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The Society for Critical Exchange, Inc.
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Salutations!

As you read through this edition of the SCE's *News and Notices*, you'll see a large range of current activities. Projects of long standing are expanding their directions and initiatives. The *Intellectual Property and Construction of Authorship* project is continuing its work on the international implications of intellectual property law (p. 7). A volume of essays from the first *New Economic Criticism* conference will appear this spring from Routledge; the project also sponsored a second conference on "Culture and Economics" (the program is printed on pp. 3-6), and has spun off panels and a second edited collection on "The Question of the Gift" (see pp. 2 and 10-11). *Woman Nation Narrative* has returned with an important initiative "Rethinking Anderson" (pp. 8-9).

And newer projects are continuing to grow: *Cultures of Writing* is gearing up for another conference (p. 9), and the SCE is co-sponsoring a series of panels on Cognitive Linguistics (p. 12).

You'll find reports on all these activities, and on our doings at the regional and national MLAs, within this newsletter.

There is, of course, much room for more work, and for new projects by SCE members. With this in mind, we are working to elevate the SCE's Website to the status of a project, and are seeking SCE members who would like to make this resource into a truly innovative electronic space for the pursuit of theory. On the last page of the newsletter you'll find a fuller description of what we have in mind.

And on the very last page of the newsletter, you'll find your handy annual dues notice. This is the only dues notice you'll receive. Please clip the page and send it to us with the appropriate amount, so that the SCE can continue to put on conferences, publish collections of essays, and press ahead with new and innovative projects.

Yours most sincerely,

Martha Woodmansee
Director

Max Thomas
Associate Director

CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE SCE

The SCE runs several standing projects which operate through meetings at the national and regional MLA conventions, through special conferences, and through publication initiatives. The SCE is an affiliated organization of the national MLA and of the five regional MLA organizations. In many cases, this means the SCE has standing panels at conventions, through which it is possible for members to organize and carry out sessions on a wide variety of topics. The SCE will assist in coordinating such sessions, and in expanding them into continuing projects when appropriate. There is no limit to the number of concurrent projects; please do contact the directors with ideas and initiatives.

The following pages include reports on each of the continuing SCE projects, on SCE-related panels at conferences, and on other SCE activities both present and future. The SCE's website will continue to accumulate information about these projects; for more information, contact either the SCE Directors or the Coordinators of the individual projects.

NEW ECONOMIC CRITICISM PROJECT REPORT

Coordinators: Mark Osteen, Martha Woodmansee

The *New Economic Criticism* project is devoted to the steadily increasing intersection between economic considerations in literary studies and the importance of theory in economic studies. 1998 was a busy year for *NEC*, including sponsoring two panels on "The Question of the Gift" at the MLA convention, and co-sponsoring, with the University of Exeter, an international conference on "Culture and Economics" in Exeter, England. A volume of essays from the first *NEC* conference, entitled *New Economic Criticism: Interrelations between Literature and Economics* and edited by Martha Woodmansee and Mark Osteen, will be published by Routledge in the Spring of 1999. A collection of essays from this summer's conference is being assembled for journal publication. Details about the conference, including the full program, can be found below. Details about the MLA sessions can be found under the MLA activities report, on page 10.

Regenia Gagnier and John Dupré collaborated with Mark Osteen and Martha Woodmansee to mount a conference on "Culture and Economics" at the University of Exeter, July 23-26, 1998. This meeting brought together an international array of literary scholars and economists to further consider the interrelations of their disciplines. Building on the conference held in 1994, this meeting aimed to sharpen study in several areas: new theories of production; theories of consumption and alternative economies; feminist economics; the history, and pre-history, of economic discourse; formations of value, both monetary and non-monetary; and the various forms of the market.

If the 1994 conference suggested that certain paradigms and assumptions about economics and about literary theory needed rethinking, this conference suggested a number of the forms that such rethinking might take. Notably, a mini-conference on the Nineteenth Century, prompted by an extraordinary cluster of papers focused on that time period, presented a broad view of the period not so much as one of consolidation of grand economic/authorial narratives, but as one of extraordinary contestation regarding the relation of the human subject to the forces of social structures. And, in his plenary address to the conference, Terry Eagleton suggested that this rethinking might well necessitate a revitalization of the Marxist theory of base and superstructure itself.

Thus, the papers from the conference represented a putting-into-practice of the ideas preliminarily discussed in 1994, and suggested that the issues raised about cultural production are only becoming more pressing.

The conference program is included on the following pages.

Plenary Session: Overviews

Welcome by Martha Woodmansee, Case Western Reserve University, Society for Critical Exchange; Opening comments: Regenia Gagnier, Exeter University and Mark Osteen, Loyola College, "Economics and Culture"; Diana Strassman, Rice University, "Feminist Economics"; Jack Amariglio, Merrimack College, "Postmodern Economics"

Feminist Economics 1

Drucilla Barker, Hollins University, "Real Bodies and Rational Agents"; Prue Hyman, Victoria University of Wellington, "The Uses and Limits of Orthodox Economics: Concepts of Value Towards a Feminist Valuation"; Marjolein van der Veen, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "Beyond Commodification: Rethinking Prostitution"

Consumption 1

Amy Koritz, Tulane University and Douglas Koritz, Buffalo State College, "Checkmating the Consumer: Passive Consumption and the Economic Devaluation of Culture"; Margueritte Murphy, Bentley College and Brian Cooper, New School for Social Research, "The Return of the Regressed: Culture, Race and Economics in the Debate on the Determinants of Wages"

Early Modern Economics

Kathleen McLuskie, University of Southampton, "Nothing for the Minstrel: The Economics of Early Modern Theater"; Karen Edwards, Exeter University, "The Economics of Paradise"; Jonathan Barry, Exeter University and Maarten Prak, Utrecht University, "Citizenship: Between Culture and Economics"

Gifts and Symbolic Objects

Jacqui Sadashige, University of Pennsylvania, "Fetishizing Antiquity: Souvenirs and Sentiment in Republican Rome"; Antonio Callari, Franklin and Marshall College, and Jack Amariglio, Merrimack College, "The Ghost of the Gift: The Unlikelihood of Economics"; Anthony Fothergill, Exeter University, "Economics of Belief: Conrad by Way of Simmel and Benjamin"

Feminist Economics 2

Shirin Rai, Warwick University, "Nationalism, 'Nation-Building' and Development in Post-Colonial India"; Lamia Karim, Rice University, "Microcredit: An Untold Story"; Irene Van Staveren, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, "Literary Stories on Provisioning"

Consumption 2

Rita Barnard, University of Pennsylvania, "Grotesque Economies"; Michael Tratner, Bryn Mawr College, "Cultural Liberation and Consumer Economics: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*"; Sharon O'Dair, University of Alabama, "The Consumption of Class?"

Political Economy

Jack Vroman and Uskali Maki, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, "How Far is Chicago from Frankfurt? From Diskursethik to Sprachethik, or from Arguing to Marketing"; Scott Meikle, Glasgow University, "The Metaphysical Construction of the Economic Realm"; Ian Hampsher-Monk, Exeter University, "Prices as Descriptions; Reasons as Explanations"

Postmodern Economics

Joseph Childers and Stephen Cullenberg, University of California, Riverside, "Speculating with Value/Gambling with Difference"; Robert Garnett, Texas Christian University, and Stephen Cullenberg, "Samuel Bailey's Contribution to a Postmodern Economics"

Nineteenth-Century Political Economy

Mary Jean Corbett, Miami University of Ohio, "From Nature to Culture: English Economics and Irish Disaffection in John Stuart Mill's *England and Ireland*"; Lucy Hartley, University of Southampton, "Natural Values"; Josephine McDonagh, Birkbeck College, University of London, "Infant Suffering, Human Value, and Political Economy"

Money

Richard Gray, University of Washington, "Hypersigns, Hypertexts, Hypermarkets: Adam Mueller's Theory of Money and Romantic Semiotics"; Christina Crosby, Wesleyan University, "Faith and Flesh in Ruskin's Political Economy"; Herbert Tucker, University of Virginia, "'Sweet to Tongue and Sound to Eye': Orality and Currency in 'Goblin Market'"

Nineteenth Century 2

Cora Kaplan, University of Southampton, "Race, Affect and Liberalism: Harriet Martineau and the Political Economy of Slavery"; Sally Ledger, Birkbeck College, University of London, "Writing Chartism: The Rhetoric of Hunger and the Politics of Reform"; Richard Adams, Harvard University, "Henry Adams's Sympathetic Economy"

Economics of Authorship 1

Peter Jaszi, Law, American University, "Economics Versus Authorship"; Martha Woodmansee, Case Western Reserve University, "Economies of Authorship"; Ruth Towse, Exeter University, "The Lottery of Art: Risk and the Artist"

Work

Jeff Nunokawa, Princeton University, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Anorexia: Labor, Hunger, Desire--the Case of Oscar Wilde"; Elaine Freedgood, University of Pennsylvania, "On the Fringe: The Political Economy of Lace"; Norman Feltes, York University, Canada, "Murderous Conditions: Economic Determinations of Social Violence in Ontario, 1880"

The Economics of Authorship 2

Paul Delany, Simon Fraser University, "Stratification and Segmentation in the New Literary Marketplace"; Nick Groom, Exeter University, "A Short History of Forgery"; Max Thomas, University of Iowa, "Eschewing Credit: Heywood, Shakespeare, and the Economics of Plagiarism"

Plenary Address

Terry Eagleton, Oxford University, "Base and Superstructure Revisited"; Comments by John Dupré, Birkbeck College, University of London, and David Ruccio, University of Notre Dame

Economics and Social Value

Patrick Brantlinger, Indiana University, "Economic Demand Versus Aesthetic Taste in Victorian Discourse"; Matthew Titolo, University of California, Los Angeles, "The Limits of the Market Metaphor in Victorian Studies"; Gerhard Joseph, CUNY Graduate Center, "The far-off interest of tears': Tennyson, Freud and the Economics of Mourning"

Economics in Antiquity

Stephen Gudeman, Anthropology, University of Minnesota, "Aristotle's Economy: Culture, Community, and the Market"; Richard Seaford, Exeter University, "Greek Tragedy and the Economy"; Andrew Riggsby, University of Pennsylvania, "The Farmer's Daughter: Land, Family, and Value in Republican Rome"

Plenary Session: Summations

Summations by Barry Barnes, Exeter University and Mark Blaug, Exeter University

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORSHIP PROJECT REPORT

Coordinators: Peter Jaszi, Martha Woodmansee

Work on the SCE's *Intellectual Property and Construction of Authorship* project is proceeding on several fronts, but especially in the realm of international issues surrounding intellectual property.

This project was launched at an interdisciplinary conference on "Intellectual Property and the Construction of Authorship" in 1991, and has since been carried forward in diverse venues, including a seminar sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1993, which brought together

twenty-five lawyers, cultural historians, policy makers, anthropologists, development specialists, and representatives of culture industries from the developed and developing worlds to ponder "Cultural Agency/Cultural Authority: Politics and Poetics of Intellectual Property in the Post-Colonial Era."

The "Bellagio Declaration" that emerged out of this seminar illustrates one of the objectives of our collaborative project: to operationalize the "critique of authorship." By renewing the conversation between the law and literary theory that seems to have broken off in the nineteenth century, we aim to foster the development of more equitable models of intellectual property protection (a copy of the Bellagio declaration is available on the SCE website: <http://www.cwru.edu/affil/sce/Bellagio.html>).

The moment for such change may be at hand. In December 1996, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) convened a Diplomatic Conference to consider proposals to update the Berne Convention through the creation of several supplemental international agreements. On the agenda for this meeting were a set of proposals relating to the protection of literary and artistic works in cyberspace. While most of these issues had been under discussion at preparatory meetings for the best part of a decade, at what amounts (in the chronological scheme of international diplomacy) to the last minute, the United States and the European Union pressed for a significant addition to the work program of the conference. Beginning in the Spring of 1996 their representatives had begun to urge that the delegates should consider and conclude a new treaty guaranteeing international legal protection for compilations of information--so-called "databases"--in electronic and print media.

When the delegates to the WIPO Diplomatic Conference took up the draft treaty that had been crafted for their consideration on the basis of the U.S. and EU proposals, the discussion took an unexpected turn. In addition to policy concerns raised by representatives of information consumers alarmed about the progressive enclosure of the "public domain," another class of objections was raised by delegates of developing countries: why, they wondered, was the relatively new issue of data rights before the Diplomatic Convention, while that of protection for "folkloric" works, which had been discussed intermittently at the international level for at least two decades, was not? In effect, the developing countries insisted on "linkage": if the international intellectual property system was to expand to take in non-original data compilations, it should be possible

for it to embrace traditional cultural materials as well. At the very least, work on new international agreements covering the former should be coordinated with efforts to provide meaningful protection for the latter.

The Diplomatic Conference ended without any action being taken on data rights; however, the issue remains on the medium-term agenda of WIPO, and new impetus has been given to the question of how best to incorporate the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples into the scheme of international intellectual property.

It is this problem that is now at the forefront of research on intellectual property, and the SCE is continuing its research in this area with an upcoming conference on the intersection of indigenous and "western" aims. This small, working conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in the Fall of 1999.

WOMAN, NATION, NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

Coordinators: Wendy Kozol, Mary Layoun, Anuradha Dingwaney
Needham

The *Woman, Nation, Narrative* project organized a mini-conference entitled "Revisiting Anderson" at the 1998 Midwest Modern Language Association convention in order to address the following questions:

Although nationalism continues to inform, indeed determine, material conditions in the world, why does it appear to have stalled as a subject of scholarship? Is this because the terms and framework for discussion--including Benedict Anderson's influential concept of "imagined communities"--envison narrative as the most appropriate modality? Has this focus on narrative become disabling for discussions that need to be anchored in materialist explanations?

The program for these sessions was as follows:

Session I: *Materializing Nationalism: Race, Sex, and the Trauma of
Citizenship*

Chair: Mary Layoun, Comparative Literature, U of Wisconsin, Madison
Discussant: Anuradha Dingwaney Needham, English, Oberlin College

"Nationalist Narratives and (Dis) Appearing Women: State-Sanctioned
Sexual Violence," Anna Agathangelou, Women's Studies and
Politics, Oberlin College

"Nationalism Without Patriotism: Frida Kahlo Remaps the Nation,"
Steven S. Volk, History, Oberlin College

"Our Nation's Attic': Creating American Identity at the Smithsonian
Institution," Tasslyn Frame, History, Case Western Reserve U

Session II: *Is the Model Open or Closed? Rethinking Anderson*

Chair: Mary Layoun, Comparative Literature, U of Wisconsin, Madison

Discussant: Wendy Kozol, Women's Studies and History, Oberlin College

"Respecting the Existence of Marks': Mary Prince, Libel, and
National Identity," Kathryn Temple, English, Georgetown U

"Representative Subjects: Modes of Representation in Anderson's
Imagined Communities," Larry Needham, English, Lakeland
Community College

"Unimaginable Communities: Limits and Openings in Discourses of
Nationalism," Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Comparative Literature, U of
Wisconsin, Madison

CULTURES OF WRITING PROJECT REPORT

Coordinators: Larry Needham, Andrea Lunsford, Martha Woodmansee

This project is designed to address the perceived incoherence of English Studies, rooted in the ever-widening gap between literary/cultural studies and composition. At its inaugural conference held at CWRU in 1997 participants were invited to explore the implications of *re-defining* English Studies in terms of *the study and teaching of writing* in all of its aspects, including its material bases--its diverse technologies, sites, and economies, its pedagogies, forms, conventions, practices, and uses, *both contemporary and historical*. Subsequent panels at the 1997 M/MLA and MLA conventions have carried forward the historical dimensions of the project.

By strengthening connections between our programs, the project aims to address a series of questions about the future of English Studies: Could such a redefinition of English Studies enhance composition programs intellectually, while grounding literary and cultural studies more practically?

Could it improve the training of graduate students in all areas of English Studies, producing more flexible PhDs capable of obtaining a variety of academic and non-academic jobs?

Could it also slow the secession of composition from English departments, a trend that serves none of us well but only exacerbates the social marginality of literary and cultural studies while reducing the status of composition to mere technical training.

Could it better serve the vast and ever-growing need for expertise in writing, especially as technological changes and market demands are changing the function of a University education?

Another dedicated conference which further considers these issues is in the works.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MLA CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

SCE panels at the national and regional MLA conventions were varied and extensive in the past year. Several of the panels coincided with continuing projects; others were independent activities, spanning the range from interdisciplinary work to high-theory to emerging areas.

§
Modern Language Association
Contact: Martha Woodmansee, English, Case Western Reserve University
(maw4@po.cwru.edu)

Recent Activity:
As an affiliated organization of the MLA, the SCE operates two, often interrelated, standing panels at MLA conventions. This year saw panels emerge from the *New Economic Criticism Project*, devoted to "The Question of the Gift":

The Question of the Gift I
Chair and Respondent: Paul Alec Marsh, Muhlenberg College

"The Economy of the Divine Gift and the Conquest of America,"
Elvira Vilches, U of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
"African Americans, Slavery, and the Gift," Tyrone Williams, Xavier
University
"The 'Gift' of Death," Carole-Anne Tyler, U of California, Riverside

The Question of the Gift II
Chair and Respondent: Max W. Thomas, U of Iowa

"Early Modern Bribes and the Gift Economy: The Example of Francis Bacon," Luke Andrew Wilson, Ohio State U
"True Gifts and Bad Faith: Emersonian Selfhood and Melville's *The Confidence Man*," Jennie L. Stearns, Rice U
"Gift or Commodity?" Mark Osteen, Loyola College

The papers as a whole suggested a number of ways to theorize gifts which moved beyond recent impasses in theoretical and anthropological thinking. Response to the topic was strong enough, in fact, that Mark Osteen and Max Thomas are moving ahead with a collection of essays on the subject, which should be completed by the end of 1999.

Upcoming MLA Panels
In 1999, the SCE is sponsoring a double session on "Humanities Futures," designed to examine the condition of the humanities at the turn of the millennium. The call for papers is as follows:

Possible missions, and their prospects, in an era of downsizing, outsourcing, and students turned "customers" who seek practical job training. How will the humanities shape and be shaped by universities driven increasingly by market demands?

If you are interested in participating, please contact Martha Woodmansee, or send vita and abstract by March 15.

§
Midwest Modern Language Association
Contact: Max W. Thomas, English, University of Iowa
(max-thomas@uiowa.edu)

The SCE sponsors two consecutive standing panels at M/MLA conventions, producing a “mini-conference”--a morning-long session devoted to a single topic. The 1998 sessions were given over to a reconsideration of the work of Benedict Anderson (see the *Woman, Nation, Narrative* project report on p. 8).

In 1999, the SCE will again sponsor a double session at the M/MLA. Coordinated by Todd Oakley, it will address Cognitive Approaches to Literacy, and is part of an ongoing initiative in linguistics, which included a forum session at the 1998 MLA (“Historicizing Cognition: Literature and the Cognitive Revolution”).

Recent work in rhetoric and composition theory, education, as well as cultural and media studies has approached the question of literacy by focusing on the material conditions of the production, dissemination, and comprehension of texts. Examining the social, political, and economic settings in which individual rhetorical agents write and read is clearly indispensable to understanding acts of writing and reading. Equally important, however, is an understanding of language structure and use as these relate to human psychology.

Recent activity in linguistics and cognitive science has produced a family of approaches to language structure known collectively as cognitive-functional linguistics. While many of its sibling theories vary in scope and method, they unite around a common assumption that language structure is a composite of cognitive and social communicative activities emerging from basic psychological operations of perception, attention, memory, categorization, and metaphoric mapping. Thus, an account of language structure must address such issues as how individuals perceive the world, how they make use of their limited cognitive resources, and, as important, how they lay claim to the limited cognitive resources of other individuals--which entails having a theory of memory, categorization, and metaphoric mapping consistent with present research in the behavioral and brain sciences. This family of approaches to language structure may be a useful complement to current discussion of the material, cultural, and historical conditions that motivate literate practices.

The aim of this seminar is to explore the possibility of combining cognitive-functional approaches to language structure with cultural-material approaches to literacy (broadly defined). Individual contributors may wish to address (but are not restricted to) the following issues:

- the metaphors specific cultures use to conceive acts of writing and reading;
- whether or not specific conceptual stands toward writing can be inferred from existing texts, and whether or not these conceptual stands form identifiable styles of writing;
- the limits of working- and long-term memory and how those limitations affect the development of specific kinds of textual production (literary or otherwise);
- the relationship between words and images in texts;
- how categorization affects reading;
- the relationship between writing and speech;
- meaning and context in the undergraduate essay;
- how readers construe intent from writing.

Deadline for abstracts: 1 April 1999; deadline for full papers: 31 August 1999. Send abstracts via e-mail to "tvo2@po.cwru.edu" or to this postal address: Professor Todd Oakley, Department of English, Case Western Reserve U, Cleveland, OH 44106-7117

§

Northeast MLA

Contact: Scott DeShong, English, Quinebaug Valley CTC
(QV_deshong@yuban.comnet.edu)

NEMLA underwent a restructuring in 1996 which eliminated all standing sessions. Although the SCE no longer has a running session as an affiliated organization, SCE members are still encouraged to submit either papers or panel proposals. The SCE will be pleased to coordinate members' submissions; please contact Scott DeShong for details. The 1999 NEMLA will be held April 16-17 in Pittsburgh; the 2000 NEMLA will be held April 7-9 in Buffalo.

§

Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association

Contact: Marilyn Edelstein, English, Santa Clara University
(medelstein@scuacc.scu.edu)

Marilyn Edelstein reports:

Until recently, PAMLA has not has standing panels for affiliated organizations. There *has* been a standing (regular) session on Critical Theory (occasionally referred to as “Literary Theory” in some years’s programs). This year’s PAMLA will be held November 5-7 at Portland State University in Oregon. If you wish to participate in the 1999 session, two-page proposals and 50 word abstracts (the latter of which are printed in the program) are due to each session’s chair by March 15. Other sessions of possible interest to SCE/ECOT members would be “Literature and Ethics” and “Rhetorical Approaches to Literature.” The chair for the Critical Theory session in 1999 will be Ray Flemming, (rflemmin@mail.fsu.edu; Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306).

In the past PAMLA hasn’t had a policy for organizations becoming affiliated with it. However, there is now a new policy for special sessions and for other organizations to sponsor a special session. Such proposals need to be submitted by December 15 to the program chair. If any SCE or ECOT members are interested in proposing a special session topic for the year 2000—one that could be sponsored by SCE—please let me know, since proposals would be due by December 15, 1999.

Information on these and on joining PAMLA is available at the PAMLA website: <http://www.pamla.org>. NEMLA has a reciprocal membership agreement with PAMLA.

§
South Atlantic MLA
Contact: Mark Osteen, English, Loyola College (osteen@loyola.edu) or John Clifford, English, U of North Carolina at Wilmington (cliffordj@uncwil.edu).

§
South Central MLA
The SCE is presently without an SCMLA coordinator. Members interested in organizing programs under SCE sponsorship should contact the Directors.

§
Rocky Mountain MLA
Contact Melvin Hall, English, Washington State University (melhall@wsu.edu)

The SCE has two open panels at the 1999 RMMLA (to be held October 14-16 in Santa Fe, New Mexico). Please contact Mel Hall by 1 March if you wish to make use of the SCE’s available slots.

Any members who wish to make use of the SCE’s standing panels are welcome to do so. We would be happy to assist in coordinating at any of the regional MLAs and to help develop them into standing projects.

ELECTRONIC SCE

The SCE’s electronic components include a website, maintained at Case Western Reserve University’s server, and a discussion group, the Electronic College of Theory (ECOT), run through the University of Iowa.

Our website address is <http://www.cwru.edu/affil/sce>
The address for ECOT is sce-ecot@uiowa.edu.

The SCE’s website is underutilized at present. We have terrific raw materials: a G3 server; software for website maintenance and, especially, for synchronous and asynchronous discussion and chat; and the technical and financial support to make the thing sing. What we don’t have, unfortunately, is someone with both the drive and technical expertise to take the site from its current level, which is primarily informational, and push it to the bleeding edge.

We had originally envisioned that the chat and bulletin board functions would provide a place for heated exchange, and while some of that has occurred, the site remains a largely untapped potential—an add-on to the SCE rather than the intellectual and theoretical experiment we had hoped for.

Thus, we’re looking for an SCE member or prospective member who’s interested in making a full-fledged project out of the electronic site. Ideally, this person would view the site as both an electronic resource and as a new medium of theoretical inquiry and exchange. Because we have the

resources for basic maintenance of the site, this wouldn't be a curatorial job, but an imaginative and scholarly one. The person who takes charge will have a seat on the SCE board and the full range of SCE resources to draw upon, as well as the freedom to re-design and innovate.

Check out the site as it stands. We're working on bringing it up to date, and streamlining some of its functions. But let us know how you think it might become a truly inventive and important site.

You can e-mail either of the directors (Max Thomas at max-thomas@uiowa.edu; Martha Woodmansee at maw4@po.cwru.edu), or ECOT (sce-ecot@uiowa.edu), with questions, ideas, or enthusiasm.

ECOT was established as an electronic discussion group and conference for all aspects of literary theory, from matters of professional interest to matters of theoretical debate. In the past year, its role has been largely the former, as it distributes, with varying frequency, calls for papers and conference announcements. It remains a viable means for discourse on other levels as well, and the SCE encourages contributions, speculations, and/or queries.

In its current version, ECOT 3.0, is sent on Fridays during the academic year (or more frequently when necessary) to approximately 450 subscribers. Typical postings include announcements and calls for papers, but all manner of discussion is welcome as well.

To subscribe or contribute to ECOT, send e-mail to sce-ecot@uiowa.edu. New subscribers should include brief information about themselves (name, mailing address, institution, areas of interest) in their message.

Contributors should signal the content of their message in the subject line.

UPCOMING SCE DEADLINES

1 March: 1999 RMMLA (see p. 15). Proposals for papers due to Melvin Hall (Washington State U)

15 March: 1999 MLA panel: "Humanities Futures" (see pp. 11-12). Abstract and CV due to Martha Woodmansee (Case Western Reserve U)

1 April: Cognitive Approaches to Literacy (see p. 13). Abstracts or Papers for M/MLA mini-conference due to Todd Oakley (Case Western Reserve U)

15 December, 2000: PAMLA (see p. 14). Proposals for an SCE sponsored panel at the PAMLA convention

Membership Form and Dues Notice

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Departmental/Institutional Address (if different from above): _____

Work Telephone: _____

Home Telephone: _____

E-mail Address (Please include your address even if you are already enrolled in ECOT): _____

Areas of Research and/or Projects of Interest: _____

Dues for (check appropriate year):

1999 _____

1998 _____

past due _____

Remittance \$ _____

Dues are: \$15 regular; \$20 joint; \$10 student, part-time, retired or unemployed; \$20 outside North America. On your address label, you will notice a year in the upper right-hand corner. This is the last year for which you paid dues. If you are in arrears, please do send dues for past years, on the same schedule. The SCE is funded largely by your contributions, and without them we will be unable to organize the panels, conferences, and sessions that constitute our activities. Thank you for keeping current in your dues.

Check here if new membership: _____

Please remit to: The Society for Critical Exchange, Guilford House, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland OH 44106-7117