

JONATHAN HART

New Beginnings

In May 1996 the Canadian Comparative Literature Association accepted the bid of the editorial group I proposed for this journal. I had been an editor at the journal since 1987 and was, after the CCLA's decision in 1996, the co-editor, with Professor M. V. Dimić, the founding editor, of *CRCL/RCLC*. My thanks to the CCLA, Milan Dimić and the editorial group and their colleges and universities for their support and understanding. It was never a sure thing that the journal would still have its offices where it had since the beginning, and the very cooperation, innovation and help of the members of the editorial group were crucial elements in the success of the bid.

What follows is based on the proposal I made on behalf of this group, which has continued to evolve (University of Victoria has recently joined our consortium). Besides the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the University of Alberta, which both have provided ongoing support over the decades, the following institutions have been supportive: Athabasca University, Grant MacEwan College, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary and University of Victoria. I would like to express our gratitude to them.

CRCL/RCLC is a national and international journal that will continue to be pluralistic and open to an exchange of ideas. Scholars in Canada and elsewhere are welcome to send us comments and ideas to crc@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca and can visit our webpage at the website of the University of Toronto Press, <http://www.utpress.utoronto.ca/journal> which distributes the journal, advertises it and handles institutional subscriptions. Please feel free to contact me. Here is our statement based on the one presented to the CCLA in 1996.

I

Since its founding in 1974, *CRCL/RCLC* has established itself as a journal with a national and an international reputation. This standing has been confirmed by

a recent assessment by SSHRCC, which considered this to be a journal of extremely high quality: the jury was also impressed by the topical issues. The present proposal attempts to set up a new editorial collective that builds on that excellence by continuing to be committed to an open and pluralistic view of comparative literature, which includes various types of scholarly and theoretical methods and a wide range of topics. *CRCL/RCLC* has been a forward-looking journal. In advance of most journals, in its early years, *CRCL/RCLC* produced topical issues on translation studies and paraliterature. Recent issues have been devoted to gender studies (gay and lesbian studies), cultural studies, and postcolonial literature. The journal has also devoted clusters or sections of issues to East-West relations.

The editorial policy of the journal will continue to open towards new developments in the discipline, to seek outstanding articles whatever their methodologies. The editorial collective involves energetic and experienced scholars in various fields of the humanities (Comparative Literature, Canadian Studies, Women's Studies, East Asian Studies, Art and Design, French, German, Italian, Slavic Languages, English and other fields) from UBC, Simon Fraser, Victoria, Athabasca, Calgary, Grant MacEwan and Alberta. Crossing disciplines will continue to be one of our major principles, and linguistically and theoretically, this collective has the expertise to strengthen that commitment. In spite of our desire to continue to develop interdisciplinary special issues, one of which would be a comparatist view of feminism, our desire is to attract the best possible articles. The structure of the collective will inherently stress pluralism by calling on the national and international scholarly networks in which members of the editorial collective, Advisory Board and Secretariat are involved. While drawing on the strengths of topical issues and "The Review of Scholarship" it will also keep general issues that allow for a latitude in scholarship that does not come under these topics.

II

This policy is really expressed in our editorial collective. We bring continuity from the journal now -- it is at the University of Alberta and a couple of the members of the new editorial collective are current editors of *CRCL/RCLC* -- but there are significant differences in the new proposal: mostly new personnel and a cross-institutional approach. *CRCL/RCLC* owes a particular debt of gratitude to Dean Patricia Clements, without whose help it would not have been possible to gain the support of the departments, the Offices of the President, Roderick Fraser, and the then Vice-President Research, Martha Piper, at University of Alberta. While centred at the University of Alberta and while it is necessary to have a titular editor for institutional reasons (grant applications, reporting, responsibility), our collective is genuinely cross-disciplinary and

crosses institutional boundaries in the Province of Alberta. Individuals and their institutions have committed support of time and labour to this proposal. We wish to establish a structure for *CRCL/RCLC* that is not hierarchical and is larger than the individuals involved in order to assure a long-term health and prosperity for the journal. Both chairs have committed their departments to a research assistant annually to the journal. In a short while, we will have sought approval at all those institutions at all levels up to the offices of the President. A large number of the members have had experience as editors or as members of the advisory boards of journals.

For instance, Pamela McCallum (Calgary) has been the Book Review Editor of *Ariel* and is on the board of *Cultural Critique*; Joseph Pivato (Athabasca) has had close ties with and has been on the Secretariat of *CRCL/RCLC*; Sneja Gunew has co-edited a topical issue of *CRCL/RCLC* and is on its present editorial committee; Kathy Mezei has been, since 1984, the editor of *Tessera* and is on the editorial board of *Studies in Canadian Literature and Translation*, *Terminologie, Redaction*; Evelyn Cobley has been Chair of English at Victoria and President of the CCLA; Patricia Demers and Robert Merrett have been editors of *ESC* and members of the Secretariat of *CRCL/RCLC*; Richard Young is about to become editor of the *Canadian Review of Hispanic Studies*; Claudine Potvin (Chair of Women's Studies at Alberta) has co-edited a book with the Institute of Comparative Literature; Elena Siemens has edited a special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. This is just a sample of the editorial experience of the collective. We have a strong commitment to ensuring excellence and cost-effectiveness in technical production. Professor Robert Merrett, who has been a managing editor of *ESC* and has edited a series on eighteenth-century studies, has agreed to pay specific attention to technical and business matters. The members of the collective will share the work of arranging for referees of submissions, making editorial decisions, publicity, planning issues and communicating with the CCLA/ACLC and the institutions that, collectively, support this proposal. Jonathan Hart will act as editor but will consult with members of the editorial collective (co-editors). Besides being contributing editor of *CRCL/RCLC* and the editor of "The Review of Scholarship", J. L. Hart is also the editor of the *Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Series* (New York and London: Garland) and is involved in some other editorial projects, including the series, *cuRRents* (University of Alberta Press).

The collective represents members of different cultures with different languages as well as various disciplinary, scholarly and theoretical interests: Comparative Literature, Women's Studies, Modern Languages, English. The members are as follows (in alphabetical order): E. D. Blodgett, Evelyn Cobley, Patricia Demers, Sneja Gunew, Amin Malak, Kathy Mezei, Pamela McCallum, Robert Merrett, Joseph Pivato, Claudine Potvin, Elena Siemens, Anthony Wall, R. R. Wilson,

Richard Young. This will be an active editorial group, so that anyone who is not willing to make that commitment can in time lend other kinds of support to the journal. There will be, then, probably some changes in the composition of the group over the years.

Members of the current Secretariat not listed above, such as Professors Uri Margolin (Comparative Literature) and Nicole Mallet (Modern Languages), have agreed to continue to serve in that advisory capacity. We also have the support of one of the members of the editorial committee for *CRCL/RCLC*, Professor Edward Mozejko. M. V. Dimić, the Founding Editor, has agreed to be a Senior Editorial Consultant to the journal; E. D. Blodgett will stay on as Associate Editor for a year or so, and Irene Sywenky will act as editorial consultant.

The Departments of Comparative Literature, Religion and Film Studies, English, and Modern Languages at the University of Alberta have given wholehearted intellectual and material support to this proposal. What makes this proposal especially exciting is the firm commitments of new editors from other institutions. We have also included members whose Native tongues are not English: French, Italian, Russian, Kurdish. This linguistic agility will help to ensure the continued importance of languages in this journal of comparative literature.

III

The budget I have spared the readers. Our editorial policy is flexible and open. As I said, we welcome comments. We will continue to encourage a pluralistic view of comparative literature that would include established and new methods, scholarship and theory. The editorial group should help to attract excellent submissions in established areas of comparative literature as well as in new fields within visual arts, women's studies, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, Slavic studies, Middle Eastern studies, East Asian studies postmodernism and so on. It is the diversity, linguistic skills and theoretical differences of our collective that would make the actualization of this proposal intellectually exciting. New members of the Advisory Board will also bring us new wisdom to our task: Ross Chambers (Michigan), Philip Ford (Cambridge), Margaret Ferguson (University of California, Davis), and Anthony Pagden (Johns Hopkins). Others will join this group in the coming months. A strong, actual and long-term financial commitment will allow the journal to continue building for a long time to come. The journal has been redesigned and will attempt to keep being innovative in format and content. Finally, please let me thank past, present and future readers and contributors in various countries for their interest and support. Let us not cease our exploration.

PHILIP FORD

Diegesis, Discourse, and Description in the *Palinodiae* of George Buchanan

The subject of this article is an early work, the *Palinodiae*, of the Scottish neo-Latin writer George Buchanan (1506-1582). I propose to consider how the Scottish humanist used a fictional framework in his poetry as a vehicle for satire. Although normally printed as two poems, *Frateres fraterrimi* 35 and 36, the *Palinodiae* form a unified piece, and provide a thorough catalogue of the sort of accusations which were being levelled in humanist and reformist circles against the Franciscans throughout Europe in the mid 1530s.¹

As a result of his trial before the Inquisition in Portugal (from August 1550 to July 1551) and various autobiographical statements, we know certain facts about the date of composition of the anti-Franciscan satires which Buchanan wrote at this time. Ian McFarlane has recorded the circumstances of the composition of these works (51-66, also see Ford 49-58). The *Somnium*, based on William Dunbar's poem "How Dunbar was desyrd to be ane Frer," was written in 1535 when Buchanan was tutor to Gilbert Kennedy on his Ayrshire estate. The *Palinodiae* followed, probably in 1536 or 1537, composed, according to the 1564 dedication of the *Franciscanus*, at the request of James V, for whom Buchanan was working at the time as tutor to his illegitimate son, Lord James Stewart. The *Franciscanus*, the longest of Buchanan's satires, would have been composed between 1537 and 1538: the end of the poem, with its story of William Laing, James V's Franciscan confessor, and the Dysart exorcism (ll.791-917) refers to an event that took place in 1538.

As I have suggested, despite their appearance as two separate poems in the *Frateres fraterrimi* collection, the *Palinodiae* in fact can best be viewed as a single text. This is how they are presented in Bibliothèque Nationale MS lat. 8140 (ff.11'-13"), almost certainly the source of Charles Utenhove's 1568 edition of

1 The text of the *Palinodiae* in the Appendix is based on Buchanan's *Opera omnia*, edited by Thomas Ruddiman and Peter Burman, with minor changes to the punctuation and spelling. All references to Buchanan will be based on this edition.