

## PALA NEWSLETTER – Winter 2002

Dear PALAns,

This newsletter has been a little delayed, but I hope it reaches you before the conference in Birmingham at least! There are some important changes coming up as PALA grows bigger and more international, and the committee has been discussing these things on your behalf since we last sent out a mailing.

The first is the composition and membership of the committee. A number of posts are up for election this year (see below for details) and we are considering changing/merging some of them to suit our future needs. Please play your part by nominating candidates and/or voting for them as described below.

The second issue is the suggestion that PALA conferences should have published proceedings in the future. Willie van Peer has been in negotiations with Rodopi about the possibility. We will have concrete suggestions to put to the vote at the AGM in Birmingham about whether these proceedings will be part of the membership costs, or an optional extra for members who wish to pay for them.

The third issue concerning us at the moment is the role our website plays in cementing PALA as an organisation as well as attracting new members and supporters. We think the importance of the website will grow and our new committee structure will reflect this conviction. Looking forward to meeting many friends, old (!) and new, at the Birmingham conference. The next newsletter deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup> - please send me anything you think might interest the members. Don't forget to offer to review a book for Language and Literature (details below)

Lesley Jeffries

Newsletter editor.

## PALA Committee – Call for Nominations

The committee has considered carefully the needs of PALA in the coming years and would like to propose the following changes:

- The Secretary will also take on Membership duties, so there will be no separate Membership Secretary.
- There will be a new elected post of Publicity Officer, which will subsume the role of Webmaster.
- The editor of the Occasional Papers will no longer be a committee member, but will be appointed by the committee when necessary, possibly to include the editorship of Conference Proceedings too.

These changes will be voted on at the AGM in Birmingham.

In the meantime, and assuming the above changes take place, the committee invites nominations for the posts due for election this year. These are: **Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity and Newsletter Editor**. Nominations should be sent to the current Secretary, Sonia Zyngier, by email to [zyngier@netrio.com.br](mailto:zyngier@netrio.com.br) or by mail to Peter Stockwell (c/o Nottingham University) by **March 26<sup>th</sup>** at the latest.

We have already received a single nomination for each of these posts, (see below) but would be happy to receive more! In the event of a contested position, the vote will not be taken at the AGM, but will be taken by a ballot of members, announced in the Spring Newsletter.

Nominations so far are as follows:

**Secretary** - Urszula Clark

**Treasurer** - Peter Stockwell

**Publicity** - Martin Wynne

**Newsletter Editor** - Lesley Jeffries

### Books available for review in *Language and Literature*.

Please contact Geoff Hall (address below) if you would like to review any of the following for *Language and Literature*:

- Anderson, Linda. (2001). *Autobiography*. (New Critical Idiom series. ed. J. Drakakis). London and NY: Routledge.
- Boulter, Jonathan. (2001). *Interpeting Narrative in the Novels of Samuel Beckett*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.
- Cobley, Paul. (2001). *Narrative*. (New Critical Idiom series. ed. J. Drakakis). London and NY: Routledge.
- Eckert, Penelope and Rickford, John R. (eds.) (2001). *Style and Sociolinguistic Variation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Goatly, Andrew. (2000). *Critical Reading and Writing. An Introductory Coursebook*. London: Routledge.
- Ireland, Ken. (2001) *The Sequential Dynamics of Narrative. . Energies at the Margins of Fiction*. London: Associated University Presses.
- Jeffries, Lesley and Sansom, Peter. eds. (2000). *Contemporary Poems: Some Critical Approaches*. Huddersfield: Smith/Doorstop Books.
- Karkov, Catherine E. (2001). *Text and Picture in Anglo-Saxon England*. Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England 31. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Leezenberg, Michiel. (2001). *Contexts of Metaphor. (Current Research in the Semantics/Pragmatics Interface: Volume 7. eds. K.M.Jaszczolt and K.Turner.)* Oxford: Elsevier.
- McQuillan, Martin. (2001). *Paul de Man*. (Routledge Critical Thinkers series, ed. R.Eaglestone). London: Routledge.
- Naciscione, Anita. (2001) *Phraseological Units in Discourse: Towards Applied Stylistics*. Riga: Latvian Academy of Culture.
- Stockwell, Peter. (2000). *The Poetics of Science Fiction*. Harlow: Pearson Education.
- Toolan, Michael. (2001). *Narrative. A critical linguistic introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. (Interface series, R.Carter ed.) London and New York: Routledge.

Wales, Katie. (2001). *A Dictionary of Stylistics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Harlow: Longman.

Watts, Richard and Trudgill, Peter (eds.). (2002). *Alternative Histories of English*. London: Routledge.

Wilson, Anne. (2001). *Plots and Powers: Magical Structures in Medieval Narrative*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

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### Announcements:

- **Congratulations** to Jo Gavins on her successful PhD viva! Dr Gavins will no doubt accept offers of celebratory drinks in Birmingham!
- **Congratulations** to Cathy Emmott has been awarded an AHRB Innovations Award with Professor Anthony J. Sanford (Glasgow University) for a project "Literature, Narrative and Cognitive Science: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Nature of Reading". This project will run from 1st June 2002 for a year.
- **Congratulations** to Paul Chilton on succeeding to Roger Fowler's Chair at University of East Anglia.
- **New books from Routledge:**  
*A History of the English Language*: 5th edition, by Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable. Published by Routledge, available early March. (Hb: 0-415-28098-2: £55.00/Pb: 0-415-28099-0: £16.99). The fifth edition has been substantially revised and updated.  
*The English Studies Book*, 2nd edition, by Rob Pope, Oxford Brookes University, UK. Published by Routledge, available in April 2002. (Hb: 0-415-25709-3: £55.00/Pb: 0-415-25710-7: £15.99). The second edition of The English Studies Book is completely revised and updated. Available from all good bookshops, or call +44 (0) 1264 343 071, or email: [bookorders@routledge.co](mailto:bookorders@routledge.co)

**(PLEASE SEND ME ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEWS CONCERNING OUR MEMBERS)**

### Conferences coming up soon:

Linguistics Association of Great Britain Spring Meeting 2002, **Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Ormskirk, Lancashire, April 9th - 11th 2002.**

<http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/acadepts/humarts/english/lagb.htm>

**Lancaster University April 12th -14th 2002** International Gender and Language Conference (IGALA2) Website:

<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/groups/gal/igala2.htm>

ICAME 2002: The Theory and Use of English Language Corpora **22-26 May, 2002 Göteborg, Sweden**

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES IN LANGUAGE RESEARCH will be held on **20-21st June 2002 at the University of Stirling.** Contact: Joanna McPake: Scottish CILT, Institute of Education, University of Stirling, STIRLING, FK9 4LA, UK, Fax: +44 (0)1786 466291

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/scilt/>

The Sociology of Language and Religion : a symposium at the **University of Surrey Roehampton in London from June 20 to 22, 2002.** Contact: [t.omoniyi@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:t.omoniyi@roehampton.ac.uk)

Conference on English Phonology: **Universite de Toulouse, France Thursday 27 and Friday 28 June, 2002.**

<http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/acadepts/humarts/english/toulouse.htm>

The 29th Annual Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress: Systemic Linguistics and the Corpus, **University of Liverpool, UK, 15th - 19th July 2002**

<http://www.wagsoft.com/systemics>

Language and Politics Symposium, Queen's University, Belfast, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Contact [j.m.kirk@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.kirk@qub.ac.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of ISAI (Irish-Scottish Academic Initiative). **Queen's University, Belfast, 20-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2002.** Contact [e.longlev@qub.ac.uk](mailto:e.longlev@qub.ac.uk)

Biannual conference of IGEL, the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature, to be held in Pecs, Hungary, 21 - 24 August. Person to contact: Janos Laszls. [laszloj@mtapi.hu](mailto:laszloj@mtapi.hu)

### PALA's Next Conference. A Message from Michael Toolan:

Preparations are well advanced for the 22nd PALA and 3rd IALS conferences, to be held here in Birmingham from April 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 respectively.

At the PALA conference, besides the plenary lectures from Carmen Rosa Caldas-Coulthard, George Dillon, Gunther Kress and Paul Simpson, ninety papers and five workshops are scheduled. Not to mention readings by poets and novelists, book launches, and the usual monastic conference dinner.

We propose to reserve much of Sunday (the 7th) for rest and recreation, before resuming with the IALS conference in the evening. Again there will be four distinguished plenary talks, from Monika Fludernik, Rukmini Bhaya Nair, Brian McHale and Peter Mühlhäusler, and approximately fifty single-authored papers, accompanied by book exhibits, readings, and a conference dinner on the Tuesday evening. A provisional version of the programme for each conference will be posted shortly among their respective web pages.

Marilyn Washbrook (PALA/IALS Conferences Secretary), Dept. of English, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK; fax: 44 121 414 3288/5668.

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Conference websites:

<http://www.english.bham.ac.uk/pala2002>

<http://www.english.bham.ac.uk/ials2002>

### The last instalment of Derek Bousfield's Budapest saga....

“You alright?” - “Yup” - “Sure?” - “Yup”

Dan doesn't seem right next morning. “Not because of our late night last night?”

“I'm fine”. I haven't seen him this quiet since Worthington's went up to £1.50 a pint on campus. It's probably just pre-paper nerves I tell myself as I make a Herculean effort to empty the Dominik Panzio's coffee urn before 8.30 a.m.

[...]

I catch Elena and Mick's paper on The message of the medium: Doris Stokes. It's great, but I can't help but get the feeling they've done it for fun. Oh to be *that* confident in my abilities! Next I catch John Heywood's talk on writing non-fictional gay porn. Boy, am I glad he got through customs! Next, it's on to Dan's talk on Point of View in Potter's 'Brimstone and Treacle'. It's good. Even if he is a friend and colleague and, thus I am, perhaps, bound to say that. He doesn't believe me. Here's someone who's as self-deprecating and unsure of his abilities as I am.

We wander off to Sarah Lowndes' talk on Barristers On Trial. She's nervous but it's interesting and very well done. I ask her a few questions on how she's analysing her data and whether she's considered using an impoliteness framework. She thinks that may be a good idea. Later, over coffee, we discuss this at length and agree to exchange bibliographies when we get back. I'm feeling quite pleased I've found someone who's working in my area. Or thereabouts at any rate. Dan's still quiet.

Elena Semino tells him his talk was good. Believe me, she'd tell him if it wasn't. He starts to come round a bit. Okay, maybe it was okay. Maybe my PhD is on a decent topic. That's the spirit my friend. Let's go get a coffee.

[...]

“Now you two,” he says as one arm encircles my shoulder and another around Dawn Archer's, “there's a bit of an issue as to the entertainment. Do you think you could do a song, or a sketch, or something?” Dawn and I exchange a look. “But Mick,” she begins, “you said you weren't doing the entertainment this year”

“I know, but if we don't do something, there won't *be* any entertainment.” He smiles that smile which makes you want to check that he's got a reflection, can cross running water and doesn't have an aversion to garlic. I hear someone sigh and say okay. Only then do I realise that it was me. Dawn glares.

“Fantastic!” says Mick, and hurries off to find Katie Wales. If she's any sense, she'll be hiding. Dan's seen this happen and tries to strike up a deep and meaningful conversation with Eszter as we approach. It doesn't work. We tell him the good news. “Where's Michi?” he asks. Clever girl. She's disappeared. For all we know, she's hitched over the side and is swimming for Pest and the Dominik Panzio at a pace that'd make Duncan Goodhew sweat. I know how she feels and I can't swim. Any pretensions I had about becoming a serious academic are soundly hammered as I sing, almost-in-harmony, with Rachel, Marina, Dawn and Dan, the hastily written song 'Pala, we love you' to the tune of the awful, top-of-the-pops travesty, 1980s 'Grandma, we love you.' Everyone laughs, and I'm not entirely convinced it's at the song. Ah well.

[...]

The entertainment and dancing are over. I've even forgiven Gerard Steen for lowering the limbo level as I was halfway under it. As I fall, I idly think what a good idea it had been to put my beer down before attempting to go under. We're all filing out the door – where we going – Janis'? – Again? I look around for the rest of the Lancaster coterie. They're *nowhere* to be seen. Ah.

I'm stuck here then, with this ... lady ... and everyone left (whom I don't seem to know) has made a ring around us. Some frown, others are gaping. One's laughing. Cheers mate. She's, as David Hoover was to say later, 'aggressively blond' and she's got a problem with the fact that a would-be academic (me) is studying impoliteness. Who do I think I am, studying impoliteness? Can't I get a real job? What do I know about being impolite? She's got a startling grasp on the 'use taboo language' strategy from Culpeper (1996). I wish I had a tape recorder. This data's lexically ... rich ... in content. Through the virtual torrent of taboo words, so varied it'd make a good type-token ratio, I hear someone ask, "How many taxis do we need for the Dominik Panzio? How many are there, one, two, three, four,..." I'm there at the speed of light. Helen points at me as she gets to "...eight."

[...]

Our trip to Visegrad is fantastic. Nutters with swords run about just to entertain a group of visiting academics. Still, I'm well impressed, as were most others I gather. The food at the Renaissance Restaurant is out of this world. The first good vegetarian I've had (outside of the Vegetarium). Unfortunately my stomach has begun to shrink.

The rest of the day goes swimmingly. The trip to the open air museum is interesting and I manage to get an authentic Hungarian picture for my wall at home. Later I get stung, for the first and only time when I buy a drink without checking the price. 750 Forints. That's like, two quid. Twice as expensive as at home. Still, we were in the tourist village. It had to happen sometime.

That evening, on the bus back to Budapest, I'm struggling to keep my eyes open. It's been intellectually and physically demanding these past few days, and I've loved it!

I'm amazed at the group of die-hards further down the bus who break out a bottle of whisky and start to discuss where they are going to go tonight, and when. Weren't these lot out 'til 5 this morning? How do

they do it? Dan pops out with Eszter that evening, presumably to thank her for all her hard work with registration and her linguistic translation skills!

Me? Well we're leaving tomorrow so I'm in packed, and in bed, by 8:30. I start to read some of the notes from the talks. I can't keep my eyes open. I wonder what Birmingham's going to be like? Can't be as tiring as this, surely? The last, cruel, thought that pops into my head as sleep overtakes me is how I can best factor Mick Short into the inevitable sketch, song or poem that I'm going to be press-ganged into performing. Did I really want to be taken seriously for my work? Well, that seems strangely academic now!

#### **PALA Committee and Contacts**

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