

NEWW newsletter

2.2

April 2008



On April 4-5, NEWW organized a workshop in Utrecht, “Going European?”, during which we discussed the current aims of the project and made concrete plans for the coming years. Pictured above, left to right: Faith Beasley, Ina Schabert, Kerstin Wiedemann, Anne van Buul, Alicia Montoya; Agnese Fidecaro reading the new NEWW mission statement; Lisa Vollendorf, Anke Gilleir, and Suzan van Dijk.

NEWW project news

In March, NEWW participated in two conferences. Hilary Brown and Suzan van Dijk presented the session “Eighteenth and nineteenth-century international networks” at the one-day conference *Women’s Literary Networks: 1580 to the Present Day*, co-organized by Nicole Pohl in London on March 8. NEWW also organized a round table session, “Toward a Transnational and Relational History of Women’s Writing”, at the annual ASECS (American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies) conference, held in Portland, Oregon. NEWW members Irène Zanini-Cordi, Anne Marie Mai, and Suzan van Dijk discussed the need to approach women’s literature on an international scale. Afterwards we discussed possibilities for US-based colleagues to take part in the NEWW network.

On April 4-5, in Utrecht, we held a workshop, “Going European?”, which was attended by the executive committee and long-standing NEWW

members Vanda Anastacio, Petra Broomans, Gillian Dow, Agnese Fidecaro, Amelia Sanz, Lieselotte Steinbrügge, Ursula Stohler, and Kerstin Wiedemann, as well as outside experts and new NEWW members Norbert Bachleitner, Faith Beasley, Philippe Bossier, Madeleine Jeay, Ina Schabert, Catriona Seth, and Lisa Vollendorf. During this workshop, we discussed a working document detailing the NEWW project, entitled “Going European? Toward a European women’s literary history: New instruments – new materials – new questions”, and possibilities for further collaboration. The discussion was very fruitful, and led to a number of concrete measures. Agnese Fidecaro drafted a mission statement for our project/network, which will soon be posted on the NEWW website. She will also be setting up a Listserv discussion list to further facilitate discussion among us and with other interested parties. A provisional schedule was further drawn up of upcoming NEWW meetings, varying from small-scale workshops to full-scale NEWW conferences (May 2009 in

Bochum, May 2011 in Dartmouth). Finally, we decided to launch a peer-reviewed, periodical NEWW publication, starting in 2010, and will be looking into possible formats and publishers in the coming months.

The executive committee (Suzan van Dijk, Anke Gilleir and Alicia C. Montoya) met again in January in Utrecht, and in April in Abcoude, where they prepared the activities of the previous months and discussed upcoming NEWW events, including the second in our series of “November meetings”, and the NEWW conferences in May 2008 (Chawton) and May 2009 (Bochum).

Upcoming meetings and events

May 22-23, Chawton (UK). Second international NEWW conference, organized by Gillian Dow, Katherine Astbury and Hilary Brown, entitled *Readers, Writers, Salonnières: Female Networks in Europe, 1700-1900*. Keynote addresses will be given by Dena Goodman, Isabelle Bour and Helen Chambers. For further information, see http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Chawton%2C_May_2008.

N.B. On May 21, also in Chawton, a preliminary meeting will be held which all NEWW members are invited to attend, in order to discuss our plans for future collaborative research. We will take as the starting point for this discussion the working document “Going European?” and an account of the April workshop (see above), which will be sent to all NEWW members. Please contact Suzan van Dijk if you would like to attend the pre-conference Chawton meeting.

July 8-10, Aberdeen. Conference *The Novel and its Borders*, organized by the Centre for the Novel, in association with the AHRC Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies. NEWW will organize a session with NEWW members Elena Gretchanaia, Suzan van Dijk and Zsuzsanna Varga. For conference details, see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/novelconference/>.

July 21-23, London. International conference *Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence*, on the history of reading, organized by the Open University and the Institute of English Studies.

NEWW will be present with a delegation consisting of Lizet Duyvendak and Suzan van Dijk. For further details, see <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2008/RED/index.htm>.

Database news

Since February, when Anne van Buul joined NEWW as a project assistant, data entry has picked up again.

The database *WomenWriters* at present (April 2008) contains 18,062 notices concerning the reception of women’s literary works before 1900; of these, 13,429 concern the Dutch reception.

All NEWW members are invited to enter any of their own data that may be of interest to colleagues. Please contact Suzan van Dijk or Anne van Buul to get a password, instructions for use, and (if needed) support by telephone or E-mail. It is important that “new” users experiment and comment on the user-friendliness of the tool. Their feedback will be important in discussions about perfecting and upgrading the database. The database in its present form can be consulted at: www.databasewomenwriters.nl.

The companion website, *Women Writers’ Networks* (www.womenwriters.nl), is currently being revamped and further expanded. A new item “Conferences and other activities” has been added containing information (programmes, short reports, papers and abstracts) about NEWW meetings and meetings with NEWW participants, as well as more detailed information about NEWW members (see below).

We are further planning to provide, through the website *Women Writers’ Networks*, a bibliography of works on women writers within a transnational perspective, which should be relevant to all of us. If you wish to contribute references, please contact Anke Gilleir.

Member profiles

Hilde Hoogenboom, Assistant Professor, Slavic and Eurasian Program, University at Albany (PhD Columbia University, 1996), was the Jesse Ball DuPont Fellow at the National Humanities

Center (2000-1) and Postdoctoral Fellow in the Eurasia Program of the Social Sciences Research Council (2001-2) for her book project, *Sentimental Realism in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature*, a study of realist aesthetics, gender, and noble culture. Co-editor of two collections of essays on Russian women writers, she has numerous articles on women, including a historical, comparative survey of bio-bibliographic compilations of women as a genre, George Sand in Russia, and populist revolutionary autobiography. Her research interests include nineteenth-century women writers, autobiography and non-canonical genres, and the Francophone literature of Russia. She is President of the Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association. Her new translation of Catherine the Great's *Memoirs* from the French, with a substantial introduction and commentary (Modern Library at Random House, 2005; paperback 2006) is the first for which the translators consulted the original manuscripts in her own hand. Meant for general and specialist readers alike, this book is supported by a grant from the National Humanities Center for research and teaching in the undergraduate classroom. Professor Hoogenboom has been interviewed for several television documentaries on Catherine the Great (A&E Biography Channel and National Geographic).

Catriona Seth is professor of 18th-century French literature at the Université de Nancy. She studied at Oxford and the Sorbonne. Her books include the *Anthologie de la poésie française (XVIIIe siècle)*, Paris, Gallimard (Bibl. de la Pléiade), 2000; *André Chénier. Le miracle du siècle*, Paris, PUPS, 2005; *Marie-Antoinette. Anthologie et dictionnaire*, Paris, Laffont (Coll. Bouquins), 2006; and several projects in collaboration like *Sade en toutes lettres* (with Michel Delon) and *Destins romanesques de l'émigration* (with Claire Jaquier and Florence Lotterie). Her new book *Les rois aussi en mouraient: l'inoculation en lutte contre la petite vérole* is due out in May and will be published in Paris by Desjonquères. It deals with smallpox inoculation and its ramifications in the worlds of philosophy, politics, mathematics, fashion... It includes a large chapter on the role of women

("Les femmes et les enfants d'abord"). She is currently working on an anthology of 18th-century women's memoirs.

Anne van Buul works one day a week as research assistant on the NEWW project at the Huygens Institute in The Hague. Her subproject deals with the reception of women writers in Dutch periodicals and aims to complete the references to this form of reception in the online database for the years 1760-1840, making use of the references in a large card system from the archive of Professor (emeritus) Willem van den Berg. He managed the production of the card system in the sixties, and on the basis of the data he wrote a dissertation on the term 'romantic'. Anne studied Dutch Language and Culture at the Radboud University at Nijmegen. In 2006 she wrote her master thesis on P.C. Boutens as a translator in the context of fin de siècle medievalism and new mysticism. For the research master 'Literary Studies: New Philology' at Nijmegen, she did an internship editing Herman Gorter's correspondence at the Huygens Institute. At the moment she is writing her second master thesis about the reception of Dante Gabriel Rossetti in The Netherlands.

Lisa Vollendorf is associate professor of Spanish at California State University, Long Beach and Past-President of Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (pre-1800), an organization devoted to women's cultural production in Iberia and Latin America. A specialist in early modern women's literary and cultural history, she has published *The Lives of Women: A New History of Inquisitional Spain* (Vanderbilt University Press 2005); *Reclaiming the Body: María de Zayas's Early Modern Feminism* (University of North Carolina Press 2001); and has edited *Literatura y feminismo en España: siglos XV-XXI* (Icaria 2006) and *Recovering Spain's Feminist Tradition* (MLA 2001). Her co-edited book with Daniella Kostroun, *Women and Religion in the Atlantic World 1600-1800* is forthcoming from University of Toronto Press. She is currently editing *Approaches to Teaching Don Quixote*, with James A. Parr, for the Modern Language Association.

Recent books by NEWW members

Luria Walker, Gina (with F. Gordon), ed., *Rational Passions: Women and Scholarship in Britain 1702-1870. A Reader*, Broadview Press, 2008.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Broomans, Petra, "The Inexpressible of the Nature of Woman. Women Cultural Transmitters and Ibsen's Writing About How Women Love", in F. Helland et al (ed.), *The Living Ibsen. Proceedings - The 11th International Ibsen Conference, 21 - 27 August 2006*, Oslo, Centre for Ibsen Studies, University of Oslo, 2007, pp. 399-405.

Evain, Aurore, "Histoire d'autrice, de l'époque latine à nos jours", in A.-M. Houdebine (ed.), "Femmes et langues", special issue of *Séméion. Travaux de sémiologie*, 6, Feb. 2008, pp. 53-62.

Montoya, A.C., "Contes du style des troubadours. The Memory of the Medieval in Seventeenth-Century French Fairy Tales", *Studies in Medievalism XVI* (2008), pp. 1-24.

Vollendorf, Lisa, "Across the Atlantic: Sor Juana, *La respuesta*, and the Hispanic Women's Canon," in E. Bergmann and S. Schlau (ed.), *Approaches to Teaching Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz*, New York, Publications of the Modern Language Association, 2007.

—, "Globalizing Women's Studies: The Case of Spain," in M. Garrett, H. Gottfried and S. VanBurkleo (ed.), *Remapping the Humanities*, Wayne State University Press, 2007.

Websites with NEWW contributions

Monastic Matrix: <http://monasticmatrix.org/>
This website is devoted to posting primary and secondary sources related to Christian women and monasticism 400 c.e. to 1700 c.e. If you would like to provide materials (sources or other), a graduate assistant is available to post them, so all you have to do is contact Professor

Lisa Bitel [<bitel@usc.edu>](mailto:bitel@usc.edu). (Information provided by Lisa Vollendorf.)

Other announcements

We are pleased to be able to offer NEWW members the volume *Writing the History of Women's Writing. Toward an International Approach*, edited by Suzan van Dijk, Lia van Gemert and Sheila Ottway (Amsterdam 2001) at a special 50% discount, for 25 euros. Please contact [Suzan van Dijk](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk) if you wish to order a copy.

NEWW membership

During the April workshop, we talked of the necessity to further formalize NEWW membership. To that end, we intend to list names of active members on the website following [this format](#). At present, only the workshop participants are listed, but everyone who wishes to be listed is asked to send the relevant information to [Suzan van Dijk](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk).

If you wish to continue receiving the NEWW newsletter, please send a message stating so to A.C.Montoya@rug.nl, and including your full contact information (university affiliation, address and e-mail address) and area of expertise (e.g. "Russia, 17th century").

Contacts

Project director: Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl.

Project websites: <http://www.womenwriters.nl> (general website, currently under reconstruction), <http://www.databasewomenwriters.nl> (database)

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