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Phil Davies, The President

Message from the President

Enthusiasm for the Association's forthcoming conference in Izmir has been evident in the healthy response to the call for papers. The details of the main programme with the chairs of the workshops that will form the core of our meeting from 30th March to 2nd April 2012 has been available on the EAAS website for some time, as our Secretary-General, Gert Buelens, has organized the list of workshops, the programme was compiled and finalized by the local organizers. Our Vice President Meldan Tanrısıl and her local team have been busy with the logistics, as well as finalising the details of parallel lectures and plenary lectures to be delivered by an esteemed and international cast of scholars.

The Izmir conference looks set to be a busy and stimulating conference. The location brings us from one of the most westerly locations for our conference, in Dublin, to one of the most easterly locations that the conference has visited. While governments are still having difficulty tackling the nature, reality and meaning of European integration, the EAAS meeting tries to welcome a community of European scholars and their friends and colleagues under a very broadly defined umbrella.

And our colleagues in Izmir help to make it a very welcoming place. The Association officers made a site visit in October.

The fact that our Treasurer Stephen Matterson was also convenor of the Dublin conference added particularly to any expertise we could bring to the conference process. Izmir airport is a very comfortable and very recently renovated facility. As is normal, the airport is a distance outside the city it serves, but the conference website will include full details on transfer options to the city and to the conference site.

The campus of Ege University offers well presented and well equipped teaching rooms for hosting the workshops, and generously comfortable halls for the plenary and parallel lectures. The university buildings we shall be using are close together, separated by an arboretum-like range of trees planted around the

~ undoubtedly an excellent defensive location when that was a consideration thousands of years ago at its founding, but also decidedly picturesque. A few elements of ancient Izmir can be found in the modern city –the 1592 Hisar mosque is located cheek by jowl with the bazaar– but other stunning ancient sites nearby, such as Agora, Pergamon, Ephesus may justify adding some time to your conference visit.

The conference programme is available on the EAAS website. Meanwhile the local organisers have prepared a conference website that provides full information about accommodation options, local travel between the airport, city centre, and conference locations and the link to that website is available from



The three officers of the Board are very busy during their site inspection trip to Izmir while the fourth officer is busy taking their photograph. (Photograph by Meldan Tanriral)

campus ~ signs and maps will guide conferees along the paths and through the trees between the building locations.

The university is in Bornova, Izmir, about a 25 minute drive (by affordable taxi) from the downtown, with its shops, bazaar, and sea front restaurants on the shore of the Gulf of Izmir, an inlet from the Aegean Sea. Izmir's origins are ancient, but recent growth has been vigorous, and this is in every way a large, modern city. It sits at the head of a bay wrapped around by mountains

conference information on the EAAS Conference website. (www.eaas2012.org)

Mounting the conference details on the EAAS website instead of within the Newsletter section gives more flexibility for the conference organisers and the webmaster to provide accurate information that is updated regularly, and should make it easier for EAAS members and other conferees to go directly to the information that they need.

The website can serve as the regularly renewed news hub of the Association, and the Newsletter will no longer duplicate information that can be found more easily on the EAAS website. On the site you will already find details of Members of the EAAS Board, as well as details of the Constituent Organisations that make up the EAAS. Competitions and Prizes are announced in a special section of the website, and award holders' reports will in future be published through that section. Look for a new announcement for 2012 Travel Grants any day now!

The website will make available breaking news of awards and other opportunities useful to EAAS members, in similar manner to the announcements of other conferences that are already carried on the site. Additional European Networks should be able to benefit EAAS members by being mentioned on the EAAS site. Watch the site for ongoing developments, and remember to register for the EAAS e-list to receive regular announcements. When major new information

appears on the website an announcement will be sent through the e-list.

The European Journal for American Studies has also been undergoing some changes. Pawel Frelik and Jenel Virden are now the Senior editors, with John Dumbrell, Roxana Oltana, and Jean-Yves Pellegrin acting as Associate editors, and Theodora Tsimpouki as Reviews editor. Editor at large Marc Chenetier continues a sterling role managing the journal website. The three 2011 issues include a Postfrontier Writing Special Issue, and an Oslo Conference Special Issue, and have within them a splendid selection of articles. The European Journal is an excellent scholarly outlet. Do contact the editors with your ideas and your own work for their consideration.

I look forward to seeing very many of you at the next EAAS conference in Izmir.

Philip Davies


the relation between health and wealth... the health of the individual and the health of the state; the politics and economics of healthcare... the legal and constitutional dimensions of healthcare provision; the body's health in literature and film... the relation between health and healing... illness as metaphor... health and the environment... the ideals of health communicated by the media... the relation between health and wealth... the health of the individual and the health of the state; the politics and economics of healthcare... the legal and constitutional dimensions of healthcare provision; the body's health in literature and film... the relation between health and healing... illness as metaphor... health and the environment... the ideals of health communicated by the media...

EAAS
European Association for American Studies

2012
Biennial Conference

The Health of the Nation

Ege University, Izmir, TURKEY
March 30 - April 2



Marble relief of Asclepius, the "God of Health," and his daughter Hygieia (Pergamon, Izmir), end of the 5th century BC. Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

The first wealth is health...
Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Garland Jefferson, June 11, 1790

EAAS TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

Grant Recipient: James Farror, Cardiff Metropolitan University (formerly known as the University of Wales Institute Cardiff)

Research Project: Anglo-American Relations and the Revival of the Cold War, 1977-81

Institutions Visited: Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Atlanta

With EAAS providing generous financial support in the form of a Transatlantic Grant, in late 2011 I embarked upon a three-week research trip to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta, USA. Representing a vital step in the successful completion of my ongoing PhD studies, this visit allowed for the collection of recently released, and largely unseen, documentation relating to the foreign policy of the Carter administration.

My doctoral thesis examines the role played by one of America's longstanding European allies, Great Britain, in the formulation and implementation of United States policy vis-à-vis the Soviet Union during the Carter years. In particular, it analyses the willingness and success of British governments in acting as salesmen for Carter's Cold War plans to Europe, in addition to the US government's encouragement and exploitation of this transatlantic intermediary role. Accordingly, a trip to the United States was necessary in order to shed light on the Carter administration's view of its British allies and to ultimately fulfil the latter objective.

Having recently declassified a plethora of material from numerous donated personal papers of top government officials and presidential/national security files, the Carter Library is the best source for archival documentation relating to United States foreign policy between 1977 and 1981. With this and the State Department's current reluctance to release materials relating to the post-Kissinger era in mind, a research trip to Atlanta was envisaged early on in my doctoral degree, although it was decided, for both logistical and personal reasons, that the visit would be postponed until the second year of my studies.

My time at the Carter Library was spent using its pioneering Remote Access Capture system. Managed from Washington DC by the Central Intelligence Agency, this system contains digitalised copies of every document released at the Carter Library within the past decade or so. Researchers are able to search this

entire database and access thousands of declassified documents within seconds, thus eliminating the time-consuming, often frustrating and sometimes fruitless process of trawling through never-ending boxes of materials. Using this system, I amassed over 7000 documents from the 134 collections available to researchers at the Carter Library relating to key issues and events of international importance between 1977 and 1981 such as the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian Revolution, the cancellation of the Neutron Bomb and the SALT II treaty.

Although I am yet to examine this documentation through a critical lens, my preliminary assessments suggest that there is, unsurprisingly, an excellent scope to the material, with memos and policy papers written by members of both the highest strata of the United States government and the lower staff levels. Consequently, this documentation promises to offer a fascinating insight into the American view of Britain – one that highlights the intricacies of the United States foreign policy making process – and will make an indispensable contribution to my wider thesis. Without the assistance provided through a Transatlantic Grant, however, the length of my stay in Atlanta would have been severely limited owing to financial restraints and would have resultantly inhibited my ability to collect the materials necessary for the successful completion of my research at doctoral level. For this I am greatly indebted to EAAS.

Grant Recipient: Rob McInroy, University of Hull

Research Project: Cormac McCarthy and the Cities of God, Man and the Plain

Institutions Visited: Cormac McCarthy Archive at Texas State University, San Marcos

The grant generously awarded to me by EAAS allowed me to spend three and a half weeks in the United States in October 2011. The experience has been absolutely invaluable in researching for my PhD and I would like to record my sincere thanks to EAAS for their support.

My research area is American novelist Cormac McCarthy, author of ten novels and three plays, including *Blood Meridian*, called by Harold Bloom "the ultimate Western, not to be surpassed," *The Border Trilogy* and his masterpiece, *Suttree*. McCarthy is a somewhat reclusive author, rarely giving interviews

and reticent about his own work. However, in 2009 his Archive opened in the Witliff Collections at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. The Archive consists of early drafts of all of his works (including unpublished material), plus associated correspondence and notes. As such, it is a unique primary source of information relating to McCarthy's oeuvre. For a McCarthy researcher, then, access to the Archive is essential. The EAAS grant allowed me to spend three weeks as a guest of the Witliff Collections and the experience will have a significant impact on the final shape of my thesis.

The scope of the Archive is enormous: McCarthy's first novel was published in 1965 and the Archive contains material from the whole of his writing career. There are ninety-eight boxes of material and, although these have been carefully catalogued by Senior Archivist, Katie Salzmänn, the prospect of working through all of them is nonetheless daunting. I was clear before I made the trip, therefore, that I would not be able to view everything and would have to prioritise my research.

My primary area of interest is the progression of McCarthy's thought through his career. In earlier works, he explores an interest in society from the perspective of man in the City of Man. As his career develops though, he begins to consider the world from the viewpoint of being a means (or not) of ascent to the City of God. In other words, there is a sense, as his career has progressed, that he has become increasingly concerned with metaphysical issues of natural theology. This trend can be seen in *The Border Trilogy*, most notably in its second novel, *The Crossing*, and I chose this novel, therefore, as the basis of my principal research, taking up the first week and a half of my studies.

Although I had established the sections of the novel I wished to focus on, the closeness of my reading of the various drafts of *The Crossing* threw up a couple of different lines of enquiry. These seemed worthy of detailed analysis and indeed I have obtained enough information to support the production of two further research papers in addition the chapter of my thesis the research was originally designed to support. On that basis alone, the research break would have exceeded my expectations.

However, I still had time to undertake further areas of research, and was able to focus in detail on McCarthy's unpublished manuscript, *Whales and Men*, plus the various (and very different) iterations of his play *The Stonemason*, his screenplay and novel versions of *Cities of the Plain* and an (all too

brief) analysis of *Suttree*. From this work, I gleaned sufficient information to form the basis of a further research paper, this time on *Suttree*, plus considerable background information which will be threaded through my final thesis.

The McCarthy Archive is still relatively new and unplumbed, and I have had the opportunity to undertake significant primary research within it. There is no doubt that the information I have gathered will greatly enrich my thesis, adding depth to my findings and opening up new avenues in McCarthy scholarship. Just for interest, here are some facts and figures from my three weeks in the Archives: I photocopied 300 pages from McCarthy's original manuscripts for further study and wrote over 70,000 words of annotation, transcription and notes. All I have to do now is distil all of that into my final thesis...

I would like to extend my thanks, again, to EAAS, and also to the wonderful staff at the Witliff Collections: to Katie, Joel and Mary, and particularly to Maggie, who sat with me for much of the time and with whom I shared some fascinating McCarthian discussions, most notably his apparent penchant for dead babies.

If I could offer some tips for future researchers, either in the McCarthy Archive or elsewhere, I would suggest the following:

- be clear in advance what you wish to research, or you will become overwhelmed by the material available.
- be prepared, though, to follow a line of enquiry if it presents itself.
- make clear notes of WHY you are copying or annotating something: it will be obvious to you at the time but later, once you have read three or four further drafts of the same material, you may find you have forgotten the original point you wished to draw out.
- be prepared to have to keep going back to check and re-check things when new points of investigation emerge. Frequently, this may involve returning to drafts you have previously finished with.
- where the author dates individual pages of the manuscript (as McCarthy frequently does), make a note on any pages from which you are transcribing. Dating evidence can be invaluable later on, for working out the order of different drafts.
- specifically related to McCarthy, be aware that within individual drafts there are, at times, three or four different sub-drafts interspersed. Again, use whatever dating evidence McCarthy provides to help establish the timeframes.

Grant Recipient: Maeve O'Brien, University of Ulster.

Research Project: Emerging voices: Responses to silence in the work of Sylvia Plath.

Institutions Visited: Smith College, Massachusetts.

As a thrilled and grateful recipient of an EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant, I undertook a four week research stay in the leafy college town of Northampton, MA – home to the prestigious Smith College and archives of Sylvia Plath.

My Ph.D. dissertation focuses on the literary output of Plath and aims to reveal the important and complicated relationship her work has with silence. My thesis specifically identifies various types of silence based on a theoretical, cultural and literary framework and observes Plath's literary response to these factors.

The archives housed in the Mortimer Rare Book Room at Smith's picturesque Neilson Library are primarily concerned with Plath's adulthood, and for this reason they were key to my work. I was able to read, photograph and analyse Plath's published and unpublished short stories, magazine clippings, novel drafts and edits, correspondences, artwork and personal items of interest. In regards to my study, however, the most important items in the collection were Plath's poems. Each poem came complete with any existing drafts and edits, allowing me to grasp the different compositional and editing methods Plath employed throughout her career.

The benefits of having access to such rare and fascinating material has had an immeasurably positive impact on my research. I feel I am now deeply connected to Plath's writings and technique, and this greater understanding is as a result of researching her archives. Time spent in the Rare Book Room was not without emotion. For example, holding Plath's final poem, 'Edge' (written a mere six days before her death) was a very moving experience; but conversely I had to stifle laughter at personal correspondences that illustrated Plath's wit and humour.

Smith College itself steeped in Plath lore. Plath attained her undergraduate degree at the College between 1950-55 and returned to teach there from 1957-58. Additionally, most of her poetry is written on bright pink Smith memorandum pages! For these reasons, the EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant not only widened my intellectual understandings of Plath, but my cultural knowledge also. Viewing accommodations Plath lived in, eating in the same pizzeria she took her dates to, and appreciating the same landscapes she wrote about have inspired, encouraged and motivated me in my research.

At Smith I was also given the opportunity to form friendships with the very helpful archive staff in the Rare Book Room, and Plath expert, Karen V. Kukil who transcribed *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath* (ed. Karen V. Kukil; London: Faber and Faber, 2001). We keep in regular contact via email and the support and interest Karen has shown in my research topic is extremely helpful.

Having never had the opportunity to study abroad, the EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant afforded me the opportunity to gain expert knowledge in my subject field. The research I conducted will dramatically increase the quality of my Ph.D., and has also served as the basis for an upcoming conference paper and article I aim to publish. My confidence as an academic has grown and so too, the depth of my knowledge. I am sincerely grateful to the EAAS for the award.

Grant Recipient: Bart Verhoeven, University of Nottingham

Research Project: Development of the John Birch Society

Institutions Visited: Archives and university libraries at Syracuse, Brown, Cornell

Thanks to the EAAS travel grant, I was able to conduct much needed research in the United States during a full month. As my thesis project on the American Cold War-era right wing, and more particularly the anti-communist John Birch Society (JBS), relies heavily on archival material, I decided to avail myself of this unique opportunity to visit five collections held at three different institutions in the Northeast: Cornell (NY), Syracuse (NY) and Brown University (RI).

At Cornell, I was able to consult the Barry Goldwater and Clifton White Papers, both indispensable primary sources on the 1964 Republican presidential campaign, during which right-wing organizations like the John Birch Society helped nominate Goldwater, aka "Mr. Conservative" and push the GOP significantly to the right. Both collections offered me an inside view on how the campaign team endeavored to distance itself from the controversial JBS without alienating its disproportionately conservative "Sun Belt" base. I also took the time to look at Clark F. Norton's collection of right-wing publications available at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell, which holds an abundance of Birchist publications (*American Opinion*, *The Review of the News*) and related writings (*Liberty Bell*, *Manion Forum*) that offered me a better notion of the internal cohesion and concatenations of the American New Right.

Subsequently, the George S. Schuyler Papers held at Syracuse University provided me with invaluable material on and by the eponymous African-American journalist and Birch member who contributed heavily to Birchist publications devoted to Civil Rights-related issues, by far the crux of Birchist propaganda by the mid-1960s. Combined with literature of African-American writers and public speakers Julia Brown and Manning Johnson, studying Schuyler has helped me develop a nascent theory on the New Right's decreasing emphasis on race, religion and gender in favor of an inclusive anti-communist, "transtolerant" (cfr. Peter Viereck's theory) approach to matters of class inequality, law and order, segregation and counter-countercultural backlash.

Finally, a two-week visit to the actual John Birch Society Archive at Brown revealed the necessary "internal" information. Salvaged from the trash when the JBS moved its headquarters from Belmont

(MA) to Appleton (WI), the collection holds memos, training manuals, membership lists, financial reports, "educational" literature, chapter coordination, member letters, motivational film reels, and communications with allied rightists across the United States and much of the Free World. Notwithstanding the immense scope of the files, I was able to focus my attention on the most relevant years for my research, i.e. 1958-1970 and recover a wealth of unambiguous documentation on of the most controversial and secretive political organizations in American history.

Needless to say, I am profoundly grateful to EAAS for enabling me to perform the groundwork that will constitute the foundations of a project that fascinates me more and more, and to observe the United States from within at the height of one of the most exciting, divisive political periods in the history of a nation that never ceases to bewilder.

Updating Information

It is critically important that we maintain up to date information regarding EAAS Board membership, and the officeholders of our constituent organisations. Please inform Secretary General Gert Buelens (Gert.Buelens@UGent.be) and webmaster Jacques Pothier (pothier@eaas.eu) of any changes as soon as they take place.

Calls for Papers and Conference Announcements

If you wish to publish a call for papers or announce a conference, please notify the EAAS webmaster, Jacques Pothier (pothier@eaas.eu). Information on conferences will henceforth be available on the website only (<http://eaas.eu/conferences/other-conferences>).