

## Michel Zink

### **2007 Balzan Prize for European Literature (1000-1500)**

*For his fundamental contributions to the understanding of French and Occitan literature in the Middle Ages, a decisive chapter in the development of modern European literature; for his new interpretation of the relation between medieval and modern literature; for his seminal initiatives that have brought the literature of the Middle Ages back into the cultural tradition of France and Europe.*

### **Four Objectives in the Studies of Medieval Literary Texts Institut de France**

*Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Karlheinz Stierle*

The part of Michel Zink's Balzan Prize to be dedicated to research has been divided among four main objectives. The management of the funds is entrusted to the Institut de France:

1. *Conferences on the circulation and translation of medieval literary texts.* The first conference on the circulation and translation of medieval literary texts was entitled *Lire un texte vieilli, du Moyen Âge à nos jours* and took place on 1-3 April 2009 at the Collège de France. The last session took place on Friday 3 April at the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. A preliminary organizational meeting was held in May 2008. Sixteen presentations were given by scholars from France, Germany, the U.S., Italy, and Switzerland. Among them were four professors from the Collège de France (Yves Bonnefoy, Antoine Compagnon, Harald Weinrich, Michel Zink), other important scholars (Daniel Heller-Roazen, Karlheinz Stierle) and many young researchers. The book resulting from this conference will be published by Odile Jacob in June 2010, with the title *Livres anciens, lectures nouvelles. Ce qui passe et ce qui demeure.*

The second conference will be on the topic *Ecrire dans la langue de l'autre*. A preliminary one-day workshop will be hosted, like the first one, in Villa Lagarina (TN), Italy, by la marquise Guerrieri Gonzaga. Furthermore, a conference on *L'exégèse en anglo-normand*, organized with Dr. Anthony Hunt (St. Peter's College, Oxford) and Dr. Jean-Pascal Pouzet (University of Limoges), will be held at Merton College, Oxford, from 9 to 11 September 2010.

Two other conferences focusing more on literary history are in preparation. The first, *Saint Thomas Becket et la littérature vernaculaire médiévale*, organized with Dr. Car-

la Rossi (Lugano), was planned for October 2010 at the Centro Stefano Franscini (Ascona, Switzerland) of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, but had to be postponed for practical reasons. The second (*Le français contre la France*), dedicated to French anti-monarchy literature at the end of the eighteenth century, will be organized in Paris during the 2011-2012 academic year, together with professor John Baldwin (Johns Hopkins University, Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres).

2. *Fellowships for young researchers (Prix de recherche en philologie romane)*. A fellowship program will make it possible for a young researcher to live and work in Paris for up to a year. Members of the jury awarding the fellowship are professor Giovanna Angeli (University of Florence), Karlheinz Stierle (University of Constance), and Michel Zink. The program is advertised on the websites of the Collège de France and Institut de France.

In 2009, the first fellowship was awarded to Chiara Concina (Milan). The second will be awarded in June 2010.

3. *Support to publications*. Funds to complete the archives and publish the correspondence of the great Romanists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as to help publish some texts of medieval literature in the series “Lettres gothiques” and reprint a revised version of the Dictionary of French Medieval Literature (“Dictionnaire des Lettres françaises – Le Moyen Âge”).

- A research group is working with the prizewinner on a project called *L'Europe des philologues*, which is concerned with the publication of the correspondence of the great Romanists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The volumes are published in Florence by Edizioni del Galluzzo (Fondazione Ezio Franceschini). The first part (Gaston Paris – Joseph Bédier) appeared in 2009 thanks to a grant from the Fonds national suisse de la recherche scientifique. The Balzan research funds will contribute to the publication of the following volumes (Karl Bartsch – Gaston Paris in 2010, Gaston Paris – Pio Rajna in 2011, Pio Rajna – Francesco D'Ovidio, Joseph Bédier and his correspondents besides Gaston Paris, Gaston Paris – Paul Meyer, Alfred Morel-Fatio, etc.).

- The research funds from the Balzan prize will also make it possible to for the collection *Lettres gothiques* (Le Livre de Poche, Hachette) to include two important works from the beginning of the fourteenth century. It would have been difficult to publish them without the Balzan Foundation's help, especially because in order to pass them on, it is necessary to reproduce at least a part of the miniatures that accompany the manuscripts: the *Roman de Fauvel* by Gervais du Bus and the *Pèlerinage de vie hu-*

maine by Guillaume de Digulleville. The first in the series will come out in January 2011, and the second at the end of the same year.

- The project of reprinting a revised version of the Dictionary of French Medieval Literature (*Dictionnaire des Lettres françaises – Le Moyen Âge*), edited by Michel Zink et al. and published in 1992 is under negotiation with the publisher.

4. The institution, on the property of the Collège de France at La Borie (Haute Vienne), of a *Balzan Room, equipped with extensive reference material to be used by groups of scholars*. This project is currently under negotiations involving the Collège the France and local authorities.

### **Publications:**

- *Gaston Paris – Joseph Bédier. Correspondance*. Editée par Ursula Bähler et Alain Corbellari, Florence, Edizioni del Galluzzo, « L'Europe des philologues. Correspondances – L'Europa dei filologi. Epistolari », sous la direction de Michel Zink. Préface de Michel Zink, 2009, XIX-183 p.

- *Moyen Âge et Renaissance au Collège de France. Leçons inaugurales*. Textes rassemblés par Pierre Toubert et Michel Zink (introduction, p. 7-18), avec la collaboration d'Odile Bombarde, Paris, Fayard, 2009, 665 p.

- *Livres anciens, lectures nouvelles. Ce qui passe et ce qui demeure*. Sous la direction de Michel Zink, Paris, Editions Odile Jacob, parution juin 2010.

- « Auteur et autorité au Moyen Âge », dans *De l'autorité. Colloque annuel 2007 du Collège de France*, sous la direction d'Antoine Compagnon, Paris, Odile Jacob, 2008, p. 143-158.

- « François Villon, Jean de Meun et la mort », dans *Autour du XV<sup>e</sup> siècle. Journées d'étude en l'honneur d'Alberto Varvaro*, éd. Paola Moreno et Giovanni Palumbo, Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres de l'Université de Liège – Fascicule CCXCII, Diffusion Genève, Droz, 2008, p. 265-272.

- « Observations sur la situation et l'évolution de la philologie romane en France », dans *Romanische Philologie als Herausforderung. Les défis des études romanes*, Bonn University Press, Deutschland und Frankreich im wissenschaftlichen Dialog 1, 2009, p. 41-44.

- « Les Razos et l'idée de la poésie », dans *Poetry, Knowledge and Community in Late Medieval France*, éd. Rebecca Dixon et Finn E. Sinclair, Cambridge, D.S. Brewer, 2008, p. 85-97.

- *René d'Anjou. Le Mortifiement de Vaine Plaisance*. Préface de Michel Zink (p. 9-45), Traduction de Isabelle Fabre, Paris, PUF, 2009, Collection Sources.

- « Le remploi, marque du temps perdu et du temps retrouvé », dans *Remploi, citation, plagiat (Xe-XIIIe siècle)*. Etudes réunies par Pierre Toubert et Pierre Moret, Madrid, Casa de Velázquez, 2009, p. 1-8.

- « Troubadours en chemin » et « Mot de clôture », dans *Espaces et mondes au Moyen Âge*. Actes du colloque international tenu à Bucarest les 17-18 octobre 2008, Editions de l'université de Bucarest 2009, p. 17-23 et p. 468-470.

**Statement by the Prizewinner:** *Grâce à la Fondation Balzan, j'espère enfin pouvoir développer un nouveau projet, en liaison avec deux programmes auxquels je participe, le programme « Transmédié » du Centre d'Études Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale de Poitiers sur les traductions vers le français au Moyen Âge et le programme de l'Institut d'études littéraires du Collège de France sur la traduction littéraire. Le projet est d'étudier la signification et le rôle de la confrontation des langues, du changement de langue et du mélange des langues, qu'il s'agisse du latin ou des langues vernaculaires de l'Europe, dans l'élaboration d'une conscience de la littérature au Moyen Âge et dans la définition de foyers et de milieux littéraires qui n'ont pas toujours été clairement identifiés. Mais il analysera aussi la perception du vieillissement de la langue et les adaptations littéraires d'un état ancien à un état actuel de la langue, des derniers siècles du Moyen Âge à nos jours. Michel Zink (Berne, 23.11.2007)*