



ESPRit Newsletter No. 4, July 2011

1. Welcome

In this fourth newsletter we announce that the *European Society for Periodical Research* has a new partner: Ghent University will replace Edinburgh Napier University as one of the three leading parties in ESPRit, next to Radboud University and Salford University. Prof. Marysa Demoor and her colleagues will organise an expert meeting in 2012. In May of that year ESPRit will also cooperate with the Dutch periodical *Tijdschrift voor Tijdschriftstudies* and host a one day conference in Amsterdam on non-textual characteristics of periodicals and magazines. Any news on this event will be posted in the coming months on www.tijdschriftstudies.nl and www.ru.nl/esprit. We would also like to remind you that the inaugural conference of our organisation will take place in Manchester on December 9 and 10 of this year. The deadline for the Call for Papers is July 11, so there is still time to send your abstract to: espch-pae@salford.ac.uk. The focus of the conference will be broad and include papers on methodological issues as well as on digitization of periodical research, for instance. For more information, please visit: [http://www.espach.salford.ac.uk/page/Periodicals Across Europe](http://www.espach.salford.ac.uk/page/Periodicals%20Across%20Europe).

2. ESPRit events

On May 19 Dr. Matthew Philpotts (University of Manchester) was invited to Radboud University to give a paper entitled: "Literary Journals and Editorial Habitus: Towards a Typology of the Periodical Editor". In his paper Matthew Philpotts took an explicitly comparative and typological approach to the role performed by the editors of literary periodicals. Conceptualized through Bourdieu's theory of habitus, he distinguished between two distinct types of editorial activity: the 'charismatic' editorships of Ford Madox Ford (*The English Review*) and John Middleton Murry (*Rhythm*, *The Athenaeum*,

The Adelphi); and the primarily 'bureaucratic' mode of editorship realized by successive editors of *La Nouvelle Revue Française*. T.S Eliot's editorship of *The Criterion* acted as a further case study which exemplified the essential duality of the editorial role, the successful realization of which demands an exceptional, multiple and mediating habitus. Understanding successful editorial practice in this way not only de-mythologizes the role of the periodical editor, it also sheds light more widely on the social mechanisms underpinning cultural practice. Matthew Philpotts will publish an article on this topic in the October issue of *Modern Language Review*.

3. Upcoming events of interest to ESPrit members

Call for Papers: History and Humour – 1800 to Present International Conference at Freiburg University, 6-7 July 2012

One tends to associate history with serious modes of presentation (academic, heroic, tragic) rather than with humorous ones. Yet Clio also smiles and laughs out loud: Comic renderings of historical events and figures have made a significant contribution to 'popular' history since around 1800. We find them in all European cultures and in a wide range of texts, images and performances, in styles both coarse and refined. History has been the subject of caricature, satire, the cartoon and comic book, stage and television/film comedy, and the parody history textbook as exemplified in the British classic, *1066 and All That*. There are special national traditions which the conference seeks to explore and compare. But it will also address questions of a more general nature. Theories of humour are diverse but agree in a number of elements: On the intellectual level, laughter seems to be an elementary reaction to incompatible or contradictory frames of reference and interpretation. On the emotional level, laughter releases apprehension and tension, and it discharges feelings of aggression and contempt. It is aroused by the deformed and unfamiliar, it exposes and punishes the unsocial, and it deflates the grand. To what purpose have such elements been employed in the humorous presentation of history? From what contexts do humorous presentations arise? At what audiences are they directed, and how have they been received? We invite participants who would like to explore these and other questions with reference to specific case studies from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

300-word proposals in English should be sent to the organisers (Barbara Korte, English Department and Elisabeth Cheauré, Slavic Department) by **15 October 2011**:

barbara.korte@anglistik.uni-freiburg.de elisabeth.cheaure@slavistik.uni-freiburg.de

For information on the research group *Historische Lebenswelten*, please see

<http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/historische-lebenswelten>

Annual conference *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals*, 22-23 July 2011

The *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals* will hold its annual conference at Canterbury Christ Church University on July 22 and 23. The theme of the conference is "Leisure and Work". Much of the Victorian Press was built on an interdependency of work and leisure. Work was necessary to produce matter for reading; and reading itself could be work or leisure. In addition, the products of the Victorian press themselves did 'cultural work'. This conference explores the place of the press with regards to the complex relationship between work and leisure in the nineteenth century. For more information, please visit: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-humanities/Media/victorian-periodicals-conference/home.aspx>

4. Next newsletter

If you have news of interest to ESPRit members, please send an e-mail to esprit@let.ru.nl and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website. Enjoy your summer!