



*News and
Notices*

The Society for Critical Exchange, Inc.
Founded 1975; incorporated 1976

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Letter from Cleveland



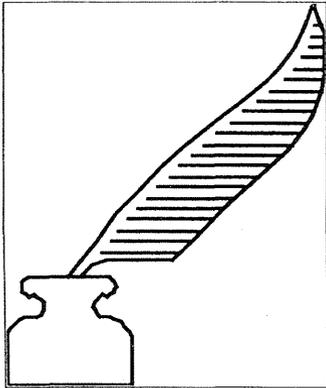
It's been nearly four years now since the SCE moved to Case Western Reserve, and the biggest change since then may be that none of us can any longer pretend to an overview of

everything going on in the Society. A glance at the programs and projects described in these pages will make clear how diverse the Society's activities have become. On the other hand, we hope it is not just wishful thinking to see at least one common thread. As the name indicates, the Society was founded to promote intellectual exchange and in particular to establish ways of including voices that for one reason or another have not been heard. This remains the SCE's central purpose, and the goal is more or less explicitly thematized in many of the current projects.

As always, the most important role each of you can play in this is to take part in the discussions. However, this is also the time of year when we remind you also to contribute your annual dues, if you have not already done so. A line on the mailing label indicates your status. If you have not yet paid current dues (indicated on the label by saying you are paid through 12/31/93), please do so as soon as possible.

Martha Woodmansee

Gary Lee Stonum



Current

Projects

Intellectual Property and the Construction of Authorship

Contact: Martha Woodmansee (English), Case Western Reserve University or Peter Jaszi (Law), The American University

The project's most recent conference, "Cultural Agency/Cultural Authority: Politics and Poetics of Intellectual Property in the Post-Colonial Era," was held at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center of the Rockefeller Foundation, in Bellagio, Italy, March 8-12, 1993. An international group of scholars and professionals assembled to explore notions of authorship, especially the Romantic idea of the author as an individual who is uniquely responsible for the production of a unique "original" work, and their effect on contemporary issues surrounding the international intellectual property system.

In addition to conference organizers Martha Woodmansee and Peter Jaszi, participants included Upendra Baxi, Jay Bolter, James Boyle, Rosemary Coombe, Margreta de Grazia, Mary Giffin, Smadar Lavie, Mary Layoun, Andrea Lunsford, Lisa Maruca, Nebila Mezghani, J. Hillis Miller, Patrick O'Keefe, Albrecht von Olenhusen, Heiki Pisuke, Darrell Posey, Mark Rose, Pamela Samuelson, Akin Thomas, Charles Zerner and Chengsi

Zheng.

Mary Giffin and Lisa Maruca report on the conference:

"The meetings were held at the beautiful Villa Serbelloni, a restored Renaissance great house, which serves as the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center. The setting of the Villa, on a wooded headland overlooking Lake Como with a magnificent view of the Alps, was itself inspiring, and the hospitality of the Center's staff, the delicious cuisine, and the opportunity to meet resident artists and scholars engaged in many different projects contributed to the spirit of cooperation and conviviality that characterized the meetings.

"The panels, which included "The International Intellectual Property Regime," "Marginalizations," "Technology and the Idea of Writing," "Metaphors and Extensions," and "Futures," were held in roundtable format, with all conference participants attending each session. Having been circulated in advance of the conference, papers needed only to be summarized briefly, leaving plenty of time for discussion.

"The conference recognized the ways in which the modern idea of authorship that arose in eighteenth century Europe marginalizes the work of many creative people, including women, non-Europeans, artists in folkloric forms and genres, groups in possession of valuable traditional knowledge, and individuals engaged in group or collaborative projects or in electronic media. The goal of the conference was to discover ways to protect these groups while at the same time protecting the interests of users through adequate "fair use" privileges which provide reasonable public access to cultural productions.

"The final act of the conference involved drafting a statement representing the diversity of views expressed by the participants and advocating "the articulation of a just world order of intellectual property rights." It is hoped that this statement will come to the attention of international policy makers, and that its principles may be reflected in a forthcoming supplement to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

"In reaching consensus, the participants often returned to several points of

contention concerning the application of a new intellectual property regime in a post-colonial world:

1) The understanding that a group or culture does not possess a monolithic "identity." This complicates the issue of "cultural heritage" as cultural property. It may not make sense to apply the rights of "authorship" to groups who understand property in more collective terms. These collective property rights, some argue, should be balanced by public access to knowledge. However, as this knowledge is used and often privatized by U.S. and European corporations, policies supporting less restrictive use of information do not necessarily benefit all groups equally.

2) The understanding that a nation may not represent all of its citizens. Because dominant groups within a nation often suppress the creative works of those considered "other," intellectual property laws geared to "citizens" may be inappropriate to those whose identities are more fragmented. Nations thus may not represent their dispersed or marginalized groups in international agreements.

3) The understanding that laws appropriate to Europe and the U.S. are not necessarily the best for developing countries, where creative workers have smaller audiences and low economic incentive. Increasing access may stymie creative production. In addition, laws developed for the increasingly electronic Western world may not work in countries in which computer technology is not widespread.

"Two other projects that emerged from the conference include an electronic roundtable on intellectual property issues, which will be set up through the Electronic College of Theory, and a volume of selected conference papers, scheduled to be published by Duke University Press next year."

Among the papers presented at Bellagio were:

- Upendra Baxi (Law, Univ. of Delhi), Displacements of the "Romantic" Concept of Authorship in Socialist and Post-Colonial Law
 James Boyle (Law, American Univ.), The International Political Economy of Authorship: Efficiency, Equity, and the Rhetoric of Acquisitive Genius
 Rosemary Coombe (Law and Anthropology, Univ. of Toronto), Colonial

- Ghosts in Postcolonial Struggles: Cultural Appropriation and the Legal Imaginary
 Mihaly Ficsor (Copyright Department, World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva), Legal and Sociological Aspects of the Process of Acceptance of New Categories of Creators as Authors
 Margreta de Grazia (English, Univ. of Pennsylvania), Shakespeare's Status as Property--Commercial/Institutional/Cultural/Global
 Paul Geller (Law, Los Angeles), Conceptualizing Authorship in International Copyright Law: The Colonial Metaphor as an Epistemological Obstacle
 Mary Giffin and Lisa Maruca (English, Case Western Reserve Univ.), How to Be an Author: Popular Writing Guides in English, 1700 to the Present
 Benetta Jules-Rosette (Sociology, Univ. of California, San Diego), New Technologies and the Visual Arts in Africa: Questions of Authorship in the Post-Colonial Era
 Sarah Laird (Periwinkle Project, Rainforest Alliance), Intellectual Property in the Rainforest
 Smadar Lavie (Anthropology, Univ. of California, Davis), Intersections of Silence: Subjectivities of Race/Gender and the Eurocentric Nation-State in the Writing of Third World Israeli Women
 Andrea Lunsford (English, Ohio State Univ.), Representations of Authorship in the Popular Media
 Nebila Mezghani (Law, Univ. of Tunis), Protection for Authors' Rights in Cultural Patrimony in Developing Countries
 Simon Njami (*Revue Noire*, Paris), Intellectual Property in Contemporary Africa
 Patrick J. O'Keefe (Law, Univ. of Sydney), Copyright-Produced Inhibitions on the Use of Heritage Items
 Helki Pisuke (Law, Tartu Univ.), The Hard Way of Becoming a Free Author: the Estonian Post-Communist Experience
 Mark Rose (Humanities Research Institute, Univ. of California, Irvine), From Paternity to Property: Metaphors in Relation to Intellectual Property
 Pamela Samuelson (Law, Univ. of Pittsburgh), Automating Authorship / Writing as a Technology
 Zheng Chengsi (Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), The Development of Authors' Rights and the Idea of Authorship in China

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Selected papers from the 1991 conference, which had been available as a special issue of the *Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal*, will soon be available in book form from Duke University Press. It is expected that papers from the Bellagio conference will also appear as a volume from Duke. More information on this should be available in the next newsletter.

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One offshoot of the Bellagio conference will be an SCE panel at the 1993 Modern Language Association meeting in Toronto. Peter Jaszi and Martha Woodmansee have organized a program including the following presentations:

"The Stories That GATT Tells: Narrative Authority, National Boundaries, and 'Intellectual Property,'" Mary Layoun (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison)

"The Structure of International Intellectual Property: Developing Countries and the Persistence of Authorship," Upendra Baxi (Univ. of Delhi)

"Imageries of Authorship in Contention: The Transnational Struggle for Control of Biological Diversity," Charles Zerner (Rainforest Alliance)

Discussants: Rosemary Coombe (Univ. of Toronto Law School) and Abdul JanMohammed (Univ. of California, Berkeley)

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A second offshoot of the Bellagio conference will be a panel at the 1994 CCCC meeting in Nashville, which Andrea Lunsford and Karen Burke Lefevre (Rensselaer Polytechnic) are organizing. Details about this should be available in the next newsletter.

The New Economic Criticism

Contact: Martha Woodmansee and Gary Lee Stonum
(English) Case Western Reserve University

Planning continues for a major conference, to be held at CWRU October 20 - 23, 1994.

Rhetoric(s) for English Studies

Contact: Don Bialostosky (English), University of Toledo or
Steven Mailloux (English and Comparative Literature), University
of California at Irvine

The following papers were presented at a symposium held at the University of Toledo, May 29-31.

Steven Mailloux (Univ. of California at Irvine), "Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric: Possible Futures for English Studies"

Patricia Harkin (Univ. of Toledo), "Modern Institutions/Postmodern Students: Is There a Place for Freshman English in a Rhetorically Oriented English Department"

Susan Wells (Temple Univ.) "Expert Discourses, the Public, and Rhetorics for English"

Joseph Harris (Univ. of Pittsburgh), "Meet the New Boss, Same as the Old Boss: Rhetorics of Change in English Studies"

Susan Jarratt (Miami Univ. of Ohio), "Outsiders Within: Rhetoric and English Studies"

Sharon Crowley (Northern Arizona Univ.), "The Rhetoric of Modernism in Discourses of English Studies"

Kurt Heinzelman (Univ. of Texas at Austin), "Previous Communication: The Idea of Ownership and the Ends of Writing"

James Phelan (Ohio State Univ.), "Losing Our Center, Maintaining Our Community"

Don Bialostosky (Univ. of Toledo), "Towards a Rhetoric for English Department Curriculum Debates"

The symposium papers are expected to form the basis of book, to be edited by Don Bialostosky and Patricia Harkin.

Woman - Nation - Narrative

Contact: Anuradha Dingwaney Needham (English), Oberlin College

Anuradha Dingwaney and Mary Layoun have organized one of the SCE's sessions at the 1993 Modern Language Association meetings in Toronto. The panel includes:

"Towards a New Cosmopolitanism," Bruce Robbins (Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick)

"In Detail, In Narration, Rewriting the (Gendered) Body in the Archives," Aina O'Brien, (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison)

"Constructing the Domestic/National Space in British Romantic Literature," Lawrence Needham (Oberlin).

"Nation and Modernity: The Case of Post-Colonial India," Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia Univ.)

"Identity Without Nation," Indira Karamcheti (Wesleyan Univ.)

In addition, planning has begun for a conference to be held next year at the Univ. of Wisconsin. More information should be available in the next newsletter.

The Scholarly Conference

Contact: Charles Stivale (Romance Languages), Wayne State Univ.

For the 1993 Midwest Modern Language Association meetings this fall, Charles Stivale has organized a panel entitled "Beyond the Podium: Directions for Academic Conferencing," Contributions include:

"Another Shot at Reforming the Format," Olivia Frey and Diana Postlethwaite (St. Olaf)

"I Was the Fourth Speaker on the Tenth 8:00 Panel on the Last Day," Philip Goldstein (Univ. of Delaware)

"Risking Silence: Constructions of Conference Contexts," Jessie Hastings (Wayne State Univ.)

"Conferencing: The Good, the Bad, and Some Alternatives," James Phelan (Ohio State Univ.)

"The Geraldo Effect: Lessons from the History of a Society Devoted to Critical Exchange," James Sosnoski (Miami Univ.)

"This is Not a Paper: On Alternative Ways of Conferencing," Chris R. Vanden Bossche (Notre Dame)

Theory in an Electronic Age

Contact: James Sosnoski (English), Miami Univ.

Rethinking Introductory Courses in English

Contact: Sally Robinson (English), Univ. of Michigan

Sally Robinson has organized a session at the 1993 Midwest Modern Language Association meetings this fall entitled "Alternative Designs: Reshaping Introductory Courses for a Changing Curriculum." Contributions include:

"Midwestern States of Theory: Resistances, Challenges, Reversals," Susan Bazargan and Dana Ringuette (Eastern Illinois Univ.)

"The Promise, Problems, and Politics of 'Baby Theory,'" Richard Abel, Barbara Hodgdon, and Deborah Jacobs (Drake Univ.)

"Doing Theory," Susan Green and Hunter Cadzow (Univ. of Oklahoma)

MLA and Regional MLA Liaisons

Modern Language Association: Martha Woodmansee, English, Case Western Reserve University

Midwest MLA: Martha Woodmansee, English, CWRU

Northeast MLA: Crystal Bartolovich, Humanities, Drexel [Carnegie-Mellon, after July 1]

South Atlantic MLA: Elizabeth Meese, English, Alabama

South Central MLA: Karen Cole, Louisiana Scholars' College,
Northwestern State Univ.

Rocky Mountain MLA: Damarys Lacayo-Salas, Purdue Univ. [Mailing
address: 80 W. Encanto Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85003]

Philological Assn. of the Pacific Coast: Marilyn Edelstein,
English, Santa Clara

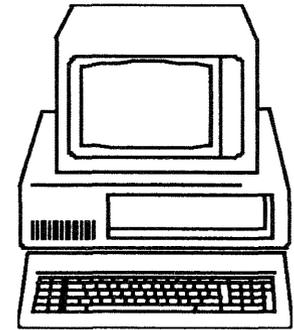
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The Society for Critical Exchange is pleased to announce that Edward Said, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, has been elected the new President of the Society, succeeding Richard Ohmann. Professor Said's term of office will begin January 1, 1994.

The presidency is chiefly an honorary office, designed to recognize the achievements of a distinguished scholar. In addition to Richard Ohmann, previous holders of the office include Ralph Cohen and Barbara Herrnstein Smith.

The Electronic College of Theory

The Electronic College of Theory is an electronic-mail conference and discussion group on literary theory. Contributions to the College are sent by electronic mail to the moderator (xx124@po.cwru.edu), who bundles them and electronically mails the bundles to subscribers. During the academic year subscribers can expect to receive five to ten such bundles a month.



The College has now grown to include about 150 subscribers, more than a third of the SCE's membership. With the increase in numbers has come an increase in the number and frequency of mailings and in the range of topics discussed. One notable leit-motif over the last six months has been the teaching of theory, particularly in undergraduate classes.

If you include an electronic-mail address on your membership renewal form, we now routinely enroll you on the Electronic College mailing list. You can also subscribe by sending a request to xx124@po.cwru.edu. All Electronic College subscribers must eventually join the SCE, but we encourage the curious to participate in the College for several months before deciding whether to become members.

Much of the moderator's job consists of keeping the mailing list in order. Please let us know if you move, change jobs, or otherwise change electronic addresses. Let us know also if you will be away from your mailbox for an extended period of time. Most computer accounts set limits on how much mail can pile up, so if you go away for the summer

and your mailbox fills any additional mail gets bounced back to the sender. Sometimes it is obvious why the mail has bounced back, but sometimes it just seems as if you had disappeared from the planet.

In addition, computer systems change and sometimes mailboxes change along with them. This also results in an electronic Return to Sender, although one that is usually easy to repair.

Missing Persons

Among the Collegians of whom we have lost track are the following. If you see your name on this list or know the electronic whereabouts of any of them, send a message to xx124@po.cwru.edu telling us the new or correct address. {For purpose of identification the missing are listed by name, last known electronic address, and last known affiliation.}

Boo-eung Koh, boo-eung.koh@ic.sunysb.edu, Comp Lit, SUNY at Stony Brook

Brian Evanson, broken@u.washington.edu

Barbara Woshinky, bwoshins@um.bitnet, Foreign Languages, Univ. of Miami

Edwina Helton, ehelton@miami.acs.muohio.edu, English, Miami Univ. of Ohio

John Crofoot, John_Crofoot@um.cc.umich.edu, African Studies, Minnesota

Bryan Bachner, lbryan@cphk.bitnet, Law, Hong Kong City Polytechnic

Michael Joyce, Michael.Joyce@um.cc.umich.edu

Luke Wilson, luke.wilson@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu, English, Ohio State Univ.

Lauro Zavala-Alvarado, zavala@unamv1.bitnet, Education and Communication, Autonomous University of Mexico

Peter Schwenger, English, Mount St. Vincent Univ.

Marc Silberman, marcs@macc.wisc.edu, German, Univ. of Wisconsin



Good Text

. . . .with

Doctor Truth

Dear Dr. Truth:

Now that Allan Bloom is dead and Lynn Cheney has had cold water thrown on her ("I'm melting . . .!"), who will save the Republic?

Dinesh D'Simon
Olin Institute for Right Reason

Dear M. Simon

The only republic Bloom wanted to save was Plato's, and his posthumous *Love and Friendship* at last explains why. You may have already supposed that Bloom fancied himself a philosopher-king and even that he imagined the species much as Gene Roddenberry imagined the Guardians on *Star Trek*. It now also turns out that the p.-k.'s are irresistibly masterful lovers, and that as for students and their nubile young flesh OI' AI could barely wait to have at them, in a philosophical sense, of course.

Lynn Cheney is a different matter, her sex life being beyond reproach or imagining. Whereas Bloom had certain quirks, like praise for pedophilia and sadomasochism, America's own Iron Lady never wavered in the faith or let herself be tempted by thought. Dr. Text is, of course, sorry to see her go. Where'll be the thrill when the National Endowment for the Humanities is headed by the prophetically named Sheldon Hackney or some equally inoffensive Bob Newhart wannabe?

Before letting La Cheney go, however, the Doctor cannot resist reminding you of what we have lost. It is Madame Cheney who has left us the definitive word on the Republic, long may it stand as Platonic, American, and of course Republican. Defender of free speech against the PC hordes and exponent of humanistic wisdom in the face of trendy conference hoppers, she chastised last year's Jefferson Lecturer because he had put in a good word for the Sophists. Are you not making the worse the better cause when you write about the Sophists, she asked Bernard Knox in an interview for the NEH magazine. Knox mildly replied that the Sophistics brought important skills to Athenian democracy, that the study of the Mrs Cheney's bailiwick, the humanities, derived chiefly from the Sophists and, besides, that the Greek for "worse" meant little more than "weaker." "So it's complete relativism, then" the Red Queen announced in triumph.

She then went on to Make It Clear For Us: "The Sophists had one approach to the humanities and the Platonists another, an approach that emphasized the idea of truth as opposed to the extreme relativistic stance of the Sophists."

Dear Dr. Truth:

Republic, schmepublic, you Americentric wolverine! The future of textiotics will not be inscribed in USA but in Glasgow, Cairo, Brno, and Montreux (also selected McDonald's in the Canadian Rockies, but only when ordered to go).

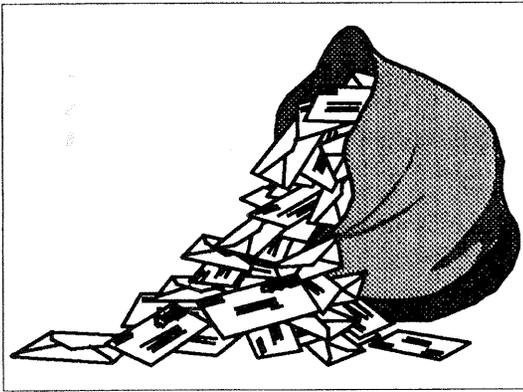
With discourse going the way of intercourse (victim of Anasemiotic Intellectual Disdain Syndrome), culture studies just a paddywhack in a Petri dish, and postmodernity precursing itself, it must be proclaimed that le text retourne. Moreover and even furthermore before than avant-(re)gard(e), the pretext turns. And in its turning the past's present futurity spins, writing itself on the skin of your teeth.

What do you say to that, Doctor?

The Textiotic Liberation Front
Brussels

Dear TLF:

For prophecy beyond belief or parsing, you owe to the Doctor the complete works of Murray Krieger.



From the Mailbag

Lewis L.B. Fried is editing a volume entitled

Postmodernism:

Disciplines/Borders, to be published by Garland in its Critical Theory, Literary History, and Culture Series. Proposals are invited for essays that examine appropriations of and resistances to postmodernism in various disciplines, fields, and mediums, as well as papers that examine the influence of postmodernism on various national or regional literatures and/or cultures. Proposals that offer overviews or that are bibliographically oriented are welcome. Send inquiries and abstracts to Lewis Fried, 109 Shawnee Circle, North York, Ontario, M2H 2X9, no later than 1 September 1993. Final papers will be due no later than 15 February 1994.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

PANEL: Feminist theory and Technoculture

CONFERENCE: Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)

DATE: April 8 & 9, 1994

PLACE: Pittsburgh, PA

This panel will address a variety of feminist theories (poststructuralist, Marxist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, ecofeminism, etc.) as they respond to the problems and possibilities of the culture of technology. Topics include (but are not limited to) the Internet (incl. bbs, lists, email, electronic conferences, MUSHES, MUDS, etc); television, telephone, fax

and other electronic media; and technoliterature.

Send inquiries to lxh16@po.cwru.edu

Send abstracts and papers by September 1 to
Prof. Lila Hanft
Dept. of English
Case Western Reserve Univ.
Cleveland, OH 44106-7117

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Papers are invited for a conference at Texas A & M University, March 24-27, 1994 that "explore the ways in which the ending (or sense of ending) of particular centuries affects the production of literary of historical narratives and, reciprocally, the ways in which narrative forms and conventions affect the histories (lived or constructed) at the ends of particular centuries."

Proposals (300 words or less) should be send by October 1, 1993 to:
Larry J. Reynolds
Department of English
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4227
phone: 409-845-8536
Fax: 409-862-2292

Keynote speakers include Sacvan Bercovitch, J.-F. Lyotard, Louis Montros, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Susan Stewart, and Hayden White.

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MFS: Modern Fiction Studies, solicits essays for the following planned special issues:

The Cultural Politics of Displacement, Barbara Harlow, Guest Editor, deadline: Nov. 1, 1993
Autobiography, Photography, Narrative, Timothy Dow Adams, Guest Editor, deadline: April 1, 1994
Postmodern Narrative, deadline: Oct. 1, 1994

Narratives of Sexuality, Judith Roof, Guest Editor, deadline: April 1, 1995

Essays should be submitted in triplicate to:
Patrick O'Donnell, Editor
MFS
Department of English
332 Heavilon Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1389

Please check the most recent issue of MFS for a description of submission policies.

* * *

Would you please let your members know, via your Newsletter, that we have launched a new, biannual interdisciplinary journal called "Arachne." Arachne publishes articles that go beyond established disciplines in search for new perspectives on interpretive studies. Arachne encourages a transnational and transhistorical approach to interpretation. Arachne is not limited to a single school of thought, but instead attempts to gauge the status quo of literary, language and cultural studies, and to play an active role in the future development of such studies. We have a distinguished Advisory Board, which works with our Editorial Board. The Advisory Board members are:

Michael Bell (U. of Warwick)
Donna Bennett (U. of Toronto)
Ann E. Berthoff (U. of Massachusetts)
Marcel Danesi (U. of Toronto)
Mary Lou Emery (U. of Iowa)
Jane Gallop (U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)
N. Katherine Hayles (U of Iowa)
Joseph Leo Koerner (Harvard U.)
Donald G. Marshall (U. of Illinois, Chicago)
Laura McClure (U. of Wisconsin, Madison)
Adalaide Morris (U. of Iowa)
Kathleen Scherf (U. of New Brunswick)
Brian Shaffer (Rhodes College)
David Stern (U. of Pennsylvania)

Essays, subscriptions requests, and inquiries can be sent to:

Arachne
Laurentian University
Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6
CANADA

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Note that announcements of conferences, publications, and calls for papers are sent out over the Electronic College within days--sometimes hours--of receipt. Send announcements to xx124@po.cwru.edu.

Announcements received as hard copy will be distributed on the Electronic College but may be delayed. Someone has to type them in, of course, and this is not always the world's most eagerly sought task.

