Report on the
Third Project Meeting (University of Nova Gorica)
and the First Round Table “Meeting Literary Foremothers”
(29th Vilenica Literary Festival)

TTT in front of the Lanthieri Mansion, University of Nova Gorica at Vipava

Participants
- Päivi Lappalainen (PI), Viola Parente-Čapková (Postdoc researcher), University of Turku
- Marie Nedregotten Sørbø (PI), Volda University College
- Suzan van Dijk (PI), Francesca Scott (Postdoc researcher), Huygens ING
- Katja Mihurko Poniž (PI), Aleš Vaupotič (Principal researcher), Tanja Badalič (Postdoc researcher), Megi Rožič (Young researcher), University of Nova Gorica,
  − Henrriette Partzsch (PL), Judith Rideout (PhD student), University of Glasgow

Thursday, 4 September 2014
(University of Nova Gorica, Lanthieri Mansion, Vipava)

HP welcomed Dr Francesca Scott, a long-standing member of the COST Action Women Writers in History, who has now officially joined the Dutch team as a post-doc researcher. MNS thanked KMP, AV and the University of Nova Gorica (Research Centre for Humanities) for organising a presentation of her book *Ironic and Idyll* in collaboration with Mira, the Women’s Committee of the Slovene PEN Centre (warm thanks to Barbara Simoniti), and Ljubljana City library on the previous evening.
Updates

We started the morning with an update on our activities since the last project meeting in Turku (May 2014).

1. Finland:
Jasmine Westerlund has completed data entry on Finnish women writers (source: The Finnish Literature in Translation database), and is in future going to start data entry linked to PL's research into the circulation of fiction for girls. VPC has continued her work on the Old Collection of Turku City Library, which is likely to lead to a contribution to a book publication about said collection. She has also worked on the Finnish part of TTT’s presentation of sources used for our research (= Milestone 1).

2. Netherlands:
The Dutch team has conducted frequent meetings with researchers and developers to ensure a smooth transition from the current version of the database WomenWriters to the new Women Writers Enhanced Virtual Environment and to prepare the necessary data curation process. SvD has presented a collaborative paper at the Digital Humanities Conference (Lausanne, 7-12 July 2014) with the title “Digitizing women's literary history: The possibility of collaborative empowerment?”. She also worked on the Dutch part of Milestone 1. As part of preparing the exhibitions during year 3 of the project, trainee Guus Robroeks has sifted through relevant archival material in the Letterkundig Museum. Furthermore, Huygens ING has launched the TTT website during summer. SvD also presented a copy of the recently published Women Telling Nations (ed. by Amelia Sanz, FS and SvD), the first volume in the new series Women Writers in History (Rodopi). FS's contribution to the project was discussed: she will focus on the question of how topics related to women’s health influenced the circulation and reception of texts and provide case studies of English writers in the Netherlands. It was suggested that FS and JR stay in touch, in case women’s health issues surface in the magazines JR is studying.

3. Norway:
Elise Fugledal has continued data entry and curated all Norwegian records in preparation for the switch over. MNS has worked on methodological questions in view to Milestone 1; she has also started liaising with Norsk Litteraturfestival, in preparation of our next project meeting in May 2015. In addition, she has also provided data entry.

4. Slovenia:
KMP and TB have organised the project meeting and the round table in the framework of Vilenica Literary Festival. Together with VPC, KMP has been working on a collaborative article about the New Woman. TB has written the Slovenian part of Milestone 1 and provided data entry, especially from library catalogues. AV has worked on questions of visualisation and presented work related to TTT.

5. Spain:
Marina Cano López has practically finished data entry from Catálogo Colectivo about translations for all three time windows. JR has standardised the entries on Spanish-speaking authors in preparation for the switch over to the WWEVE. She has also studied the influential magazine Álbum ibero americano and searched it for information about reception; the data will be entered once our digital research tool reopens. HP has further studied the roles of libraries in nineteenth-century Spain and collated the Milestone 1 document, as well as continuing data entry on serialised translations in newspapers. She has also undertaken detailed bibliographical research for the planned position paper on key concepts of the project, such as “transnational” (see Action Points of meeting in Turku). She has also gone on Twitter, as agreed at the first project meeting in Chawton. The transfer of the project from St Andrews to Glasgow is taking more time than anticipated because the Final Expenditure Statement could only be collated after HP had left employment at the University of St Andrews on 1st July 2014.

In continuation SvD showed us the current state of the WWEVE under development, organised around relationships between persons (male or female) and documents. The categories used, such as “archetype”, are shared across the repository at Huygens. It is expected that the WWEVE will be ready for curating by the end of October. All teams should be aware that the data curation will require quite a lot of work.

Sources and data entry

We then used the drafted report on sources (Milestone 1) to discuss potential methodological and practical stumbling blocks, such as the difficulty to access historical catalogues of book collections / commercial lending library in Spain, the lengthy process needed to trace serialised translations in daily newspapers and the need for further data entry for the last time window in the Dutch case (to be provided by trainees). We agreed that it is of utmost importance to mutually inform each other about the sources we are working on, with the intention of converging in our work as much as the characteristics of the different literary systems will allow us to do. We also discussed the purpose of the time windows. While following the reception of (a) specific author(s) across time and space may
require a more flexible approach to time windows, they are nevertheless an important tool for comparing our different literary systems at specific moments in time as well as an interesting way of questioning “naturalized” conventions of periodization.

**ACTION POINT:** HP will finish the Milestone 1 document and publish it on the project website.

After an excellent lunch we could only start to plan the last three project meetings before it was time to attend TB’s public viva. TB provided a fascinating overview of the reception of women’s writing in Slovenia until the end of the First World War, followed by a question and answer session. The panel of experts decided to award her excellent performance with the title of PhD. Congratulations!

The day ended with an excursion to Piran on the Adriatic Coast and an excellent dinner at the “Three Widows”, thanks to our indefatigable hosts Katja and Aleš, who drove us from Ljubljana to Vipava to Piran and back to Ljubljana, through darkness and rain.
Friday, 5 September
(Ljubljana, Kult 3000)

On Friday morning we reconvened at Kult3000 in Ljubljana.

Upcoming events
MNS informed about the preparations for the next meeting and Knowledge Exchange event in Norway. The team agreed to meet in Volda on Tuesday, 26 May. We will then travel to Lillehammer for Norsk Litteraturfestival on Wednesday, 27 May, to continue discussions in the morning of Thursday, 28 May. In the afternoon we will have a panel on relevant aspects of our project, followed by a session in which Norwegian writers will read literary responses to a selection of texts by their “foremothers”. Although Norway is a notoriously expensive country, the team will try to keep costs down by booking the flights early. Furthermore, MNS has pre-booked guest rooms in a student hall in Volda. Accommodation in Lillehammer will be discussed and arranged via email.

The meeting and Knowledge Exchange event in The Hague will take place on Mon, 28 September (TTT meeting) and Tue, 29 September (discussions with volunteers and readers in the exhibition space of Letterkundig Museum). The official opening of the exhibition at Letterkundig Museum will take place on Wed, 30 September; team members can attend according to their availabilities. SvD is already liaising with archives and groups of volunteers.

The team agreed to hold the final conference at Glasgow Women’s Library, Thur-Sat of the second week of June 2016. HP will liaise with GWL to confirm the dates. They will then be circulated to the NEWW network. She will also draft as soon as possible a CFP.

Discussions at Kult3000

Milestone 2 (“an enhanced electronic publication presenting women writers received in several of our fringe countries, targeting a broader audience [open access publication available through the project webpages” - see project description)

The rest of the morning was dedicated to a brainstorming session with the aim of kick-starting the discussions about Milestone 2. The discussion showed the need to reflect on selection criteria, taking into account our data and the (still very provisional) results as well as the interests of a broader audience. HP hoped that this would be the beginning of a methodological reflection on the interpretation and presentation of our data, for academic as well as non-academic purposes.

ACTION POINTS:
− Each team will collate authors that (a) have been widely circulated/ imported in our respective countries but are today all but unknown to a broader audience, (b) “connected” women in the literary system of our respective countries, (c) cultural mediators and (d) miscellaneous. Deadline: 15 October
AV will look into the material in view to its creative presentation on the website, with the possibility of further development as part of digital material for exhibitions.

12.00 – First Round Table “Meeting Literary Foremothers” (Vilenica 29th International Literary Festival), with the writers Elsa Korneti (Greece/Germany), Dimitra Xidous (Canada/Ireland) and Gabriela Babnik (Slovenia). Chair: Viola Parente-Čapková

After a brief welcome from KMP and HP Adriiana students A. Šuligoj and K.M. Zavnik from Gimnazija Nova Gorica (Nova Gorica Grammar School) presented their project about women writers from the region of Nova Gorica and their literary genealogies. Their findings provided an ideal transition to a lively and inspiring panel discussion about writing, literary foremothers, the importance (or lack thereof) of gender and transculturalism. Time flew past for audience and panellists, leaving us with a desire for more. Many thanks to Viola for her expert moderation of the event!

From left to right: Gabriela Babnik, VPC, Dimitra Xidous, Elsa Korneti and the audience are listening to the students from Gimnazija Nova Gorica and their teacher

Discussions continued over an excellent lunch at Gostilna Šestica, followed by an informal meeting in the Zvezda Coffee Shop at Hotel Slon, where we talked about the future and the possibilities of participating in a Horizon2020 bid put together in the framework of the NEWW network. Inspired by individual conversations with Barbara Simoniti from the Slovene PEN Centre, further collaboration with PEN was suggested.