

Notes on Contributors

Chantal Aboa was born in 1975 in Yaoundé, capital of the Republic of Cameroon. She obtained a BA in English, French and Spanish at the University of Yaoundé in 1994. In Spain she studied at the University Complutense of Madrid from 1995 to 2002, where she obtained a Diploma in French and Spanish translation, an MA in English, and a DEA in Postcolonial Studies. She is currently living in the UK, where she works as co-ordinator of the International office of the Centre for Democracy and Development, a Nigeria-based NGO aiming to promote democracy and development in West Africa. She is also a published creative writer. Her recent works include *Cuentos africanos*, a collection of stories published in Spain by Ediciones del Laberinto, and “Letters to Clara,” a short story to be published in the forthcoming anthology *African Women Writing Resistance*. Other works are available under the names Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell and Susan Akono. Under this last name her book *WMD: The Weapons of my Disappointment* (Insch, Scotland: Lipstick Publishing, 2004) tackles the contradictions, dilemmas and absurdities of global politics in the form of a letter addressed to her infant son (see *EnterText* 4.2).

Lyn Graham Barzilai is a Scot now living on a communal settlement just south of Haifa in Israel where she has lived since 1975, married with three children. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Haifa University, where she teaches English literature and creative writing. She has recently published a book on the poet George Oppen. She has also been writing poetry for a long time and giving poetry readings, but has only recently begun sending her work to journals. Her work appears online in the Muse Apprentice Guild and in *Boxcar Poetry Review*.

Marija Bergam is a Montenegrin doctoral student at the University of Bari, Italy, where she took her degree (*summa cum laude*) in Foreign Languages and Literatures in 2005. She is working on “Teoria e Prassi della Traduzione: Percorsi Interculturali Europei” in the Dipartimento degli Studi Angligermanici e dell’Europa Orientale. A work in progress is “‘From the depths of the sea’: Lo spazio, il viaggio, l’identità nella *Goletta Volo* di Derek Walcott.”

Michael Burnett, a member of the Music Department at Roehampton University, taught for several years, in the past, at the Jamaica School of Music in Kingston. He is well known as a music educationist, composer and conductor. His latest composition, the cantata *Let These Things Be Written Down*, is published by Comus (Colne, Lancashire, UK), and other compositions and arrangements are published by Novello, Boosey and Hawkes, Ricordi, Lengnick and Oxford University Press. Among other publications are *Jamaican Music* and *Jazz* (OUP). His songbook of arrangements of traditional Caribbean melodies is forthcoming from OUP. His choir the Roehampton Singers has given concerts around the UK and internationally.

Christopher Clare is a Jamaican image-maker whose works are mostly mixed-media, often involving canvas, linen, acrylics, photographs, etc. More recently he has been fusing photography with acrylic paints. He writes, “The marriage has been surreal and the possibilities are endless.” He was born in Jamaica in 1977 and educated in the painting department of the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, where he earned first class honours. He has exhibited in Jamaica at the National Gallery, Mutual Gallery, and Pegasus Gallery. He lives and works in Kingston.

Osita Ezeliara is currently an Andrew W. Mellon scholar, completing doctoral research on new directions in post-apartheid South African fiction in English at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. A graduate of the University of Lagos, he taught African and British literatures for about ten years at Nigeria’s Olabisi Onabanjo University (formerly Ogun State University), Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria. He currently teaches part-time in the Department of African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand. Recent publications include: “Revisiting their Visions: African Writers and the Question of Commitment” in Ernest N. Emenyonu, ed., *Emerging Perspectives On Chinua Achebe*, vol. 2 (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2004: 267-278); “John Donne and His Contemporaries: The Metaphysical Poets” and “The Poetry of the English Romantics” (*Gege: Ogun Journal of English Studies* 4.1, 2004 and 5.1, 2005); and “The Novels of Phaswane Mpe and K. Sello Duiker: A Critique” in Mbulelo V. Mzamane, ed., *Words Gone Two Soon* (Pretoria: Umgangatho, 2005). Other essays are “Modern African Literature and the Making of its Classics” (*Culture Today*, 2006), and “The Fantasia and the Post-Apartheid Imagination: History and Narration in Andre Brink’s *Devil’s Valley*” in Kerstin Shands, ed., *From Orientalism to Postcoloniality* (Stockholm: Sodertorn University Press).

Laura Facey is a Jamaican sculptor who works in a number of materials, principally wood and stone. She has created small-scale intimate pieces as well as public art installations on a monumental scale. She studied in Britain, America and Jamaica, and has exhibited in the USA, Britain, Japan and several Caribbean countries. In 2003 she won a blind competition to design a sculpture for Emancipation Park in Kingston, Jamaica: her resulting bronze is “Redemption Song” (illustrated here). Her “Christ Ascending” (2000) is in St. Andrew’s Parish Church in Kingston. She has been awarded a Silver Musgrave Medal for her contribution to Jamaican art. See www.laurafacey.com

Maria Cristina Fumagalli is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literature, Film and Television Studies at the University of Essex, UK. She is the author of *The Flight of the Vernacular: Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott and the Impress of Dante* (New York and Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2001) and the editor of a special issue of *Agenda* (39.1-3, 2002-2003) on Derek Walcott. Her essays on a range of principally Caribbean writers appear in many journals, including work on Erna Brodber, Maryse Condé, Grace Nichols, Marlene Nourbese Philip, Jean Rhys, Gabriel García Márquez, M. P. Shiel, Michael Thelwell and Perry Henzell. In 2006, together with Peter Hulme and Owen Robinson, she secured government funding for a major four-year research project “American Tropics: Towards a Literary Geography” (2007-2010). She has recently completed a monograph entitled *The Caribbean and Modernity: Returning the Gaze*, and is co-editing with Bénédicte

Ledent a collection of essays on Caribbean sexualities, *The Cross-Dressed Caribbean: Gender Dynamics in Literature and Culture*.

Saddik Gohar is Associate Professor in the English Department at United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE. He took his first degrees at Ain Shams University, Cairo and Mansoura University, Egypt, and his MA and PhD at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA. Since the early 1990s he has held posts at universities in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, before joining the UAE University in 2002. His research is published in several Middle Eastern, American and Australian journals. The comparative study of Arab and Western literatures is a particular interest. His most recent work is “The Use of T. S. Eliot’s Literary Traditions in Contemporary Arabic Poetry” in Doris Jedamski, ed., *Chewing the West: Occidental Narratives* (New York and Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007).

Marian Gwyn is Learning and Communications Manager for the National Trust in North West Wales and is based at Penrhyn Castle, Bangor. She gained a first degree in the History of Design and the Visual Arts at the University of Staffordshire and an MA in Women’s Studies at Bangor University. She is currently working on interpreting the slate industry for a permanent exhibition at Penrhyn Castle.

Rachel Manley, a poet, and graduate of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, is most widely known as the author of *Slipstream: A Daughter Remembers* (Canada: Alfred Knopf, 2000), a memoir of her father, Michael Manley (1924-1997, Prime Minister of Jamaica from 1972-1980 and 1989-1992), as well as of the book excerpted here, *Drumblair* (Knopf, 1996, winner of the Governor General’s Award for English language non-fiction), a memoir of the famous grandparents with whom she grew up: Norman Manley (1893-1969), Rhodes Scholar and Jamaican political leader—founder of the People’s National Party, Chief Minister (1955-1959) and Premier (1959-1962)—and his wife Edna (1900-1987), sculptress and publisher. She is also the editor of *Edna Manley: The Diaries* (London: André Deutsch, 1989). Her new book *Woman with Horses in her Hair: A Memoir of My Grandmother* is expected from Key Porter (Canada) in 2008. Two collections of her poetry have been published: *Prisms* (Jamaica: Hyde, Held and Blackburn, 1972) and *Poems 2* (Barbados: Coles Publishing, 1978). Her poems appear also in *Crossing the Water: Contemporary Poetry of the English Speaking Caribbean* (New York: Greenfield Review Press, 1985 and 1991), and in journals such as *Focus*, *Jamaica Journal* and *Caribbean Quarterly*. She has been awarded numerous fellowships including a Guggenheim (2001/2), and has been guest lecturer and guest writer at a number of North American universities. Since 1992 she has been non-fiction mentor on a postgraduate creative writing programme at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, dividing the rest of her time between Toronto and Jamaica. Her essay “Thoughts on Writing from Exile” appears in *Small Axe Review* (2002).

Andrea Molesini who was born in Venice is professor in the department of Contemporary Italian Literature at the University of Padua, Italy. Poetry has been the focus of his scholarship. He has translated the work of Ted Hughes, Joseph Brodsky, Charles Simic, William Faulkner and Ezra Pound, among others, as well as the work of Walcott. His translations of Walcott are published by Adelphi: *The Bounty (Prima luce*,

2001), *Omeros* (2003) and *Tiepolo's Hound (Il levriero di Tiepolo, 2005)*. As a poet himself he is the author of five collections, one of which has been translated into English. The most recent is *Chi naviga, chi resta* (Gorizia: Braitan, 2006). As an author of children's books he is one of the most well known and widely translated, and in 1999 was awarded the Andersen Prize. A watercolour portrait of him by Walcott can be seen on his website: www.andreamolesini.it

Sofía Muñoz-Valdivieso is Associate Professor of English at the University of Málaga, Spain, where she teaches nineteenth-century British poetry and multicultural British fiction. She has published on Shakespeare and popular culture, and is the author of a volume on *The Tempest* and the postmodern critical paradigm. She collaborated in *The EmLit Project: European Minority Literatures in Translation* (2003), an anthology of minority writing in Europe funded by the European Union (available in *EnterText*). She has published on black and Asian British writers and is currently working on diasporic and transnational fiction.

Derek Walcott (born 1930) is a St. Lucian poet and dramatist who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. The Nobel citation says it was awarded particularly for his epic poem *Omeros*. He is the author of many collections of poetry, plays, essays and other writings, as well as a painter. As founder of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop he lived in Trinidad for many years, though in recent decades he has been partly based at universities in the USA, particularly Boston University where he has for some time been professor of poetry. However, he spends most of his time in St. Lucia. His work has been translated into many languages. In the late 1940s he was among the first undergraduates to study at the new University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

Karina Williamson is Honorary Fellow in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh, and Supernumerary Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford. She edited the anonymous novel *Marly; or, A Planter's Life in Jamaica [1828]* (Basingstoke: Macmillan Education, 2005), and her book *Contrary Voices: Representations of West Indian Slavery* is expected from the University of the West Indies Press in June 2008.