



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2021: 13:00 to 14:00 pm (Zoom)

Attendance – 18

Agata Mergler, Asma Sayed, Doris Hambuch, Irene Sywenky, Jack Hang-tat Leong, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard, Jerry White, Jessica Tsui-Yan Yi, Jill Planche, Joseph Pivato, Josh Synenko, Laurence Sylvain, Lee Campbell, Louis-Thomas Leguerrier, Mark Terry, Markus Reisenleitner, Shlomo Gleibman, and Susan Ingram

Reports from the Executive

Joshua Synenko, President:

Approval of the 2020 Minutes. Welcome and thanks to Program Chair Doris Hambuch for another excellent year and virtual program. 4 points:

- 1) working groups: hugely successful, how to create lines of communication with the Executive, terms of leaders
- 2) Congress 2022 tba, participation discussed and support voiced for both staying with Congress and once again going it on our own. It will depend on the circumstances and where/ how Congress is held.
- 3) discussed the possibility of making the translator and websysadmin paid roles to be held by precarious early career researchers
- 4) Esther Cheung award open

Doris Hambuch, VP and Program Chair:

Doris emphasized the support of the Working Group organizers, the Executive, and participants in putting together yet another virtual program. There were 38 abstracts submitted for presentation, and three were rejected. This year's book launch showcased nine books. The conference opened with a showcase of the documentary film work of Mark Terry, in particular, his trilogy of films examining the impacts of climate change in the polar regions. There was also

a well-attended poetry workshop with Caribbean poet and dramatist Kendel Hippolyte that was recorded and archived.

Jerry White, Treasurer:

Financial Report (May 2020 to May 2021):

25 May – 21 August 2020	\$660.00	Remaining 2020 memberships — Scotiabank account
29 May – 30 April 2020	\$ 38.00	Service charges — Scotiabank account
4 December 2020	\$250.00	Esther Cheung prize
14 December 2020	\$350.00	2020 Federation membership fee
22 January – 5 April	\$720.00	Memberships 2021 — Scotiabank account
24 January – 31 May	\$560.00	Memberships 2021 — Paypal account
4 December – 31 May	\$ 36.77	Paypal fees — 6.5% of our Paypal activity
Late May [anticipated]	\$200.00	Zoom fees [not yet paid; invoice expected within days]
Late May [anticipated]	\$396.00	Wordpress account fees [also to be paid this month]
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Total debits, 2020–2021:	\$874.77	
Total credits, 2020–2021:		\$1,940.00

TOTAL SURPLUS:		\$1,064.23
Scotiabank balance:		\$ 7093.14
Paypal balance:		\$ 773.23

Current balance (12 May 2021):		\$7,866.37

Jerry reported that the association is still in reasonably good financial health with enough in the bank to be able to manage for a year if need be. This past pandemic year proved that a wise strategy. He encouraged the cultivation of a new culture of membership beyond the annual conference as our numbers are only around 40. In responding to questions from the audience, he noted that that number included a half-dozen lifetime members and that this year was an anomaly as we had waived graduate student fees on account of the pandemic.

Mark Terry, Media and Communications Officer:

Mark reported that membership on the CCLA Facebook page increased from 386 in 2020 to 950 in 2021.

Websysadmin Susan Ingram added that the material archived on the CCLA website (keynotes, programs, minutes of AGMs, and last year's virtual panels) has been backed up to YorkSpace: <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/37529>
She requested programs from members from 1995 to 2004 as well as other (non-video) materials they think it would be valuable to preserve.

JOURNAL REPORT:

Irene Sywenky, Editor, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*, provided an update on published and upcoming issues. The two CCLA special issues will be going to press in June.

2020-21:

- 47.1 Special issue in honour of E.D. Blodgett (guest editors Manijeh Mannani and Evelyne Gagnon, Athabasca U)
- 47.2 General issue
- 47.3 General issue
- 47.4 Special issue: Cultural Resonance and the Echo Chamber of Reading (Guest Editor Shuangyi Li, Lund U)
- 48.1 Special issue: Comparative (Media) Literature: Diversifying Methods for a Precarious Present (Guest Editor Joshua Synenko, Trent U); almost ready for production
- 48.2 Special issue: Bridging Divides (Guest Editor Doris Hambuch, UAE U); in production

Forthcoming issues (rolling deadlines):

- 48.3 General issue
- 48.4 Special issue: Tropes of Globalization (Guest Editors Vid Stevanović and Claudine Bollinger, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München / Universität Bern)

Special issues in various stages of preparation:

- Bridging the Caribbean: Literature, Hermeneutics, and Methodology / Brancher les Caraïbes: Littérature, herméneutique et méthodologie (Guest Editors Erica Durante, Brown University; Amaury Dehoux, Catholic University of Leuven)
- Post-Magical Realist Worlds (Guest Editors Agata Mergler and Justyna Poray-Wybranowska)
- Two Solitudes: Canadian Graphic Novels (Christian Reyns, University of Alberta)
- Special issue in honour of Mario J. Valdés (Cristina Santos, Brock U, and Jonathan Allan, Brandon U)
- Comparative Literature in the Age of Sexting (Jonathan Allan and Eftihia Mihelakis, Brandon U)
- Contemporary Comparative British Literature (Jerry White, U of Saskatchewan)

CRCL/RCLC funds (May 11, 2021):

SSHRC funds after commitments: \$25,951.32
Operating account funds after commitments: \$43,311.11

Important journal updates:

- The journal has put shipping on hold since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020); volume 47 has been printed but is being stored at the printer's facility. It is expected that shipping will resume in the summer.
- The pandemic has affected the journal's book review section, although we have been able to make a gradual transition to digital review copies with select publishers and reviewers.
- Application deadline for the next SSHRC/CRSH triennial competition cycle (Aid to Scholarly Journals) is expected to be in September 2021, although the agency website has no updates.

ELECTIONS:

Past President Jessica Tsui-yen Li thanked the outgoing Executive for their service from 2019 to 2021. The positions open for elections this year:

- Vice President
- Media and Communications Officer
- Early Career Scholar Representative
- Four representatives for members at large
- Editor, *CRCL*

Notice of elections had been posted on the CCLA website and emailed to the membership, and Jessica also invited self-nominations from "the floor." Here are the results of the elections for 2021 to 2023:

President / Président

Doris Hambuch
Department of Languages and Literature
United Arab Emirates University
P.O. Box 15551; Al Ain; U.A.E.
cclaaclcongress2021@gmail.com

Vice-President/ Vice-Président

Jack Hang-tat Leong
Associate Dean, Research & Open Scholarship
York University Libraries, 4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Treasurer/ Trésorier

Jerry White
University of Saskatchewan
Arts Building; 9 Campus Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Treaty 6 Territory / Métis Homeland
gerald.white@usask.ca

Media and Communications Officer

Schlomo Gleibman
Department of Humanities
York University, 4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
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Early Career Scholar Representative

Lee Dylan Campbell
Department of Humanities
York University, 4700 Keele St.
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Members at Large

Mark Terry
Department of Humanities
York University, 4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Laurence Sylvain
Département de littératures et de langues du monde, section littérature comparée
Université de Montréal
3150, rue Jean-Brillant, 8e étage
Montréal, QC H3T 1N8

Jessica Tsui-yan Li
Dept. of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
York University, 4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Louis-Thomas Leguerrier
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Harvard University
Boylston Hall, 4th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

Past President

Joshua Synenko
Department of Cultural Studies
Trent University

Scott House
300 London Street
Peterborough, ON K9H 7P4

Editor, Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/ Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée

Irene Sywenky
University of Alberta
1-22 Humanities Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E5
crcl@ualberta.ca

Websysadmin – Coordinator

Susan Ingram
Department of Humanities
York University, 4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
admin@complit.ca
+ team TBA

Traductrice/ Translator

Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard
Université de Montréal
Département des littératures de langue française
Pavillon Lionel-Groulx
3150, rue Jean-Brillant
Montréal (QC)
H3T 1N8

OTHER BUSINESS:

The question of amending the Constitution was raised. Susan Ingram noted that Article VI governs amendments:

1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association are made only under the following conditions: at a regular meeting, by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present; OR by a two-thirds majority vote by all responding members of the Association by electronic ballot.
2. Any proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the membership at least one month before the regular meeting that will vote upon it; OR one month prior to the opening of internet polling.
3. The Constitution and By-Laws should be reviewed no less frequently than every ten (10) years.

<https://complit.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ccla-constitution-2014-bilingue-final-1.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned around 14:00.