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AHCT Newsletter August, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Best summer wishes from the President and the Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter contains, among other items: a report on highlights of the Association's March, 2009 symposium; notes from the meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership at the conference; a report on the meeting of the American Alliance for Theatre & Education and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education just concluded in New York City; an announcement of the new AHCT website for members; and several Calls for Papers, including for the 2010 AHCT symposium in El Paso.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, Texas, March 5-7, 2009

This year's symposium included twenty-three different sessions and some sixty-five scheduled speakers. There were two plenary addresses. The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address was given by Edward Friedman, Chancellor's Professor of Spanish at Vanderbilt University and editor of the *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, who spoke on "The High Anxiety of Influence: Zayas, Caro, and Sor Juana." The second, entitled "Lope in English Performance: The Tasks of the Translator," was delivered by David Johnston, Head of the School of Languages, Literatures and Performing Arts at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Both talks were received with great enthusiasm by those in attendance. In addition to the plenary addresses there were two other plenary sessions during the conference: the President's Roundtable, featuring three well-known *Comedia* scholars, Ellen Anderson, of York University, Charles Ganelin, of Miami University, and Amy Williamsen, of the University of Arizona; and a workshop and discussion with Rafael Rodríguez, the director of this year's Chamizal production of *El perro del hortelano*, along with several of the actors in the cast. All came to us courtesy of Producción 2Rc Teatro, Compañía de Repertorio, Gran Canaria, Spain.

Other performances included in the 2009 Festival, and enjoyed by attendees of the conference were: Lope's *Los locos de Valencia* presented by Compañía Teatro y Punto, A.C./INBA, Mexico DF, Mexico, and directed by Gilberto Guerrero; Moreto's *El desdén con el desdén*, presented by the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático Murcia, Spain, and directed by Juan Ángel Serrano Masegoso; and Lope's *El caballero de Olmedo*, presented by Compañía Los Barracos, Madrid, Spain, and directed by Amaya Curieses Iriarte, Director. As usual, actors from the various companies joined

participants at the conference in the hospitality room for refreshments and conversation after their respective performances.

Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Election Results: Parliamentarian Gwyn Campbell reported that Ben Gunter was elected to the Board for a three-year term. She also stated that Bob Blue, Mindy Badía, Bonnie Gasior, Susan Paun de García, Angel Sánchez, Laura Vidler, and Sharon Voros were reelected to the Board for additional three-year terms, and that Bob Johnston was as reelected President, Susan Paun de García as Vice-President, Don Larson as Recording Secretary, and Sharon Voros as Treasurer, all for additional one-year terms.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the Association's by-laws to allow elections to take place in the fall, rather than the winter, to allow new Board members and officers to make appropriate plans for attending the annual meeting in March.

Recognition of Anita Stoll: President Bob Johnston announced that Anita Stoll was stepping down as First Vice President of the AHCT and commended her for many years of outstanding and dedicated service. Board members present expressed their appreciation of Anita's service with a sustained round of applause.

Treasurer's Report: AHCT Treasurer, Sharon Voros, indicated that the current bank balance of the Association was \$13,550.80. Income since the last report was \$14,094.05 and expenditures were \$15,616.31. The current balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$34,608.46.

Siglo de Oro Drama Festival: Catherine Light, the new Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial, spoke of her enthusiasm for and commitment to the Festival, and expressed optimism about its future. She said that funding for the Festival had been increased in the current Park Service budget, and expressed hope that the future would bring further increases. Michael Groomer, Chief of Education and Interpretation, spoke of expanded outreach activities in connection with the Festival and outlined how those activities had enhanced local support for the Festival.

Annual Symposia: President Bob Johnston and the conference organizers spoke of preparations for the 2009 annual symposium. The new procedures instituted this year for submission of papers and abstracts were felt to have worked reasonably well, in spite of some initial glitches, and will be continued in the future, albeit with modifications. Discussion of the 2009 symposium indicated, however, an obvious need for increased revenue in support of the annual symposia, as well as of the Association in general. Thus, it was proposed, and approved, that both annual dues and conference registration be increased for the coming year. The relevant figures are specified on the enclosed enrollment form. By way of compensation for these increases, charges for rooms at the Camino Real Hotel will actually be somewhat less next year.

Comedia Performance: Barbara Mujica, the editor, reported that the number of submissions was down slightly from a year ago, but that the overall quality remains high. Advertising revenue is still modest and needs to be improved. It was been decided that the content of each issue will be made available online at the journal's website five years after initial publication.

Video Library: Amy Williamsen reported that Jason Yancey, who has been the curator of the video library for a number of years, will be leaving the University of Arizona to assume a position at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. His move raised the question of what is to be done with the tapes and DVDs that comprise the collection. In subsequent discussion, it was decided that although the bulk of the library, including all master tapes, will remain at the University of Arizona, the lending portion for at least the coming year will travel with Jason to Michigan. Chris Gascón reported that the library has this year acquired several important new videos, including performances of *La vida es sueño*, by Repertorio Español in New York, and *El alcalde de Zalamea*, *El perro del hortelano*, and *La verdad sospechosa*, by 2RC Teatro, of the Islas Canarias.

AHCT Newsletter: The newsletter will continue to be distributed in both electronic and hard copy form for the coming academic year and after that will likely be available only electronically.

Pursuing Connections with ATHE and ASTR: Ben Gunter spoke briefly about the mission and activities of ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) and ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) and encouraged ACHT to become more fully involved with the two groups.

Notes from the Meeting of the General Membership, Saturday, March 7, 2009

After calling the meeting to order, President Johnston briefly summarized the decisions taken at the previous Board meeting, focusing particularly on the new procedures being put in place for the election of Board members and officers. Parliamentarian Gwyn Campbell announced the results of the recent AHCT elections: all candidates for election and reelection to the Board had been approved, as had the slate of officers. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Membership in March, 2008 were read and approved, as was the Treasurer's Report, presented by Treasurer Sharon Voros. A brief summary of that report is given above.

In connection with the Treasurer's Report, Valerie Hegstrom suggested that the monetary value of the Hesse Award, given to the best graduate student paper delivered at the annual symposium, be increased somewhat. After brief discussion it was decided to include in the award the registration fee of the winner, which would increase the amount of the award to slightly over six hundred dollars.

President Johnston presented the new dues and registration figures contained in the insert in this newsletter and spoke of the Board's hope that with somewhat increased revenue the Association could continue enhancing the quality of the annual symposium. He indicated that one desideratum is to bring more plenary speakers from abroad, hence increasing the Association's exposure to foreign scholars and theater professionals, and vice versa.

President Johnston announced that next year's symposium would be held from March 4-7, 2010, and specified that, as this year, all abstracts accepted for the conference would be posted online prior to the symposium. Beginning in fall, 2009, annual dues and conference registration fees may be paid either by mail or online at the Association's e-chapters website for members. The website is described briefly below.

Finally, President Johnston reported that he and former President Don Dietz had spoken with F. Miguel Valenti, of the School of Theatre and Film, at Arizona State University who has expressed interest in making a documentary about the Chamizal Theater Festival and who would like to collaborate with the AHCT on the project. Such a project would obviously be of interest to the Association, and as further information becomes available members will be informed.

President Johnston closed the meeting by thanking all the members present for their work on behalf of the Association.

Other News

New AHCT website: A new e-chapters website for Association members has been established, thanks to Susan Paun de García and Cheryl Johnson of Denison University, and is now up and running. The website will allow members to keep informed about upcoming conferences and other events of interest, to pay their dues and AHCT registration fees online, to order performance videos, and to peruse the membership list. This new website supplements, but does not replace, the original AHCT website at comedias.org. Here is the link to the new site: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>.

American Alliance for Theatre & Education/Association for Theatre in Higher Education: A panel of *Comedia* scholars presented their ongoing research into "Strategies for Reviving Plays from the Spanish Golden Age, in Cl and on Stage" at the AATE/ATHE 2009 Conference, "Risking Innovation!," which took place in New York City August 8-11. The session, organized by Ben Gunter (with technical support from Susan Paun de García) reported and discussed the work of three teams: Translation Strategies, led by David Johnston, Queen's University, Belfast; Dramaturgical Strategies, led by Kathleen Jeffs, Oxford University and outofthewings.org; and Reception Strategies, led by Jonathan Thacker, Merton College, Oxford. Of the 28 panel members, 15 are members of the AHCT. Travel arrangements to the conference for David Johnston were made possible through the generosity of the AHCT and the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and U.S. Universities. The groups' position papers and discussion can be viewed on their wiki: <http://spanish-golden-age-plays.wikispaces.com/ATHE+2009+Seminar>.

American Society for Theatre Research. The annual meeting of ASTR will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 11-15, 2009. The meeting will include a working session on New Approaches to Play from the Spanish Golden Age, with three different teams working on *Fuente Ovejuna*, *Lo fingido verdadero*, and *Los melindres de Belisa*. The session organizers are Ben Gunter, Susan Paun de García, and Amy Williamsen.

Modern Language Association of America: The 2009 annual meeting of the MLA will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from December 27-30. As is customary, the Division on Sixteenth-and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama has organized three sessions to be held during the meeting. The first session, entitled "Spaces and Places in the Early Modern Public Theater," will take place December 28 at 8:30 a.m.; the second, entitled "Early Modern Spanish Drama beyond the Public Playhouses," will take place December 28 at 10:15 a.m.; and the third, entitled "Polyphony in the *Comedia*," will take place December 29 at 9:00 p.m. The annual banquet of the *Comediantes* will be held at Amada Restaurant, December 28, at 6:30 p.m. For reservations, please contact Robert Shannon at rshannon@sju.edu by December 1.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 4-6, 2010

The 2010 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 5-7, 2010 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2010 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 4, and end Saturday afternoon, March 6, 2010. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 3, 2010 from 9 a.m.-12 noon, and the meeting of the Board of Directors will take place that same day from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Call for Papers: The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater particularly encourages studies on all aspects of performance of Siglo de Oro dramatic texts, though proposals for papers or special sessions at the annual symposium on other topics related to Spanish Golden Age theater are welcome. Papers should be 20 minutes in length, and may be delivered in Spanish or English. Those submitting proposals should include in their proposal any special equipment needs that they may have, including overhead projectors, screens, and VCR and DVD players. As in previous years, those planning on using Power Point for the presentations should plan on bringing their own laptops and computer projection equipment.

College and university faculty are asked to send paper titles with one-page abstracts and/or proposals for special sessions to the following e-mail address: abstracts@comedias.org. They should be submitted as attachments in Word. The deadline for receipt of all submissions is December 1, 2009.

Graduate students who are interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit a hard copy of completed papers of approximately ten pages, rather than abstracts. Along with the paper itself, each submission should include a separate sheet containing the title of the paper, the name of the author of the paper, and the author's postal and e-mail address. In order that they may be given a "blind" reading, the papers themselves must remain anonymous, i.e., they should not reveal the name of the author, either on the first page or in headers or footers. The first page should, of course, contain the title of the paper.

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 November 1, 2009. Notification of acceptance will be sent electronically.

Events of Particular Interest at the 2010 Symposium: The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address at next year's symposium will be given by Laurence Boswell, former Associate Director of both the Gate Theatre in London and of the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also directed extensively on the West End and on Broadway. In recent years Mr. Boswell has gained renown as the pre-eminent director of Spanish Golden Age plays in English, and he also enjoys wide recognition as a translator. His production of *Fuente Ovejuna* was one of the highlights of the 2009 season of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada.

Mr. Boswell will also participate in a second plenary session during the conference, a conversation with David Johnston, the distinguished translator, whose version of *The Dog in the Manger* was presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2004 and again by the Shakespeare Theatre Company of Washington, D.C. during the winter of 2009, and whose witty and insightful address dealing with the translation of the plays of Lope de Vega scored a great hit with attendees of the 2009 AHCT symposium. Both sessions should be highlights of the upcoming conference.

Hotel Reservations: The Symposium will take place at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso, Texas. 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 2, 2010. Participants must mention the AHCT conference and request the group rate of \$90 for a single or double room, or \$109 for a triple room, or \$124 for a quadruple room. Rollaway beds may be requested for an additional charge of \$15 per night. All rates are subject to a 15.5% tax. The group rate applies Tuesday, March 2, 2010 to Saturday, March 6, 2010.

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 \$40 (faculty) or \$30 (Retired Members/Students) when registering (for other categories see the enclosed registration form). 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 \$105. A late fee of \$25 is assessed if registration is paid after February 8, 2010. Registration includes conference attendance, the annual banquet of the AHCT, transportation to and from the Chamizal National Memorial every evening for the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival, 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.)

To register by mail for the conference and/or to pay annual dues, please fill out the enclosed form and send it to: Professor Susan Paun de García, Vice President, AHCT, Denison University, PO Box 810, Granville, OH 43023. If you wish to pay by credit card—Visa or MasterCard—link to the new website for AHCT members at: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>.

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 Winter Newsletter, and on the AHCT webpages, as they become available.

Additional Calls for Papers

Spanish Golden Age Drama in Translation and Performance. Merton College, Oxford: 18-19 March, 2010. Proposals are invited for individual papers of 30 minutes in length, on any subject within the field of translating and performing Spanish Golden Age drama. Of particular interest will be papers featuring performance aspects such as music (translating/writing lyrics as well as music), acting, directing, movement and choreography, and design. Practitioners from a wide variety of theatrical backgrounds as well as scholars are encouraged to submit proposals. Send proposals of 500 words or less (email or Word attachments) no later than 30 September 2009 to Kathleen.Jeffs@new.ox.ac.uk. Please include the title of the proposed paper, along with your name, title and institutional affiliation if appropriate. Proposals in hard copy may be sent to: Dr. Kathleen Jeffs, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford, OX1 2JF.

NEMLA: 41st Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association. Hilton Bonaventure, Montreal, Quebec, April 7-11, 2010. Hosted by McGill University. Call for Abstracts: Spanish Golden Age Drama in Performance How do studies of performances and performance elements of Spanish Golden Age drama inform or revise a critical discourse that has been established and dominated by philological studies of written texts? This panel seeks analyses of performances or performance aspects of Spanish Golden Age drama. Theoretical papers concerning approaches to analyzing performances of Spanish Golden Age drama are also welcome. Please send 250-500 word abstracts in English or Spanish by Sept. 30, 2009, to christopher.gascon@cortland.edu.

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 first day of the month indicated on the mailing label of the newsletter. You may also check your membership status by consulting the new AHCT website for members at: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>. After logging in, go directly to the Members page. To renew, you may use payment form enclosed with this issue of the newsletter, and remit to Susan Paun de García at the address indicated on the form, or you may pay by credit card on the [ahct.echapters](http://www.ahct.echapters.com) website.

***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 (\$20 each), contact Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, at: a.stoll@csuohio.edu. Please encourage your college or university library to subscribe; a three-year library subscription is \$75. Payment should be sent to Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, 2081 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

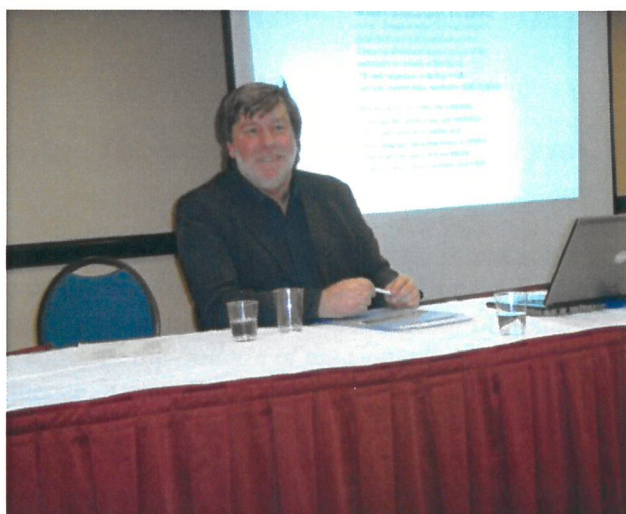
The deadline for submission of articles for consideration for the 2010 issue of *Comedia Performance* is September 30, 2009. Articles should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor, Barbara Mujica, at: mujica@georgetown.edu. Editorial guidelines are found in each issue of the journal and also on the journal's webpage: 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.

Comedia Performance accepts advertisements for books, plays, festivals and other events related to theater. Advertisers should contact Michael Khoury for rates at: mnk5@georgetown.edu.



**Edward Friedman, Plenary Speaker,
2009 AHCT Symposium**



**David Johnston, Plenary Speaker,
2009 AHCT Symposium**

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 4359, Bellingham, WA 98227. Checks may be unrestricted or earmarked for the Millennium Donors Fund or the Everett W. Hesse Fund.

With cordial best wishes for the remainder of the summer and the coming academic year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don".

Donald R. Larson