

A L A L S

Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

Newsletter

2005

ACLALS Moves On

In the first week of August 2004, over 300 academics and writers from nearly 30 countries gathered in Hyderabad for the 13th Triennial of ACLALS. It was an event marked by unusual intellectual energy and we are grateful to each participant for contributing to the liveliness of the conference. The high-profile Keynote and Plenary speakers, without exception, responded to our invitation with warmth and grace and once in Hyderabad they gave us their best. Seventeen writers from across the world who agreed to our request to read from their work, overwhelmed us with their generosity. On behalf of the conference organizing committee consisting of Harish Trivedi, C Vijayasree, T Vijay Kumar, A Giridhar Rao and twenty others, I thank all the participants whose presence and performance made the Triennial an experience to remember. A generous grant from the Commonwealth Foundation enabled us to organize a conference of this magnitude.



The inaugural session of the Triennial. (From left to right) Satendra Nandan, Aijaz Ahmad, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Jean Arasanayagam, and Shashi Deshpande

A conference lives on in the volumes culled out of its proceedings. We admit to a certain delay in starting work on the conference volumes but now we are on the job. In April 2005 emails were sent out to all the participants regarding the publication project. If there is anyone who has not received this message, please get in touch with me for further details.

This is the last ACLALS newsletter to be published from India and we would like to put on record our appreciation of the help we have received from the Chairs of the different chapters of ACLALS: Victor Chang (WIACLALS), Geoffrey Davis (EACLALS), Margaret Daymond (SAACLALS), Ashley Halpe (SLACLALS), Siti Rohaini Kassim (MACLALS), Ranjini Mendis (CACLALS), Amritjit Singh (USACLALS), and Subramani (SPACLALS).

We have enjoyed our three year term in office. Over to Canada now.

Meenakshi Mukherjee
(meenakmuk@yahoo.co.in)

Greetings to you all from Canada, the new headquarters of ACLALS. I look forward to welcoming you to the next Triennial Conference in 2007 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme of the conference, calls for volunteers for various projects, and occasional information will be posted on the ACLALS website at www.aclals.org and sent to you through the listserv, aclals@yahoogroups.com.

Although it would be well-nigh impossible to match the magnificent conference in Hyderabad, we plan to organize an event which we hope will have an impact on realities within the postcolonial Commonwealth nations. Stay tuned!

Ranjini Mendis
(ranjini.mendis@kwantlen.ca)
Chair, ACLALS

C/o Surrey Campus, Kwantlen University College, 12666, 72 Ave. Surrey
B.C. Canada V3W 2M8 Tel: 1 604 599 2186. Fax: 604 599 2068.
Email: aclals@aclals.org Website: www.aclals.org

THE
COMMONWEALTH
FOUNDATION



Reports from ACLALS Branches

Canadian ACLALS

We have been immensely busy this year (2004–2005) preparing for our conference in London, Ontario. I am happy to report that CACLALS has, yet again, attracted the wider scholarly community to our sessions, which will open with a talk by a sociologist and fiction writer Himani Bannerji, and will feature renowned cultural and educational theorist Henry Giroux in a major joint plenary. More highlights of our conference are an “Author meets Critics” panel with Edward (Ted) Chamberlin as the Author and Neil ten Kortenaar, Cheryl Suzack, and Regna Darnell as Critics; a reading by Lorna Goodison; a keynote address by the Aboriginal dramatist Monique Mojica; the popular Aboriginal roundtable; a book launch by Renate Eigenbrod; and a full slate of papers—altogether a program that holds promise for lively discussion and conviviality.

On behalf of CACLALS, I responded to a detailed questionnaire sent out to scholarly associations by the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences. They have now compiled a very useful, comprehensive report entitled *Renewing Scholarly Associations: Knowledge Networks for the Next Generation*, their objective being to “ensure a dynamic research environment in the humanities and social sciences in Canada, and from Canada to the rest of the world.” This informative report is to be disseminated widely among the academic community in Canada.

This year we published two issues of CHIMO, and we are updating the CACLALS website with CHIMO archives. Our e-bulletin board is available for members to post announcements and discussions. Meanwhile, the peer-reviewed e-journal *Postcolonial Text* published the second issue of its inaugural volume in May 2005. The journal is on the web at <http://pkp.ubc.ca/pocol>.

At the CACLALS Annual General Meeting on 30 May 2005, we will be electing a new executive. In February 2005, we welcomed Sukeshi Kamra to the post of President-Elect in response to our call for nominations for the next President of CACLALS. I thank the current Executive for their dedication and hard work during these three years. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this Executive as a whole has been the most active and responsive in the history of our Association.

The ACLALS transfer of charge from India was completed in March 2005, and ACLALS moved to British Columbia, Canada. The CACLALS co-chair bid for Stephen Slemon and Victor Ramraj could not be entertained by the ACLALS Executive at the Hyderabad meeting; however, the ACLALS Executive was most keen that Canada become the next headquarters, and in these circumstances I was nominated as Chair by the ACLALS Executive. This nomination was voted on at the Executive meeting and accepted by all except one member (the USACLALS Chair having left the meeting early). At the Triennial General Meeting, the General Body unanimously elected the Canadian slate

put forward by the ACLALS Executive, comprising Stephen Slemon and Victor Ramraj as Vice-Chairs and me as Chair.

Arun Mukherjee has since accepted the ACLALS appointment of Vice-Chair vacated by Stephen Slemon. Paul Matthew St. Pierre and Timothy Acton have come on board as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The work is in progress, and I invite you to contribute your talents and participate in our activities.

We thank Kwantlen University College for generously hosting CACLALS from 2002 to 2005; the Commonwealth Foundation (through ACLALS) for continued funding; and the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences for supporting the work of CACLALS.

Ranjini Mendis

(ranjini.mendis@kwantlen.ca)

Outgoing Chair, CACLALS

European ACLALS

2004-2005 was one of our more exciting years, since it saw the holding of one of our finest and most successful Triennial Conferences so far, when in March 2005 we met in Malta to discuss the theme “Sharing Places in a World of Continuing Exclusion.”

Fortunately this proved to be a theme which provoked a considerable response—and some 250 delegates, many of them new members of our association, attended. Some of them came from North Africa and the Middle East, since the local organisers had decided to exploit Malta’s unique Mediterranean location between Europe and Africa to incorporate a North African focus in the meeting. This was a first for us and of course it also addressed a field of African studies which, not least because of language problems, has long been neglected.

Another first at the conference was the adjudication of the Commonwealth Writers Prize. This meant we were able to host a session where the judges reported on their selection criteria. A highlight of the conference dinner then became the announcement of the winners by the chair of the Commonwealth Foundation. This is obviously an initiative which might well be continued.

Having instituted a lecture series in memory of our founder, Anna Rutherford, at the preceding Triennial in Copenhagen, we were happy to be able to continue this tradition in Malta. A friend and colleague of Anna’s, Russell McDougall of the University of New England in Australia, was invited to give the lecture and did so with great success. Discussions are now going ahead to consider the possibility of holding the next Triennial jointly in Venice and Padua.

Much of the year’s activity was geared towards preparing for the Malta conference. The local organiser, Stella Borg Barthet, visited the University of Liège under the Erasmus scheme, and we took the opportunity to hold meetings on the conference programme. We also consulted at length by mail and phone to proof-read all the abstracts and the programme. Such consultations proved very useful and contributed greatly to the success of the conference.

We should gratefully record the work of Stella Borg Barthet and her resourceful husband Victor in organising the conference. Likewise, we must put on record our gratitude for generous support to the University of Malta, the Maltese Ministry of Education, the Commonwealth Foundation, the British Council in Malta, Air Malta, the British High Commission, and not least Daniel Massa and his colleagues, who organised the first Malta conference so many years ago.

At the suggestion of Doireann McDermott of Barcelona a collection was taken for the victims of the tsunami and a handsome amount will be sent to Ashley Halpe (the chair of the Sri Lankan ACLALS) towards a school reconstruction project.

The conference business meeting elected for the next three years as EACLALS board: Geoffrey V Davis (chair), Marc Delrez (secretary), and Hena Maes-Jelinek (treasurer). The first two are re-elected and will in accordance with our constitution not be able to stand again in 2008.

A concern of EACLALS has always been to expand our links with Eastern Europe. We have not hitherto been particularly successful in this. We have, however, initiated a book donation project and have now made significant donations to the University of Presov (Slovakia) and the University of Brno (Czech Republic). We are looking into the possibility of hosting a pilot small-scale EACLALS conference in Eastern Europe, possibly in Cracow (Poland). If this gets off the ground, it will become an important focus of attention over the next two years.

We are continuing to facilitate subscriptions to various journals through our membership. Currently those being supported in this way are: the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Wasafiri*, *Kunapipi*, and *Moving Worlds*.

A further activity which should be noted is the attendance of the chair at the Triennial ACLALS conference in Hyderabad (India). This was facilitated by a much appreciated grant from the Commonwealth Foundation. The conference was in every sense a significant opportunity and I hope that it will further links between the European and the Indian associations. One happy effect of this was that three of the organisers of the Hyderabad ACLALS were able to attend the Malta conference.

All in all a good year for EACLALS.

Geoffrey V Davis
(Davis@anglistik1.rwth-aachen.de)
Chair, EACLALS

Indian ACLALS

This (2004-2005) has been a very fruitful year for IACLALS. Its membership continued to grow and several young scholars have joined the Association as active members. The Association brought out two newsletters during this period. IACLALS website (<http://iaclals.8m.com>) was constantly updated and was widely accessed. Its e-group (iaclals@yahoo.com) remained a vibrant forum to discuss issues of common concern.

The annual conference of IACLALS was organised from 10-12 February in collaboration with Ethiraj College and University of Madras, Chennai. The theme of the conference—"Teaching Postcolonial Texts: Theory and Strategy"—provided ample scope for critical consideration and discussion of a variety of issues related to pedagogy and actual classroom experience of teaching postcolonial literatures. The best part of the conference was the enthusiastic and active participation of student members.

IACLALS has a tradition of inviting a creative writer to deliver the keynote address at its annual conference. This year, noted Kannada writer and Jnanpith Award winner, Professor U R Ananthamurthy gave a brilliant talk on decolonization and what it implies for India. Asserting that it is quite impossible to fully colonize any culture, he emphasized that decolonization actually existed simultaneously with colonization as was evident in the subversive readings of colonial texts by educated Indians even before decolonization became a political project.

Each year IACLALS chooses the literature of one region of the Commonwealth for special attention at the annual conference, and this year's focus was on Caribbean literature. There was such an overwhelming response to the special focus session that instead of the usual one session set aside for it, two entire days were dedicated to papers on Caribbean literature. The sessions on Caribbean literature were brought into sharp focus by two events—the Plenary Lecture by Tejaswini Niranjana and the performance of Derek Walcott's play *Dream on Monkey Mountain* by the theatre group of Madras University, 'Curtain Call'.

This year was the election year for IACLALS. Meenakshi Mukherjee who has ably led IACLALS as its Chair for twelve years expressed her desire to retire despite the strong demand from the house for her continuation. Therefore a new team was unanimously elected: Harish Trivedi (Chair), C Vijayasree (Vice Chair) GJV Prasad (Secretary), and Brinda Bose (Treasurer). The new team will steer the activities of IACLALS for the next three years.

IACLALS is introducing an award for the best published research paper from the year 2006. This will be given away each year at its annual conference. The modalities for the award are being finalized and these will be announced in the next newsletter. There is a suggestion that the award be named after Professor CD Narasimhaiah.

C Vijayasree
(vijaya_chaganti@yahoo.com)
Vice Chair, IACLALS

Malaysian ACLALS

ACLALS will be holding a seminar for teachers of English in secondary schools and teacher trainees in teachers' colleges in August 2005. The theme is "Bridging the Gap: Literature in the English Language Classroom". The emphasis will be on the teaching of set texts in the

Malaysian school syllabus for English Language which includes a component of literature in English. Many of these texts are postcolonial texts.

Last year, we successfully assisted in organising the academic programme of the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival. Among the main speakers were Amit Chaudhuri, Jasodhara Bagchi, Paul Bailey and Muhammad Haji Salleh.

Lim Chee Seng
(limcs50@yahoo.com)
President, MAACLALS

South African ACLALS

The membership of SAACLALS now stands at 25. Despite letters to English scholars in neighboring countries, the membership remains confined to South Africa. Members of SAACLALS will attend a conference in Botswana in 2005 and will try person-to-person recruitment with colleagues in Gaborone. Recruitment in Zimbabwe is not possible at present. Namibia is the other possible catchment-area and members will try to use their personal contacts there. Membership is still lower in South Africa than the executive thinks it should be (given the number of literary scholars who work in the postcolonial field) but this is partly because membership of the three major associations of literary scholars is in flux for the reasons implicit in what follows.

SAACLALS was jointly responsible with the Association of University English Teachers of Southern Africa (AUETSA) for the organization of a conference "Postcolonial Studies: Africa" held in July 2004 in Durban at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. It was attended by about 80 delegates from most of the Universities in South Africa, and 64 papers were presented. The plenary addresses were given by Professor Dennis Walder of the Open University, England, and by Professor Margaret Daymond of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

At the combined AGM of AUETSA and SAACLALS it was decided that for the next three years, a joint annual conference will continue to be held and that other organizations, such as the English Academy of Southern Africa, which have cognate objectives should be invited to join the annual conference. In 2005 the joint conference will be held in Cape Town and, besides the English Academy, the African Writers Association will also participate. In a period of national reconstruction, such collaborative ventures are particularly appropriate.

During the agreed three-year period of joint conferences, a special committee of representatives of the associations will establish a basis for individual and joint membership. SAVAL (the Literary Theory Association) was not represented at the AGM but its Executive Committee has agreed in principle to these proposals. As the pool of potential members in the region is shrinking and is increasingly overworked, it is necessary to undertake this degree of economy of effort, but the independent identity of each association will be maintained. It was agreed at the meeting that

SAACLALS should continue to use some of its funding to assist doctoral and post-doctoral scholars to attend the annual conference.

At the AGM Professor David Attwell (University of the Witwatersrand) was elected in-coming Chairperson of SAACLALS and Dr Gerald Gaylard (also of Wits) agreed to take on the Secretary-Treasurer's role. Several factors, however, have complicated the hand-over to the new secretariat. Firstly, at the combined AGM with AUETSA in July 2004, it emerged that the membership list of SAACLALS had been subsumed under that of AUETSA. This means that effectively, the SAACLALS membership list has lapsed and needs to be reconstructed from scratch. This task has been further complicated by the fact that the new Chair and Secretary-Treasurer in Johannesburg have not yet received signing power over the account which is held in Durban. Furthermore, David Attwell has accepted a post at the University of York, which means that in any event, he will not be able to pick up the reins of SAACLALS for the expected three-year term and will in future affiliate to EACLALS. There is therefore an administrative hiatus in SAACLALS, and the earliest moment at which these difficulties can be ironed out will be at the next combined conference which is due to take place in Cape Town, 10-13 July.

David Attwell
(attwell@languages.wits.ac.za)
Chair, SAACLALS

Sri Lankan ACLALS

S LACLALS 4th Biennial Conference, "Texts and Pretexts: Resistance and Complicity in Colonial/Postcolonial Literatures" was held at Swiss Residence Hotel, Kandy from 29 April-1 May 2005. The conference was declared open by the Assistant High Commissioner for India in Kandy, Mr MK Pillai, deputizing for the High Commissioner Mrs Nirupama Rao who was originally to do so and also read from her recent book of poems, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. Invitee from Delhi Keki Daruwalla, and Jean Arasanayagam read their poems. In place of the keynote address which was to have been given by Prof CD Narasimhaiah, who died suddenly two weeks ago, a panel discussion on the theme of the conference was led by Tissa Abayasekera and Carl Muller.

Prof CN Srinath, from the Literary Criterion Centre in Mysore, gave a plenary address on "The Menace of Literary Theory" and papers were presented by Carl Muller, Kalpana Rao, Debarati Bandopadhyay, Careema Jayaweera, etc. However the special feature of this biennial was that it was more a creative writing mela than an academic event. Readings were given by Tissa Abayasekera, Jean Arasanayagam, Premini Amarasinghe, Keki Daruwalla, Kamala Wijeratne, Ashley Halpe, Nimal Sanderatne, CN Srinath and a group from the Young Writers Association. Jagath Kumarasinghe was felicitated on the award of the 2005 Gratiaen Prize and he read from his collection of short stories. The Trinity College Drama Society performed

HCN de Lanerolle's political comedy *Fifty-fifty*.

The other activities of the Association for the year 2004–2005 were:

- | Launch of Tissa Abayasekera's *In My Kingdom of the Sun* (in conjunction with the Sri Lanka-UK Society & the British Council)
 - | Publication of *Phoenix VII*—journal of SLACLALS
- SLACLALS planned activities include:
- | Outreach to English Teachers' Colleges
 - | Programmes for Young Writers
 - | Seminar on translation
 - | Seminar on New Literatures in English & the University Curriculum
 - | Publication of *Phoenix VIII* (now in preparation)

Ashley Halpe
(ashley@halpe.net)
Chair, SLACLALS

South Pacific ACLALS

SPACLALS Conference Committee began in early 2004 advertising the 9th Triennial Conference held in Apia 23–26 November 2004. The Conference proved to be a very rewarding and exciting event for all involved. The theme of the Conference was "Culture, Crisis and Change in Oceania" and the Keynote Speaker was the prominent Pacific writer, academic, historian and artist, Professor Albert Wendt from the University of Hawaii. The three Plenary Speakers were Larry Thomas and Professor Ian Gaskell from the University of South Pacific in Suva and Professor Satendra Nandan from the University of Canberra.

Overall there were 27 speakers who presented papers. The speakers represented an international array of academics and others in the field who were interested in the theme and topics presented. They came from Japan, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, USA including Hawaii, Tahiti, American Samoa. There were also local Samoan academics, writers and participants.

The range of papers presented examined literary and cinematic representations of the Pacific and Australasia, the position of children in Samoa, globalization and gender stereotypes, literacy and writing in the vernacular, foreign language teaching and teaching methods in Samoa, liminal forms of cultural production such as hip-hop and children's books, cultural practices in Western Polynesia, the politics of intercultural theatre, American Samoan literature and other comparative literatures and post-colonial identity issues in the South Pacific.

Two of the more notable events, especially for the international participants, were the 'MADD Gallery Reading' on 25 November, and the final session of the Conference which was a 'Writers' Forum' in which several new writers presented their views on their fiction and the role of the writer in the post-colonial Pacific. Feedback received from evaluation forms and anecdotal evidence highlighted these events as unique and culturally enlightening.

The Conference Committee are grateful to their 25 sponsors for their invaluable support and contributions whether financial or in kind. Since this was the first SPACLALS Conference hosted at the National University of Samoa (NUS), it provided very clear opportunities for the academics in the Committee to expand their experience in managing an event such as this, as well as achieving our Conference objectives of 'facilitating open communication, cross-cultural understanding, academic exchanges and development along with promoting the culture of peace through language and literature'.

Our proposed activities for the following year include:

- | Processing and editing Conference papers for the next edition of *SPAN* targeted for publication end of July 2005
- | Organizing and hosting a creative writing competition at NUS
- | Organizing and hosting writers' seminar(s)
- | Hosting poetry readings both at NUS and the MADD Gallery.

Sina Vaai
(smtvaai@yahoo.com)
Chair, SPACLALS

West Indian ACLALS

The Association this year (2004–2005) sponsored a series of seminars as well as public readings by three writers, two of whom were winners of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. In October 2004, our guest was the Nigerian writer, Funso Aiyejina, whose first collection of short stories had been awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Best First Book Prize in 2000. Our second writer in February 2005 was the distinguished Jamaican writer, Olive Senior, who won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1987 for her collection, *Summer Lightning*, and is the author of the recently published *Encyclopedia of Jamaican Heritage*. On 13 February, the Guyanese/Jamaican writer, Nalo Hopkinson also read from her latest work.

Other sponsored guest speakers included Dr Candace Ward of Florida State University who spoke on "The Transmission of Feeling in the Early Anglo-Caribbean Novel", Dr Elaine Richardson of Penn State University on "Disinventing Discourse: Examples from Black Culture and Hip-Hop", and Professor Hortense Spillers of Cornell University on "Manifestations of Black Culture in Seven African Diaspora Sites".

The Association also supported the 24th Annual Conference on West Indian Literature held 29 March–1 April 2005 at the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico on the theme: "Minor Keys: Cultural Expression in the Anglo phone Caribbean".

In November 2004, we published Vol 12 Numbers 1&2 of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, the official organ of the Association.

Victor Chang
(vchang@uwimona.edu.jm)
Chair, WIACLALS





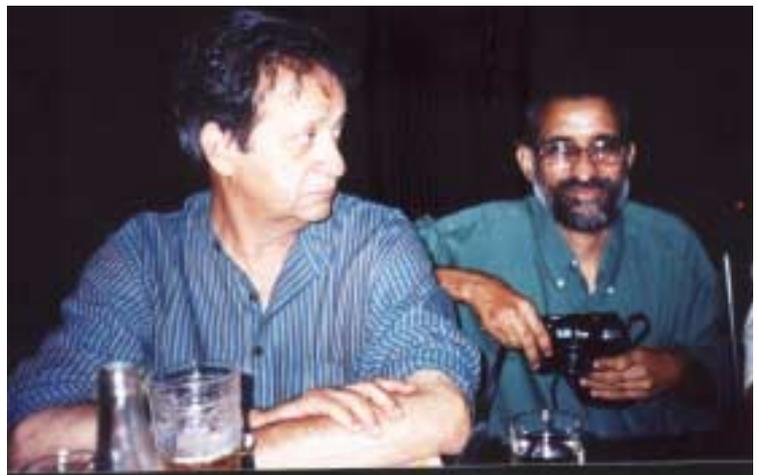
Meenakshi Mukherjee with keynote speaker Vikram Seth

Plenary speaker Homi Bhabha gets a warm hug from Harish Trivedi (Photo *Deccan Chronicle*)

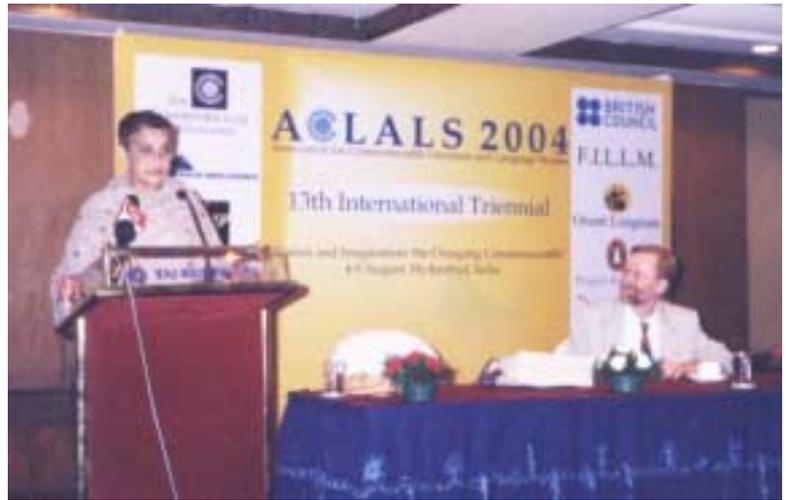


C Vijayasree with plenary speaker Helen Tiffin

T Vijay Kumar with plenary speaker Aijaz Ahmad

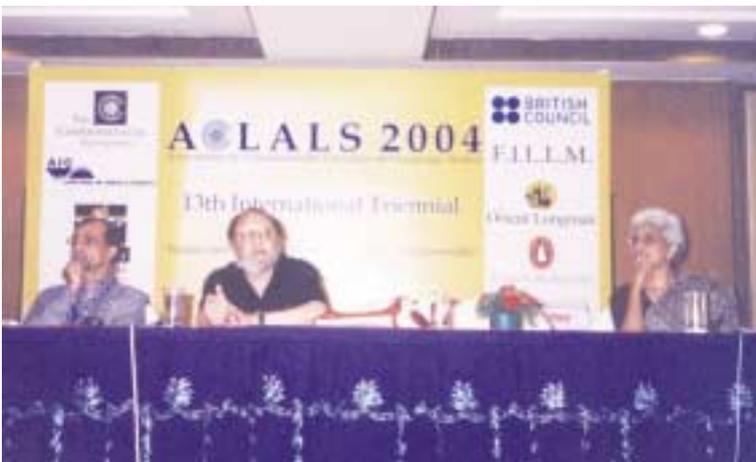


Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak giving her plenary. Stephen Slemon in chair



Austin Clarke giving his plenary. C Vijayasree in chair

Drew Hayden Taylor giving his plenary. Arun Mukherjee in chair



Plenary panel speakers (l to r) Jayadeva Uyangoda, Ashis Nandy, and Susie Tharu

Responses to ACLALS Triennial

“The Conference was an unprecedented success. There was a grandeur and magnificence about it—the thorough planning, presence of writers, opportunities for interaction, not to speak of the sessions ...” —*C D Narasimhaiah, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore, India.*

“... thank you ... for hosting what is without question the most compelling ACLALS Triennial ever to have been held. This was a breathtakingly enabling conference: innovative, forward looking, and utterly friendly” —*Stephen Slemon, University of Alberta, Canada.*

“... a very warm and affectionate THANK YOU ... for a most rewarding, rich and enriching ACLALS. The generosity was overwhelming and the grace of people caring for us was both moving and marvellous” —*Satendra Nandan, Canberra, Australia.*

“... a wonderful conference. You ... put together such an incredible show—what a gathering of the clan it was! Thank you very much indeed” —*Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, Wolfson College, Oxford, UK.*

“...The two sessions I attended—Vikram Seth’s conversation and Homi Bhabha’s lecture, were really wonderful. ... things went off so well. Such a gathering of eminent people too!” —*Shashi Deshpande, Bangalore, India.*

“...thank you for giving us one of the best conferences ever” —*Makarand Paranjape, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.*

“...thank you for a wonderfully stimulating and warm conference. The energy of the conference was just amazing” —*Nandi Bhatia, University of Western Ontario, Canada.*

“I returned from Hyderabad a different person. It was so enriching intellectually that ‘bliss was it in that conference to be alive, to be part of it was very heaven!’” —*Kalpana Wandrekar, University of Pune, Pune, India.*

“I had just submitted my Ph D dissertation and could not believe my eyes when I saw my bibliography come alive and walking around!” —*Vera Alexander, Saarland University, Germany.*

“... most memorable conference ever. It was an extraordinary experience to hear the ‘super stars’ speak so lucidly—far from the forbidding visions one had of them!” —*Satish C Aikant, HNB Garhwal University, Pauri, Uttarakhand, India.*

“Really, this was one of the best conference experiences I’ve had. The whole show ran so smoothly as well, and you all were wonderful hosts. Thanks and thanks again” —*Padmini Mongia, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, USA.*

“Many thanks for an excellent ACLALS. Exhaustingly packed with an impressive assortment of papers and speakers. And so smoothly organised” —*Paul Sharrad, University of Wollongong, Australia.*

“It was an experience of great importance ... because I got the opportunity to hear and speak to people like Spivak and Bhabha and Vikram Seth who ... I may not hear ever again in my life!” —*Urmila Dasgupta, Pearson Education, Delhi, India.*

“... thank you, ... for organizing such a splendid conference. ... There was plenty of food for the mind in the conference. But those social spaces—especially those dinners—were an important part of the program’s beauty and success” —*Amritjit Singh, Chair, USACLALS.*

“Wonderful intellectual quality, and plenty of variety, and brilliant organization” —*Douglas Kerr, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.*

“I was very glad that I could be there to absorb the many informative papers presented and meet so many interesting and talented people. Congratulations on a job well done!!” —*Ron Klein, Hiroshima Jogakuin University, Hiroshima, Japan.*

“... thank you all most warmly for making the atmosphere so pleasant and friendly. It was a most enjoyable conference as all the sessions I attended were extraordinarily interesting and stimulating.” —*Felicity Hand, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.*

“[The conference was] the rarest opportunity ..., a lifetime experience for me to listen to and interact with the literary and critical luminaries of the world” —*Gurucharan Behera, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, India.*

Some Press Reports

“While most [participants] said that they were comfortable presenting papers to a distinguished audience that included big names in the field of postcolonial writing, some admitted that they were ‘dazzled’ by the quality of the event” —*The Times of India, 9 August 2004.*

“Would that literary theory classes were as packed as some of the sessions of 13th International Triennial of ... (ACLALS)! It however is not everyday that one gets the titans of literary theory—Aijaz Ahmad, Homi Bhabha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak—together at a conference!!” —*The Hindu, 9 August 2004.*

“There are conferences and conventions of all sorts, but one that truly outdid all my other ‘conferential’ experiences was the recent Triennial Conference of the ... (ACLALS) in Hyderabad.” —*The Tribune, 22 August 2004.*



Minutes of the ACLALS Executive Meeting

A meeting of ACLALS Executive was held on 7 August 2004 in Hyderabad during the 13th Triennial Conference.

Members Present

Meenakshi Mukherjee	International Chair, ACLALS
Harish Trivedi	Vice-Chair, ACLALS
C Vijayasree	Vice-Chair and Secretary ACLALS
T Vijay Kumar	Treasurer, ACLALS
Bruce Bennett	Past Vice-Chair, ACLALS
Ranjini Mendis	Chair, Canadian ACLALS
Geoffrey Davis	Chair, European ACLALS
Siti Rohaini Kassim	Chair, Malaysian ACLALS
Margaret Daymond	Chair, South African ACLALS
Ashley Halpe	Chair, Sri Lankan ACLALS
Sina Vaai	Chair, South Pacific ACLALS
Victor Chang	Chair, West Indian ACLALS
Amritjit Singh	Chair, United States ACLALS (left early)

1. Minutes of the Previous Executive Meeting

Minutes of the previous Executive Meeting held at Canberra on 10 July 2001 were circulated. Bruce Bennett proposed that the Minutes be passed and Harish Trivedi seconded.

2. Matters Arising out of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 2001

Geoffrey Davis pointed out that the special committee constituted at the 12th Executive Meeting to determine the modalities of a Book Prize and a Memorial Lecture in memory of Anna Rutherford had not made much headway. It was decided that the Memorial Lecture should remain within the purview of EACLALS. It was recommended that the committee to finalize the details of Book Award be reconstituted with the following members:

Geoffrey Davis	Chair
Bruce Bennett	Member
Stella Borg Barthet	Member

Amritjit Singh proposed both the motions and Margaret Daymond seconded.

3. Minutes of the 2001 General Body meeting

Minutes of the last General Body meeting of ACLALS held at Canberra on 11 July 2001 were circulated. Geoffrey Davis proposed one minor correction about the number of member countries in EACLALS (as reported in paragraph 2-d). He suggested that it should be changed from 4 to 14. Ashley Halpe seconded this proposal and the Minutes were passed.

4. Chair's Report

Meenakshi Mukherjee presented a brief report on the activities of the ACLALS executive for the period 2001-2004. These included launching the new ACLALS website (www.aclals.org), publishing newsletters, holding several meetings with the

Commonwealth Secretariat staff, continuing FILLM membership, making a concerted effort to streamline the accounting procedure, and initiating programs in teacher training in order to ensure a broader reach of the Association's objectives.

5. Business Report

C Vijayasree, Vice-Chair and Secretary of ACLALS, presented the Business Report for 2001-2003. She reported that the ACLALS Executive was successful in getting the Commonwealth Foundation (CF) grant for each of its three years in office, and the annual grants due to the branches were promptly disbursed. She said that the year 2001 recorded a surplus in the ACLALS account due to the extraordinary measures of economy taken by the Executive. She gave an account of how the Core Grant for 2002-2003 was spent on routine administration, and the Activity Grant was used to meet the various conference-related expenses. She thanked the CF for its generous funding which made the various activities of the ACLALS and its branches possible. She acknowledged the generous support of various publishers and institutions that extended help through sponsorship and grants for the 13th Triennial Conference, including Orient Longman, the Oxford University Press, Penguin Books India, the British Council, the Sahitya Akademi, the Australia-India Council, and FILLM.

6. Reports by Regional Chairs

- Ranjini Mendis, Chair of CACLALS, presented a report of the CACLALS conference held in May 2003 at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She also reported the regular publication of *Chimo* the official journal of CACLALS. She announced that the next CACLALS conference will be held at the University of Western Ontario from 27-29 May 2005.
- Geoffrey Davis, Chair of EACLALS, reported that they had held two Board Meetings in Liege, visited the University of Malta to assist in the organization of the next EACLALS Triennial, and compiled and published a newsletter. EACLALS, he said, had decided to revert to sending out newsletters as hard copy by airmail instead of circulating e-copies.
- Ashley Halpe, Chair of SLACLALS, reported that he and Rajpal Abeynayak were re-elected Chairman and Secretary respectively at the Triennial General Meeting of the Association held in September 2003. He added that the next SLACLALS conference will be held in February 2005, in Kandy.
- Victor Chang, Chair of WIACLALS, reported that the major part of CF funding to their chapter went into the publication of the bi-annual journal of the Association – *Journal of West Indian Literature*.
- Siti Rohaini Kassim, Chair of MACLALS, reported two major activities during the period under consideration: a successful Teachers'

Workshop in 2003 and an international conference in conjunction with Citigroup, the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival in 2004. She said that part of CF funding went into the production of the Association's journal: *Southeast Asian Review of English* (SARE).

- f. Amritjit Singh, Chair of USACLALS, reported that the US chapter was getting ready for its 3rd Annual conference to be held in Savannah, Georgia in February 2005. He pleaded for extension of regular membership privileges such as annual funding and activity funding to the US chapter.
- g. Margaret Daymond, Chair of SAACLALS, said that the Association has had a hard time maintaining its membership strength. She suggested that the smaller branches be given special incentives in the form of additional grants for their growth. She also reported that there would be a change of Executive of the South African chapter very soon.
- h. Sina Vaai, Chair of SPACLALS, said that their Association could not plan any major activity due to the shifting of its office to Samoa. She said that the South Pacific chapter was gearing up for its next conference scheduled for November 2004.
- i. T Vijay Kumar, Treasurer of IACLALS, presenting the IACLALS report, said that the membership of the Indian chapter touched 500, and that IACLALS remains the largest chapter of ACLALS. Among the activities reported were: regular updating of the branch's website (<http://iaclals.8m.com>); launch of a web-based e-discussion group (iaclals@yahoogroups.com); publication of the proceedings of an IACLALS seminar (*Writing the West*, edited by C Vijayasree); and regular publication of the newsletter. The next annual conference of the Association will be held in February 2005.

7. New Regulations from the CF

C Vijayasree read out the new guidelines for reporting to the Commonwealth Foundation for funding and circulated copies of this document to all branches. As per these regulations only those branches which submit their annual activity reports, financial statements and applications before the deadline for submissions qualify for funding by the CF. The ACLALS office-bearers are required to scrutinize each of these applications and certify that the funds given by the CF were utilized properly.

8. Proposals for new branches, if any

There were no proposals for new branches. Victor Chang suggested that ACLALS should try to strengthen its membership in the African countries, and that special initiatives should be announced for the starting of new branches in Africa.

9. New Affiliations, if any

Meenakshi Mukherjee tabled for discussion a proposal from the Commonwealth Consortium (CS) and sought the views of the Executive about obtaining affiliation with the CS. The members did not see any particular benefits for ACLALS in this proposal and suggested that the CS should be asked to spell out its terms of affiliation. Meenakshi Mukherjee then proposed that the matter may be further considered by the incoming Executive. Margaret Daymond seconded this.

10. Continuing FILLM Affiliation

Meenakshi Mukherjee sought the views of the Executive regarding continuing ACLALS' affiliation with FILLM. It was unanimously decided that ACLALS should continue to be a member of FILLM.

11. Proposals for the next Triennial Conference

In response to the ACLALS Chair's call for proposals for the next Triennial, Ranjini Mendis, Chair of CACLALS, put forward a proposal to host the next Triennial Conference of ACLALS in Canada in 2007. She proposed that the new Executive be headed by Victor Ramraj and Stephen Slemon as Co-Chairs, and added that this was a decision taken by CACLALS. However, while welcoming the proposal to host the next Conference in Canada, the members of the Executive could not approve the proposal to appoint two Co-Chairs since there was no provision in the constitution for such an arrangement, and the outgoing executive felt that it would not be proper for it to initiate any constitutional amendments. Meenakshi Mukherjee then proposed that Canada be accepted as the host of the next ACLALS conference to be held in 2007, with Ranjini Mendis as the Chair of ACLALS, and Victor Ramraj and Stephen Slemon as Vice-Chairs. This proposal was seconded by Bruce Bennett and unanimously approved by the Executive.

12. Any other Matter

a. Financial Assistance to USACLALS:

- i. Amritjit Singh argued the case that the Chair of USACLALS be considered eligible for travel funding to attend subsequent ACLALS Triennial Conferences, subject to the availability of non-CF funds for this purpose. Ashley Halpe moved this resolution and Ranjini Mendis seconded it.
- ii. It was proposed that the next Executive may consider the possibility of funding the activities of the US chapter from non-CF sources, if any. Ashley Halpe moved this resolution and Margaret Daymond seconded it.

b. *Postcolonial Text*

It was suggested that *Postcolonial Text*, an e-journal from Canada, may be given the status of an official journal of ACLALS. Ranjini Mendis made the proposal and Meenakshi Mukherjee seconded it.

Margaret Daymond thanked the outgoing Executive on behalf of the regional chapters.

Minutes of the 13th ACLALS Triennial General Meeting (TGM)

An ACLALS Triennial General Meeting was held on 7 August 2004, at Hotel Taj Residency, Hyderabad, during the 13th ACLALS Triennial Conference.

1. **Minutes of the 12th Triennial General Meeting**
Minutes of the 12th TGM were passed with one minor correction. Geoffrey Davis proposed that the number of member countries in EACLALS (2-d) be changed from 4 to 14. Satendra Nandan seconded the motion.
2. **Report from the Chair of ACLALS including Financial Report**
The International Chair, Meenakshi Mukherjee, reported on the activities of the ACLALS Executive Committee 2001–2004. She acknowledged the generous support extended by the Commonwealth Foundation (CF) and other sponsors to the 13th Triennial Conference including the British Council, the Australia-India Council, the Sahitya Akademi, FILLM, Orient Longman, Penguin Books India, and the Oxford University Press. Copies of the financial report were made available to all members.
3. **Reports from Regional Chairs**
 - a. Ranjini Mendis, Chair of CACLALS, gave a brief report on the CACLALS conference of 2003 and announced that the next CACLALS conference will be held at the University of Western Ontario from 27–29 May 2005.
 - b. Geoffrey Davis, Chair of EACLALS, reported that the European Association was all set for its next Triennial in Malta scheduled in March 2005.
 - c. Siti Rohaini Kassim, Chair of MACLALS, thanked those members who took a break in Malaysia *en route* to Hyderabad to attend the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival. She thanked the ACLALS for supporting the publication of MACLALS journal—SARE.
 - d. Sina Vaai, Chair of SPACLALS, announced the next conference of SPACLALS in Samoa scheduled to be held in November 2004.
 - e. Feroza Jussawalla, representing the USACLALS, gave a brief account of the 2nd Annual conference of USACLALS and announced that the next conference of the association will be held in Georgia in February 2005.
 - f. Margaret Daymond, Chair of SAACLALS, thanked the ACLALS executive for all the support extended to the South Africa branch and announced that she and her team would soon be handing over office to a new executive.
 - g. Victor Chang, Chair of WIACLALS, reported that WIACLALS supported the annual conference on West Indian Literature held in Miami in April 2003. He added that the major activity of WIACLALS was production of its journal: *The Journal of West Indian Literature*.
 - h. Ashley Halpe presented a report on the activities of SLACLALS. He informed the members that the next SLACLALS conference will be held in February 2005, in Kandy.

- i. C Vijayasree, Secretary of IACLALS, read out the report of the Indian branch and announced that the membership of IACLALS reached 500. She reported on the activities of IACLALS and announced that the next annual conference of the Association will be held in February 2005.
4. **Next ACLALS Executive and the 14th Triennial Conference**
Meenakshi Mukherjee, International Chair of ACALALS, read out the recommendation made by the ACLALS Executive that the next Triennial be held in Canada in 2007, with Ranjini Mendis as the Chair and Victor Ramraj and Stephen Slemon as Vice Chairs. Wendy Robbins seconded the nomination of Ranjini Mendis, Bruce Bennett seconded the nomination of Victor Ramraj, and Helen Tiffin seconded the nomination of Stephen Slemon. The nominations were unanimously ratified by the house.



New Publications by ACLALS Members

Goonetilleke, D C R A. *Sri Lankan English Literature and the Sri Lankan People 1917–2003*. Colombo: Vijitha Yapa Publications, 2005. Pages 318. Hardcover: Rs 750 (US \$ 7.99, Postage extra), Paperback: Rs 599.

Kortenaar, Neil Ten. *Self, Nation, Text in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children*. Montreal & Kingsyob: McGill-Queen's UP, 2004. Pages 317. Hardcover: CDN/ or US \$ 65 or £ 45.95.

Lindfors, Bernth and Bala Kothandaraman, eds. *The Writer as Myth Maker: South Asian Perspectives on Wole Soyinka*. Trenton, NJ & Asmara, Eritrea: Africa World Press, 2004. Pages 335. Paperback: \$ 29.95.

Vijayasree, C., ed. *Writing the West (1750–1947): Representations from Indian Languages*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2004. Pages 214. Hardcover: Rs.125.



Financial Report

ACLALS International, Hyderabad, India Balance Sheet as on 20 August 2004

Assets	Rs
Cash at Bank	
In Fixed deposit A/c	300,000
In Savings Bank A/c with Andhra Bank, R P Road Branch, Hyderabad A P	1,292,289
Total	<u>1,592,289</u>
Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening balance	2,634,472
Less: Expenditure Over Income for the year	<u>1,894,043</u>
	740,429
Outstanding Expenses Payable	<u>851,860</u>
Total	<u>1,592,289</u>

C D Narasimhaiah

(1921–2005)

One of the best-known names in English Studies in India and a former Chair of ACLALS (1974–1977) C D Narasimhaiah passed away on 12 April 2005. We consider it our privilege that he agreed to come to the Hyderabad Triennial last year, where we could offer him a small token of our admiration (see picture). When he was presented with the citation reproduced below, we had no way of knowing that this would be the last ACLALS event he would ever attend. We shall miss him always.



The Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) pays tribute to Professor C D Narasimhaiah for his long and dynamic participation in the activities of the Association and for his pioneering work in extending the frontiers of English

Studies. Like Bhagiratha, he has brought the Ganga of world's literary wealth to Indian classrooms, liberating them from the restrictive frame of a Britain-centred colonial curriculum. Over the last half century, he has fought and won repeated academic battles for a greater recognition of Indian Writing in English, of Commonwealth Literature, and of Classical Indian Poetics.

On the occasion of the 13th Triennial of ACLALS we remember with gratitude and appreciation his singular achievement in hosting the 4th Triennial in Delhi twenty-seven years ago. At this conference, we have tried to build on the legacy inherited from him.

CDN has been an example and inspiration for all those of us who came after him. His own work as a scholar is marked by an extraordinary intellectual passion, and as the founder-editor of the longest-running Indian critical journal in English, *The Literary Criterion*, he has nurtured numerous younger scholars. Dhvanyaloka, the centre for research and creativity established by him in Mysore, has been for several decades a vibrant site for fruitful interaction of minds.

We felicitate CDN today not only for his distinguished individual achievement as a scholar but also for being a catalyst for creating a wide literary community and for fostering equally the local and the global.

ACLALS International, Hyderabad, India Income and Expenditure Statement for the Period Ended 1 July 2004 to 20 August 2004

Particulars	Total Rs
A. Income	
I. Grants - Core & Remittances to Br } - Activity, Conference	461,240
II. Interest received on Bank Account	29,201
Total	490,441
B. Expenditure	
I. Administration expenses	38,820
II. Executive Travel	0
III. Fees (Registration, Bank)	0
IV. Website maintenance	16,000
V. Newsletter expenses	138,300
VI. Conference expenses	
- Printing of Proceedings (Provision)	300,000
- Accommodation & Other Expenses	339,303
- Travel expenses	1,090,821
VII. Remitted to Regional Branches	461,240
Total	2,384,484
C. Deficit (Expenditure over Income) (A–B)	1,894,043

ACLALS International, Hyderabad, India Cash Flow Statement for the Period Ended 1 July 2004 to 20 August 2004

Particulars	Total Rs
A. Opening Cash/Bank Balance	2,334,472
B. Add Receipts	
I. Grants - Core & Remittances to Br } - Activity, Conference	461,240
II. Interest received on Bank Account	29,201
Total	2,824,913
C. Less Payments	
I. Administration expenses	15,820
II. Executive travel	0
III. Fees (Registration, Bank)	0
IV. Website maintenance	16,000
V. Newsletter expenses	90,850
VI. Conference expenses	
- Accommodation & Other expenses	319,133
- Travel expenses	1,090,821
VII. Remitted to Regional Branches	0
Total	1,532,624
D. Closing Cash/Bank Balance	1,292,289

The financial details above were submitted to and approved by the Commonwealth Foundation.