LIFE WRITING AND INTIMATE PUBLICS

“This is my last testament”: writing from the world of shades.

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Abstract
Rosamond Lehmann’s autobiographical writing entitled *The Swan in the Evening*¹, (1967) features as an outsider in the context of the author’s works and also in the context of the author’s generation. Lehmann resented the idea of ever writing any kind of autobiographical work until she found herself forced to tackle the genre under the pressure of bereavement. Her project therefore was not to produce an account of her life but to explore the notion and reality of death in her own culture through her own experience. The project resulted in a complete revision of the current separation between fiction and reality, facts and fantasy, remembrance and imagination. It casts a particularly vivid light on the crisis of language and generational torments that the second generation of modernists went through.

Keywords: autobiography, life writing, letter writing, 20th century British literature, Interwar period, late modernism

ON THE NECESSITY OF DIALOGUE:
LAST LETTERS FROM WORLD WAR II

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Abstract
This paper is based on the study of several collections of letters recently published in France, among which *La Vie à en mourir: lettres de fusillés*, edited by Guy Krivopissko. The corpus will also include Hélène Berr’s *Diary*, also made public thanks to the same publisher.

The article addresses the interaction between addressee(s) and public – both intimate and unknown – created by these texts, which act as documents, literary

¹ Hereafter referred to as SE. All page numbers will correspond to the Virago 1982 revised edition.
texts, and also as heirloom to be transmitted within families, through generations, and thus create strong networks. In fact, Hélène Berr refers to Keats’s poetry in her diary, and reading Keats provides a thread in the network created by these texts. I try to suggest that these texts tend to modify our sense of family and belonging, because they are rooted within a family background, and precisely because they are addressed, more or less directly (rather less than more in the case of the diary), to close family members.

Whereas the two volumes of letters have had moderate success in France, Hélène Berr’s Diary became a best-seller almost immediately, and is now being translated into several languages, thus transforming a very private text into a global artifact, and raising the question of its status and function. **Keywords:** life writing, diary, letters, World War II, poetry, privacy, addressee

MARKERS OF NEGOTIATION IN GENDER-SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

This paper departs from the assumption that verbal interaction is deeply rooted in the social context but participants in the speech event might opt for markers of negotiation that are gender specific and not motivated by social conformity. It is interesting to see the way in which social inertia or any other innate or acquired factors make their presence manifest in conversation and the way in which discursive negotiation differs according to gender. It also remains to be seen whether the type of discourse that we term gendered is attributable, beyond any doubt, to gender and not to other factors such as social class, age, education. **Keywords:** discursive supremacy, conversation, context, discourse markers

PROGRESS AS A STEP TO REGRESS IN JOSE SARAMAGO’S THE CAVE

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Abstract

Although often viewed as positive evolution, progress is not necessarily good, because it implies also bad aspects which, sooner or later, overcome the good ones. Jose Saramago’s The Cave illustrates the idea that industrialization, usually seen as a sign of progress, destroys not only nature, but also the human nature and traditional values. Saramago’s novel refers to Plato’s Myth of the cave. Nevertheless, Saramago’s interpretation of the myth is different from Plato’s
allegory, and his message is linked to two conflicting realities: the technological progress, on the one hand, and the traditional way of living, on the other. In other words, the industrial progress changes our lives so dramatically that it prevents us from understanding the real values, and approaching the ultimate Truth.

Keywords: Saramago, cave, Plato, progress, regress

PRIVATE AND SILENT ANSWERS TO LIFE WRITING: MISUNDERSTANDING INTIMACY IN AND AROUND E. M. FORSTER’S POSTHUMOUS MAURICE

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Abstract

The notion of intimacy in Maurice (1913/1971) is at the core of this literary posthumous project, Forster writing and rewriting for himself only, never having in mind to have it published in his lifetime. “Life writing” Maurice definitely was, though in no autobiographical sense, but with a view to writing one’s actual life through literary fantasy and fulfilment: in the private and intimate text that the novel was to remain, it was first a matter of rewriting one’s own life and sexuality. Forster had a few friends read his drafts, and though many letters were exchanged, these intimate reactions of selected intimate publics were to isolate Forster’s sad intimacy even more. In the novel as in the letters, thematic and aesthetic censorships are clearly at work, and again Forster might have been writing for himself only much more than for prosperity. Other inadequate answers could be heard once the novel had been published, readers blaming Forster either for his too discreet autobiographical involvement or his surprising inability to write about homosexual love and sex. So intimate in its design, was the novel doomed to intimate publics and silent answers?

Keywords: Forster; censorship; intimacy; homosexuality; posterity

“HERO WORSHIP” WITH THOMAS CARLYLE IN THE PROPHETIC DECADE

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Abstract

After the publication of Chartism (1839) and Hero and Hero Worship (1840), Carlyle got interested in the social issues together with the deepening of the economic crisis and “hero worship” became a dominant theme in all his later
writings. For him the “hero” may appear in a variety of roles, mentioned in *Hero and Hero Worship*: the divinity, the prophet, the poet, the priest, the man of letters and the king. His concern with the social problems of his time is put forward in *Past and Present* (1843), a work that approaches the issues of unemployment, emigration, education, and the principle of cooperation, expressing at the same time his moral interest in the future of British society. Book 2 of *Past and Present*, *The Ancient Monk*, a description of life in the Abbey of Bury St. Edmonds in the twelfth century, is actually an attack on the 19th century social crisis in England, infected by individualism, a writing in which the theme of “hero worship” appears again in the person of Abbot Samson. The author’s solution to this crisis is the emergence of a new, morally responsible working aristocracy arising from the new middle class. This was Carlyle’s message to his readers at the peak of his prophetic career. But the theme of “hero worship” is also approached in his subsequent writings like *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* (1845). Carlyle’s ideas are also present in the literary field, especially in the works of Dickens, Elisabeth Gaskell and Charles Kingley.

**Keywords:** Carlyle, hero, prophetic decade, social issues

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**OCTAVIÁN PALER – EXTERNAL PROGRESS VERSUS INTERNAL REGRESS**

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**Abstract**

Octavian Paler is an outstanding name in Romanian literature, a writer whose wide range of books - novels, travelogues, poems, - as well as a never-faltering interest in the quotidian world of politics have consecrated him as a Renaissance spirit, only accidentally our contemporary. What mostly characterizes his *Solitary Adventures* is a thirst for the preservation of European values, a preference for the “Old World”, the land of many enlightened spirits, as opposed to the noisy growth of America. For Paler to tackle the dichotomy, he assumes the perspective of “homo europaeus” at odds with the “homo americanus”; however, he does so in keeping with a spirit of tolerance and intellectual curiosity. The present study aims to “capture” the tolerance and diffuse the intellectual curiosity, thus paying an homage to the author.

**Keywords:** travelogue, Europe, America, homo americanus, progress
ECCENTRIC MOTHER – ECCENTRIC SON
IN D.H. LAWRENCE’S SONS AND LOVERS

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Abstract
Love is the central theme of Lawrence’s writing; all his work is woven around the concept of love in all of its complexities and aspects. However, Lawrence’s view of the erotic was completely different from all that had been written at the time. His treatment of the theme ranges from the almost pathological attachment to a parent and the disastrous consequences that this deviation may cause, to the complexities of marital relations. Though all of Lawrence’s novels are to some extent autobiographical as they are inspired by the events and emotions of his own life, Sons and Lovers is his most personal book, and it explores the tormented relationship Lawrence himself had with his mother.

Keywords: love, Oedipus, psychoanalysis, possessiveness

THE ARTIST-TERRORIST RELATIONSHIP
IN HENRY JAMES’S THE PRINCESS CASAMASSIMA

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Abstract
The Princess Casamassima (1886) stands apart from the rest of Henry James’s (1843-1916) work due to its explicit engagement with the political questions of the day – it reveals its author’s belief in the existence of an international terrorist (anarchist) organization as an agent of social change. In brief lines, the novel reproduces the story of Hyacinth Robinson, a bookbinder of dubious origin – his father presumably a British aristocrat, his mother a French woman belonging to the lower classes – who ends up questioning the radical politics to which he had adhered at some point in his life.

The present paper is not meant primarily to comment on the technical aspects of terrorist violence as understood and rendered by Henry James in this particular novel, but rather to comment on the manner in which he fictionalizes the process of becoming a terrorist; the main research coordinate deals with Hyacinth Robinson’s transition from aesthetic sense to violent behaviour.

Keywords: anarchism, revolution, art, violence, social question.
RECUERPERATED AND REINVENTED
18TH CENTURY ENGLISH BODY

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Abstract
My paper aims at the analysis of recuperation and re-invention techniques applied to 18th century socio-economical, political and cultural bodies. We can speak of “uncovered” bodies on public display as “marks” of bodily crisis and migration, evolution and involution. I am also interested in the analysis of body boundaries and norms from various socio-political, medical and moral perspectives starting from Foucault's theory of bio-power relations applied to 18th century British bodies. I am interested in embodied experiences of translation, transgression and regulation - discipline and docility in visual image as well as in bodily public display in an incipient consumer culture.

Keywords: bodily crisis and migration, body boundaries and norms, translation, transgression and regulation

ENGLISH IN THE CONTEXT OF TOURISM IN OMAN

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Abstract
English has spread all over the world, and Oman is no exception. Recognizing the importance of the English language in featuring Oman as a tourist destination, converting marketing opportunities in tourism into sales, framing tourism as a customer-oriented industry, and enhancing tourism that is responsible and sustainable, this paper explores the current status of English in Oman, and how it functions as a language (Dann, 1996) that can promote the country as a wonderful tourist destination to people around the globe. To this end, the authors examine the English language from a socio-linguistic perspective in relation to tourism in Oman.

Keywords: Tourism discourse, English in Oman, socio-linguistic perspectives
DILEMMA OF THE CIVILIZED: CIVILIZATION AND MORAL CORRUPTION IN JOSEPH CONRAD’S HEART OF DARKNESS

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Abstract
The narrator, Marlow, in Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness tells about a journey that he took to Africa as a young sailor. Marlow, whose retrospective narration reveals the time when many Europeans went to Africa with the conceit of civilising them, indicates to European attitude as hypocritical. Witnessing the European’s greed for spoil of the continent, his judgement of the civilisation and primitivity changes. This realisation, in fact, reflects Conrad’s “moral nihilism”, his disbelief in civilisation, as the veiling of primitivity only. Primitivity and savagery, thus, are components of the same essence complementing each other on a cyclical pattern for Conrad.

Keywords: Heart of Darkness, moral nihilism, civilisation and primitivity