

ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.

P.O. Box 2701, Flagstaff, AZ 86003

AHCT Newsletter August, 2007

Dear Colleague:

This summer's newsletter contains, among other items, a letter from Robert Johnston, the newly elected president of the AHCT, a report on highlights of the Association's conference last March, notes from the meetings of the board of directors and the general membership at the conference, the announcement and call for papers for the AHCT symposium in March, 2008, and updates on AHCT's activities and projects.

Letter from the President

Dear AHCT Colleagues:

I wish to thank the officers and board for their confidence in choosing me to serve as president. I pledge to do my best to prove their trust is well placed. I particularly want to recognize Barbara Mujica for her valuable service as president these past three years, as well as the many other colleagues who regularly devote their time and creative energy to the association. I firmly believe that the success of AHCT depends in very large part on the good will of its members. I have accepted the task as president with this in mind and also with the anticipation of working with people whom I like and admire.

I believe the president of AHCT should take an active role in the programs the association has established to promote the study and the performance of the Spanish Classical Theater. These include AHCT's annual conference in El Paso, which by tradition coincides with the Chamizal National Memorial's Siglo de Oro Drama Festival; our scholarly journal, *Comedia Performance*, a unique publication devoted solely to studies related to performance of Classical Spanish theater; the AHCT web page, which provides world-wide access to information about the association and its various programs; our grant support for translation and performance of Spanish Golden Age plays; and the AHCT film archive and library, which gives members access to recordings of Chamizal performances as well as special programs such as recorded interviews with important *comedia* scholars. As president I will actively support these programs, and I will look for ways to expand and improve them.

In particular, we should continue efforts to maintain and improve the quality of our annual symposium by exploring new, creative formats for sessions and by featuring speakers who can offer us new insights and approaches to the *comedia*. We should also seek to preserve and expand our working relationship with Chamizal National Memorial in collaboration and support for the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival. In recent years we have held additional conferences, twice in Almagro, once in Stratford-Upon-Avon, and

once in Washington, DC. I will work with the board and others to look for venues for additional special meetings in the US, Spain, and elsewhere. I will also continue to explore possibilities for mutually beneficial collaboration with other academic associations in the US and abroad.

In these endeavors, all of which depend on the contributions of time and energy of the association's members, I ask for your involvement. Please share with me, or with the other officers and members of the board, your suggestions for improvements to the way we do things and for new initiatives. And please do not hesitate to volunteer where you see a need or where you see a way you can help further the association's projects and goals.

I look forward to working with you and to serving our shared commitment to the study and performance of Hispanic Classical Theater.

Very cordially,

Robert Johnston
AHCT President

Reminder: The AHCT budget depends almost entirely on members' dues which support, among other things, the annual conference, the AHCT journal, *Comedia Performance*, the video library, the *Comedia* Bulletin Board, the AHCT webpage, the biannual newsletter, and the Everett W. Hesse Endowment. Your dues are paid through the date indicated on the mailing label of the newsletter. If it is time for you to renew, please use the enclosed payment form, and remit to Anita Stoll at the address indicated on the form. An additional form will be included in the winter newsletter, and the form may also be downloaded from the AHCT webpage at: www.comedias.org.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, Texas, March 1-3, 2007

The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address at this year's symposium was given by Karen Berman, Artistic Director of Washington Women in Theatre, who spoke about the production that she had recently directed of María de Zayas' *Friendship Betrayed*. Her talk was entitled "Translations, Transgressions and Reinterpretations: 21st Century Questions on Restaging Zayas." A second plenary session featured three distinguished *Comedia* scholars, Dawn L. Smith, Frederick De Armas, and Teresa S. Soufas, each of whom was a specially invited participant in the conference. Other presentations were spread among some eighteen sessions, and involved some fifty speakers. Also of interest this year were informal readings of two *entremeses* by Cervantes.

As always, registrants at the conference were able to enjoy a number of performances at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater in the evening. These included: Guillén de Castro's *El narciso en su opinión*, presented by Brigham Young University and directed by Anna-Lisa Halling; Tirso's *La villana de Vallecas*, presented by Teatro Rodante Universitario of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and directed by Dean Zayas; Calderón's *No hay burlas con el amor*, presented by the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático of Murcia, Spain, and directed by Francisco García Vicente; and, finally, a group of Golden Age farces, adapted and directed by Norberto Vázquez Freijo, and presented by the Grupo la Hormiga of Lerma, Spain, under the title *Risas aquí y después, ¡Ganancia!*.

Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting, February 28, 2007

Election Results: Barbara Mujica, Isaac Benabu, Gwyn Campbell, Don Larson, Darci Strother, and Amy Williamsen were reelected for three-year terms on the board. Anita Stoll, was reelected First Vice-President of the board, Susan Paun de García, as Second Vice-President, and Sharon Voros as Treasurer. Bob Johnston was elected President, replacing outgoing President Barbara Mujica, and Don Larson, was elected Recording Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: AHCT Treasurer, Sharon Voros, indicated that the current bank balance of the association was \$9,912. Income since the last report was \$18,920 and expenditures were \$22,877. The current balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$33,082.

Siglo de Oro Drama Festival: Rick Harris, Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial, reported on the current status of the Drama Festival. After some uncertainty a year earlier about whether the Festival could continue because of financial difficulties, arrangements were made during the summer and fall of 2006 for a festival in 2007, albeit on a somewhat reduced basis. Instrumental in the decision to maintain the Festival, at least for the time-being, was an outpouring of community support and the intervention, with the Park Service and other agencies, of a number of people dedicated to its survival, including several from the AHCT. The prognosis for the future is cautiously optimistic, with several initiatives for a firmer financial footing under consideration, including the imposition in future years of a modest admission charge and the holding of benefit performances. A more formal arrangement with the city of El Paso is also envisioned, which should give the Festival access to a number of services that can help to ensure its continued existence. It is hoped that, at some point in the future, the Festival can return to its original two-week format.

Symposia: This last year, in addition to the annual AHCT symposium in El Paso, a second conference, sponsored jointly with the Asociación de Escritoras de España y las Américas, was held at Georgetown University, in Washington, D. C., in October. It featured some 130 papers and two performances of Golden Age plays. It is hoped that other conferences of this type, held in different locations, can be undertaken in the future.

Note: Because of increasing costs, the registration fee for the 2008 annual symposium in El Paso will be set at \$95.

Comedia Performance: Barbara Mujica, the editor, reported that the number of university subscriptions to the journal has increased in the last year, and that the rate of acceptance of submissions is now approximately one in three. She introduced the question of whether the journal should be made available on-line, in addition to the hard copy format, perhaps through an outlet such as JSTOR. Various possibilities will be investigated.

Webpage and Electronics: Laura Vidler reported that a number of additional playtexts and newsletters have recently been added to the webpage, as has the plenary address, "The World of the *Comedia*: Playhouses, Audiences, Performance, Actors, Economics," that John Jay Allen presented at last year's annual symposium. The images that accompanied his talk are included. Because of ongoing problems with spam, submissions for the webpage are being held for approval before being posted.

Translation Project, Production Awards: Susan Paun de García acknowledged a grant of \$2000 from the Spanish Ministry, which was used to help to defray the cost of *Friendship Betrayed*, produced by Washington Women in Theatre in conjunction with the conference in October. Dale Pratt spoke of the various outreach activities that his Brigham Young group had conducted in connection with their performances of *El narciso en su opinión*, and of the benefits to be derived from such activities. A special session with teachers in the area is a possibility for future annual symposia.

Video Library: Amy Williamsen reported that the VHS tapes in the AHCT archive are presently being converted to DVD format in order to enhance their quality and to ensure their permanence. Approximately half the total collection has been converted, and the rest will be converted during the coming year. The DVDs can be played on standard DVD players and have thumbnail tabs to allow the selection of specific scenes.

Chris Gascón is currently serving as Acquisitions Coordinator for the collection. Members are kindly requested to convey to him information about possible acquisitions for the collection.

AHCT Newsletter: The matter of possible electronic distribution of the newsletter was raised once again. For the time being, things will remain as they are, hard copy distribution having the advantage of encouraging members to send in their annual dues. (Hint, hint.)

Affiliated ATHE Status: Barbara Mujica reported on her attendance last summer at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. She noted that the AHTE could be a very valuable means for establishing connections with people who produce plays in English, and urged that the AHCT consider applying for allied status with that organization.

A New President: Barbara Mujica confirmed that this year's meeting of the association would be her last as president, and she thanked the members of the board for their support. Board members, in turn, thanked her for her years of outstanding service to the organization, and showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Notes from the Meeting of the General Membership, March 3, 2007

Most of the meeting was taken up by reports from the officers of the association of the association and chairs of the various standing committees, the majority of which repeated in summary form reports given earlier during the meeting of the Board of Directors.

Barbara Mujica announced that this year's Everett W. Hesse graduate student travel grant was awarded to Anita Damjanovic of the University of Chicago for her paper "El Clarín apocalíptico." Members in attendance acknowledged Ms. Damjanovic with applause.

Angel Sánchez will continue next year as the director of the annual conference, and Mindy Stivers Badía will continue as the program chair. Barbara Mujica thanked them both for their service.

The meeting closed with Barbara Mujica's expression of thanks to all who had helped her during her years of service as President of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. Her remarks were followed by sustained applause.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 6-8, 2008

The 2008 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 6-8, 2008 in El Paso, Texas. Please note that these dates are not those previously announced, a modification made necessary by a change in the dates of the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, which by tradition coincides with the symposium.

Call for Papers: As in previous years, papers and special sessions dealing with the performance of early modern dramatic texts are particularly encouraged. Proposals for papers or sessions on other aspects of early modern drama are also welcome. Papers should be 20 minutes in length, and may be delivered in Spanish or English. With your proposal, please indicate a preferred day for your presentation, as well as any special equipment needs that you may have. College and university faculty members should send paper titles and a one-page abstract and/or proposals for special sessions to: Professor Mindy Stivers Badía, School of Arts and Letters, 4201 Grant Line Road, Indiana University Southeast, New Albany, IN 47150; FAX: 812-941-2529; TEL: 812-941-2620; E-mail: mbadia@ius.edu. Submissions may be sent by regular mail, by FAX, or as an e-

mail attachment in Word. FAX transmissions should include a cover sheet addressed to Professor Badía. **The deadline for the submission of abstracts is December 1, 2007.**

Graduate students who are interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit completed papers of approximately ten pages, rather than abstracts. Papers should be sent to: Professor Christopher Weimer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 309 Gundersen Bldg., Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK 74078. Professor Weimer's e-mail, CBWeimer@aol.com, should be used only to request guidelines or to ask questions; please do not send submissions electronically. Graduate students whose papers are accepted for presentation will be considered for the AHCT Everett W. Hesse Travel Support Grant. **The deadline for the submission of completed papers is December 1, 2007.**

Hotel Reservations: The Symposium will take place at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso, Texas, with sessions beginning Thursday morning, March 6, and ending Saturday afternoon, March 8, 2008. Officers and Board meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008. Hotel reservations may be made by phone at 1-800-769-4300 or 1-915-534-3099, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm (MST). The deadline for the conference room rate is February 4, 2008. Participants must mention the AHCT Conference and request the group rate of \$94 for a single or double room. There will be a \$15.00 charge per night for the use of a roll away bed or for an extra party (plus tax). The group rate applies Tuesday, March 4, 2008, to Saturday, March 8, 2008.

AHCT Conference Registration: You must be a member of the AHCT to register for the conference. If you are not currently a member, please send membership dues of \$30 (faculty) or \$20 (Retired Members/Students) when registering. The registration for the conference for all faculty attendees, as well as for graduate students who are reading papers or participating in a special session, is \$95. A late fee of \$15 is assessed if registration is paid after February 9, 2008. Registration includes conference attendance, the Annual Banquet of the AHCT in the Dome Room of the Camino Real, transportation to and from the Chamizal National Memorial every evening for the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival, coffee and refreshments during the conference, and refreshments in the Hospitality Room after the theater performances. (Note: a special registration rate of \$30 applies to students who do not present papers or attend the banquet. An additional \$15, payable at the time of registration, purchases tickets for the banquet.)

Registration payment may be made either by check or by Visa or MasterCard. **To register for the conference, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to: Professor Anita Stoll, First Vice President, AHCT, 2081 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 (a.stoll@sim.scsuohio.edu).**

Conference Up-Dates: For additional information about the conference, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Professor Angel Sánchez, Arizona State University, Department of Languages and Literatures, PO Box 870202, Tempe, Arizona 85287-0202. TEL: 480-965-4576 (office) or 480-786-4633 (home). E-mail: Angel.Sanchez@asu.edu. Further details regarding the conference and the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival will appear

on the *Comedia* Bulletin Board, in the December Newsletter, and on the AHCT webpage, as they become available.

Comedia Performance

AHCT's annual journal, *Comedia Performance*, publishes articles on topics related to the performance of the Spanish *Comedia*. The subscription price is included in the annual AHCT membership dues without additional charge. To purchase individual copies (\$15 each), contact Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, at: a.stoll@sims.csuohio.edu. Please encourage your college or university library to subscribe; a three-year library subscription is \$50. Payment should be sent to Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, 2081 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

The deadline for submission of articles for consideration for the 2008 issue of *Comedia Performance* is September 30, 2007. Articles should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor, Barbara Mujica, at: mujica@georgetown.edu. Editorial guidelines are found in each issue of the journal and also on the journal's webpage: <http://www.comediaperformancetheater.com/>.

Theater reviews, book reviews, or interviews should be sent to the appropriate editor, as indicated in the journal and on the webpage.

Finally, please note that although the webpage was temporarily offline for a few days this summer due to an Internet "hijacking" (don't ask), it is now available once again, thanks to the quick work of Kerry Wilks, who first spotted the dastardly deed, and to the webmaster, Mariana McCormick, who labored heroically to correct it.

Donations to AHCT: Donations in support of any of AHCT's projects and activities are deeply appreciated. To contribute, please send a check or credit card information to: AHCT, P.O. Box 2701, Flagstaff, AZ 86003.

Other Conferences of Possible Interest: The following upcoming conferences, listed in chronological order, may be of interest of AHCT members. Complete conference information will be found on the website indicated. The Recording Secretary would be pleased to receive word of additional conferences that can be included in subsequent newsletters.

2007 Convention of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA):
Calgary, Alberta, October 4-6, 2007.

<http://rmmla.wsu.edu/conferences/conf07calgary/default.asp>

13th Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Teatro Español y Novohispano de los

Siglos de Oro (AITENSO): Mexico City, Mexico, October 15-18, 2007.
<http://www.aitensomexico.org/congresomexico.htm>.

South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA): Memphis, Tennessee,
November 1-3, 2007. <http://www.ou.edu/scmla/memphisinfo.htm>.

105th Annual Conference of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association
(PAMLA): Bellingham, Washington, November 2-3, 2007.
<http://www.pamla.org/>

49th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA):
Cleveland, Ohio, November 8-11, 2007. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~mmla/>

2007 Annual Convention of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML A):
Atlanta, Georgia, November 9-11, 2007.
<http://www.samla.org/convention/convention.htm>

2007 Modern Language Association of America (MLA): Annual Convention, Chicago,
Illinois, December 27-30. <http://www.mla.org/>

54th Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA): Chicago, Illinois,
April 3-5, 2008. <http://www.rsa.org/meetings/annualmeeting.php>

2008 Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA): Buffalo,
New York, April 10-13, 2008. <http://www.nemla.org/convention/index.html>

8th Congreso de la Asociación Internacional Siglo de Oro (AISO): Santiago de
Compostela, Spain, July 7-11, 2008. <http://webs.uvigo.es/siglosdeoro/>

15th Coloquio Anglo Germano sobre Calderón: Warsaw, Poland, July 14-18, 2008.
<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/calderon/>

Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (GEMELA): Los Angeles,
California, October 4-8, 2008. <http://www.gemela.org/conference.html>

Cordial best wishes,

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