

## Annual Report of the Publications Committee, 2010–11

The Publications Committee oversees the MLA's nonperiodical publications, guiding and shaping the publication of books critical to teaching and research in the various fields and subfields served by the MLA. In that spirit, the 2010–11 committee was interested both in responding to submitted manuscripts, prospectuses, and proposals and in soliciting new projects for more marginal and urgently needed areas, topics, and languages.

During the 2010–11 academic year, the Publications Committee met on 23–24 September 2010 at MLA headquarters. Interim business in the winter months was conducted via e-mail. As part of its comprehensive review of the MLA book publications program, the MLA Executive Council cancelled the committee's spring meeting, scheduled for 14–15 April, so as to slow the process of reviewing and accepting proposals, prospectuses, and manuscripts until the completion of the review. Interim business in the late spring was conducted via e-mail and reflected fewer prospectuses and proposals than has been usual.

During 2010–11, the committee members were Bradin Cormack (chair), Anne J. Cruz, Eric R. J. Hayot, Susan C. Jarratt, Todd Curtis Kontje, Alan Nadel, Elaine Savory, Richard Terdiman, and Lawrence Venuti. MLA staff members attending were David G. Nicholls (liaison), James C. Hatch, Sonia Kane, and Margit Longbrake.

### **1. Manuscripts**

The committee acted on the following book manuscripts.

#### Approved, most with required revisions:

Kenneth K. Brandt and Jeanne Campbell Reesman, eds., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Jack London*.

Joan L. Brown, ed., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Carmen Martín Gaité*.

Mikhail Bulgakov, *Don Quixote / Дон Кихот (Don Kikhot)*, ed. and introd. Margarita Marinova and Scott Pollard, trans. Marinova.

Margaret Dupuis and Grace Tiffany, eds., *Approaches to Teaching Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew*.

Lucy Fischer and Patrice Petro, eds., *Teaching Film*.

Heidi Brayman Hackel and Ian Frederick Moulton, eds., *Teaching Early Modern English Literature from the Archives*.

Peter C. Herman, ed., *Approaches to Teaching Milton's Paradise Lost*, second ed.

Christopher Kleinhenz and Andrea Dini, eds., *Approaches to Teaching Petrarch's Canzoniere and the Petrarchan Tradition*.

Jayne Lewis and Lisa Zunshine, eds., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of John Dryden*.

Caroline McCracken-Flesher, ed., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Robert Louis Stevenson*.

Cynthia Richards and Mary Ann O'Donnell, eds., *Approaches to Teaching Behn's Oroonoko*.

#### Deferred for future discussion

James A. Parr and Lisa Vollendorf, eds., *Approaches to Teaching Cervantes's Don Quixote*, second ed.

#### Other

The committee asked editors of two volumes to revise and resubmit them for later consideration.

The committee rejected one manuscript.

## **2. Prospectuses**

The committee rejected one prospectus.

## **3. Proposals**

The committee acted on the following proposals.

#### Approved, with suggestions and comments:

Cheryl Krueger, ed., *Approaches to Teaching Baudelaire's Le Spleen de Paris*.

John Lowe, ed., *Approaches to Teaching Ernest Gaines's The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman and Other Works*.

Amy D. Dooling, ed., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Ding Ling*.

#### **4. Other business**

New Projects: At the September meeting, committee members expressed interest in developing new projects in order both to fill gaps in the publications lists and to better serve newer areas of scholarly interest, including but not limited to Irish literature, Polish literature (including poetry), Persian literature, and Arabic literatures. The committee as a whole felt that several titles in film and media could usefully be added to the Options series and that volumes on Beckett's novels and prose and on Rumi could usefully be added to the Approaches series.

MLA convention panels: Unusually, and regrettably, the committee will not be sponsoring a panel at the 2012 annual convention in Seattle. This occurred in part because the deadline for submissions came during the transition at MLA headquarters from Book Publications to Scholarly Communication. The committee will be able to discuss at its December meeting how best to fill its two guaranteed sessions for the 2013 meeting in Boston.

Procedural matters: Committee members discussed several ways to streamline the editorial process leading from proposal to final manuscript. Unfortunately, time pressures at the September meeting did not allow the committee to discuss the question of workflow raised by the 2009–10 committee and noted by its chair in her report. This is a question to which the new committee may wish to return.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradin Cormack, 2010–11 Chair