



Canadian Comparative Literature Association

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes**

May 30, 2020: 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm (Zoom)

Prepared by Mark Terry

Reports:

Joshua Synenko, President:

Josh welcomed all guests to this year's virtual Annual General Meeting and thanked members of the Executive for their contributions to the association over the past year: Doris Hambuch for her valiant efforts on not one but two programs, Mark Terry for logistics and sendouts, Jerry White for moving the association's account to Saskatoon, Irene Sywenky for her work on the *CRCL/RCLC*, Jessica Li for ongoing mentorship as past president, Laurence Sylvaine for important contributions in representing early career researchers, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessarde for being such a dependable member and excellent translator, and Susan Ingram for ongoing backup and general support. He regretted that it had not been possible to meet at Western as he had been looking forward to returning to the place of his M.A., but he is excited about the new possibilities offered by Zoom to share research, teaching, and collaborate. It will be a great complement to our annual meeting. 2020, he noted, was a difficult year for many reasons: cancelling a guest speaker, COVID, and personal tragedies. The loss of Mario J. Valdés (University of Toronto) in April was a profound one. An In Memoriam for him will appear in the June issue of the *CRCL/RCLC*, and a special issue co-edited by Cristina Santos and Jonathan Allan is also in the works.

Mark Terry, Communications and Media Officer:

Mark provided an overview of tips and best practices for Zoom meetings. He presented two documents with this information and emailed them out to all participants after the meeting.

Doris Hambuch, VP and Program Chair:

Doris expressed her gratitude to the Executive and to participants for the support she's received in taking the program virtual. She reported that originally 50 abstracts were submitted from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Poland, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. There were five book launches scheduled for this year that have had to be postponed, and the scheduled guest artist, Kendel Hippolyte, is also interested in joining us next year in Edmonton. There will be 33 Zoom presentations at this year's virtual conference, and ten have been deferred to next year's conference.

Jerry White, Treasurer:

Financial Report (2019 to 2020):

Total Debits:	\$8,063.54
Total Credits:	\$8,788.86

Surplus:	\$ 725.32

Current Balance as of May 29, 2020: **\$6,867.14**

Jerry thanked Paul Morris for help with transferring the account from Manitoba and helping him get set up and was pleased to report that the CCLA is in good financial health with a modest surplus. He is discouraging payment by cheque, preferring all membership fees be made online either through bank transfer, Interac, or PayPal. He called for a shift in culture so that people don't just become members in order to present at the annual meeting but rather are engaged throughout the year. He announced that this year fees for graduate students had been waived. The association's relationship with the ICLA was also discussed.

Irene Sywenky, Editor, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*:

Special Issues: *Fictionalizing Dark Sides of Globalization and Early Modern "Transformissions": Linguistic, Material, and Cultural Translation in England and France (c. 1470-1660)* [in copyediting and proofing]. Also a special issue in honour of E.D. Blodgett is in preparation. Published online in Muse and Ebsco; print version in press.

General Issue: Published online in Muse and Ebsco; print version in press.

Upcoming Issue: *Resonance and the Echo Chamber of Reading*.

Special Issues in Progress: a thematic issue based on the last two CCLA meetings: *Comparative Literature in the Age of Sexting, Canadian Graphic Novels, and A Tribute to Mario J. Valdes*.

CRCL/RCLC Funds:

SSHRC Funds:	\$70,397.44
Operating Account Funds before Commitments:	\$39,006.75

The journal is considering full Open Access but has not signed the agreement yet. It will be a major step for the journal, and Irene will follow whatever decision the Executive reaches. The journal is now part of the Open Journal Systems platform, and currently 350-400 copies are printed of each issue. Many members spoke out in favour of full open access as well as platforms such as Érudit and Publi.ca. Irene noted that it was not an easy journal to run and that she would be interested in having a co-editor in the election next year, so that she has a few years to help train that person. The desirability of having that person being at the University of Alberta was noted to prevent a complicated move to a new institution, while the idea of having a team in a major city (Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver) was also floated.

Markus Reisenleitner announced that *Imaginations* is open for submissions and special issue suggestions. The backlog he inherited upon becoming Editor-in-Chief two years ago has mostly cleared, and they are aiming for a turnaround time of one year from submission to publication. The current issue, "Reimaging Breasts," is now online at imagnations.io.

Susan Ingram, Websysadmin:

The move to WordPress has been good. It costs \$396 US per year and provides us with 200 GB. If we record all the sessions for this year's virtual conference, our website will likely be at capacity. It is proposed that we post these recorded sessions only temporarily until the end of June and make it a priority to make inquiries for an online archive to store our material long term other than WordPress. Possible place – York University's "YorkSpace," something Jack Leong volunteered to assist with.

There was a question about recording the presentations, and it was agreed that panel hosts would enquire at the beginning of each session to ensure that only presenters who agreed would be recorded.

Susan also reported that our domain name, complit.ca, is registered with Hover.com at a cost of less than \$20 per year and requested that the CCLA take over and pay this fee, which was unanimously agreed on.

Laurence Sylvain, Early Career Scholar Representative:

Laurence reported that she received one request for consideration for the Esther Cheung Award prior to the virtual conference. She recommended that papers be submitted for committee consideration instead of videos, which was approved.

AOB:

Jerry White suggested that the CCLA consider creating small research groups for small, print-on-demand research projects.

Laurence Sylvain suggested a special issue publication based on the research of these groups can be published.