



Dossier Council 2023
April 26 - 30, 2023



PUBLICATION
& CONTEMPORARY
WRITING COMMISSION
Publication & Écriture Contemporaine
Publicación & Escritura Contemporánea

Publication & Contemporary Writing Commission

MEMBERS

Katarina Klančnik Kocutar (Slovenia), President

Karen Smith (USA/Australia), Kathy Foley (USA), Frans Hakkemars (Netherlands), Marthe Adam (Canada), Mihail Baykov (Bulgaria), Kristin Haverty (USA), Suzy López (Mexico), Mareike Gaubitz (Germany), Nina Malíková (Czech Republic), Andrew Periale (USA), Violeta Ercolano (Italy), Jaap den Hertog (Norway), Inga Lobanova (Ukraine), Clément Peretjatko (France), Salma Mohseni (Iran), Kateřina Dolenská (Czech Republic), Poupak Azimpour (Iran), Paulette Richards (USA), Dimitri Carter (USA)

Correspondents/Consultants

Greta Bruggeman (France), Roberta Colombo (Italy), Kati Andrianov (Finland), Christine Zurbach (Portugal), Alessandra Amicarelli (Italy)

Contemporary Writing Correspondents

Ana Maria Amaral (Brazil), Salma Mohseni (Iran), Nina Monova (Russia)

Goals

The Commission works on ongoing projects and its new projects. It also collaborates with projects proposed by UNIMA leadership, other commissions, national centres or individual members of UNIMA.

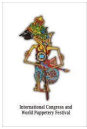
Ongoing and New Projects

- The enrichment of the online English, French and Spanish editions of the *World Encyclopaedia of Puppetry Arts* – WEPA
- The collection of information concerning contemporary texts written for the puppet theatre
- The building of a network of and for puppetry magazines
- The creation of a Dictionary of Puppetry
- The support for other UNIMA commissions

Members of the Commissions had two on-line meetings on 24th of May 2021 and 25th of October 2021. Many smaller meetings and correspondence took place during that time and a meeting in Charleville-Mézières in September 2021.

WEPA

The encyclopedia of world puppetry arts was initiated by UNIMA in 1978 and fully financed by the French government. The encyclopaedia first appeared in an 864-page French-language large-format print edition in 2009. Subsequently, the corrected, updated, and expanded second edition appeared in September 2017 as an online publication in French, English and Spanish (three of UNIMA's five official languages), with the capacity of machine-generated translations in 97 additional languages. Many hundreds of scholars and authors, translators and editors contributed to the encyclopedia, which at the



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time of its first publication numbered around 1,100 entries. Today, there are approximately 1,300 entries representing 123 nations and the major geographical regions, plus thematic and technical entries on the art of puppetry and related fields.

As a living document, the online trilingual encyclopaedia is to be maintained and kept current. For instance, since the 2017 launch of the WEPA, additional photo images and their captions have been prepared ready to be uploaded; there are more hyperlinks to be installed; some articles require small textual changes or corrections; and new articles are being considered. These on-going and future tasks require committed members of the new WEPA Editorial/Scientific Committee, consistent financial support, and a webmaster with the appropriate background and skills to upload the changes and additions onto the WEPA site.

Since its online publication in September 2017 notes of possible errors, additions, updates have been made and noted. The actual updates depend on person technically dealing with the web site and finances for that tasks.

I quote from the final Commission report made by Karen Smith: “Regarding this question of what “is truly missing”, the editorial team in the Americas, for example, which currently includes scholars Kathy Foley, Nancy Staub, Paulette Richards, Claudia Orenstein, John Bell, Manuel Morán, are concerned that representation in the *WEPA* within this vast region needs to be significantly broadened. Especially now, in the midst of the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 global pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement that has gone global, these scholars and authors are focusing upon a “diversity initiative”. Perhaps, also, an entry on how the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 global pandemic might fit into a puppets-therapy or puppets and curing could be written.

This regional team from the Americas plans to begin with the United States, and later focus more broadly on North America, including Canada, then move on to Central and South America, the Caribbean, and the Black Atlantic region, where they would look for minority artists and ethnic diasporas as well as develop representation of Native America in the *WEPA*. Echoing the current Black Lives Matter movement, the role of Black artists and their work must be included in the *WEPA*. Working with a small subcommittee, we will begin this next phase of updating the *WEPA* with a priority on highlighting the work of underrepresented puppeteers of colour.

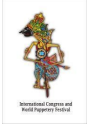
To be successful in this endeavor of a broader and more equitable enrichment of the encyclopedia, such an effort would require, over time, the expertise of UNIMA national leaders and especially scholars across the hemisphere who would suggest names and involve local scholar-authors willing to volunteer to draft entries or guide the steering committee towards the information while helping prioritize entries that are important to do first. As with the original *WEPA*, it will require the heads and hands of those who know the field and who can take the work to completion.”

PUPPETRY PUBLICATIONS ONLINE

Puppetry Publications Online sub commission with Frans Hakkemars and Mihail Baykov prepared the letter and questionnaire for the National Centers and Members in August 2021 and they succeeded to gather information about more than 50 puppetry magazines worldwide. The data is valuable and range from titles, number of issue per year, editors, specifics, language, objectives, plans...

Complete list of the magazines is in the form of Publication Directory on the web site including the map showing location of the magazines. Alessandra Amicarelli made the map.
<https://www.unima.org/en/projects-and-achievements/publications-directory/>

Most of the editors would also like to meet on-line and present their magazines, exchange ideas and determine possible common interests.



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We would like to gather information of web pages dealing with critics of the performance and articles like: EU Contemporary Puppetry Critical Platform: <https://www.contempuppetry.eu/>

CONTEMPORARY WRITING

Greta Bruggeman initiated contemporary writing sub commission in 2012.

The primary goal of this ongoing project is to identify and gather as much information as possible related to texts/scripts written for the puppet theatre with the purpose of circulating these texts among countries through UNIMA for future collaborations, translations, and the like. In 2016, a trilingual print publication ([download it here](#)) with the findings from the initial four-year research was prepared. Ongoing project would be needed in on-line form.

There are existing platforms with published texts like Slovenian web page: <https://teksti.sigledal.org/>. With automatic language translators it is not so difficult to get the idea about the text and find the source for further cooperation.

Another questionnaire is in preparation for national centers and member to gather information about the texts.

Many members are interested also in Terminology project, which is one of future tasks of the commission.

Katarina Klančnik Kocutar
President of the Publication & Contemporary Writing Commission

In Maribor, 18. 5. 2022