencias y relatos de viajes en el mundo moderno* [Identity and alterity: travel experiences and narratives in the modern world], Universitat de València, 6-7 March 2013.

She also gave a keynote address at the First International Meeting of Women's and Gender Studies, held in Zacatecas, Mexico, 19th-22nd March 2013, entitled *Female voices in the eighteenth-century republic of letters: peninsular women and transatlantic connections* [Voces femeninas en la república de las letras: escritoras peninsulares y lazos transatlánticos (s. XVIII)].

Vanda Anastácio participated in *Writers and their Libraries*: an International Conference organized at the Institute of English Studies School of Advanced Study, University of London, 15-16 March 2013, with the paper: «In Search of a Woman's Library: the books of the Marquise of Alorna in the Library of the Fronteira Palace»

Corinne Fournier Kiss: The Swiss research magazine *Horizonte* published by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the

Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences (double version: one in French and one in German), dedicated a brief article to her habilitation work entitled *Gender and Nation in Czech and Polish literature 1850-1900* in the issue of March 2013, p. 45.

Corinne Fournier Kiss also took part in the conference *Literature, Money and Women* with a paper in Polish on “Poor men and rich women in Eliza Orzeszkowa’s and Karolina Světlá’s works”, within the framework of a Women Literature Festival in Szczecin (Poland) in June 2013.

Magdalena Koch participated in the same conference. In a panel discussion she spoke about the economic situation of Serbian and Croatian women writers of the 19th century (Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja and Dragojla Jarnević). This conference was organized by prof. Inga Iwasiów within the framework of the Wom’s Literature Festival GRYFIA in Szczecin (Poland) in June 2013.

Ton van Kalmthout, together with colleagues Elke Brems (CERES/HUB Brussels) and Orsolya Réthelyi (ELTE Budapest) started a new collaborative project, entitled CODL (Circulation of Dutch Literature): cooperation between researchers and translators of Dutch literature and experts from other fields, both within and outside the Dutch speaking community. A network is to be created focusing on the international reception of a number of key texts of Dutch literature. Some women’s texts are also included, in particular those written by Hadewych and by Betje Wolf and her friend Aagje Deken. See also:

<http://www.huygens.knaw.nl/en/circulation-of-dutch-literature-codl/>

In Utrecht, between February and March 2013, the “Dutch Women Writers” group held a series of lectures about nine of “our” authors, addressing a larger, non-specialized audience. Discussion with members of this audience was also extremely interesting for the speakers. Other initiatives, similar to this one are and will be prepared. See for the program:

http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Series_of_lectures

Ursula Stohler, “Exile and Identity in the Works of the Czech 20th-Century Woman Writer Lenka Procházková“ and

Juliana Jovičić, “Therese Albertine Luise von Jakob-Robinson (Talvj, 1797–1870). Her role and contribution as cross cultural mediator in providing entrance of small Serbian literature into European cultural heritage”

these were papers given during the Round Table *East and South-East European Women’s Writing: Translation, Exile and Identity*, January 16, 2013, which was organized by Zsuzsanna Varga at the Institute of Russian and Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

NEWW member Anke Gilleir co-organised a conference entitled *Mending the broken language? Literature, Hermeneutics and the politics of monolingualism*, at K.U. Leuven, 18 and 19 April. She also presented a contribution: “‘Ein Dolmetscher sei ihm unentbehrlich’ – Rhetorik and Thematik der Einsprachigkeit bei Goethe”. Suzan van Dijk participated with a paper entitled “Women authors, national languages and the use of French”.

Member profile

Stephen Bygrave is covering Gillian Dow’s maternity leave as Director of Research at Chawton House Library. A Professor at the University of Southampton, Stephen’s publications include an edition (with Stephen Bending) of Thomas Day’s *Sandford and Merton and Uses of Education: Readings in Enlightenment in England* (2009). His current project is a study of the rhetoric of dissent in Priestley and others, to which end he is currently working on Anna Letitia Barbauld.

With Gillian Dow, he is organising the 30th biennial conference of the British Association for Romantic Studies at Southampton in July 2013. See <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/bars>.

Calls for papers

Corinne Fournier Kiss is co-organising an international Conference on «Women's Emancipation from the 18th C. to the 20th C.», which will take place at the University of Białystok (Poland), 26-27 September 2013. It will be held in Polish. See call for papers under : http://ifp.uwb.edu.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=206:prze.

Catriona Seth and Rotraud von Kulesa organize: *Marie Leprince de Beaumont – An Enlightenment Educator*, conference to be held 16-17 December 2013 at the University of Augsburg, in collaboration with the Université de Lorraine (Nancy). This conference intends to pursue exploration of this most interesting educationalist and, in particular, to take into account some of the works which have hardly warranted any critical attention. It will envisage their reception outside France, the philosophical foundations on which the author based herself and reconsider her controversial classification amongst the Anti-Lumières authors..

Proposals in French or English should be sent, by June 30th 2013 to rotraud.kulesa@phil.uni-augsburg.de or catriona.seth@univ-lorraine.fr. Papers can be given in either of the two languages. See also: [http://www.isecs.org/isecs_sieds/pdf/2013 Lepri_nce_de_Beaumont.pdf](http://www.isecs.org/isecs_sieds/pdf/2013_Lepri_nce_de_Beaumont.pdf)

Recent articles by NEWW members

Magdalena Ożarska, “Grand Tourists or Travellers? Dorothy Wordsworth, Journal of a Tour of the Continent, and Mary Shelley, Rambles in Germany and Italy in 1840, 1842, and 1843”, in *ZAA – Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* (A Quarterly of Language, Literature and Culture) 61.2, 2013, p. 107-120.

Madeleine van Strien-Chardonneau, “Madame de Maintenon, sa personne et son oeuvre dans les périodiques de Hollande (francophones et néerlandophones) au XVIIIe siècle”, in Christine Mongenot et Marie-Emmanuelle Plagnol-Diéval (eds.), *Madame de Maintenon, une femme de*

lettres?. Rennes, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2012, p. 223-239.

In the same volume by Suzan van Dijk: “Madame de Maintenon et sa réputation en Hollande” (p. 241-258);

and by Ileana Mihaila: “Présence de la personnalité et des idées de Madame de Maintenon dans la culture roumaine” (p. 213-222).

Other articles by Ileana Mihaila : “Dora d’Istria et le printemps des peuples du Sud-Est Européen”, in *Revista de istorie și teorie literară*, Ed. Academiei, an IV (serie nouă), nr. 1-4, ianuarie-decembrie 2010, p. 329-342 ; et : “Des femmes par des femmes : la réception de la littérature féminine par des écrivaines roumaines au 19^e siècle”, in *Caiete critice*, 6(284)/2011, p. 56-61.

Recent books by NEWW members

Catriona Seth, *La Fabrique de l'intime. Mémoires et journaux de femmes du XVIII^e siècle*. Paris, Robert Laffont, « Bouquins », 2013 (texts by Rosalba Carriera, Marguerite-Jeanne de Staal-Delaunay, Suzanne Necker, Françoise-Radegonde Le Noir, Isabelle de Bourbon-Parme, Félicité de Genlis, Jeanne-Marie Roland, Mary Robinson, Charlotte-Nicole Coquebert de Montbret, Adélaïde de Castellane, Germaine de Staël, Marie-Aimée Steck-Guichelin and Marie-Victoire Monnard).

Petra Broomans, Sandra van Voorst, Karina Smits (eds.), *Rethinking Cultural Transfer and Transmission. Reflections and New Perspectives*. Groningen, Barkhuis, 2012.

This book formulates new directions within the studies on cultural transfer and transmission, including gender aspects of cultural transfer, the importance of cultural transfer for minority literatures and approaches to writing a cultural transfer and transmission history. New insights are gained from rediscovered material, and although the discussion of the theoretical points of departure and the methods used has only just

begun, it is already providing us with interesting results and insights. See:

http://www.barkhuis.nl/product_info.php?products_id=154

Members' babies

Gillian Dow gave birth to her son Edward Thomas Julien Dow-Fouquier on Sunday 24th of March 2013. Congratulations!

Nina Geerdink gave birth, 2nd of April 2013, to her son Teun. Congratulations!

Sofija Nemet, on April 19 2013, gave birth to a baby boy, named Jovan (John in English, Ioannis in Greek). Congratulations!

Question to NEWW members

What about your awareness of the existence of societies and/or writers' houses or museums dedicated to one or (perhaps) several women authors in your respective countries? (see also NEWWletter 6.3). Information about this can be sent to Henriette Partzsch (WG 4): hamp2@st-andrews.ac.uk.

The NEWWletters on-line

The online versions of the NEWWletters are available at www.womenwriters.nl (click: NEWWletters). Here hyperlinks direct to the programmes, further information on the researchers, etc.

This NEWWletter

If one of the network members is interested in joining the group of NEWW's letter editors, she (he) will be very welcome...

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