

## *Introductory Note*

In this issue, *Interlitteraria* continues the publication of the proceedings of the conference *National Literatures and Comparative Literary Research*, which was held in September 2013 in Tartu, organized by the Estonian Association of Comparative Literature. However, not all papers originate from this event. Since several other contributions resonated well with the general theme and various individual topics of the conference, it seemed fit to include them in the discussion continued in the journal.

The issue opens with two looks into the historical development of comparative literature as a discipline by Ladislav Franek and Maija Burima. The next three papers (Živilė Nedzinskaitė, Terri Schroth and Bryant Smith, Bārbala Simšone) demonstrate the migration and evolution of genres between national literatures, followed by another three (Samuel Bidaud, Rein Veidemann, Carmen Popescu) dealing with travelling motives and quotes that forge links between different authors and works and create continuity within cultures. The second half of the volume looks into the history of cultural contacts through translation and other forms of discovering and adapting foreign literary traditions (Pauls Daija, Arne Merilai, Ana Toroš). The last three papers (Renáta Bojničanová, Zoran Božič, Inga Sindi) concentrate on processes taking place mostly within national tradition, examining ways of constructing, preserving and reconsidering national identity in different contexts.

We hope that such development of conference discussions in the journal will occur many more times in the future, so that publication of the proceedings will not only enable further individual reflection on the chosen topic, but also continued discussion with colleagues working on similar topics, while preparing the articles, and discovery of new aspects of the theme. The aim of comparative literary research nowadays is, as repeatedly observed and stated in this year's contributions to *Interlitteraria*, to overcome conventional and often arbitrary distinctions and hierarchies in literary historiography and analysis in order to better understand the dynamic and synthetic nature of literary practices. To do so, it is important to cultivate forums where the research itself also happens collaboratively and collegially, not just during, but between real-time academic events.

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