

NEWW newsletter

2.1

January 2008



Pictured above: Leonor de Almeida, marquise of Alorna (1750-1839). On November 22 in Utrecht and on November 23 in Groningen, NEWW members Teresa Sousa de Almeida (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and Vanda Anastácio (Universidade de Lisboa) discussed their collaborative project “Portuguese Women Writers”, and the possibilities of linking it to the *WomenWriters* database. During her lifetime, the marquise of Alorna was at the centre of various literary networks linking her to women authors across the European continent. These included, among others, Antoinette Deshoulières, Marie-Anne du Boccage and Mme de Sévigné, whose work inspired her own. Further study of the networks surrounding her will enable us to better appreciate the pivotal role played by this woman of letters, who fostered the first generation of Portuguese Romantic authors.

NEWW: the first year

This first NEWW year has been an active and fruitful one: after shortly considering the possibility of applying for a European research grant in May, for the seventh European Research Framework, we decided to dedicate ourselves first to further, necessary network-building. The first NEWW conference (Geneva, May 2007) was followed by the participation of NEWW members in other conferences and study days: the Siefar (Société Interdisciplinaire pour l’Etude des Femmes de l’Ancien Régime) and SATOR (Société pour l’Analyse de la Topique Romanesque) conferences, both held in June; a

session of the congress of ISECS (International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies) in Montpellier (July); meetings of the Dutch Anglo-Fem network in Nijmegen (September), the German group FrideL (Frauen in der Literaturwissenschaft) in Bremen, and the Belgian CELV (Centre for the Study of English Literatures in Dutch Translation) in November. Finally, our first NEWW “November meeting” was held in Utrecht on the 22nd (see below).

At the same time, discussions have taken place and meetings have been attended about the financial aspects of a possibly European-funded collaboration. To begin with, a smaller-scale research plan was submitted to N.W.O. (Dutch

Organization for Scientific Research) in order to finance a completely new version of the present database *WomenWriters*. We expect to hear in February whether N.W.O. will grant us funding.

Several NEWW members have meanwhile established contacts with their universities' international offices. These contacts will allow us to reflect seriously on the form that our collaboration will adopt in the future. NEWW members wishing to contribute to this collective reflection are invited to contact Suzan van Dijk.

NEWW project news

On November 22, in Utrecht, we held the first of our yearly "November meetings", in collaboration with the Huizinga Institute / Interuniversity Dutch Doctoral School in Cultural History. For this year's meeting, we chose as the topic "What is a female author? Who is a woman writer?". Speakers included NEWW members Teresa Sousa de Almeida and Vanda Anastácio, Agnese Fidecaro, and Zsuzsanna Varga, as well as Dutch doctoral students Annemarie Doornbos and Nina Geerdink. The programme and text of the papers are to be found on our project website, www.womenwriters.nl (see "Conferences").

Following the November meeting, on November 23, NEWW members Teresa Sousa de Almeida and Vanda Anastácio travelled to the University of Groningen, where they gave a lecture entitled "Between convent and salon: the writings of Portuguese women writers in the 18th century".

In November, we unfortunately also learned that the European Science Foundation would not fund the exploratory workshop for which we had requested a grant. We decided, however, to still hold a meeting, but on a somewhat smaller scale, in Utrecht on 4-5 April 2008.

The executive committee (Suzan van Dijk, Anke Gilleir and Alicia C. Montoya) met again in November in Leuven, where they looked back on the activities of the previous months and discussed upcoming NEWW events, notably the first in our series of "November meetings", and the Chawton NEWW conference in May 2008.

Upcoming meetings and events

March 8, London, one-day conference on "Women's Literary Networks: 1580 to the present day", organized by the English Department at Oxford Brookes University and the Institute of English Studies, University of London. NEWW members Hilary Brown and Suzan van Dijk will both be presenting papers. For further information, please contact npohl@brookes.ac.uk.

March 27-30, Portland (Oregon), annual meeting of ASECS (American Association for Eighteenth Century Studies). NEWW will be organizing a round table session entitled "Toward a transnational and relational history of women's writing". Participating are Anne-Marie Mai, Irène Zanini-Cordi and Suzan van Dijk. For further information, please see the conference site, <http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2008CFP.htm>.

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 speakers will be Dena Goodman, Isabelle Bour and Helen Chambers. For information, see [http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Chawton%2C May 2008](http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Chawton%2C%20May%202008).

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. Please contact Suzan van Dijk if you would like to attend.

NEWW calls for papers

CALL FOR PAPERS. We are pleased to enclose with this newsletter a call for papers for a special NEWW volume, to appear as part of the series *Intersections. Yearbook for Early Modern Studies* (Leiden, Brill), entitled *Women Writing Back / Writing Women Back. Transnational Perspectives from the Late Middle Ages to the Dawn of the Modern Era*. Please see the enclosed brochure for further details.

CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION. We would like to send NEWW delegations, consisting of a panel of 3-5 members each, to some of the following conferences. If you wish to participate in one of them, please contact Suzan van Dijk.

- July 8-10, 2008, Aberdeen. *The novel and its borders*, on novels crossing borders, 18th-21st centuries (proposal deadline: 20 January.) Call for papers : <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/novelconference/>
- July 21-23, London. *Evidence of reading, reading the evidence*, on the history of reading, 15th-20th centuries (proposal deadline: 31 January). Call for papers: <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2008/RED/index.htm>
- September 18-20, Cergy-Pontoise. The group CICC (Civilisations et identités culturelles comparées des sociétés européennes et occidentales, Université de Cergy-Pontoise) is organizing a conference on *Femmes et stratégies transnationales, XVIIIe-XXIe siècles* (contributions in French, Spanish or English). For the call for papers, see: <http://www.fabula.org/actualites/article21331.php>. Please contact Suzan van Dijk before the end of January if you wish to participate.
- October 11 and 12, University Lumière-Lyon-2: *The Building of Feminism : Exchanges and Correspondences*. Conference organised by the CARMA (Centre d'Analyses et de Recherches sur le Monde Anglophone). The emphasis will be on the circulation of ideas between feminists in a particular country, or between English-speaking countries, or from English-speaking countries to any other country. Proposals for papers (appr. 150 words), with a short resumé, should be sent before March 31, to Claudette Fillard, Professor Emerita (American Studies), Université Lumière-Lyon 2 : Claudette.fillard@univ-lyon2.fr.

Database news

The database *WomenWriters* at present (January 2008) contains 17,730 notices concerning the

reception of women's literary works before 1900; of these, 13,138 concern the Dutch reception. As announced in the previous newsletter, progress in adding notices has been slower during the past months due to the official closure of the previous digitizing project.

However, as of February, a new assistant has been hired to work on data entry in collaboration with the Huygens Institute in The Hague: Anne van Buul, who holds an MA in Dutch literature and is presently completing her MA in Comparative Literature at the Radboud University in Nijmegen.

All NEWW members are invited to enter any of their own data that may be of interest to colleagues, and to experiment and comment on the user-friendliness of the tool. This 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. This website will shortly replace the current "surfgroepen" site, enabling easier consultation and updating.

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](mailto:Anke.Gilleir@univ-lyon2.fr).

Member profile

Catherine M. Müller. After authoring a book on two late 13th-century French mystics (*Marguerite Porete et Marguerite d'Oingt de l'autre côté du miroir*, Peter Lang, 1999), publishing an edition of Catherine d'Amboise's *Poésies* from the early 16th century (Montréal, CERES, 2002), and co-editing a volume on Christine de Pizan, Catherine Müller has specialized for several years in early modern French literature written or translated by women. Her book in progress,

Poétesses du XV^e siècle, and its sequel, *Poétesses méconnues du XVI^e siècle*, will be published by the Publications de l'Université de Saint-Étienne. Her publications include articles on literary circles, patronage, and writings by ladies of power (such as Margaret of Scotland, Marie of Clèves, and Margaret of Austria), as well as on translations written by Anne de Graville, Camille de Morel, and Antoinette de Loynes.

While teaching at the Universities of Lausanne, Zürich, Osnabrück, Fribourg, and Geneva, Prof. Müller gave over forty lectures in Europe, Australia, and the United States. The recipient of a prestigious grant from the Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research, she now works as an independent scholar in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Recent books by NEWW members

Dow, G. (ed.), *Translators, Interpreters, Mediators. Women Writers 1700-1900*, Oxford etc., Peter Lang, 2007.

Keilhauer, A. (ed.), *Vieillir féminin et écriture autobiographique*, Clermont-Ferrand, Presses universitaires Blaise Pascal, 2007.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Astbury, K., "Translating the revolution: Therese Huber and Isabelle de Charrière's *Lettres trouvées dans des porte-feuilles d'émigrés*", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 99-110.

Brown, H., "Luise Gottsched and the reception of French enlightenment literature in Germany", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 21-36.

Cointre, A., "Garrick and Colman's *Clandestine Marriage* translated by Mme Riccoboni and the Baronne de Vasse", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 73-82.

Evain, A., "Les reines et princesses de France, mécènes, patronnes et protectrices du théâtre au XVI^e siècle", in K. Wilson-Chevalier and E. Pascal (ed.), *Patronnes et mécènes en France à la Renaissance*, Saint-Etienne, Publications de l'Université de Saint-Etienne, 2007, pp. 59-99.

Genieys-Kirk, S., "Eliza Haywood's translation and dialogic reading of Madeleine-Angelique de Gomez' *Journées amusantes* (1722-1731)", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 37-54.

Haliloglu, N., "Translation as cultural negotiation: the case of Fatma Aliye", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 159-174.

Kirkley, L., "Elements of the other: Mary Wollstonecraft and translation", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 83-98.

Lorenzo Modia, M.J. and B. Lasa Álvarez, "From Britain to Spain via France: Amelia Opie's *The Father and Daughter*", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 129-142.

Orr, M., "Women and daughters of genius: Mrs Barbara Hofland and Mlle Clémentine Cuvier", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 143-158.

Vanacker, B., "'On the inconstancy, the perfidy and deceit of mankind in love affairs'. Eliza Haywood's translation of *La paysanne parvenue*", in Dow (ed.), *Translators*, pp. 55-72.

Van Dijk, S., "L'âge, dans la perception autobiographique d'une féministe de la première heure: Mina Kruseman (1839-1922)", in Keilhauer (ed.), *Vieillir féminin*, pp. 41-55.

Contacts

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

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