

Lettre de la Présidente

Spring 2007

Dear Colleagues,

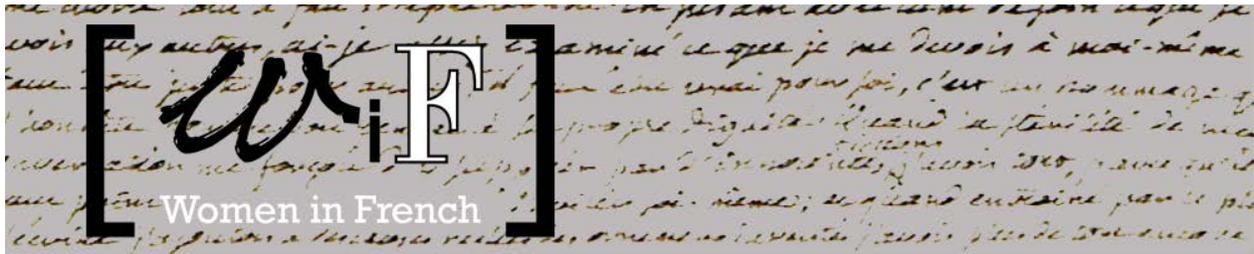
What a pleasure it was to see so many friends, old and new, at the MLA Convention in Philadelphia. Our annual Business Meeting drew a small but congenial group. It was held at the Italian Bistro on Broad Street, within easy walking distance of the convention hotels, especially with the balmy weather we enjoyed. Thanks to Juliette Rogers for finding this gem of a venue!

Our WIF sessions at the MLA featured fascinating panels on “Le polar au féminin : question de genre,” organized by Annik Doquire Kerzberg, and “Célibataires ou Célibattantes,” organized by Anne-Marie Obajtek Kirkwood. Both panels featured superb papers and generated a good deal of discussion. Many thanks to presenters Typhaine Leservot, Cara Gargano, and Vera Klekovkina on the former panel, and Safoi Babana-Hampton, Erika Flahaut, and Anne-Marie herself on the latter for their excellent papers and willingness to abide by more heavily enforced MLA time constraints.

The MLA Delegate Assembly has recommended changes to the convention dates and format, and these changes, including a starting date on the Thursday after January first, beginning at an earlier time, and the elimination of evening panels throughout the convention, may have an especially significant impact on sessions of Allied Organizations like WIF, so we will need to keep apprised of these changes as they are approved. They will not affect the 2007 Convention in Chicago, where the WIF sessions will include “Miscreants and Deviants of French Literature and Cinema,” organized by Judith Sarnecki, and “Le Moi en crise: Autobiography and Confession in Women’s Writing,” organized by Gay Rawson. Please contact them at rawson@cord.edu and Judith.h.sarnecki@lawrence.edu by March 15, 2007 with proposals.

The WIF Executive Board welcomes Nancy Lane of the University of South Carolina as the Representative from the South and Karen McPherson of the University of Oregon as the Representative from the Western US and Western Canada. We are truly grateful to outgoing representatives from these regions, Jeanne Garane and Sara Steinert Borella, for their dedicated service to the organization. Sara has of course taken over the duties of Book Review Editor from Miléna Santoro. I am also happy to announce that the membership has voted to accept changes to our by-laws that allow our secretary and treasurer to volunteer for those positions and to define their own terms. This allows the by-laws to conform to our actual practice.

After six years of service, we gratefully acknowledge outgoing Treasurer Christine Lac’s contributions to WIF and wish her some well-deserved respite. Our new Treasurer, Eileen Ketchum McEwan, has taken up the task with alacrity and is now exploring options to simplify the registration and membership payment process. You’ll find her report for the August to December period and Christine’s for the period from January to August in this Newsletter. The



expenses for 2006 include the costs of our spring conference at the University of New Hampshire, and all three volumes of *WIF Studies* that appeared in 2005-06 including the special volume on cinema and the special volume of essays from our 2004 conference. This was an unusually productive period for our organization. By the time you receive this Newsletter, all 2006 members should have received the regular 2006 volume of the *Studies*.

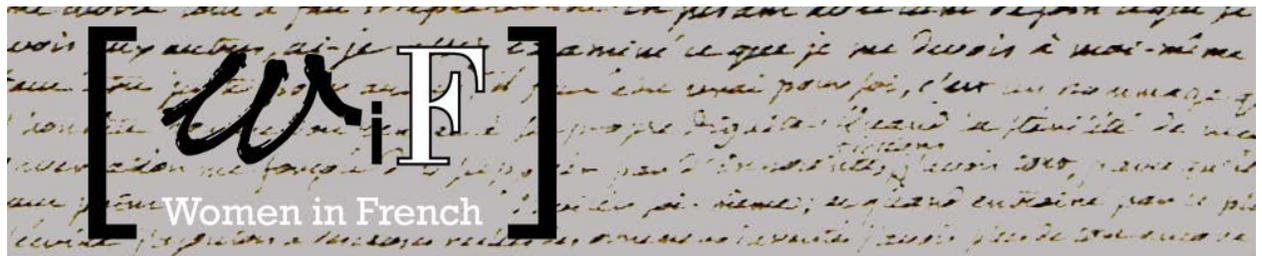
If your library or an important library in your region does not subscribe to the *Studies*, you may want to suggest a subscription. Maureen Perry of the University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn, has ably mastered the intricacies of library circulation this past semester. If your library is a recent subscriber but might be interested in a package of back issues at a reduced price, have them contact former *Studies* Frédérique Chevillot at the University of Denver (fchevill@du.edu). She'd very much appreciate more breathing space in her office!

Our secretary, Elizabeth Locey, reports that our membership is healthy, at about 400 members. If you know of a friend or colleague who might enjoy the benefits of WIF membership, including this Newsletter, regular and special volumes of *WIF Studies*, please ask them to join. Another excellent idea is to offer WIF membership as a gift—as Sarah Gordon did this past December. This year, in addition to our regular 2007 volume of *WIF Studies*, the special volume of selected papers from the 2006 conference is in preparation.

Through our web site, electronic list, online Directory, WIF conferences, and our sessions at the MLA and regional MLAs, WIF connects its members to a broad network of scholars working on women writers of French expression. In the coming year, as we anticipate the Fourth International WIF Conference at the University of North Texas, look for more details and an eventual call for papers on the WIF list and the website.

Because WIF is a non-profit organization, contributions to WIF are tax deductible. Think of us when considering your charitable contributions for 2007! In that vein we would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals: Linda Clark, Christine Duvergé, Deborah Gaensbauer, Jan Gross, Kimberley Healey, Margaret Langford, Anna Malena, Maureen Shanahan, and Gabrielle Verdier. We're also grateful for the continued support of the University of Santa Clara, the home institution of Catherine Montfort, past Chair and Executive Editor of *WIF Studies*.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge all the WIF volunteers who maintain WIF as a professional network, through electronic media, especially our web site manager, Nancy Virtue, our directory manager Roseanna Dufault, and our listserv manager Gay Rawson, as well as all who contribute to our publications, including Newsletter editors Martine Guyot-Bender and Cheryl Morgan. As I've often repeated, WIF could not flourish without its volunteers. Your active participation and support is appreciated!



Best wishes for a happy and productive year,

Marie Rice-Defosse