

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
de l'Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée
of the International Comparative Literature Association
(henceforth the Association)
University of Vienna: 21 July 2016**

The first General Assembly was opened at 2:50 p.m. by the President of the Association, Hans Bertens. In the interests of time, given the special address that had been presented earlier that afternoon by Dr. Frank LaRue, representing UNESCO, and given the lecture to be delivered at 4:00 p.m. by novelist and British Comparative Literature Association president Marina Warner, the session dispensed with the usual series of reports by the officers. Hans Bertens, however, did give a general overview of the three years of his presidency, highlighting his initiatives in getting comparative histories of literatures of East Asia and the Islamic world under way. He also indicated that the Association continued to be in good financial shape, and despite a variety of expenditures over the past three years, had run a reasonable surplus. Modestly extolling the virtues of brevity, he made a point of refraining from an extended speech.

John Foster, the secretary of the Association, then provided the audience with an overview of the complex ballot featuring 50 separate choices on which Association members could vote. There would be three revisions to the Association's Statutes, followed by "ratifications" of the unopposed candidates for a variety of positions and votes for candidates to two contested positions, the vice presidency and the Executive Council. Foster explained that the ratifications involved offices that were unpaid and that required a significant amount of work; the candidates were well-qualified scholars in comparative literature whose main achievements were listed on the candidate brochures that could be consulted in the election room. There would be three voting sessions during the Congress, which would run from 10:00 to 13:00 on Thursday, 22 July; Monday, 25 July; and Tuesday, 26 July. Voters with proxies from members unable to attend the Congress would need to have them counter-signed by the secretary before they could vote. Foster would announce the results of the election at the second General Assembly, scheduled for Wednesday, 27 July from 16:00 to 17:00.

Isabel Capeloa Gil then came to the podium to discuss the Association's new initiatives for doctoral students and early-career scholars. She would be the chair of a new committee that hoped to develop a number of programs, such as scheduling events at the Association's Congresses for this group of researchers to encourage greater participation on their part, becoming better informed about their research interests, providing career orientation, and tracking doctoral programs in comparative literature around the world. She announced that the committee had scheduled a meeting at this Congress, to which the younger comparatists in attendance were invited, both to comment on these plans and to make further suggestions.

The President adjourned the session at 3:20 p.m. so that the audience could have a coffee break before the lecture by Marina Warner.