



ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.

P.O. BOX 28226, Tempe, Arizona 85285-8226

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AHCT Newsletter August 2001

Dear AHCT Member:

Cordial greetings from AHCT. This summer's newsletter carries highlights of the AHCT conference in March, notes from the meetings of the board of directors and the general membership, the announcement and call for papers for the AHCT symposium in March 2002, and details about other AHCT events and activities in spring and summer of 2001.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, TX, March 8-10, 2001.

Members presented some 60 scholarly papers on various aspects of comedia studies, and plenary sessions featured three guest speakers. Denis Rafter drew on his experience as a professional actor and director with the Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico to deliver a keynote address, "Removing Masks," on actors' and directors' techniques and goals in staging classical plays. David Pasto, of the Department of Speech and Theater at Oklahoma City University, gave a workshop on "Movement for Spanish Golden Age Productions (or, How to Curtsy, Bow, and Wear Fabulous Clothes)." Don Smith, of the Great Books Foundation, Chicago, IL, offered a workshop: "The Great Books, Shared Inquiry and the Comedia" (cf. details below). In addition to a very successful program, this year's conference saw a change of venue to the Camino Real-Paso del Norte Hotel and a continued increase in papers presented compared to previous years (up 50% compared to four years ago). As always, the Symposium coincided with the Golden Age Drama Festival at the Chamizal Memorial. The Chamizal program included: Tirso's Marta la piadosa, by Aula de Teatro de Andrés de Claramonte de la Universidad de Murcia, Spain; Calderón's La dama duende, by the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, of Los Angeles (versions in English and in Spanish); and Calderón's Los cabellos de Absalón, by the Repertorio Español, of New York. José Luis Ibáñez of UNAM and AHCT's Charles Ganelin of University of Kansas and Purdue University served as Round Table Discussants.

Telephone: (480) 731-4838

E-mail: donald.dietz@asu.edu

Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting, March 8, and the General Meeting, March 11:

Election to the Board: Isaac Benabu, Gwyn Campbell, Don Larson, Barbara Mujica, and Amy Williamsen were re-elected to the Board, and Darci Strother joined as a new member. AHCT members interested in serving should contact any board member or officer.

Election of Officers: Don Dietz, Sharon Voros, and Bob Johnston were reelected to continue in their present roles of President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. First Vice-President Catherine Larson chose not to stand for reelection. By vote of the Board, Susan Paun de García was selected for the position of Second Vice-President, with Anita Stoll assuming that of First Vice-President. The officers and Board of AHCT sincerely thank Catherine for her years of dedicated, effective service.

Treasurer's Report: From March 2000 to March 2001, AHCT spent some \$14,800 on the annual conference, the subvention for the Hesse homage volume (*La comedia puesta en escena*, Tamesis, 2000), and general operations. Income from dues, donations, and grant monies totaled \$12,700. The Everett W. Hesse Fund grew to \$28,100., with interest and donations, and it provided some \$1,600 in support of AHCT projects. The Association closed the year with total assets of \$35,748.

Video Library: The collection of video tapes available to members continues to grow with the addition of performances from the March 2000, Chamizal Festival and newly completed "Pioneer Series" interviews with Matt Stroud (by Anita Stoll) and Frank Smith (by Christopher Gascón). The full catalog is available on the AHCT web page: <http://www.coh.arizona.edu/spanish/comedia/>. Please note the new address for loan requests: Sergio Martínez <semartin@u.arizona.edu> (or: Amy Williamsen <amyw@u.arizona.edu>).

An additional note on the recording of Siglo de Oro Festival performances: Chamizal Memorial has arranged to work with Time Warner to produce a monthly TV broadcast on Park Service programs. As part of this initiative, Chamizal has acquired a commercial-quality camera and editing equipment. AHCT has volunteered to purchase a second camera to facilitate taping plays from two angles and producing an edited version. This will hopefully improve the quality and appeal of recordings available to AHCT members in the future.

Preservation of Tape Collection: Gwyn Campbell, for the Tape Preservation Committee, reports that some 28 tapes have been "digitized" and recorded on CDs. The committee's work has been greatly facilitated by generous support with resources and expertise from the Tucker Multimedia Center at Washington and Lee University. The committee expects another 30 videos will be digitized by the end of 2001. While the AHCT video library still distributes recordings on videotape via US mail, at some point in the future loans will be available electronically.

AHCT Web Page and Electronics: The AHCT web page provides texts and materials related to *comedia* teaching and research free of charge for non-profit, educational use. The collection of *comedia* texts continues to grow thanks to contributions from members. Watch for information about the AHCT Symposium and the Chamizal Memorial's Golden Age Drama Festival; details will be posted as they become available: <http://www.coh.arizona.edu/spanish/comedia/>.

Production in Translation Committee: Susan Paun de García reports work begun on a web page to take the place of the committee's brochure for directors, actors, and producers. In addition to providing information specifically related to performance of Golden Age theater, the page will also provide links to the AHCT Comedia home page and to other sites related to translation and production of comedias. The URL will be announced on the Comedia Bulletin Board and in the AHCT Newsletter when the site is on line.

Awards: This year's Everett Hesse Student Travel Award was presented to Elena García Martín, from University of Texas, Austin, for her paper on modern reception of Cervantes's Numancia. Congratulations from AHCT for this accomplishment.

Great Books' "A Latino National Conversation": Great Books Foundation representative, Don Smith, described for AHCT Symposium participants a new Great Books program titled, "A Latino National Conversation." The project combines notions of adult community education, shared inquiry, and collaborative learning with an appreciation of Hispanic/Latino culture and literature in the US. Additional information about this program is available on request from Great Books Foundation, 35 East Whacker Dr., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60601-2298. By e-mail, one may contact: Donald H. Whitfield, Director of Higher Education Programs: <whitfield@greatbooks.org>.

Grant Proposals: AHCT President Don Dietz reports a grant award of \$3,000 received from the Spanish Ministry's Committee for Cultural Cooperation in support of the planned, Comedia 2000 Institute. He also notes a \$1,500 award from the Arizona Commission on the Arts to bring to Phoenix The Antaeus Company of Los Angeles, directed by Dakin Matthews, to produce (in English translation) Alarcón's The Proof of the Promise. The play will be performed at a joint meeting of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Renaissance Society of America on April 12 and 13, 2002. Pre- and post-production seminars and discussions are also planned to familiarize the conferees and the Phoenix community with Spanish Golden Age Theater. AHCT members attending the Symposium in El Paso in March will have an opportunity to see this same production on the Chamizal stage.

AHCT Symposium, March 2002:

Conference Program: Next year's AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 7-9, 2002, in El Paso, Texas. The program will include a plenary talk by guest speakers Juan Sanz Ballesteros and Miguel Angel Coso Marín on contemporary stage sets for performance of Classical Spanish plays. Juan Sanz and Miguel Angel Coso combine detailed knowledge of the history and architecture of seventeenth-century corral theaters (they are the original discoverers of the Teatro Cervantes in Alcalá) with professional expertise in contemporary stage design. Recent acknowledgement of their work in Spain includes: the Premio Josep Caudí, awarded to them in 1999 by the Asociación de Directores de Escena for the best stage set of the year; and the Premio Teatro Celestina, the Premio Ojo Crítico, and the Premio de la Feria de Huesca, given to productions for which they designed the sets, also in 1999. As in past years the Symposium will coincide with the Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival sponsored by the US Park Service at the Chamizal National Memorial. As they become

available, details of the Festival program will appear on the Comedia Bulletin Board and/or in the December newsletter.

Call for Papers: AHCT encourages studies on the performance of Siglo de Oro dramatic texts, though proposals on all topics related to the Spanish comedia are welcome. Papers should be 20 minutes long, in Spanish or in English. College and university faculty should send paper titles with 1-page abstracts and/or proposals for special sessions to Prof. Denise DiPuccio, Dept. of Foreign Languages & literatures, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, 601 S. College Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403-3297 (e-mail: <dipucciod@uncwil.edu>). Persons interested in participating in sessions following an alternative format with the focus on discussion rather than the actual reading of papers should so indicate with their submissions. Papers for these sessions will be posted on the AHCT web site prior to the conference. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2001. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals, though we request that you send two copies of your complete, 10-page paper rather than an abstract. Please contact Prof. Christopher Weimer for submission guidelines: Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK 74078, <CBWeimer@aol.com> (e-mail address is to request guidelines and ask questions only; please do not send submissions electronically). Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2001. Graduate students whose papers are accepted will be considered for AHCT's Everett W. Hesse travel support grant.

Conference Hotel & Registration: The conference will take place at the Hilton Camino Real Hotel (formerly Camino Real Hotel) El Paso, Texas. Reservations may be made by phone at 1-800-769-4300 or (915) 534-3099, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. MST. **The deadline to make reservations is February 3, 2002.** Participants should mention the AHCT Conference and request the group rate of \$74.00 plus tax per night (single or double). **To register for the conference,** please send your name, affiliation, address, telephone, e-mail address, and a check for \$80 (graduate students \$25, undergraduates \$15) to: Prof. Anita Stoll, First Vice-President AHCT, 2081 Lamberton Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 **by February 15, 2002.** (There will be an additional late fee of \$10.00 after this date.) Registration covers conference attendance, the AHCT Conference Banquet, transportation to Chamizal for theatrical performances, and refreshments in the Association's hospitality room after the plays. Conference participants are also asked to join AHCT; membership fees and information appear at the end of this newsletter. Please make checks payable to AHCT and indicate in the bottom left-hand corner of your check whether payment is for dues, conference registration, or both.

In Memory of Two Dear Friends of AHCT (notes from Don Dietz, AHCT President):

Franklin Smith. As many are aware, Frank founded and established the Siglo de Oro Festival in 1976 when he served as the Chamizal's founding father and first Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial. Frank was a dear friend of AHCT, in which he served as a life-time member of the Board of Directors. Several years ago, in his honor, the Association established the Franklin G. Smith Award, which is given to translators who work with a production company in the preparation of a performance text. We will miss Frank's encouragement and wise counsel and wit. He was a good friend. On behalf of all of us who knew him and experienced his vision and spirit for life, our condolences extend to his wife, Mary Pauline, his daughter Allison, and the rest of the family. Requiescat in pace!

Kenneth Stackhouse. Ken served on AHCT's Board of Directors for several years, and he was one of the Association's most active, loyal, and dedicated members. His AHCT colleagues knew they could always count on Ken to help, as he did this past spring in El Paso when he volunteered to assist with arrangements and to drive one of the vans to carry conferees to the plays. In comedia studies we came to see Ken as the Chamizal's chronicler, for his very thoughtful and colorful reviews of the Siglo de Oro Festival, which appeared yearly in the Bulletin of the Comediantes. We appreciated the special effort and the dedication that drew him to El Paso several days ahead of the conference each year to cover the entire Festival. And we owe Ken very great thanks for his fine scholarship, his excellent translations of Golden Age plays, and for his pioneering efforts to bring Spanish Golden Age drama in English to the stage. The thing that impressed many of us about Ken, and which we will remember most, was his kindness and gentleness as a human being. We join Ken's family in our sadness for his unexpected death; we will surely miss his warmth and friendship very much.

Additional Notes:

Millennium Fund: Contributions to the AHCT Millennium Fund since January 2000 have reached more than \$1,400. AHCT sincerely thanks all those who have contributed:

Thomas E. Case
Charles M. Cherry
Catherine Connor
Donald & Kathy Dietz

Robert Fiore
Willard King
Robert R. Morrison
John J. Reynolds

Angel Sánchez
Donald E. Schmiedel
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Wasserman

It is still possible to become a Millennium Donor with a tax-exempt donation to AHCT. Simply fill out the enclosed form and mail it to: AHCT, P.O. Box 28226 Tempe, AZ 85282. Your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Dues Notice: The AHCT budget depends almost entirely on members' dues, which support the annual conference, the video library, the Comedia Bulletin Board, the AHCT web site, the biannual newsletter, the Everett Hesse Endowment, and other services. Please check the mailing label for your current dues status and use the enclosed form to renew your membership.

Un cordial saludo,

Bob Johnston
AHCT Recording Secretary
Department of Modern Languages
Box 6004
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6004
e-mail: <robert.johnston@nau.edu>