



NeMLA News

December 2006

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President's Letter: Welcome to Baltimore!

In March 2007, NeMLA returns to Baltimore with a more diverse program and many special events. There is a lot to experience between the exciting scholarship of

NeMLA members and the many offerings of downtown Baltimore and Inner Harbor.

We will kick off Thursday with several special events: our local host institution, Johns Hopkins University, will welcome us to its special collections at the Peabody Library, while our journal *MLS* will be sponsoring a dynamic roundtable on faculty-student collaborations. Thursday night, we can listen to readings by novelist Madison Bell and poet Elizabeth Spires while enjoying a complimentary glass of wine.

Friday evening, Amanda Anderson, Caroline Donovan Professor of English Literature at Johns Hopkins University, will give her keynote address followed by the keynote reception. Saturday, we will have a full range of events ranging from the plenary speaker Santa Matteo (co-sponsored by the Italian section) to speakers sponsored by the Women's Caucus, Spanish Literatures and Languages, and German Literatures and Languages (see inside for details). The NeMLA conference will conclude with Sunday morning sessions and a closing brunch and membership meeting.

Jennifer Harris at the 2006 convention. Photo: Nicole Burkart



President's Letter (continued)

The convention will be located at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel in downtown Baltimore, an ideal location from which to explore the city. The Walters Art Museum and the Poe House are close by. So is the Inner Harbor—where you will find the National Aquarium, the American Visionary Arts Museum, and plenty of harborview restaurants. Please plan to enjoy several days with us in Baltimore.

Plans are also full steam ahead for Buffalo in 2008—and we have more than great Buffalo wings on the menu. Annette Magid and our local host, Erie Community College, have arranged events from tours of rare book collections at the University at Buffalo to a Saturday evening visit to Niagara Falls!

I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore—and at Northeast Modern Language Association conventions in the years ahead.

Best regards,

Carine M. Mardorossian
NeMLA President, 2006-07
Department of English, SUNY—Buffalo



Baltimore's City Hall



Conference Hotel

NeMLA's 38th conference will be held at the **Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel**, located only three blocks away from the elegance, history, and fun of Baltimore's beautiful inner harbor. Formerly the Wyndham Baltimore—Inner Harbor, the hotel is being remodeled. The guest room makeover will offer rich polished mahogany, bright nickel, polished leather, timeless bold plaids, and accents of royal blue and cadet red. The details are tacks on upright chairs, polished nickel hardware and accents, mercury glass lamps and nautical inspired

artwork. Wall covering, carpeting, linens, walk in showers and plasma screen televisions will add to the design of the guest rooms

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NeMLA's conference rate is \$149.00, single, double, or triple. The reservation deadline is **February 7, 2007**. Reservations can be made by calling 1-410-385-6700 and asking for the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) group rate. With its recent renovations, the rooms at the hotel will fill quickly, so be sure to reserve a room early!

38th Annual NeMLA Convention Highlights

THURSDAY

Modern Language Studies (MLS) will open the convention with a special, expanded roundtable on **Faculty/Student Collaborations in Editing and Publishing**. Faculty, graduate-student, and undergraduate-student presenters will discuss the challenges and rewards of their collaboration on essays, journals, and in publishing. This roundtable promises to provide useful insights into the dynamics and future development of such teaching and learning.

In addition, NeMLA will sponsor two guided tours for NeMLA members and guests. Johns Hopkins University invites you to to the **George Peabody Library**, a remarkable research library housed in a remarkable building. Notable strengths in the collection are archaeology, British art and architecture, British and American history, biography, English and American literature, Romance languages and literature, Greek and Latin classics, history of science, geography, and exploration and travel including a large map collection.

The second tour option is to visit the **Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum** (<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/historic/poehouse.html>). In 1829, after his



Dr. Amanda Anderson

discharge, Poe arrived in Baltimore and lived with his widowed aunt, Maria Poe Clemm. At that time, Maria Clemm's home was located in what is now called Little Italy, just east of the Inner Harbor. Poe began writing short stories while living in this house.

Space is limited. To reserve for either tour, email northeast.mla@gmail.com with "Baltimore Tour" in the subject line.

The evening welcoming reception and reading will feature the works of novelist **Madison Smartt Bell** and poet **Elizabeth Spires**. Madison Smartt Bell is the author of eight novels, including award-winning *Soldier's Joy* and National Book award nominee *All Soul's Rising*. Elizabeth Spires is the author of five collections of poetry and has been the recipient of a Whiting Award and various fellowships.

FRIDAY

Amanda Anderson, Caroline Donovan Professor of English Literature and Department Chair at Johns Hopkins University, will be give NeMLA's keynote address, Friday evening, March 2. Professor Anderson specializes in Victorian literature and contemporary literary, cultural, and political theory. Her most recent book, *The Way We Argue Now: A Study in the Cultures of Theory* (Princeton, 2006), powerfully demonstrates the importance of debate, argument, and democratic practices. A reception will follow the keynote address.



SATURDAY**Plenary Speaker: "Looking for Marco Polo on the Silk Road: Finding Adriano Celentano"**

Sante Matteo, Professor of Italian at Miami University (Ohio), will present his research project and personal travels that trace and re-evaluate Marco Polo's legacy in the history of Italian (and by extension European) culture as an underappreciated factor in bringing about the economic and cultural renovation that came to be called the Renaissance. It was trade that revived and enriched Italian cities and maritime states in the waning of the Middle Ages. Marco Polo charted the way to the Renaissance and to Europe's future more than we have tended to realize, recognize, or admit. Professor Matteo's scholarly interests span all periods of Italian literature with an emphasis on the modern periods, as well as literary theory and cinema.

**Women's Studies Caucus Speaker**

Elizabeth Nunez is a CUNY Distinguished Professor of English at Medgar Evers College, the City University of New York. With John Oliver Killens, she founded the National Black Writers Conference and was director of the conference from 1986 to 2000. Nunez is the author of six novels including her most recent work, the critically acclaimed *Grace* (Ballantine, 2003).

Spanish Language Session

Born in Madrid in 1961, **Andrés Ibáñez** studied piano at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid and Spanish Literature at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. In 1989, he moved to New York where he finished his first novel, *The Music of the World*. Since then, he has published two other novels, a volume of short stories, and a young adult novel, *The Forbidden Park* (Montena).

German Language Session

Daniel Zahno is a Swiss author and critic. His most recent book, *Im Handumdrehen*, was published in September 2006. Zahno is the recipient of a scholarship from the Ledig House in New York and has been a guest of the Istituto Svizzero in Venice. He is a member of the Programmkommission der Solothurner Literaturtage and resides in Basel.

Martin Dean is a Swiss writer, journalist, and essayist. He has read and lectured throughout Europe and the United States, and has served as poet in residence at the University of Essen in Germany. His recent interests include relevant realism and German language use in contemporary literature.



Andrés Ibáñez

Baltimore: Explore Our Neighborhoods

Baltimore is a city of neighborhoods, and the conference site in the city's center offers easy access to a variety, each with its own distinct character. Visit Federal Hill's quirky *American Visionary Art Museum* or historic *Cross Street Market* to sample everything from oysters to kielbasa to wheatgrass. A short walk to the Inner Harbor yields the *National Aquarium*, the *Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture*, the *USS Constellation* (the last civil war ship afloat!), and numerous shopping, eating, and entertainment options. The Mount Vernon area just north of the convention site boasts the *Baltimore Symphony Orchestra*, the *Walters Art Museum*, and *Centerstage*, Baltimore's leading professional theater. Going slightly further afield, be sure to check out the *Baltimore Museum of Art*, which features the Cone Collection of early 20th century art, European paintings and sculpture, Arts of Africa, Asia, the Americas and Oceania, and one of the country's largest collections of works on paper. A list of citywide events will be available at the conference, but if you have a specific interest, please email Claire Jarvis at clairejarvis@jhu.edu.



Cross Street Market

Suggested Activities

Federal Hill

American Visionary Art Museum (www.avam.org), 410-244-1900, exhibit: "Home and Beast," admission \$12

Cross Street Market (<http://www.southbaltimore.com/shop/crossmkt.html>)

Mount Vernon

The Walters (<http://www.thewalters.org/>), 410-547-9000, admission free

Centerstage (<http://www.centerstage.org/index.php>), 410-986-4000, playing Alice Childress's *Trouble in Mind*

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (<http://www.baltimoresymphony.org/>), performances by the Peking Acrobats and tapdancer Savion Clover

Inner Harbor

National Aquarium (<http://www.aqua.org/>), 410-576-3800, admission: \$21.95

USS Constellation (<http://www.constellation.org/>), 410-539-1797, admission: \$8.85

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture (<http://www.africanamericanculture.org/>), 443-263-1800, admission: free

Charles Village

The Baltimore Museum of Art (<http://artbma.org>), 443-573-1700, admission: free



The Bromo-Seltzer Clock Tower

NeMLA Fellowships

The Northeast Modern Language Association is committed to promoting research and scholarship, particularly for NeMLA members. NeMLA funds three types of research fellowships:

NeMLA Summer Fellowships

The NeMLA Summer Fellowship Program is designed to support primarily untenured junior faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars. This does not preclude senior faculty from applying. The \$1,000 Fellowships are intended to defray the cost of traveling incurred by researchers in pursuing their work-in-progress over the summer.



The application requires a description of the proposed project including a project time line and detailed budget. Allowable budget items include travel and accommodations. This program does not provide funding for conference travel, equipment, or general office expenses.

Gary Grieve-Carlson and Minrose Gwin at the 2006 convention. Photo: Nicole Burkart.

Application Process

a) All applicants must be NeMLA members at the time of application, b) The application materials (a and b, below) should be sent both as an attachment and hard copy. Application materials sent electronically must be received by the Chair of the NeMLA Summer Fellowship committee (see below) by **January 31, 2007**. Hard copy material must be postmarked by the same date.

Application Materials

a) A two-page application describing the summer project and timeline, b) An itemized budget, c) Two letters from colleagues in the field supporting the proposed project (to be included in sealed and signed envelopes in the application packet). Send both a hard copy and an email copy of the completed application to Professor Rita Bode, Trent University in Oshawa, UOIT campus, 2000 Simcoe St. North, Room C111, Oshawa, Ontario Canada L1H 7K4; Email: rbode@trentu.ca.

Graduate Student Caucus Reception: Raise a Glass with Fitzgerald's Ghost

The wise old Owl Bar has been sitting quietly in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood for nearly one hundred years. Every detail, dent in the bar, and decoration tells a tale. From the early 1900s, when off-duty WWI officers frequented the bar, to the days of prohibition, when it became a speakeasy frequented by F. Scott, the Owl bar has a truly authentic setting. The Graduate Student Caucus will meet at the Owl Bar at 7:30 Saturday night. Appetizers provided; for a free first drink, RSVP to Caucus Secretary, Julie Flynn: majrgenrl8@yahoo.com.



Lisa Hinrichsen at the 2006 convention. Photo: Nicole Burkart

American Antiquarian Society-NeMLA Fellowship

AAS-Northeast Modern Language Association Fellowships are for research in the literary history of America and the Atlantic World in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that can be supported by the collections of the American Antiquarian Society. The award is jointly funded by the Northeast Modern Language Association and AAS. Degree candidates are not eligible. NeMLA membership is not required of applicants; awardees who are not already members must join. Please visit the AAS website (<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/nemla.htm>) for details (the application procedure is noted on the right side of the page that is linked here). Two awards will be granted in 2006-07.

Deadline: January 15, 2007.

Newberry Library-NeMLA Fellowship

To better serve our members working in languages other than English, NeMLA has just established a partnership with the Newberry Library. This short-term fellowship for Ph.D. candidates or post-doctoral scholars offers up to one month's support (\$1,200) for work in residence at the Newberry. NeMLA membership must be current at the time of application and through the period of the fellowship. Preference will be given to projects focusing on materials written in French, German, Italian, or Spanish. **Application Deadline:**

March 1, 2007. For more information, visit the Newberry Library website: <http://www.newberry.org/research/felshp/short-term.html>.



*Members socializing at the 2006 convention.
Photo: Nicole Burkart.*

Mark Your Calendars! Buffalo April 9-13

In 2008, NeMLA returns to Buffalo! Local Liaison Annette Magid and Erie Community College are already arranging a number of special events for NeMLA members. While in Buffalo, take advantage of some of these wonderful opportunities:

- Tour **SUNY—Buffalo's rare book room** and **Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin house** (bus service provided by SUNY-Buffalo)
- Take a walking tour of downtown Buffalo
- Attend a lecture at **Buffalo-Erie Community Library** on their **original Twain manuscripts**
- Join other NeMLA members for the Saturday night trip to **Niagara Falls**



*Ben Railton at the 2006 convention.
Photo: Nicole Burkart.*

You can make NeMLA's convention in Buffalo more interesting by proposing a panel, roundtable, or creative session. All 2007 members are eligible to propose a panel topic to chair; proposals are particularly encouraged on literature from before 1850 (all languages). Proposals may be submitted through the NeMLA website through **April 15, 2007**. Chair guidelines are available at <http://www.nemla.org/convention/chairguide.html>.

Key Dates

2007

Jan. 15: American Antiquarian Society/NeMLA Fellowship applications due; see AAS website

Jan. 31: Summer Fellowship Proposals due to Second Vice President

Mar. 1-4: Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland

Apr. 15: Deadline for Panel Proposals for 2008 Convention to Executive Director

June: Call for Papers for 2008 convention posted at www.nemla.org

Aug. 31: Deadline for manuscript submission for NeMLA Book Award

Sept. 15: Deadline for abstracts to panel chairs for 2008 convention

NeMLA News

Editor: Nowell Marshall, University of California, Riverside

This newsletter is produced twice annually for members of NeMLA. Updated news and information is available at the NeMLA website www.nemla.org. To post additional information or corrections, please contact the webmasters: nemlaweb@gmail.com.

40 Years of NeMLA!

Plans are already underway for NeMLA's 40th anniversary celebration in Boston, February 26-March 1, 2009. The keynote speaker will be John Stauffer, Professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University. His book *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race* (Harvard University Press, 2002) was the co-winner of the 2002 Frederick Douglass Book Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Institute; winner of the Avery Craven Book Prize from the OAH; and the Lincoln Prize runner-up. Please plan to join us!

Northeast Modern Language Association

Elizabeth Abele, Executive Director

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