

The British Comparative Literature Association

XI International Conference

FOLLY

Goldsmiths, University of London

2-5 July 2007

Organising committee:

Dame Gillian Beer (Cambridge; President of the BCLA), Dr Lucia Boldrini (Goldsmiths; BCLA), Ms Penny Brown (Manchester; BCLA Secretary), Dr Rachel Falconer (Sheffield; BCLA), Dr Bernhard Malkmus (Goldsmiths), Dr Florian Mussgnug (University College London; BCLA), Dr Carole Sweeney (Goldsmiths)
Contact: folly@gold.ac.uk

The British Comparative Literature Association
President: Dame Gillian Beer (Cambridge)
Secretary: Ms Penny Brown (Manchester)
Treasurer and Memberships: Robin Mackenzie (St Andrews)
Contact: <http://www.bcla.org>

Department of English & Comparative Literature,
Goldsmiths, University of London
Lewisham Way,
New Cross,
London SE14 6NW
UK
Contact: english@gold.ac.uk

MONDAY 2 JULY

11.30-1.30 *Great Hall* Registration

1.45-2.00 *IGLT* Welcome. Dame Gillian Beer (Cambridge), President of the British Comparative Literature Association

2.00-3.00 *IGLT* **Keynote address:** Alberto Manguel (Paris), “At the Mad Hatter’s Table”. Chair: Rachel Falconer (Sheffield)

3.05-4.35 Panel Session A

Room RHB139 Panel 1 – Early Modern Folly: Limits of Reason

Chair: Tim Parnell (Goldsmiths)

Simona Corso (University of Rome III), “Digression in the Age of Reason”

Hannah Crawford (Princeton University), “The Crocodile’s Syllogism: What Words Can Know in Erasmus’s *Praise of Folly*”

Anne Duprat (University of Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV), “*Stultita loquitur*: Functions of Folly in Early Modern Theory of Fiction”

Room RHB141 Panel 2 – Folly in Soviet Times

Chair: Florian Mussgnug (London)

Loreta Macanskaite (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius), “Semantics of Madness in the Lithuanian Literature of the Soviet Period and Exile”

Reet Sool (University of Tartu), “On the Sadness of Folly: The Making of Soviet Estonian Literature”

Oliver Ready (Wolfson College, University of Oxford), “A Never-Ending Affair: The Charm and Curse of Folly in Russian Prose since the 1960s”

Room RHB142 Panel 3 – The Architecture of Folly

Chair: Michael Simpson (Goldsmiths)

Luke Morgan (Monash University, Melbourne), “The Fountain as Folly”

William M. Taylor (University of Western Australia, Perth), “Ships and Fools: Boats and Literary Representations of Human Character and Values”

Samantha Matthews (University of Sheffield), “Pompous Monuments and ‘Mausoleal Folly’: The Discourse of Folly in Nineteenth-century Representations of Mausolea”

Room RHB143 Panel 4 – Folly in Literature and Painting

Chair: Jane Desmarais (Goldsmiths)

Conceição Pereira (University of Lisbon), “Glen Baxter’s Fundamental Flaws”

Natasha Grigorian (Magdalen College, University of Oxford / University of Burgundy, Dijon), “Dreams, Nightmares, and Lunacy in *En rade* (1886): Odilon Redon’s Pictorial Inspiration in the Writings of J.-K. Huysmans”

Ana Gabriela Macedo (University of Minho), “The Art of Storytelling and the Duty of Storytelling: *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh and Paula Rego”

Room RHB150 Panel 5 – Philosophies of Folly

Chair: Josh Cohen (Goldsmiths)

David Adams (Ohio State University), “Madness and Irony”

Erik Butler (Emory University), "The World Gone Mad from Plato to Hegel: System Theory and the Eclipse of Reason"

Kael Ashbaugh (Rutgers University), "In Pursuit of Folly: Playfulness and the Problem of Seriousness in Play Theory"

4.35-5.00 *Great Hall* Coffee & tea break

5.00-6.00 Panel Session B

Room RHB139 Panel 6 – Manifestations of Melancholy

Chair: Sally Collins (Goldsmiths)

Jane Darcy (King's College London), "The Politics of Madness and Melancholy: Boswell's Johnson and Hayley's Cowper"

Ornella Spano (University of Cagliari), "Melancholy and Poetry. Antonia Pozzi: An Exploratory Path"

Room RHB141 Panel 7 – The Economics of Folly

Chair: Michael Simpson (Goldsmiths)

Bernhard Malkmus (Goldsmiths, University of London), "The Follies of Redemption: Configurations of Currency in Friedrich Nietzsche and Adalbert Stifter"

Victoria Shinbrot (California State University, Sacramento), "The Allure of Chance: Art and Desire in *The House of Mirth*"

Room RHB142 Panel 8 – Technology of Folly

Chair: Caroline Blinder (Goldsmiths)

Elena Gualtieri (University of Sussex), "The Folly of Photography: On Kracauer's Thought"

Lucia Boldrini (Goldsmiths, University of London), "Michael Ondaatje's *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*: Anamorphosis, Hallucination, Metamorphosis"

Room RHB143 Panel 9 – Fools in Early Modern Theatre

Chair: Marie-Claude Canova Green (Goldsmiths)

Manuela Ferreira Carvalho (University of Edinburgh), "Peasants and Fools in the Court: Performance, Reception and Propaganda"

Ulrike Zitzlsperger (Exeter University), "The Fool and Political Culture: Counter-Performances"

Room RHB150 Panel 10 – Religious Discourse & Holy Fools 1

Chair: Penny Brown (Manchester)

Aladdin M. Abdel-Rahman (Ain Shams University, Cairo), "More Than a Fool's Song: The Historical, Mythological and Religious Carnavalesque in the Poetry of Countee Cullen and Mahmoud Darwish"

Gonçalo Cordeiro (University of Lisbon), "The Endless Snake: Mad Wisdom in Job and Qohelet"

7.15 *Great Hall* Reception offered by the Department of English & Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths

8.00 *Great Hall* Conference Dinner

TUESDAY 3 JULY

9.00-10.30 Panel Session C

- Room RHB139* Panel 11 – Folly & the Avant-garde
Chair: Andreas Kramer (Goldsmiths)
Christopher Pilling (Keswick), “Squaring up to Cubist Poems”
Jacqueline Rattray (Goldsmiths, University of London), “Analysing Surrealist
Madness through the Poetry of Salvador Dali”
Cristina Beretta (University of Heidelberg), *Between King Lear and Don Quixote:*
‘Reason in Madness’ in Fëdor Sologub’s *The Petty Demon* (1907) and *The
Legend in the Making* (1914)”
- Room RHB141* Panel 12 – Narrative & Folly 1
Chair: Rachel Falconer (Sheffield)
Helen Ainslie (University of Reading), “Constructions of Autism: Perspectives,
Community and Communication”
Lars Bernaerts (University of Ghent), “Another Sense of Reality: On the Technique
and Ideology of Narrative Delirium”
Marina Grishakova (University of Tartu), “Fabulation and Time Disorders”
- Room RHB142* Panel 13– The Folly of Intertextuality: Parody and Citation
Chair: Frank Krause (Goldsmiths)
Tanya Bluestone (Princeton University), “Citing Folly: Flaubert’s Critique of
Dominant Discourse”
Sarah Davison (St Anne’s College, University of Oxford), “When Lovely Woman
Stoops to Folly’: Anxious Parody in Modernist Literature”
Caroline Lusin (University of Heidelberg), “Red Flowers and a Shabby Coat: The
Impact of Russian Literature on the Presentation of ‘Madness’ in Virginia
Woolf’s *Mrs Dalloway*”
- Room RHB143* Panel 14– Serendipities, Errancy and Experimentation
Chair: Karen Seago (London)
Juliette Taylor-Batty (Leeds Trinity & All Saints), “The Folly of Languages:
Interlingual Contact in Joyce and Lawrence”
Richard Hibbitt (University of East Anglia), “Dead-ends or Detours? The
Fruitfulness of Error”
Yaniv Hagbi (University of Amsterdam), “On the Error of Man: The Talmudic
‘Achnay’s Oven’ and Heidegger’s Notion of Errancy”
- Room RHB150* Panel 15 – Violence, Politics & Desire
Chair: Valerie Henitiuk (Norwich)
Dennitza Gabrakova (University of Tokyo), “Cannibal and Carnival: Violence and
Laughter in Modern Asia”
Raphael Hörmann (University of Glasgow), “Folly, Frenzy and Massacre: The
Politics of Violence in Shelley’s *Mask of Anarchy* (1819) and Brecht’s ‘Der
anachronistische Zug, oder Freiheit und Democracy’ (1947)”
James Raeside (Keio University), “Beneath the Heel: Masoch’s Venus and
Tanizaki’s Mad Old Man”

10.30-10.50 *Great Hall* Coffee & tea break

10.50-11.50 Panel session D

Room RHB139 Panel 16 –
No scheduled panel.

Room RHB141 Panel 17 – Modernist Literature & Theatre 1
Chair: Maurice Slawinski (Lancaster)
Karl Chircop (University of Malta), “Joyce and Pirandello’s ‘Foolosopher’ Kings and Mocking Gargoyles: Buck Mulligan and Enrico IV”
Bruce Swansey (Dublin City University), “Subversive Fatherhood: Erasmus and the Availability of Life as Stage”

Room RHB142 Panel 18 – Representations of Hölderlin
Chair: Jean Boase-Beier (Norwich)
Marco Castellari (University of Milan), “The Insane Poet on the Stage: Friedrich Hölderlin in Twentieth-Century Theatre”
Shane Weller (University of Kent), “Literature and the Politics of Madness: On the Twentieth-Century Reception of Friedrich Hölderlin”

Room RHB143 Panel 19 – Nonsense
Chair: Uttara Natarajan (Goldsmiths)
Kevin Shortsleeve (University of Winnipeg), “Nonsense Literature and Radical Utopianism”
Michael Heyman (Berklee College of Music, Boston), “The Sahib with a Luminous Nose: The Confluence of Indian and English Literary Nonsense”

Room RHB150 Panel 20 – The Performance of Folly 1
Chair: Bernhard Malkmus (Goldsmiths)
David Robb (Queen’s University Belfast), “Nestroy, Valentin and the Brecht: The Tradition of German-Speaking Theatrical Clowning”
Rosa Mucignat (King’s College London), “Theatrical Follies: Theatre as Spatial Manipulation in Goethe’s *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* and Austen’s *Mansfield Park*”

11.55-12.55 IGLT Keynote address: Piero Boitani, “The Folly of Poetry”.
Chair: Florian Mussgnug (London)

12.55-2.15 *Great Hall* Lunch

2.15-3.45 Panel Session E

Room RHB139 Panel 21 - Reading & Writing Madness

Chair: Jacqueline Rattray (Goldsmiths)

Francisco Serra Lopes (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona / Centro de Estudos Comparatistas, Lisbon), "Made-up Madness: Georges Bataille's *Inner Experience*"

Josh Cohen (Goldsmiths, University of London), "'A Lost Man': Lydia Davis's Messages"

Annina Temmes (University of Tampere), "Reader as Psychiatrist? Interpretation and Psychosis in Joe Penhall's Play *Blue/Orange*"

Room RHB141 Panel 22 – Narrative & Folly 2

Chair: Chris Baldick (Goldsmiths)

Catherine Hoffman (University of Le Havre / University of Poitiers), "The Case Histories of Freddie and Ollie: John Banville's *The Book of Evidence* (1989) and Dermot Healy's *Sudden Times* (1999)"

Will Noonan (University of Sydney / University of Provence), "Who's Fooling Whom? Folly, Follies and Spare-Time Literary Activity in Flann O'Brien's *At Swim-Two-Birds*"

Teresa Prudente (University of Turin), "'To Write is Always to Rave a Little': The Hallucinatory Point of View in Elizabeth Bowen's and Virginia Woolf's Writing"

Room RHB142 Panel 23 - Writing the Self in Russian Literature

Chair: Reet Sool (Tartu)

Francesca Negro (University of Lisbon), "Saved by Folly: *The Diary of a Madman* by N. Gogol and *Ward Number Six* by A. Chekhov"

Maija Könönen (University of Helsinki), "'Me, the Madman': Writing the Self in Russian Diary-Fiction"

Roman Katsman (Bar-Ilan University), "A Gesture of Jester: Literary Anthropology of Bodily Movement in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*"

Room RHB143 Panel 24 – Translating Folly / Folly of Translation

Chair: Moira Inghilleri (Goldsmiths)

Jean Boase-Beier (University of East Anglia), "Games for Serious Purposes: R. S. Thomas in English and German"

B.J. Epstein (Swansea University), "Translating Word Play: (Re)Creative Madness"

Ronald Puppo (University of Vic), "Holy Folly in the Life and Poetry of Jacint Verdaguer"

Room RHB150 Panel 25 – Religious Discourse & Holy Fools 2

Chair: Penny Brown (Manchester)

Brigitte Le Juez (Dublin City University), "George Moore's Rewriting of Flaubertian Folly"

Alina Birzache (University of Bucharest), "The Transcendence of Idiocy: Holy Foolishness in Cinema"

Anne Tomiche (University of Paris XIII), "Glossolalic Folly"

3.45-4.05 Great Hall Coffee & tea break

4.05-5.05 Panel Session F

Room RHB139 Panel 26 – Modernist Literature & Theatre 2

Chair: Carole Sweeney (Goldsmiths)

Mélissa Fox-Muratton (Université Blaise-Pascal Clermont II), “Artaud’s Return to Folly: Writing/ Righting Folly against Madness in the Twentieth Century”

Kumiko Kiuchi (University of Tokyo), “Maddening the Folly: Beckett and a Genealogy of Folly”

Room RHB141 Panel 27 – Scientific and Medical Folly

Chair: Alcuin Blamires (Goldsmiths)

Michael Rand Hoare (University of London), “Strindberg’s Scientific Folly: *Antibarbarus* and the *Blue Books*”

Laura Jose (University of Durham), “Monstrous Conceptions: Sex, Gender and Madness in Medieval Medical Texts “

Room RHB142 Panel 28 – Religious Discourse and Holy Fools 3

Chair: Anne Tomiche (Paris)

Franka Marquardt (University of Oxford), “The Folly of Prayer in Modern German Literature”

Lewis MacLeod (Trent University, Ontario), “The Folly of the ‘Fallen’: Carnival Behaviours and Sacramental Impulses in Martin Amis’s *Money* and Earl Lovelace’s *The Dragon Can’t Dance*”

Room RHB143 Panel 29 – Myth in Literature and Opera

Chair: Russ McDonald (Goldsmiths)

Duncan Large (Swansea University), “Critique of Pure Folly: Intuition and Irrationalism in Wagner’s *Parsifal*”

Monica Germanà (University of Derby), “From Waste Land to the Tarot: The Significance of Madness in Margaret Elphinstone’s *A Sparrow’s Flight*”

Room RHB150 Panel 30 – The Performance of Folly 2

Chair: David Robb (Belfast)

Giacomo Mannironi (University of L’Aquila), “The Madman, the Fool and the Thief: Intersecting Representations”

Vicky Pollard (Monash University, Melbourne), “Putting the Dunce Cap on the Teacher’s Head: The Practice of Foolish Teaching”

5.10-6.10 *IGLT* **Keynote address:** Rachel Bowlby, “Where Ignorance is Bliss’: The Folly of Origins” Chair: Gillian Beer (Cambridge)

6.10 *IGLT* BCLA Annual General Meeting

7.45 *Great Hall* Dinner

9.00 *Great Hall* John Dryden Translation Prize Ceremony, readings, with reception.

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY

9.00-10.30 Panel Session G

Room RHB139 Panel 31 – Modern Poetry & Mad Artists 1
Chair: Robin Mackenzie (St Andrews)

Lucia Aiello (John Cabot University), “A Wholesome Sickness: Competing Versions of the ‘Mad’ and ‘Degenerate’ Artist”

Maria Thanassa (King’s College London), “Mad Poets and Crazy Girls: Images of Possession and Displacement in the Poetry of W. B. Yeats”

Alessandro Viti (University of Siena), “Poetry, Folly and Silence: The Reception of Dino Campana as the ‘Italian Rimbaud’ or ‘The Mad Poet’”

Room RHB141 Panel 32 – Travels into Otherness
Chair: Kiera Vaklavic (London)

Kai Mikkonen (University of Helsinki), “‘It Is Not the Fully Conscious Mind which Chooses West Africa in Preference to Switzerland’: The Rhetoric of the Mad African Forest in Conrad, Céline and Greene”

Ludmilla Kostova (University of Veliko Turnovo), “Travellers’ Folly: (Un)educational Travel in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century British Writing about the Ottoman Empire”

Room RHB142 Panel 33 – Laughter & the Grotesque: Genealogies of Folly
Chair: Jane Desmarais (Goldsmiths)

Antonio Castore (University of Turin), “The Grotesque as the Literary Language of Folly”

Shun-liang Chao (University College, London), “‘*Aegri Somnia*’: Towards an Aesthetics of the Grotesque”

Anca Parvulescu (Washington University), “From Folly to Madness – Via Laughter”

Room RHB143 Panel 34 – Folly and Popular Culture
Chair: Pia Pichler (Goldsmiths)

Sarah Bonciarelli (University of Siena), “Advertising Folly”

Giuseppe Walter Ingrassia (University of Siena), “*Lord Voldemart and the Phantom Blot*. Dark Wizards and Representations of Irrationality in Fantasy Literature for Teenagers”

Karma Waltonen (University of California, Davis), “‘May the Farce be with you’: Comic Science-Fiction”

Room RHB150 Panel 35 – Quixote in Latin America
Chair: Peter Dunwoodie (Goldsmiths)

Margaret Anne Clarke (University of Portsmouth), “A Brazilian Don Quixote: The Quixotic Protagonist and the Nineteenth-Century Realist Novel”

Gentil de Faria (State University of São Paulo), “Madness and the Illusion of Happiness in Machado de Assis’ *Quincas Borba*”

Francisca Sánchez-Ortiz (University of Aberdeen), “Mexican-American Quixotic Literary Expressions: Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton and Daniel Venegas”

10.30-11.00 *Great Hall* Coffee & tea break

11.00-12.00 *IGLT* **Keynote address:** John Dixon Hunt, “The Folly of Genius Loci”.
Chair: Alan Downie (Goldsmiths)

12.00 *Great Hall* Lunch

12.45 Departure for the Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre

NB: We shall take the train at 13.00 (1pm) from new Cross Gate station to London Bridge; the following trains are at 13.07 and 13.19 if you wish to make your own way. Allow 15-20 minutes from London Bridge to the Globe Theatre.

The performance starts at 2.00

Please ensure you have your train and Globe tickets with you!

Free evening

THURSDAY 5 JULY

9.00-10.30 Panel Session H

Room RHB139

Panel 36 – Folly, Irony & Social Satire

Chair: Robin Mackenzie (St Andrews)

Hanne Boenisch (University of Maryland), “Aspects of the Quixotic in Matthew Arnold and Heinrich Heine”

Zacharoula Christoupolou (University College London), “Dangerous Fools on the Battlefield: Undermining Military Authority”

Margarita Mitsika, Andreas Karakitsios, Sofia Gavriilidou (Aristotle University, Thessaloniki), “The Representation of Madness in Modern Greek Literature Before and After The Second World War”

Room RHB141

Panel 37 – Modern Poetry & Foolish Poets 2

Chair: Jean Boase-Beier (Norwich)

Kirsty Black (Goldsmiths, University of London), “Lear’s Fool as Prototype for the Modernist Poetic Prophet”

Thomas Day (University of Central Lancashire), “‘This Foolish Body’: Comedy and Contexture in Geoffrey Hill’s *Scenes from Comus*”

Duarte Drumond Braga (University of Lisbon), “Fernando Pessoa’s Alberto Caeiro as the Wise Fool”

Room RHB142

Panel 38 – The Psychology and Pathology of Folly

Chair: Kiera Vaklavic (London)

Greta Perletti (University of Bergamo), “‘Agonising, Burning and Alas! Maddening Thoughts’. Pathological Memory and the Dis-(re)membering Self in Nineteenth-Century Culture”

Mara Cambiaghi (University of Konstanz), “A Case of Hysteria and Collective Madness: From *Lucia di Lammermoor* to the Dark side of the Sixties”

Orsetta Innocenti (University of Siena), “Diary of an Obsession. Jonathan Coe’s *What a Carve Up!* and *The House of Sleep*”

Room RHB143

Panel 39 – Spaces of Alienation

Chair: Bernhard Malkmus (Goldsmiths)

Friederike Felicitas Guenther (TU Berlin), “Explanations on the Edge of Reason: Lichtenberg’s Difficulties Describing Hogarth’s View of Bedlam”

Bernhard Metz (Free University Berlin), “Bibliomania and the Folly of Reading”

Vladimir Zoric (University of Nottingham), “The Furies of Orestes: Constructing Persecutory Agency in the Narratives of Exile”

Room RHB150

Panel 40 – Utopia and Alienation

Chair: Bart Moore-Gilbert (Goldsmiths)

Ying-chiao Lin (National Taiwan Normal University), “Remembering and Reconstructing the Promised Land: Tragic Folly in Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure* and Cao Xueqing’s *Dream of the Red Chamber*”

Will McMorrán, “Don Quixote and the Madness of Time-Travel”

Florian Mussnug (University College London), “Solipsism, Paranoia, and the Literature of Last Men”

10.30-10.50 *Great Hall* Coffee & tea break

10.50-12.20 Panel Session I

Room RHB139 Panel 41 – Madness & the Female Heroine

Chair: Carole Sweeney (Goldsmiths)

Valentina Paradisi (University of Bologna), “The Modernist Female Character Faces Insanity: The Examples of Dorothy Richardson, Katherine Mansfield and May Sinclair”

Marta Miquel Baldellou (University of Lleida), “Sick in Appearance, Lethal in Truth: Demonising the Victorian Heroine’s Coming-of-Age in Edward Bulwer-Lytton’s *Lucretia* and Edgar Allan Poe’s Tales”

Maria Sofia Pimentel Biscaia (University of Aveiro), “The Ex-centric Madwoman: Readings in Postcolonial Literature”

Room RHB141 Panel 42 – Modern Poetry & Mad Artists 2

Chair: Lucia Aiello (Rome)

Rosalina Caeiro Tique (University of Lisbon), “Fernando Pessoa’s *The Mad Fiddler* (1910-1918): Madness, Poetry, Music, Painting and F. Pessoa on Aristototele’s *Poetics*”

Stephen Garrett (Monash University, Melbourne), “The Sad, the Mad, and the Blind”

Adrian Jones (University of Sydney), “The Poet’s Folly: Anne Sexton’s Immortality Box”

Room RHB142 Panel 43 – The Fury of Women

Chair: Karen Seago (London)

Simonetta Falchi (University of Sassari), “‘Maddening Endurance’: Ophelia’s Madness and Its Implications in Heiner Müller’s *Hamletmaschine*”

Susan Joseph (Howard University), “*Exundat Furor*: Rage Overflowing as Social Criticism in the Medea Plays of Seneca, Lessing, and LaBute”

Aneta Mancewicz (Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz), “There is Method in’t!’: Madness as the Reversal of Gender Roles in Saverio La Ruina’s *Kitsch Hamlet* (2004)”

Room RHB143 Panel 44 – Psychoanalysis and Schizophrenia

Chair: David Adams (Ohio)

Vasiliki Dimoula (King’s College London), “Romanticism, Schizophrenia and the Origins of Modern Lyric”

Alistair Swiffen (Hertford College, University of Oxford), “Madness, Metaphor and Modernism. On Nerval’s Diffraction of Jean-Paul’s Rainbow Imagery”

Catherine Ju-Yu Cheng (National Taiwan Normal University / Providence University), “Deleuzian Rhizosphere: Jason, Quentin, and Benjy in William Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*”

Room RHB150 Panel 45

No scheduled panel

12.25-13.25 IGLT Keynote address: Susan Stewart, “Andromache’s Folly”. Chair: Dame Gillian Beer (Cambridge)

13.25-13.30 IGLT Closing Remarks & Announcements

The BCLA normally offers a number of bursaries of up to £50 to help postgraduate or other delegates attend its triennial conference.

Special thanks on this occasion are due to:

Continuum Books

and

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Bursary recipients are:

Alina Birzache
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Adrian Jones
Kumiko Kiuchi
Loreta Macanskeite
Will Noonan
Christopher Pilling
Oliver Ready
Reet Sool
Alessandro Viti
Vladimir Zoric

We also wish to thank, for their help, patience, and ability to put up with our endless foolishness, folly and occasional delirium:

Amanda, Lisa, Seonaid, Gary, Jodee, the ever shining Mary Bright (Mary, you're a star!) and all Residences, Catering and Conference Services staff – and away but not least, James Heaton
Shahina, Debbie and Finance Office staff
Sarah, Trevor, and Liz in Reprographics
Tanith & the Webteam
Janet Sellar, College Superintendent
Brian, all the porters and security staff, & the wonderful people who roll up their sleeves and make it all possible for us
Maria, Merryl, Richard, who make life easy for us while we make it difficult for them
Alcuin Blamires and Peter Dunwoodie for their continued and much needed support
All ECL colleagues

(& warmest thanks to Carole and Bernhard from Lucia)