

New Writing in Africa Conference

1st - 3rd November 1984

A conference is being jointly organized by the Commonwealth Institute and the African Centre to take place in London from 1st to 3rd November 1984. It will be pan-African in scope and concentrate on new areas of African writing; the working title is *New Writing in Africa: Continuity and Change*. Topics for discussion will include: oral and written literature in African languages; writing by women; children's literature; writing for radio, film, and television; new critical approaches; developments in publishing.

Taking place concurrently over one or two weeks will be *Bookweek Africa*, a major exhibition of publications from Africa, organized jointly by Hans Zell Publications and the Africa Centre. It is envisaged that this event will be even wider in scope and interest than the first successful *Bookweek Africa* held in June 1982 at the Africa Centre.

A further dimension to the conference will be a cultural program of poetry, music, theatre, and film, presented at various London venues by African and Black British groups and individuals.

The aim is to stimulate progressive debate through bringing together writers, critics, and others with a genuine interest in African literature and by supporting the conference, through the cultural program, with an important demonstration of contemporary African and Black creative talent. Practical objectives are seen as very important. Workshops will include such questions as how to improve publication opportunities, distribution of books, and communications channels between writers. The production of a handbook for writers will be considered and publication of conference papers is envisaged.

The steering committee for the conference includes three African writers resident in Britain and is committed to a democratic and consultative approach to what is hoped will be a very significant event in the field of African literature.

Interested parties should write Alastair Niven/Director-General/Africa Centre/38 King Street/London WC2E8JT/UK, or Maggie Butcher/Commonwealth Institute/Kensington High Street/London W8/UK.

Announcements

The South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (SPACLALS) will be holding its third conference from 1-5 September 1984, on the theme "The New Literatures in English: A Radical Perspective?" The conference will include working sessions with as much discussion time as possible, readings by writers from the region, a conference dinner, and other social functions. A full program will be available in May 1984. For further information contact Mark Macleod/Convenor SPACLALS Conference/School of English and Linguistics/Macquarie University/North Ryde N.S.W. 2113/Australia.

The Association of University English Teachers of Southern Africa will be holding its seventh conference from 5-7 July 1984. Papers will be presented on the following topics: Critical Theory and Teaching Practice; World Literatures in English; South African and African Literature. Southern African publishers will hold a combined launching party at the conference, which will also feature readings by a number of writers from the Witwatersrand and visitors from farther afield in Southern Africa and overseas. Anyone interested in attending the conference, should contact: The Convenors/AUETSA 1984/c/o English Dept./Rand Afrikaans University/P.O. Box 524/Johannesburg 2000/South Africa.

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Please contact:

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The Business Manager, *Australian Literary Studies*,
P.O. Box 88, St. Lucia, Q. 4067.

Forthcoming and planned for *ARIEL*: in July 1984, a number on Modernists and Modernism, featuring issue-specific surveys on Modern Drama and Modern British Literature, a study of the development of modern Philippine poetry 1920-50, and articles on Archibald Macleish, William Faulkner, and David Jones; in the October special number on Issues of Language, poetry by Edward Kamau Brathwaite and Arthur Yap and articles on Wilson Harris at work by Jack Healy and on African discourse by Abdul JanMohamed; in 1985 numbers on the literature of Africa South, Contemporary Writing, and our special number on New Zealand literature.

Issues of Language

ARIEL will devote its next special number (due in 1984) to issues of language. Submissions on such topics as the role of the vernacular in literatures in English or their relation to those in other languages in multi-language cultures are invited, as are practical textual or intertextual studies and theoretical studies of the function of language in text. Poetry will be selected with particular emphasis on its extension of the resources of poetic language. The number will be co-edited by Pamela McCallum and submissions should reach the editors by May 31, 1984.

A special number on New Zealand literature is planned for 1985. Submissions are invited on the poetry, fiction and drama of New Zealand; original New Zealand poems are invited for our poetry selection. The issue will be co-edited by Charles Doyle and C. K. Stead. Submissions should be sent to the *ARIEL* office to reach the editors by May 31, 1985.