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## History of RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta 1985-1999

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**Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek**

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department of comparative literature

**1) Preamble:** The following is a history of the University of Alberta RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature as read in selected official reports, below, from 1988 to 1999, and related material. Reports were submitted yearly and composite reports were submitted every three years to the Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, to the Vice-President (Research), and to the Board of the Research Institute for Comparative Literature. Founded in 1985 by members of the University of Alberta Department of Comparative Literature, RICL was conceived as an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary research unit within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Alberta and with the participation of scholars from universities in Canada and abroad. RICL was a non-degree-granting research unit of the University with graduate student training in various areas of humanities scholarship. Scholars appointed at RICL were with teaching appointments in various ranks concurrently in the Department of Comparative Literature or in other departments at the University of Alberta.

**2) In the University of Alberta Calendar 1998-1999** pp. 682-83, the Institute is listed as follows:

2.1 Research Institute for Comparative Literature. Director: M.V. Dimić Dip., FRSC, Associate Director: S. Tötösy de Zepetnek PhD, Heads of Research Divisions: S. Arnold PhD (African-Caribbean), E.D. Blodgett PhD (Canadian), J. Hart PhD (Early Modern Studies), K. Kao PhD (East Asian Studies). World Wide Web Home Page: <<http://www.ualberta.ca/ARTS/ricl.html>> [extinct]. The purpose of the Institute is to foster individual and team, interdisciplinary research in Comparative Literature and Culture in collaboration with scholars from the University of Alberta, other Canadian universities, and universities in foreign countries. Depending on funding, post-graduate and postdoctoral positions are offered by the Institute. The Institute invites visiting scholars and guest speakers yearly. Primary ties of the Institute are the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies and the Faculty of Arts.

Recent and Current Programmes are:

2.2 The programmes of the various Divisions of the Institute: African-Caribbean, Canadian, Early Modern Studies, and East Asian,

2.3 Romanticism in European Literatures, in the series *A Comparative History of Literature in European Languages / Histoire Comparée des Littératures de Langues Européennes* in collaboration with the International Comparative Literature Association / Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée (M.V. Dimić),

2.4 African-Caribbean Studies, in collaboration with the African Literature Association, the Canadian Association of African Studies, Heinemann's Educational Books, African World Press, and Three Continents Press (S.H. Arnold and G. Lang),

2.5 Support for the publication, editorial work, desktop publishing, and administration of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature / Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* (M.V. Dimić and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek in collaboration with scholars at the University of Alberta and other universities in Canada and abroad). The journal is an internationally renown peer-reviewed publication, published quarterly. Graduate students of the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies assigned as editorial assistants to the journal gain experience in the editing, typesetting, marketing, and financial affairs of the journal,

2.6 Support for the publication of up to six volumes of papers presented at the XIVth Triennial Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association / Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée (University of Alberta, August 1994) (M.V. Dimić and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek),

2.7 Liaison for the Committee for Communication and Information, International Comparative Literature Association / Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, Chair),

2.8 Liaison for the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature (IGEL) (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, Past President and Editor, *IGELnews*),

2.9 Recent research projects include "Cultural Participation and Reading in Taiwan and in the Taiwanese Community of Canada" (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek and Y. Leung, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan). Publications of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*; six volumes of the project "Towards a History of the Literary Institution in Canada"; *The Library of the Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*; *Bulletin: A Publication of the African Literature Association*; *IGELnews: Newsletter of the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature*. On the home page of the Institute are presented an International Directory of Comparatists and a Cumulative Bibliography of Works in the Systemic and Empirical Approach to Literature and Culture.

**3) RICL Reports:** The Reports below were submitted to the Faculty of Arts (1988-1999), The Department of Comparative Literature (1985-1996), the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies (1997-1998), and the Department of Comparative Literature (1998-1999):

**3.1 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Report 1988-1990** (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek 24 April 1990)

3.1.1 Activities in General

3.1.1.1 Project HOLIC: History of the Literary Institution in Canada (E.D. Blodgett),

3.1.1.2 As part of project HOLIC, the conferences on "Literary Genres" (November 1988) and "Women's Writing and the Literary Institution" (November 1989) have been held,

3.1.1.3 Proceedings of the first two RICL conferences in 1986 and in 1987 have been published in 1988 and 1989: E.D. Blodgett and A.G. Purdy, eds., *Problems of Literary Reception/Problèmes de réception littéraire* and I.S. MacLaren and C. Potvin, eds., *Questions of Funding, Publishing and Distribution/Questions d'édition et de diffusion*,

3.1.1.4 The preparation of conference proceedings for publication, i.e., the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th RICL conferences,

3.1.1.5 The mss of conference proceedings of "Literatures of Lesser Diffusion," "Prefaces and Manifestos," and "Women's Writing and the Literary Institution" edited, wordprocessed, and typeset (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek),

3.1.1.6 The preparation of the 7th RICL conference "Oral Traditions and Literature in Canada" (November 1990),

3.1.1.7 The re-writing and submission of the project EMW: The Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada to the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism Directorate (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek). The application results in a favourable decision for funding in March 1990 with Can\$ 88,300.00 over two years.

3.1.2 Division RICLAC: African/Caribbean Studies (S. Arnold and G. Lang)

3.1.2.1 Encouragement, publication, and dissemination of high quality scholarship on Third World, especially African and Caribbean, cultural topics,

3.1.2.2 Occasional publication of original creative works by Third World authors,

3.1.2.3 Contribution to the training of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting research scholars at the University of Alberta,

3.1.2.4 The nurturing of an awareness of practical development problems among scholars working in cultural realms,

3.1.2.5 The contribution to the alleviation of the book famine in Africa by providing free copies of its publications to African and Caribbean research libraries (RICLAC gratefully accepts Third World publications in exchange for its volumes). An Editorial Board of distinguished scholars from Africa, Europe and Latin and North America reviews all manuscripts. Authors whose works are published by RICLAC are expected to assist in gaining grants for RICLAC's Book Famine Project. In pursuit of these goals, RICLAC accomplishes

3.1.2.6 The publication of four volumes, in association with Africa World Press, Trenton, New Jersey, USA, Jonathan Ngate, *Francophone African Fiction: Reading a Literary Tradition*, 1988., Richard K. Priebe, *Myth, Realism and the West African Writer*, 1988., E. Ann McDougall, ed. *Sustainable Agriculture in Africa*, 1989., Stephen Arnold and André Nitecki, eds. *Culture and Development in Africa*, 1989. Two volumes are due out before the end of 1990: James Gibbs and Bernth Lindfors, eds. *Research on Soyinka*, Bernth Lindfors, ed. *Popular Literatures in Africa*. The following volumes with working titles are in pre-production and assessment for the next few years: Carolyn Cooper, *Essays on Caribbean Literature*, Linus Asong, *Humour in African Literature*, Kofi Owosu, *Discourse in African Literature*, Eric Sellin, *North African Literature*, Niyi Osundare, *Style in African Literature*, and George Lang, ed., *Comparing Creole Literatures*.

3.1.2.7 Since its foundation, RICLAC has edited and published the *Bulletin* of the African Literature Association, a quarterly sent gratis to every university library in Africa, and which reaches over a hundred additional research libraries or institutions in North America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Latin America, as well as the over 600 members of the association. S. Arnold is editor of the *Bulletin* and G. Lang has, since 1987, compiled and annotated the "Quarterly Synopsis of Publications in African Literatures."

3.1.2.8 RICLAC administers the Fonlon-Nichols Award in Africanist Scholarship, accorded on an occasional basis to outstanding scholarly works.

3.1.2.9 RICLAC co-sponsors the 1987 Canadian Association of African Studies conference at the University of Alberta.

3.1.2.10 Dedicated to alleviating the Book Famine in Africa, RICLAC continues to support free or low-cost distribution of its publications to African and Caribbean research libraries.

3.1.3 Romaniticism Project (M.V. Dimić)

3.1.3.1 In collaboration with the ICLA: International Comparative Literature Association, the fourth international symposium on Romantic Prose is planned for March 1991. The previous symposia were on Romantic Irony, Romantic Poetry, and Romantic Drama; the Romantic Irony symposium has resulted in a major publication, two other volumes are being edited with international teams, and the Romantic Prose meeting is preparation for two further volumes. The volumes are published by Johns Benjamin, Amsterdam.

3.1.4 The Administration of RICL Activities (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek)

3.1.4.1 In August 1988, RICL closed its full-time clerical position owing to the lack of funding. From September 1988 to April 1989 the administrative tasks of RICL have been executed by Cand.Ph.D. S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, who participates in the intellectual and administrative activities of RICL in accordance with the mandates of RICL, described in the Department of Comparative Literature Course Guide as follows, "There will be sustained effort to provide experience and guidance to qualified young scholars (PhD candidates in the final stages of their work and recent graduates still looking for normal academic appointment)." From April 1989 to August 1989, Tötösy continues to participate in RICL activities on a voluntary basis. After receiving his PhD in comparative literature in August 1989, Tötösy de Zepetnek is appointed RICL research associate. The appointment is concurrent with his appointment as assistant editor of the *CRCL: Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*. The two positions are related, as designated by the original mandate of RICL. The activities of the research associate and assistant editor are in the following areas:

3.1.4.2 The administration of the main RICL (trust) and the Canadian Project (trust) accounts (but not conference accounts),

3.1.4.3 The correspondence, the mailing, the recording, and the book keeping of the conference Proceedings 1 (published in 1987) and 2 (published in 1989), the correspondence and assistance for the 5th RICL conference in November 1988, Assistance for the 6th RICL conference in November 1989 and assistance for the preparation of the 7th conference in November 1990, The preparation of two RICL conference proceedings for publication, i.e., the correspondence requesting diskettes and the subsequent wordprocessing, including conversions of texts sent in different wordprocessing programmes. The conference proceedings of "Literatures of Lesser Diffusion" (see also below as topical issue of *CRCL*) and "Prefaces and Manifestoes" are in the editorial process,

3.1.4.4 The re-writing and submission of the RICL project EMW: The Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada to the Multiculturalism Directorate, Secretary of State3.1.4.5 The drafting and preparation of a major SSHRCC grant proposal ("A Comparative History of the Nineteenth-Century English-Canadian and French-Canadian Literary Institution"), with M.V. Dimić and E.D. Blodgett. The project involves as principal and co-investigators approximately a dozen scholars from universities across Canada and is planned to take five years. The intellectual co-ordination including the structuring of the history and its editing, and its administrative aspects, including the financial administration of the grant, is executed by the RICL group. Tötösy is involved in both the intellectual and administrative aspects of the project, as well as in the research and writing of one chapter of the history. The drafting of the proposal is now near completion3.1.4.6 The re-organization of the operation of *CRCL*: Necessitated by the move of the *CRCL* office from the Department of Comparative Literature to an office originally assigned to J. Pivato (Athabasca University), a member of the RICL group, to Trailer Complex 1 and by the loss of administrative support given to *CRCL* until then by the Faculty of Arts (one half-time clerical position and half-time of the Department of Comparative Literature APO). The re-organization also means the clearing of a significant back-log of journal matters, The setting-up of *CRCL*'s operation for electronic text processing, in co-ordination with the printer of the journal and the journal's editorial board. This change is necessitated by the recognition that costs of the journal's production are to be reduced and that this can be done by computerizing in-house the editing and desktop publishing of accepted submissions. The computerization means, among others, the choice and putting in place an appropriate wordprocessing programme, its arrangement with two printers for desktop printing, the set-up and technical organization of the journal's desktop publishing process (Terry Butler [Faculty of Arts technician] assists Steven Tötösy with the wordprocessing programme wordperfect and wordperfect fonts which facilitate the desktop publishing format of foreign diacritics in the texts of the journal and the book publications of the Institute), etc., The administration of the journal's correspondence and trust account, including the annual report to SSHRCC and CCLA, The partial duties of the journal's book review editor, i.e., the administration of book orders, the selection of texts, and correspondence, The co-ordination and training for computer literacy of graduate students assigned to the editor and the associate editor in the wordprocessing, editing, and typesetting of articles and reviews accepted for publication,

3.1.4.7 The development of a fundraising drive aimed at corporations and individuals including an application to Revenue Canada for charitable status, A membership drive aimed at Canadian public libraries and Canadian and U.S. university libraries,

3.1.4.8 The preparation of a RICL conference proceedings ("Lesser Diffusion") for publication in a topical issue of the journal,

3.1.4.9 The preparation of applications for government funding to the SSHRCC and other government agencies, e.g., the Secretary of State for the funding of the above topical issue,

3.1.4.10 The preparation of applications and, if awarded, the administration of the U of Alberta / Government of Canada SEED and STEP Summer 1990 positions with *CRCL*,

3.1.4.11 The assistant editor is executive officer of the Alberta Comparative Literature Society and as such has some limited amount of administrative duties, mainly in relation to the RICL application to Revenue Canada for charitable status. The charitable number is meant to be used for a fund raising drive to alleviate the financial situation of *CRCL*.

### 3.1.5 The Financial Status of RICL

3.1.5.1 The establishment of RICL at the U of Alberta in 1985 occurred with the financial contribution of the university through a new initiatives fund. RICL has received between 1985 and November 1987 operating funds, including funds for a clerical position, and funds for printing costs and conference expenses. Since November 1987 RICL has not received any funding from the university (with the exception of grants from the Conference Fund for conferences held) and several applications have been turned down, apparently because of the policy to reject applications by institutes which were funded on the assumption that they should self-finance their activities. RICL has continued with its conference schedule and these conferences have been funded largely by outside agencies, such as the SSHRCC, the Secretary of State, Alberta Culture, etc. At this time, RICL has in its main account about \$ 1,000.00 and in its Canadian Project account \$ 1,500.00. The overall financial situation of RICL worsened because of one specific occurrence. Briefly, RICL received from the university computer soft funds for the conversion of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) files. After the deposit of these soft dollars and after the conversion has begun, Academic Systems attempted to notify RICL by telephone that these

soft funds cannot be soft funds, only hard funds because the Institute, according to university policy, is not entitled to soft funds. After Academic Systems could not get hold of RICL Director M.V. Dimić by phone, the secretary of the Department of Comparative Literature authorized the withdrawal of hard funds from the RICL account. Thus, \$ 5,000.00 in hard cash have been withdrawn. A few months later this was discovered and steps were taken to recuperate the money. Academic Systems agreed to reimburse RICL in the amount of \$ 2,000.00. The remaining \$ 3,000.00 are now lost funds. The conversion of the CIHM files was only partially successful, because of several problems, e.g., the original CIHM tapes were faulty and the programme developed for the conversion was unsatisfactory. Only now, with the appropriate soft funds awarded to Dimić and deposited in the soft fund account of the Department of Comparative Literature, are re-converted by Academic Systems. The RICL application to the Secretary of State, submitted in September 1989, has been successful and RICL received a research grant in the amount of \$ 88,300.00 over two years. This amount includes the salary of the research associate in the amount of \$ 32,125.00/year for two years.

### 3.1.6. Immediate Objectives and Plans for the Future

3.1.6.1 The research and writing of project EMW: The Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada. Project members are E.D. Blodgett (U of Alberta), M.V. Dimić (U of Alberta), R. Dionne (U of Ottawa), E. Padolsky (Carleton U), J. Pivato (Athabasca U), Steven Tötösy (U of Alberta) and others (to be accomplished within two years from now),

3.1.6.2 The writing of an application to SSHRCC for the research and writing of a comparative literary history of the Canadas to 1900 from a systemic and institutional point of view. This would be a five year project, commencing in April 1991, with an annual grant of about \$ 100,000.00.,

3.1.6.3 The continuation of RICL support for the *CRCL*, the only learned journal of its kind in Canada,

3.1.6.4 The continuation of all of the Institute's activities, i.e., the conference series, the Canadian, African, Romanticism, Literature and the Other Arts, etc., projects,

3.1.6.5 Upon an application by Tötösy, *CRCL* has been awarded three Summer (1990) positions through the STEP (one position) and SEED (two positions) programmes. The STEP position has been filled by the appointment of a recent MA graduate of Comparative Literature, Ms. Lise-Anne Lavigne. Depending on the success of RICL in obtaining additional funds from the U of Alberta, the SEED position(s) might be filled,

3.1.6.7 Edward Mozejko (Comparative Literature, U of Alberta) has been nominated by the executive of the Canadian Association of Slavists as the editor-designate of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, now housed at the U of Toronto. When approved, Mozejko assumes his duties as editor 1 July 1991. Mozejko expressed interest in the co-ordination of editorial operations of this journal with RICL and *CRCL*. Importantly, *Canadian Slavonic Papers* is entirely financed by the Canadian Association of Slavists through an endowment and donations,

3.1.6.8 The International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) at its recent executive meeting in New Delhi and the U of Alberta both approved the hosting of the XIVth Triannual Congress of ICLA at the U of Alberta in 1994. RICL participates in the organization and activities of this international congress which has been held in such centres of culture as New York (1982), Paris (1985), and Munich (1988), and Tokyo (1991).

### 3.1.7 RICL Needs

3.1.7.1 The Directors of RICL submit to the University of Alberta that consideration be given for the awarding of minimal general operating funds. These funds would be used for the publication (editing and printing) of RICL conference proceedings and incidental expenses, which cannot be legitimately charged to specific external grants; besides communication costs, the costs of maintaining and using the computer equipment, etc. These expenses would cover some additional clerical help to be used on an ad hoc basis at times of greatest needs (e.g. in some cases computer diskettes of proceedings articles could not be obtained and thus these texts must be typed into the computer, clerical help will be needed for the organization and correspondence of the 7th RICL conference in November 1990). For the twelve months beginning in April 1990, we would like to ask for a special grant of \$ 9,000.00 i.e., \$ 750.00 per month.

3.1.7.2 RICL submits that consideration be given for the awarding of funds to fill one or two SEED positions (May-August, 1990). The amount necessary to fill both positions is \$ 6,000.00.

## 3.2 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Report 1990-1991 (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek 7 March 1991)

3.2.1 All areas of project EMW: Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada are covered,

3.2.3 The work on the two RICL proceedings (*Lesser Diffusion* and *Prefaces and Manifestoes*) have been almost accomplished. After the *CRCL* editorial assistants (who had to be trained in word-processing first) wordprocessed the texts, I edited, copy-edited and type-set all English-language articles in both proceedings (the correspondence between the authors and myself are with the proceedings' files) and type-set the French-language articles. M.V. Dimić copy edited *Lesser Diffusion*. *Prefaces* has been published in February 1991. 42 copies have been sent to learned journals. Scholars on the RICL list (300) received an advertisement of RICL publications and conferences. The volume of *Lesser Diffusion* has been finished in September in both the RICL and the *CRCL* formats of publication. At this point I am waiting from Dimić his own article, the panel discussion, and the preface (a re-written version of what I have written in the Summer of 1990, agreed to by the editor of the volume Joe Pivato and now published by M.V. Dimić in the volume),

3.2.4 I have completed two SSHRCC proposals, both of which have been rejected by RICL, in both cases the rejection was based on two main points, namely that it would be difficult to find enough interested scholars who would be willing to work with RICL's theoretical approach and that the time to work on the respective projects is not advantageous owing to the lack of an appropriate body of secondary literature,

3.2.5 The word-processing of the *Genres* conference has begun. At this point the two graduate student assistants working on the word-processing are still in need of training. I typeset five articles and these have sent to I.S. MacLaren (English, U of Alberta) and C. Potvin (Romance Languages, U of Alberta). In the case of the *Genres* and the *Women's Writing* proceedings I am providing administrative and technical (i.e., typesetting) assistance. I would hope that graduate student assistants assigned to the proceedings are able to acquire typesetting, after they are familiar with wordprocessing,



3.2.6 CRCL tasks: Volume 16.1-2 (1989) is published, All English-language articles and book reviews (11 English-language articles and 129 book reviews) are edited, copy-edited, and type-set by myself. Dimić copy-edited my final version of the volume, Volume 16.3-4 (1989) is awaiting the remaining texts from Dimić, All articles (18) for 17.1-2 (1990) and 17.3-4 (1990) are edited (4 by myself, the rest by members of the journal's secretariat), copy-edited, and typeset, From the 18 articles the galley-proofs of 13 are sent to the authors, From the total of about 40 book reviews 35 are typeset, Graduate student assistants are now performing library research on these articles, The book reviews are divided between the two double issues of 1990, After lengthy correspondence since January 1990 the charitable status for the CRCL has been obtained from Revenue Canada, A poster has been designed (now at the printer) and it will be sent to 500 American university departments, all Canadian university language and literature departments at which university the CRCL is not subscribed to, and to 180 Canadian Public Libraries,

3.2.7 The above activities in the two designate areas demanded an inordinate in-put of time and effort, I have not taken any holidays and worked on the average four nights on the week, and almost all week-ends at least one day, This work-load permitted virtually no time -- the limited amount of my research I accomplished during the remaining nights of the week and on weekends -- to carry out the research which I was appointed for and I have had virtually no time to work on my own research, I hope that with the finishing of the CRCL issues for 1990-1991 and the progress with the RICL proceedings will, in the second year of my appointment, leave enough time to respond to my responsibility toward the research project which to work on I am receiving my salary from a government grant.

### **3.3 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Report 1990-1992 on Externally Funded Research Project EMW: *The Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada*** (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek 30 August 1992)

3.3.1 RICL Research Project EMW: *The Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada* application to the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism Directorate (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek and M.V. Dimić), The application results in a favourable decision for funding in March 1990 with Can\$ 88,300.00 over two years, Participants in project EMW are E.D. Blodgett (U of Alberta), M.V. Dimić (U of Alberta), R. Dionne (U of Ottawa), L. Lequin (UQUAM), E. Padolsky (Carleton U), J. Pivato (Athabasca U), and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek (U of Alberta, co-ordinator of the project): The project is near completion. All papers were presented at the January 1992 meeting of the project group in Edmonton, including those by the two more recent participants in the project, L. Lequin (UQUAM) and A. Mukherjee (York U), It is projected that the material of the volume is to be submitted for publication by December 1992,

3.3.1.1 Theory and Methodology: M.V. Dimić The question of compatibility of the polysystem, *institution littéraire*, and *champ littéraire* theories, and their applicability to the study of Canadian ethnic minority writing, Dimić has published two contributions in the volume Joseph Pivato, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, Milan V. Dimić, eds., *Literatures of Lesser Diffusion / Les littératures de moindre diffusion*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, U of Alberta, 1990, which present his present views on the systemic study of ethnic literatures in Canada, with essay-type dictionary entries on the polysystem theory by Dimić and on the systemic and constructivist approach by Tötösy de Zepetnek are in preparation for publication in the *Dictionary of Contemporary Criticism and Critical Terms*, Ed. Irene K. Makaryk, University of Toronto Press, Based on the theoretical and methodological perspectives now are expanded and re-considered for the volume of the EMW project, Chapter by E. Padolsky: Methodological and theoretical problems arising in the production and reception of ethnic minority writing in the socio-political context of Canadian literature; issues of terminology, applicability, perspective, and ideology, Padolsky has continued his research into the theoretical and contextual problems related to the study of the Institution of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada, The current stage has included bibliographical research into current work on ethnicity and literary criticism with the assistance of a graduate student research assistant, Some of the problems related to the project have been discussed in a workshop presentation by Padolsky entitled "Literature, Ethnicity and interdisciplinarity" at the McDougall Symposium on Interdisciplinarity in Canadian Studies, Institute of Canadian Studies, Carleton University, 25 June 1991, Chapter by E.D. Blodgett: The implication of ethnic minority writing for narratology, the chapter is with focus on theoretical questions within the configuration of selected ethnic minority texts in their comparative relationship, The working title of this chapter is "The Question of the Subject in Ethnic Minority Poetry,"

3.3.1.2 Historical Periods and Case Studies: chapter by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, "Pre-1900 German-Canadian Ethnic Canadian Minority Writing," Chapter by R. Dionne: The emergence of Franco-Ontarian, Acadian, and Western Canadian Francophone writing and the context of the definitions of ethnic minority writing, chapter "Trois littératures francophones non québécoises," Chapter by L. Lequin "Écriture des femmes migrantes au Québec 1980-1991," Chapter by J. Pivato: A comparative study of Italian-Canadian writing in Toronto and Montreal and the relationship to English-Canadian and French-Canadian writing, The study deals with questions of language use and the interference of different languages in the texts, Research has been conducted in the Ottawa National and Ethnic Archives for relevant material, A paper "Pluralism and Literature" has been delivered at the Carleton University Conference "Pluralism and Literature: Italian-Canadian Writing in a Multicultural World," October 1990, Pivato also spent three months in Australia as visiting professor re research on ethnic minority writing, Chapter by A. Mukherjee: chapter to be submitted on Asian-Canadian writing.

### **3.4 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Report 1992-1993** (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek 3 August 1993)

#### 3.4.1 General Activities:

3.4.1.1 Canadian Division (E.D. Blodgett): EMW: Ethnic Minority Writing Project (Secretary of State grant 1990-92), Six chapters of the proposed EMW: History of Ethnic Minority Writing in Canada volume with eight chapters submitted, two chapters outstanding, The manuscript of the volume with six chapters submitted to McGill-Queen's University Press and was conditionally accepted for publication, However, there are still unresolved questions, e.g., concerning the bilingual character of the manuscript, so that the submission is on hold,

3.4.1.2 The proceedings of the conference (1988) "Literary Genres / Les Genres littéraires, in I.S. MacLaren and C. Potvin, eds. *Literary Genres / Les Genres littéraires*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1991., are published.

3.4.1.3 The proceedings of the conference "Women's Writing and the Literary Institution / L'Écriture féminine et l'institution littéraire (1989), in C. Potvin, J. Williamson, and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, eds. *Women's Writing and the Literary Institution / L'Écriture au féminin et l'institution littéraire*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1992., are in press,

3.4.1.3 RICL conferences on translation (organizer A. Brisset, U of Ottawa) and oral/Native literatures (organizer J. Perrault, U of Alberta) are in planning stages.

3.4.1.4 RICLAC: African/Caribbean Division: Seven books published in monograph series and several further books are under consideration, The Fonlon-Nichols Award for excellence in African Writing and contribution to Human Rights inaugurated in 1992 with first award to Morgo Beti and René Philombe, second award in 1993 to Werewere Liking, Henceforth the award will be presented at the annual conference of the African Literature Association, The *ALA Bulletin* (quarterly) continues to be published with RICL participation, In honour of the recently deceased scholar André Nitecki, The André Nitecki African Art and Culture Reading and Resource Room at RICL is established.

3.4.1.5 Romanticism Division: This project is under the guidance of the ICLA: International Comparative Literature Coordinating Committee as part of the Project Comparative History of Literature in European Languages. The volume on Romantic Irony has appeared earlier, that on Romantic Drama is in press, and the ms of the volume on Romantic Drama is nearing completion. A preparatory workshop on Romantic Prose will take place during the 1994 ICLA Congress at the U of Alberta.

3.4.1.6 Literature and the Other Arts Division at RICL established, Grant application is submitted to Secretary of State by M.V. Dimić, M. Garstin, and E.D. Blodgett, and J. Pivato on Native Culture and Art: Canadian Painting and Literature: The Case of Emily Carr (decision expected in August 1993).

3.4.1.7 *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* Division. Please see report submitted to CCLA/ACL (M.V. Dimić and S. Tötösy, CRCL/RCLC Files).

3.4.1.8 *Canadian Slavonic Papers* (two offices at RICL offered to and accepted by its editor, E. Možeško).

3.4.1.9 SLIP funding by the SSHRC and the U of Alberta: RICL allocated for the period of the SSHRC grant received.

3.4.1.10 Office of the Organization of the XIVth ICLA/AILC Congress, Preparations and planning are on schedule, To date 731 abstracts of proposed contributions received.

3.4.2 Appointments: To Assistant Professor RICL and Department of Comparative Literature S. Tötösy de Zepetnek (1992-1995, salaried by CRCL and ICLA/AILC), To Research Associate M. Allemano (1992-1993, non-salaried), P. Kreisel (1992-1993, non-salaried), R. Martin (1993-1994, non-salaried).

3.4.3 Invited Visiting Speakers: 1992: Dr. Siegfried J. Schmidt (Professor, Universität-Gesamthochschule Siegen, on literary theory), Dr. R. Howells (Professor, Birckbeck College, U of London, on Canadian literature); Dr. Josef Pesch (Research Associate, U of Saarland, on translation theory), Dr. Sneja Gunew (Associate Professor, Deakin U, on feminist criticism and literary theory); 1993: Dr. Will van Peer (Professor, U of Utrecht/Stanford U, on literary theory), Dr. Katalin Kürtösi (Professor, József Attila U, on Canadian literature and translation), Dr. Klaus Martens (Professor, U of Saarland, on translation theory),

3.4.4 Invited Speaker: 1992: S. Tötösy (Siegen U, on readership and literary theory), 1993: S. Tötösy (József Attila U, on feminist criticism and literary theory, U of Toronto, on literature and systems theory); 1993: S. Tötösy (U of British Columbia, conference on Interdisciplinary Studies), Further associates of RICL received invitations and presented papers,

3.4.5 Further RICL activities: Proposal of new RICL division on Film and Literature (preliminary discussion was held with M. Lefebvre, Comparative Literature, U of Alberta), Proposal of new RICL division on Interdisciplinary Studies and Literature (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek), Proposal of new RICL division on the Renaissance (J. Hart, English and Comparative Literature, U of Alberta), Proposed appointments as RICL associates (non-salaried), Applications for funding: SSHRC (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, R. Hunt (St. Thomas U), P. Kreisel (J. Yexa Research Inc., Edmonton), E. Nardocchio (McMaster U), K. van Rees (Tilburg U), S.J. Schmidt (Siegen U), H. Verdaasdonk (U of Brabant), P. Vordere (TU Berlin/U of Toronto) for a Canada-wide readership and cultural industries survey and analysis (rejected in 1992 but invited to re-submit in 1993), Discussion on the writing of Statutes for RICL (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek and M.V. Dimić), Discussion about establishing cross-appointment of a director or designate between RICL and the University of Calgary Institute for the Humanities.

### **3.5 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Summary Report 1994-1997** (submitted by Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek 12 February 1997)

3.5.1 The Statutes for RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature has been written and submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek and M.V. Dimić to the Office of the Chair, Department of MLCS: Modern Languages and Comparative Studies in September 1996 (see the Statutes above in 3.5). The submission was necessitated by the merger of the former departments of the Faculty of Arts into the new Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies (MLCS) and the re-location of RICL from the authority of the Vice-President (Research) to the authority of the Chair, MLCS and the Dean, Faculty of Arts. The Constitution has been approved by the Division of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies and MLCS and forwarded to higher University of Alberta administrative levels.

3.5.2 ICLA/AILC: The XIVth Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association of 1994, organized and hosted solely under the auspices of RICL under the authority of M.V. Dimić and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek. A report on the intellectual, administrative, and financial history of the congress is issued by Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, "Comparative Literature and *Applied Cultural Studies*, Or, a Report About the XIVth Triennial Congress of the ICLA/AILC (University of Alberta, August 1994)" in the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature / Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* 21.3 (September 1994): 469-90, Dimić and Tötösy are general editors of thematic volumes containing selected papers presented at the ICLA Congress, This activity is associated

with RICL in all of its aspects.

3.5.2.1 María Elena de Valdés, Mario J. Valdés, and Richard Young, eds. *Latin America as Its Literature* Special Issue *Review of National Literatures* 8 (1995): 1-219.

3.5.2.2 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, ed. *International Perspectives on Reading* Special Issue *Reader: Essays in Reader-Oriented Theory, Criticism, and Pedagogy* 35-36 (Spring-Fall 1996): 1-120. ISSN 0742-9681.

3.5.2.3 Roumiana Deltcheva, Waclaw Osadnik, and Eduard Vlasov, eds. *Film and Literature* Special Issue *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature / Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* 23.3 (1996): 637-886. ISSN 0319-051X.

3.5.2.4 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, Milan V. Dimić, and Irene Sywenky, eds. *Comparative Literature Now: Theories and Practice / La Littérature comparée à l'heure actuelle. Théories et réalisations*. Paris: Honoré Champion, 1999. ISBN 2-85203-605-3 / ISSN 1262-2850. 930 pages, bibliography, hard cover

3.5.2.5 Mabel Lee and A.D. Syrokomla-Stefanowska, eds. *Literary Intercrossings: East Asia and the West*. Sydney: Wild Peony, 1998. 1-216. ISBN 0-9586526-5-1.

3.5.2.6 Three papers are selected and are published in 1997 in the journal *Dedalus: Revista Portuguesa de Literatura Comparada*.

3.5.2.7 Seven papers are published Manfred Beller, ed. *L'Immagine dell'altro e l'identità nazionale. Metodi di ricerca letteraria* Special issue of *Il Confronto Letterario* 24 (1996): 1-213. ISSN 0394-994X.

3.5.2.8 Four Papers on Slavic literatures are selected for publication in *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. Ed. Edward Mozejko. In progress. Publication is planned for 1997.

3.5.2.9 Four papers are selected for publication in the South African journal *Journal of Literary Studies*.

3.5.3 World Wide Web home page of RICL: in operation since 1995, Tötösy compiles data, designs, and places a home page on the world wide web at <<http://www.ualberta.ca/ARTS/ricl.html>>. The www page contains a description of RICL, a description of the *CRCL/RCLC*, the Division of Comparative Literature, Film, and Religion of MLCS, an international directory of comparatists, an international bibliography of comparative literature, a bibliography of works in the systemic and empirical approach to literature and culture, and a comprehensive list of site links to other comparative literature sites world wide and other relevant sites in the humanities. New versions of several categories in the home page are planned.

3.5.4 The publishing programme of RICL monograph series (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, series editor 1989-):

3.5.4.1 E.D. Blodgett and A.G. Purdy, eds. *Problems of Literary Reception / Problèmes de réception littéraire*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1988. 196 pages. ISBN 0-921490-01-1.

3.5.4.2 I.S. MacLaren and C. Potvin, eds. *Questions of Funding, Publishing and Distribution / Questions d'édition et de diffusion*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1989. 167 pages. ISBN 0-88864-868-5.

3.5.4.3 E.D. Blodgett, A.G. Purdy, and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, eds. *Prefaces and Literary Manifestoes / Préfaces et manifestes littéraires*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1990. 208 pages. ISBN 0-921490-03-8.

3.5.4.4 Joseph Pivato, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, and Milan V. Dimić, eds. *Literatures of Lesser Diffusion / Les Littératures de moindre diffusion*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1990. 319 pages. ISBN 0-921490-05-4.

3.5.4.5 I.S. MacLaren and C. Potvin, eds. *Literary Genres / Les Genres littéraires*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1991. 164 pages. ISBN 0-921490-06-2.

3.5.4.6 C. Potvin, J. Williamson, and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, eds. *Women's Writing and the Literary Institution / L'écriture au féminin et l'institution littéraire*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1992. 235 pages. ISBN 0-921490-07-0.

3.5.4.7 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, ed. *The Systemic and Empirical Approach to Literature and Culture as Theory and Application*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta and Siegen: Institute for Empirical Literature and Media Research, 1997. 605 pages, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-921490-08-9. Funding by IGEL: International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature and Péter Töttösy, Zepetnek Nyomda [Publishing] (Hungary).

3.5.4.8 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Jennifer Jay, eds. *East Asian Cultural and Historical Perspectives: Histories and Society / Culture and Literatures*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, 1997. 392 pages. ISBN 0-921490-09-7. Funded by the SSHRC.

3.5.4.9 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, comp. and ed. *IGELnews: International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, 1992 24 pages, 1994 56 pages, 1995 28 pages, 1996 16 pages, and 1997 14 pages. ISSN 1203-2220. Funding by IGEL: International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature.

3.5.5 The *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature / Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* (Dimić, editor; Tötösy, associate editor and desktop publisher: the journal, published in the desktop mode since 1989 is one of the few such in Canada to date):

3.5.5.1 Issues published up to 23.3 (1996); issues 23.4 (1996) and 24.1 (1997) at the editing, copy-editing, and type-setting stage, respectively,

3.5.5.2 Issue 24.2 (1997) is scheduled for Brian Massumi, guest editor, special issue *Deleuze and Guattari*, several other special issues as well as a large number of articles accepted and/or in the process of peer review,

3.5.5.3 The journal is financially solid, a detailed report is submitted to the CCLA: Canadian Comparative Literature Association at the Canadian Learned Societies conferences by Tötösy annually,

3.5.5.4 In the summer of 1995 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek received a STEP federal government grant of Can\$ 2,770.00 and an editorial assistant was employed in the summer months (previously awarded grants in 1990 and 1992, no grants awarded in 1992 to 1995),

3.5.5.5 In 1996, after an open call for interest the CCLA: Canadian Comparative Literature Association membership elected Jonathan Hart (University of Alberta, Department of English) to assume the editorship of the journal with the retirement of the current editor, Milan V. Dimić, as of 1 July 1998. However, a transition period

starting with 1 July 1997 is agreed upon, from which time Hart serves as editor designate. As of 1 July 1997, associate editor Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek resigns from all responsibilities associated with the journal,

3.5.5.6 The journal receive(d)s the assignment of up to two graduate students in MLCS as editorial assistants per year. The editorial assistants are graduate students with MLCS and they are assigned to either Milan V. Dimić or E.D. Blodgett (CRCL advisory board member, Department of Comparative Literature) and co-assigned to the associate editor of the journal, Steven Tötösy. The editorial assistants receive training from and are supervised by the associate editor in all aspects of the journal's publication (editing, marketing, financial aspects, type-setting, camera-ready copy, etc.). Since 1989, six former editorial assistants found employment in the publishing industry and elsewhere, based on their training with the journal and upon recommendation by the associate editor.

3.5.5.7 In the 1995 triannual SSHRC competition for funding in the period of 1996-99, the CRCL/RCLC placed third in the Canada out of 38 applications filed and assessed by the SSHRC: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Owing to severe government cutbacks, the financial support for the CRCL/RCLC as determined by the SSHRC amounted to 2,700.00/year. However, after a reversal of government decision, all journals receive funding as applied and the CRCL/RCLC also receives the originally applied for amount of 11,800.00/year.

#### 3.5.6 Projects and Conferences:

3.5.6.1 Project, *An Anthology of Foundational Poetics*, Milan V. Dimić, co-ordinator, with a number of scholars across the globe, In progress.

3.5.6.2 Project, *A Dictionary of Literary Terms in Foundational Poetics*, Milan V. Dimić, co-ordinator, with a number of scholars across the globe. In progress.

3.5.6.3 Conference, the 1997 *Taiwan International Conference on Canadian Studies*, "Canadian Culture and Multiculturalism: The Importance of Multicultural Social and Cultural Discourse," Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Yiu-nam Leung (National Tsing Hua U), organizers and conveners. Co-organized under the auspices of RICL and National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, 25-27 April 1997. Canadian participants are Desmond Morton (McGill), Sherri Simon (Concordia), Lynne Van Luven (Carleton), Sharon Pollock (Calgary), Joseph Pivato (Athabasca), Jennifer Jay (Alberta), Earle Waugh (Alberta), Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek (Alberta), Yan Li (Waterloo), and Daisy Chang (Edmonton), as well as fifteen Taiwanese Canadianists. The publication of a volume in English and a volume in Chinese translation of the conference papers is Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Yiu-nam Leung, eds. *Canadian Culture and Literature: And a Taiwan Perspective*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta and Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University, 1998. 309 pages, bibliography. ISBN 0-921420-10-0 (Canada). Tötösy receives funding of Can\$ 20,000.00 (Canadian Trade Office, Taipei, and private sponsors) and Leung receives Can\$ 25,000.00 (Taiwan National Science Council and Ministry of Education) for the conference.

3.5.6.4 Project, *Concerning the European Community: Canada Programmeme for Cooperation in Higher Education and Training in Screen Translation (Subtitling and Dubbing)*, Martine Goedefroy (Bruxelles), co-ordinator. Tötösy is invited to participate in the project, pending funding; involves faculty and student exchange funded by the European Community, announcement of the results of the competition is in April 1997.

3.5.6.5 Project, "Cultural Participation and Reading in Taiwan and by Taiwanese Canadians," Steven Tötösy and Yiu-nam Leung. A cultural participation and readership survey and analysis following the extensive research and publications previously by Tötösy. Application for funding is pending with the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (Taiwan), announcement of the results of the competition is in April 1997.

3.5.6.6 Project, application for a faculty enhancement programme position in Chinese Culture and Literature for the Division of Comparative Literature, Film, and Religion. Application prepared by Tötösy and Waugh and submitted by Waugh to the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (USA branch), announcement of the results of the competition in April 1997. Funding received is 1996-1997 US\$ 100,000.00 [and US\$ 150,000.00. for 2000-2003].

3.5.6.7 Conference, the *Vth Biannual Conference of the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature*, University of Alberta at the Nakoda Lodge Conference Centre, August 1996. IGEL President (1994-96) Steven Tötösy organizes the Conference, with 78 participants from 14 different countries. 43 Letters of appreciation by participants are on file in the offices of University of Alberta President Rod Fraser and Dean of Arts Patricia Clements. The Conference is funded by IGEL, the University of Alberta Vice-President (Academic), and the University of Alberta Conference Fund. The Conference accounting is completed (balanced) in January 1997. A volume of selected papers is published Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Irene Sywenky, eds. *The Systemic and Empirical Approach to Literature and Culture as Theory and Application*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta and Institute for Empirical Literature and Media Research, Siegen University, 1997. 605 pages, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-921490-08-09 (Canada) and ISSN 0934-8697 (Germany).

3.5.6.8 Project, "Cultural Identities and Economic Performance: Case Austria and Hungary," Steven Tötösy and Reinhold Viehoff (Media and Communication Studies, U of Halle-Wittenberg). Application for funding by DAAD, in preparation.

3.5.7 Further Developments, RICL-CCS. RICL develops its mandate and spheres of activities to include "Cross-Cultural Studies": national and international aspects of culture (cultural anthropology, religion, film, etc.) are explored in scholarship as well as in a broadening of the already existing national and international institutional contacts of the Institute. A re-structuring of the Board of Directors as well as the Institute's administrative positions (Director, Associate Director, and Division Heads) is forthcoming with the retirement of the current Director, Milan V. Dimić (July 1998). The current chair of the Comparative Literature, Film, and Religion Division of MLCS, Earle Waugh, is engaged with the current director (Dimić) and associate director (Tötösy) of the Institute in the planning of Institute's activities. These plans are presented after approval of the Institute's Constitution by pertinent University of Alberta administrative authorities to the Board of Directors as well as the officials of the Institute.

3.5.8 RICL Divisions: In addition to the ICLA/AILC and the CRCL/RCLC as presented above, the following Divisions are within the Institute: Canadian (E.D. Blodgett); Early European Modernity (Jonathan Hart); East Asian Cultures (Karl Kao); African-Caribbean Cultures (Stephen Arnold); Romanticism (Milan V. Dimić). These Divisions



are at various levels of slow or dormant activity since 1994 to date. The Division of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* is associated with RICL only loosely and it never reported to RICL; it is active. The two Liaison categories, ICLA (Tötösy) and IGEL (Tötösy) are active, see above, in several categories each.

3.5.9 Relocation and Re-allocation of RICL Offices: RICL receives new offices in July 1996 and January 1997 (Old Arts Building 317A-C). Further offices are needed and negotiations are underway (conducted by Waugh and Tötösy).

3.5.10 Appointments: To Adjunct Professor at RICL and in the Department of Comparative Literature, S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, 1995-1997.

3.5.11 General Finances as per Trust Accounts of RICL: Divisions of the Institute operate independently from each other. The following trust accounts are active: 1) CRCL/RCLC (signing authorities Dimić and Tötösy): balanced; 2) ICLA/AILC (signing authorities Dimić and Tötösy): deficit of Can\$ 2000.00; 3) IGEL (signing authority Tötösy): balanced; 4) Taiwan Conference (signing authority Tötösy): balanced; 5) RICL General account (signing authorities Dimić and Tötösy): balanced.

### **3.6 RICL: Research Institute for Comparative Literature Summary Report 1997-1999** (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek 10 February 1999)

3.6.1 International conference in Taiwan: Under the organization of RICL associate director Steven Tötösy and Yiu-nam Leung, National Tsing Hua University, the *Second International Conference on Canadian Studies* is organized in Taipei and Hsinchu, April 1997. The conference receives substantial funding from Canada and Taiwan as well as private sponsors (over Can\$ 25,000.00), invites and hosts eight Canadianists from Canada, in addition to twenty-eight Taiwan participants with papers. The conference receives wide media attention in Taiwan. For the publication of selected conference papers in English, French, and Chinese, see below.

3.6.2 Publishing programme of the Institute (S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, series editor): the following volumes are published 1997-1999:

3.6.2.1 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Irene Sywenky, eds. *The Systemic and Empirical Approach to Literature and Culture as Theory and Application*, 1997. 605 pages, bibliography and index. ISBN 0-921490-08-09.

3.6.2.2 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Jennifer W. Jay, eds. *East Asian Cultural and Historical Perspectives: Histories and Society / Culture and Literatures*, 1997. 384 pages. ISBN 0-921490-09-7.

3.6.2.3 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Yiu-nam Leung, eds. *Canadian Culture and Literature: And a Taiwan Perspective*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta and Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University, 1998. 309 pages, bibliography. ISBN 0-921420-10-0 (Canada).

3.6.2.4 William H. Thornton. *Cultural Prosaics: The Second Postmodern Turn*, 1998. 157 pages, bibliography and index. ISBN 0-921490-11-9.

3.6.3 Within the activities of the ICLA Committee for Information and Communication (Steven Tötösy, Chair), the following books are published in the RICL monograph series of Books in Comparative Literature:

3.6.3.1 Mabel Lee and A.D. Syrokomla-Stefanowska, eds. *Literary Inter-crossings: East Asia and the West*. Sydney: Wild Peony, 1998. ISBN 0-9586526-5-1. 216 pages.

3.6.3.2 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Milan V. Dimić, with Irene Sywenky, eds. *Comparative Literature Now: Theories and Practice / La Littérature comparée à l'heure actuelle. Théories et réalisations*. Paris: Honoré Champion, 1999. 930 pages. ISBN 2-85203-605-3 / ISSN 1262-2850.

3.6.4 Retirement: On 1 July 1997, the de jure Director of the Institute, Milan V. Dimić retires as Emeritus University Professor from the University of Alberta.

3.6.5 The Administration and Activities of the Institute: Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek remains associate director and administers the activities and functions of the Institute (as de facto since 1989) until further notice.

3.6.6 The RICL world wide web home page (constructed and maintained by Tötösy) is active to September 1998, at which time it is removed from the wwweb as a new website is constructed. In 1998 the Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies begins the construction of a world wide web home page using the already existing "unofficial" web page of the Department constructed and maintained by Steven Tötösy since 1996 within the RICL home page.

3.6.7 Founding of new journal: In 1998 Steven Tötösy founds a new electronic journal, *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* at <<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/clcwebjournal/>> [extinct]. The new e-journal is the only electronic journal in the discipline online at this point, it is peer-refereed, in full text, and in open access, its ISSN number is 1481-4374, it has a distinguished advisory board and associate editors, and it is archived by the National Library of Canada. The journal also has a *Library* with bibliographies, an international directory of comparatists, a listserve, a library of relevant links for work in comparative literature and comparative humanities, etc.

3.6.8 RICL finances: balanced, for detailed information consult the university's Office of the Comptroller's monthly and yearly financial ledgers.

3.6.9 RICL office space: in July 1997 the offices originally assigned to the Institute in the Old Arts Building (Rooms 317 A-C) are reassigned to the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* and RICL returns to its offices in Trailer Complex I.

3.6.10 CRCL: With the retirement of the Editor of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, Milan V. Dimić, CRCL is moved from being a division of RICL and is placed under the authority of Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies.

3.6.11 Appointments: To Adjunct Professor at RICL and in the Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies, S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, 1997-2000.

3.6.12 The future: The activities and function of the Institute are in question at present as there is no new director appointed (the previous director, Milan V. Dimić has not been de facto active in the activities of the Institute for some time), the advisory board has been dormant for years despite attempts by the associate director to activate its function and convene meetings. With July 1999 the associate director of RICL, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, resigns, and the future of RICL thus depends on the decision by the Department of Comparative

Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies and the Dean, Faculty of Arts.

**4) Statutes of the University of Alberta Research Institute for Comparative Literature 1996** (submitted by S. Tötösy de Zepetnek and M.V. Dimić to the Office of the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Office of the Vice-President Academic, and the Office of the Vice-President Research, University of Alberta, 30 September 1996)

4.1 Name and Position within the University of Alberta. The Research Institute for Comparative Literature ("the Institute") was established at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1985. The Institute was created by and under the authority of the Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research) of the University of Alberta.

4.2 Objectives. The principal objectives of the Institute are: a) To undertake, encourage, and facilitate research, study, and scholarly publications in the field and discipline of Comparative Literature, b) To foster and facilitate interdisciplinary research as related to Comparative Literature, c) To promote and facilitate pedagogy and education in Comparative Literature, d) To promote and facilitate the research and study of literary theory and the application of literary theories in the study of literature in the context of Comparative Literature, e) To promote and facilitate the research and study of such other fields and disciplines which assist research in the discipline of Comparative Literature; f) To assist and facilitate research by Comparatists who are members of the University of Alberta Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies and other University departments with related scholarly interests, g) To promote research by and provide research experience to Graduate Students of Comparative Literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies, h) To promote and facilitate the research interests of Graduates in Comparative Literature and Film Studies of the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies after graduation and before obtaining a faculty position, i) To promote contacts with Comparatists and Comparative Literature Associations and organizations in Canada and abroad,

4.3 The Board of Directors. a) The Institute will be governed by a Board ("the Board") composed as follows: i) Tenure-track and tenured Comparative Literature faculty of the University of Alberta Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies, ii) The Director of the Institute, iii) The Dean of Arts of the University of Alberta, iv) Two elected members from the Institute's Staff, v) Two elected members from the Institute's Heads of Divisions, vi) Such other members to be appointed by the Board who may be drawn from either within or outside of the University to a maximum number which is less or equal to the number of persons in the above category a), b) Members of the Board shall be appointed for renewable three-year terms, c) A member of the Board is removable for just cause from office by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

4.4 Powers of the Board. a) The Board shall, subject to the terms of these Statutes, facilitate the objectives of the Institute and perform such duties as are necessary to accomplish these objectives, b) The Board may delegate any of its powers to committees constituted by it from among its members, c) The Board may make further rules governing its operations or the operations of the Institute as it considers appropriate, provided that such rules do not conflict with these Statutes, d) The Board may appoint members to the Institute Staff, e) The Board may appoint Heads of the Institute's Divisions.

4.5 The Director. a) A Director may be appointed by the Board, normally for a renewable three-year term. He/she may be drawn from either within or outside of the University, b) Subject to any directives given by the Board, the Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Institute with or without the availability of administrative and/or clerical help and shall be responsible to report to the Board on a regular basis and at least once a year, c) The Director shall be an *ex officio*, voting member of the Board, except with respect to the evaluation of his/her performance, d) The Director shall chair the Board meetings, except in his/her absence or when the Board may decide that a particular meeting should be chaired by another member of the Board. This decision may be taken by a simple majority of the members of the Board, e) The Director is removable from office for just cause by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

4.6 The Associate Director. a) An Associate Director may be appointed by the Board, normally for a renewable three-year term. He/she may be drawn from either within or outside of the University, b) The Associate Director co-operates with the Director in the formulation and execution of scholarly and academic matters within the objectives of the Institute and assists him/her in the day-to-day administrative operations of the Institute, c) The Associate Director's position requires that he/she possess qualifications (a higher academic degree, preferably a Ph.D.) and expertise in scholarly, academic, administrative, and computer/technical matters, d) The Associate Director is removable from office for just cause, at the proposal of the Director, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

4.7 The Assistant Director. a) An Assistant Director may be appointed by the Board, normally for a renewable three-year term. He/she may be drawn from either within or outside of the University, b) The Assistant Director reports to the Director and to the Associate Director and assists him/her in the formulation and execution of scholarly and academic matters within the objectives in the administrative day-to-day operations of the Institute, c) The Assistant Director's position requires that he/she possess qualifications (a higher academic degree, preferably a Ph.D.) and expertise in scholarly, academic, administrative, and computer/technical matters, d) The Assistant Director is removable from office for just cause, at the proposal of the Director, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

4.8 The Advisory Board. The Board may establish an Advisory Board to assist the Institute in the development of its policies and programme activities. The duties assigned to the Advisory Board are within the sole discretion of the Board, as it may determine them from time to time.

4.9 Meetings. a) Meetings of the Board shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Director and/or the Associate Director; however, a meeting shall take place at least once a year and any three members of the Board may call for a meeting of the Board, provided that such a request is in writing and is signed by those members of the Board. Upon receiving such a request, the Director shall arrange for a meeting of the Board to be held no later than four weeks after receipt of such a request, b) The quorum for the meetings of the Board shall be one third of its members, with the exception of agenda items concerning the removal of Board members, the Director, the Assistant Director, and the Heads of Divisions, c) If the required quorum of the members of the Board

called to a meeting has not been reached, the Director shall, after a period of a minimum of two weeks, notify the Board in writing of a new meeting at which the members of the Board present shall carry the quorum, d) If the quorum required for the removal of Board members, the Director, the Assistant Director, and the Heads of Divisions cannot be reached in two consecutive meetings, a write-in ballot will be conducted within an additional two week period.

4.10 Minutes. a) The Board shall appoint a Recording Secretary from the Institute or from among its members who shall keep minutes of the motions and discussions of the Board. Such minutes shall be housed in the administrative office of the Institute and distributed within three weeks of each meeting, b) Minutes shall be read and approved by motion at the next meeting of the Board.

4.11 Divisions of the Institute. a) The Board may establish Divisions in the Institute pertaining to certain areas of research which fall within the objectives of the Institute, b) An Institute Division shall be administered by a Head who will report to the Director and the Board, c) Division Heads may be from within the University or from outside of the University and may be normally appointed for a renewable three year term, or for the period of their research project, d) Division Heads may select their collaborators and staff. Division Heads are responsible for the completion of Division tasks, e) Collaborators of the Institute may participate in the work of more than one Division, but for administrative and voting purposes they should identify one Division as their principal activity, f) Division Heads may be removed from office for just cause, at the proposal of two-thirds of Division members or at the proposal of the Director, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

4.12 Institute Staff. Staff may be appointed by the Board of Directors for one to three year renewable terms upon the recommendation of the Director or a Division Head, subject to discussion and approval by the Board, a) Research Assistants are normally student members of the University whose work with the Institute will benefit their own research and that of the Institute, b) Research Associates are academic members from within or from outside the University, c) Senior Research Associates are academic members from within or from outside the University, d) Adjunct Professors are scholars whose research interests, which fall within the objectives of the Institute, shall be facilitated by the Institute, but whose function with the Institute is largely determined by their project proposal and their subsequent success in obtaining funds for their research project either from within the University or from other granting agencies or other sources, e) Visiting Professors are scholars appointed for the duration of a specific project and they are usually from other academic institutions or from outside the University.

4.13 Accounts. a) The Board shall cause accounts to be kept of all sums of money received and expended. Separate accounts shall be kept for each of the Institute's Divisions. All such transactions shall be under the supervision of the University of Alberta's Comptroller's Office, Special Funds, b) The Board shall oversee all of the Institute's assets and liabilities and all other transactions affecting the financial position of the Institute, c) A Division Account is overseen by its Division Head who will submit yearly reports to the Board about its financial status, d) The fiscal year of the Institute is 1 April to 31 March.

4.14 Salaries. Salaries and University of Alberta Staff benefits of members of the Board, the Director, the Associate Director, the Assistant Director, and Staff members of the Institute is subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Board and not subject to the University of Alberta's collective bargaining regulations.

4.15 Statutes. a) These Statutes may be amended by the Board. Any motion to amend the Statutes shall require written notification and the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Board, b) These Statutes, and any amendments thereto, shall be forwarded to the Vice-Presidents (Academic and Research) and to the Dean of Arts for their approval and such Statutes and amendments shall be of no force or effect until this approval is granted.

## **5) Volumes Published in the Monograph Series of Books in Comparative Literature by the University of Alberta Research Institute for Comparative Literature** (Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, series editor):

5.1 E.D. Blodgett, A.G. Purdy, and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, eds. *Prefaces and Literary Manifestoes / Préfaces et manifestes littéraires*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1990. 208 pages. ISBN 0-921490-03-8.

5.2 Joseph Pivato, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, and Milan V. Dimić, eds. *Literatures of Lesser Diffusion / Les Littératures de moindre diffusion*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1990. 319 pages. ISBN 0-921490-05-4.

5.3 I.S. Maclaren and C. Potvin, eds. *Literary Genres / Les Genres littéraires*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1991. 164 pages. ISBN 0-921490-06-2.

5.5 Potvin, J. Williamson, and S. Tötösy de Zepetnek, eds. *Women's Writing and the Literary Institution / L'écriture au féminin et l'institution littéraire*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1992. 235 pages. ISBN 0-921490-07-0.

5.6 Roumiana Deltcheva, Waclaw Osadnik, and Eduard Vlasov, eds. *Literature and Film: Models of Adaptation* Special Issue of *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature / Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* 23.3 (1996): 637-886. ISSN 0319-051X.

5.7 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Irene Sywenky, eds. *The Systemic and Empirical Approach to Literature and Culture as Theory and Application*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta and Institute for Empirical Literature and Media Research Siegen University, 1997. 605 pages, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-921490-08-09 (Canada) and ISSN 0934-8697 (Germany).

5.8 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Jennifer W. Jay, eds. *East Asian Cultural and Historical Perspectives: Histories and Society / Culture and Literatures*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1997. 384 pages. ISBN 0-921490-09-7.

5.9 Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Yiu-nam Leung, eds. *Canadian Culture and Literature: And a Taiwan Perspective*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta and Department of Foreign Languages and Literature National Tsing Hua University, 1998. 309 pages, bibliography. ISBN 0-921420-10-0 (Canada).

5.10 William H. Thornton. *Cultural Prosaics: The Second Postmodern Turn*. Edmonton: Research Institute for Comparative Literature University of Alberta, 1998. 157 pages, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-921490-11-9.

**6) The Dissolution of the University of Alberta Department of Comparative Literature** (e-mail to members of the faculty of the Department of Comparative Literature and the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta by S. Totosy de Zepetnek 3 February 2003)

6.1 dear alberta, considering my own history with the university of alberta and comparative literature there, i may be possibly the most unwelcome candidate to comment on the recent second merger, dislocation, and ultimately disappearance of this discipline and field of scholarship at the university of alberta. but to mention a few things known to many to whom my comments now go: i have spent seventeen years in comparative literature at alberta, my first five years as a ph.d. student, then as an administrator, professor on term appointments, conference organizer, organizer and head of research projects, journal and book series editor, associate director of a globally recognized institute for comparative humanities (ricl: research institute for comparative literature), etc. my own experiences with the department were certainly not all pleasant although not exceptional when compared with graduate studies or faculty life in the humanities, wherever. of course, the department had particularities: on the positive side it had some good teachers, some above-average scholars (although no stars or scholars with impact on the landscape of humanities scholarship nationally or internationally), some excellent ideas and projects, faculty members had in general an open mind towards scholarship (as we know well, this is not a standard in the humanities), it has achieved some renown internationally, etc., on the negative side the department constituted a friendly patriarchy, it had faculty members without doctoral degrees (who supervised ph.d. work!), it had doctoral supervision that operated on the most minimal levels, it had no sense of an intellectual community, it had to struggle for survival throughout its existence, etc. students of the department usually completed their degrees under the years of average when compared with other departments and the department also had an excellent placement rate, the highest in the faculty for many years. then, for a number of reasons, financial, political, personal, in the mid-1990s the then dean of arts decided (with minimal consultation) to merge all language and literature departments (german, romance, comparative, slavic, but not english) into one mega department and this new department existed then for a couple of years. following intensive lobbying by the members of the former department of comparative literature and its current and former students as well as for other reasons such as the finding that the new mega department in fact did not save any money for the university, the same dean decided to de-merge the mega department into a department of modern languages and cultural studies and a department of comparative literature, religion, and film/media studies. at the time of the consultations re the title/name of the new departments i suggested to colleagues in both departments and to the external advisory committee to avoid the implicit duplication of related fields and predicted that the two new departments will not exist concurrently for a long time, and for obvious reasons. i also received a large number of e-mail from across the globe and was asked by colleagues elsewhere about the unlucky combination of similar designations within two departments. in fact, many a colleague ridiculed the said duplication and surmised that it must be a result of internal politics. indeed, the designations in fact represented factions among faculty and students (i could tell stories about that, some unsavory and unpleasant ones but i reserve that for my next book instead). with the new department of comparative literature, religion, and film/media studies came some funding and the possibility of rejuvenation. however, the search for a new chair resulted in little interest and the two final candidates and their profiles were less than overwhelming, as agreed by most. the new chair of the department proved an able administrator but his profile did not raise the profile of the department. the department also received funding for several faculty positions which have since been filled. in all, the newly re-created department was on its way to exist with some if limited potential and that, nevertheless, was one of the handful departments of comparative literature in the country. and then the situation i predicted happened: why have two departments with similar tasks and contents (there was also a good amount of personal politics in all this but let's not go there, this is also reserved for my book). and yet again, there is a logical lapsus in the new situation: it is proclaimed that only the undergraduate programme in comparative literature is discontinued and that the graduate programme would remain intact. for how long and how? thus my question is: how would a department of modern languages and cultural studies grant a Ph.D. in comparative literature? clearly, a discipline's graduate degree is granted by a department of the same name with all the symbols and content accordingly. i do agree with and promote the proposition that comparative literature is best done today together with cultural studies, where one can afford to work with both literature in a traditional manner and in the new mode of cultural studies as well as cultural studies itself that goes beyond literature. what i would have liked to see was, at the time of the first merger and before, that the department of comparative literature move toward cultural studies and take in faculty from the other literature departments and then have language-teaching units established at the faculty of arts, that is, a larger department called department of comparative literature and culture studies and another department where language teaching is done. granted, this would not have been a perfect solution, but it would have maintained the visibility of comparative literature and would have supported new knowledge in the humanities, namely cultural studies. this idea did not fly then because according to the then dean "cultural studies" was reserved for the department of english, and would not now albeit for other reasons. i am also aware that comparative literature as a discipline is under stress, not the least because its senior practitioners too often reject cultural studies. this is a mistake and comparative literature everywhere has been digging its own grave for a while and continues to do so in many places, unfortunately. and this is the fate of the alberta department, unfortunately again. clear is that the discipline of comparative literature at the university of alberta will disappear no matter what is proclaimed now. similarly, ricl and the canadian review of comparative literature -- to which i devoted many years of my work and interest -- have fallen to minimal activity. pity and i with many colleagues over the years who studied and taught at alberta in our discipline have to accept the new state of affairs and the fact that the discipline does not exist at the university of alberta any more. and that my own work of many years to generate recognition and to promote comparative literature out of the alberta department, ricl, and crcl, the journal, are now even less than to naught... so it goes. with sorrow, deep disappointment, and profound (although perhaps misplaced wonder), steven tosy de zepetnek  
<[clcweb@purdue.edu](mailto:clcweb@purdue.edu)>, professor of media and culture studies, university of halle-wittenberg.

6.2 reply to tosy by jerry varsava (chair, department of comparative literature, university of alberta), 12 february 2003: <[jerry.varsava@ualberta.ca](mailto:jerry.varsava@ualberta.ca)> Dear Steven, On the matter of the reorganization of our department, I believe it offers an opportunity to strengthen our various programmes, and I am working with colleagues towards



this end. More narrowly, Comparative Literature is, as you know, often constructed as an interdisciplinary programme, and I think the latter model holds promise for the expansion of the discipline on this campus. Disciplines evolve over time in particular institutional settings, and that is the case with Comparative Literature at the University of Alberta. And, of course, reorganizations have been quite common in the context of Comparative Literature here at the University of Alberta. Regards, Jerry Varsava, Professor and Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies, University of Alberta

6.3 totosy reply to varsava 12 february 2003: dear jerry, forgive me but your explanation does not hold (for me). the explanation is a bureaucratic one and to a good measure kafkaesque. if there is no department of comparative literature, there is no visibility, there is no capital, symbolic or other: the issue is in the name and in the designation: a department of modern languages and cultural studies does not suggest comparative literature. and again: if a merger, it should have been a department of comparative literature and cultural studies. ultimately, i don't envy you as the obersargträger of the department.... all the best, steven totosy