

SEDERI Newsletter 7.1 SEPTEMBER 2008

Communications: Report

As you all know, I was elected member in charge of communications in the last SEDERI conference in Almagro. I would like to thank you all for your support and I hope to match up to my predecessor. I am also very grateful to him, Zenón Luis, for his help and availability in this period of adaptation. My tasks will be twofold: continuing with the issuing of two newsletters per year and the updating of the newly designed website which will be the society's main tool of information and communication. Henceforward, issue 1 of each year's newsletter will be distributed soon after the Conference with news concerning the highlights of that year's conference and a summary of the resolutions approved at the General Meeting; and issue 2 will continue to appear some weeks before the next Conference. In order to adapt to the new design of our website, the forthcoming newsletters will be published in a different style as well. The next newsletter (7.2.) will be issued before the next conference in Valencia and will have all the information about it available at the moment.

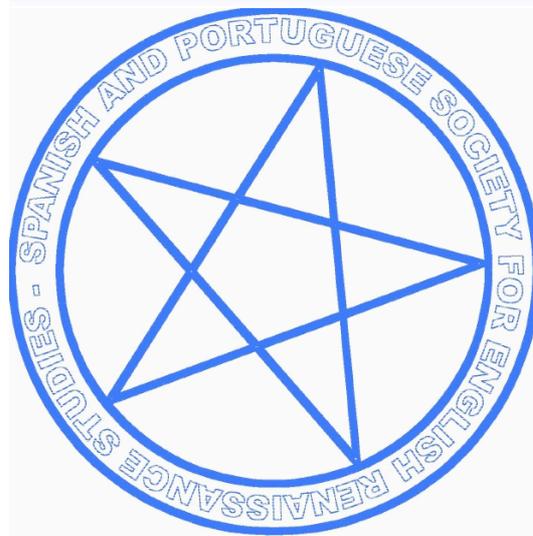
Rafael Vélez UNIVERSITY OF CÁDIZ

The new SEDERI web

As I reported in the former issue of this Newsletter and in the General Meeting held in Almagro, the last year of my turn as Board Member for Communications has been devoted to the renewal and updating of the new SEDERI website. At present this task is reaching completion. Even though a website is always under permanent construction, work needs to focus now on three areas in order to have a fully effective virtual tool for the Association:

- First, work is being done in order to introduce the facility of safe card payment of membership fees.
- Second, there are still a few issues of our Yearbook – those that have never been in PDF format – that need to be made available on the web. In some cases, copies have been requested from the original publishers or printers, but this has not always been successful. It seems that the only way to finally have the papers from those issues in a download-friendly format is to scan them from the originals, as has been done already with number 4. This may take a couple of more months, but hopefully before the end of this year all the Yearbooks will be accessible through the new website with the exception of number 5, which never reached publication.
- Third, and following the suggestions by some members in our last general meeting, a new form

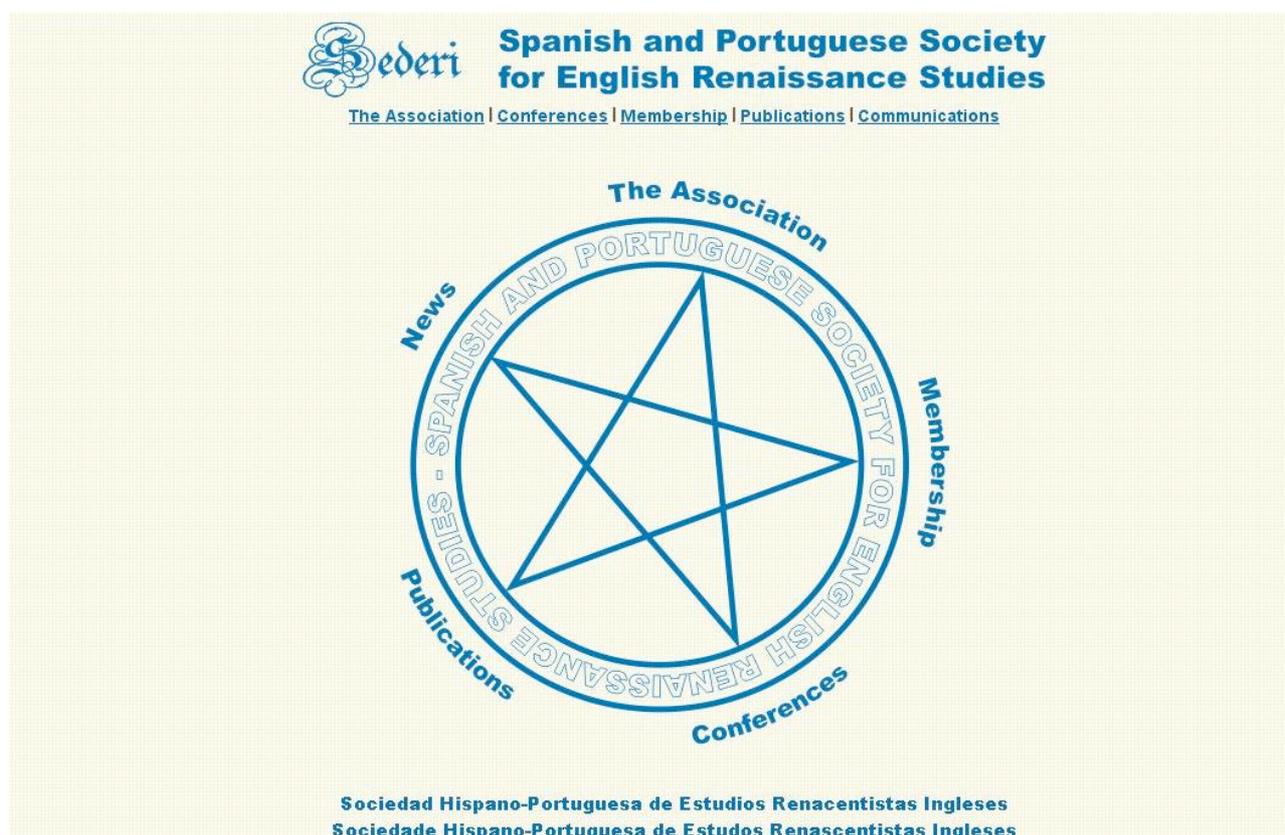
www.sederi.org



for the SEDERI members' research profile needs to be created in order to be hosted as a database in the Communication section of the website.

Although no longer a member of the SEDERI executive board, I will be pleased to collaborate in the completion of these tasks in the following months, and wish that the new website will satisfy the needs of our Society.

Zenón Luis Martínez UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA



The SEDERI website's main page

19th SEDERI General Meeting

The 19th General Meeting of our Society was held during the last Conference of the Association in Almagro, on April 24th, 2008.

The President of the Society informed about the circumstances of this year's conference, and thanked Javier Díaz Vera for his disposition to host and organize it. He also announced the agreement with OUP for co-funding the Award to Young Researchers that will be granted annually.

Then, the Secretary-Treasurer provided the annual economic report of the Society, which shows stability in the balance of income and expenditure. The Secretary reported some novelties: the new rules of the Society and its new name have been recorded in the National Register of Associations (Home Office), and the facility of card payment will soon be available at our new website. As regards the budget for 2008-9, some new expenses are expected, resulting from the design of the new website and the Award to Young

Researchers. This led to the suggestion that the membership fee might be revised next year –it has not been done since 2000.

The Board Member in charge of Communications, after reminding of the recently issued Newsletter, presented the new website of the Society, its design and sections. Some members suggested the inclusion of other details such as members' directory, latest publications, research projects and useful information. The President expressed his gratefulness to Dr. González Corugedo for his dedication to the previous SEDERI website.

The Board Member in charge of Conferences explained the reasons for the change of venue for this conference, and thanked Dr. M^a José Mora for her suggestion of the new venue and Dr. Javier Díaz Vera and the President, Dr. Juan Antonio Prieto Pablos, for the work in the organization of the conference. Then, she related the offers for forthcoming conferences: Valencia for 2009, Porto for 2010 –though waiting for confirmation, due to the changing circumstances of the Portuguese universities at the moment; otherwise, UNED could be an alternative. For 2011, Barcelona and Oviedo. Considering that the proposal of Valencia has been granted the support of the Department and other preparations are on their way, it was agreed that SEDERI XX will be hosted by the University of Valencia.

The organizer of SEDERI XVIII informed on the Cadiz conference –see Newsletter n^o 6– and commented on the reimbursing of money to students, to compensate for the fact that they had not paid a reduced registration fee. The President pointed out that this year, the organizing committee has established different fees for members and non-members of SEDERI, which he recommended for the future events.

Another point of discussion was the Society's sponsorship of academic events related to English Renaissance studies. The President suggested the establishment of some basic tenets for any future proposal of this type, as the Society is interested in fostering the study of English Renaissance. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Society is happy to sponsor this type of academic events, but the President, together with the Executive Board of the Association, should study the proposals and their adjustment to the academic standards expected from these events before granting the support of SEDERI; the General Assembly will be informed of any such decision.

The Member of the Board in charge of Publications presented the last issue of the SEDERI yearbook and informed of its inclusion in some more bibliographical repertoires, as well as of the process of assessment carried out by FECYT. The next issue is on its way, it will possibly be finished by November, and he expressed his gratefulness to the rest of the editors for their collaboration and for their work in renovating the Yearbook. The President thanked him for being the head of the team that has achieved such a great change.

After this, the new members of the Executive Board were elected:

- *Board Member in charge of Conferences: Dr Rui Carvalho Homem*
- *Board Member in charge of Communications: Dr Rafael Vélez Núñez*
- *Board Member in charge of Publications: Dr Berta Cano Echevarría*

The President thanked the outgoing members for their work in SEDERI.

Ana Sáez (SEDERI SECRETARY) UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID

Dear SEDERI members,

A few weeks ago Cengage Learning, the corporate publisher that has recently purchased the Arden Shakespeare Series, decided abruptly to terminate Professor Patricia Parker's contract as editor of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the third Arden Shakespeare.

After a decade of intensive work, Patricia Parker has been dismissed of her editorship, and the scholarly community deprived of what is perhaps the most anticipated edition of Shakespeare in a long time. This decision, which smacks of an attempt to privilege commercial over academic interests, sets a very dangerous precedent for the future. Professor Parker is not only one of the most important active scholars of English Renaissance literature, but also, in the words of David Scott Kastan, "arguably our very best reader of Shakespeare" (see back cover praise of Parker's book *Shakespeare from the Margins*). Professor Parker's lectures on MND in the last decade have been acclaimed worldwide. Our Society benefited from her groundbreaking work touching wordplay in MND and other plays in the keynote lecture delivered in our Huelva conference in 2000 (a lecture that was published in the eleventh volume of our Yearbook).

This unfair decision has been received with shock and preoccupation by members of the academic community all over the world, as made clear in the website "Reinstate Pat Parker" (www.reinstatepatparker.com), opened by Professor Richard Halpern (Johns Hopkins University), which hosts a petition that the publishers reverse this termination. The petition has been already endorsed by more than two hundred scholars in a few days (ranging from eminent Shakespearean to postgraduate students, a fact which shows the scope of admiration for Professor Parker's work as as a scholar and a teacher). This website also contains a long letter in which Professor Parker explains the vicissitudes that have surrounded her work on the *Dream* over a decade.

The need to reverse this decision is urgent if Arden wants to restore its credit among Shakespeare and Renaissance scholars. Moreover, the loss for this series of Professor Parker's invaluable work is a contingency that the Humanities, so frequently threatened by the arbitrariness of the market these days, should not allow.

For all those reasons, I sincerely entreat the members of our Society to visit the abovementioned website and sign the petition for the reinstatement of Professor Parker as third Arden editor of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Yours sincerely,

Zenón Luis Martínez UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA