

Michel Zink

Professor of “Littératures de la France médiévale” at the Collège de France

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.

Institution Administering Research Funds: Institut de France

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: Karlheinz Stierle

Three Objectives in the Studies of Medieval Literary Texts

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 1st-3rd April 2009 at the Collège de France. Sixteen presentations were given by scholars from France, Germany, the U.S., Italy, and Switzerland, including, in addition to Michel Zink, Yves Bonnefoy, Antoine Compagnon, Harald Weinrich, Daniel Heller-Roazen, Karlheinz Stierle and a number of young researchers.

A preparatory session in regard to the second conference was organized with Anna Maria Babbi (Università di Verona,) on the topic *Ecrire dans la langue de l'autre*. This was held at the Palazzo Guerrieri Gonzaga, Villa Lagarina (TN), Italy, on 13th May 2010, where a paper *Raimbaut de Vaqueiras. La poésie comme langue de l'autre* was presented. The conference itself entitled *D'autres langues que la mienne* was held in the Great Hall Marguerite de Navarre of the Collège de France on 10th and 11th May 2012. Speakers were (in order of their presentations): Michel Zink, Pascale Bourgain, Karlheinz Stierle, Jacques Le Rider, Odile Bombarde, Claudine Haroche, Marc Fumaroli, John E. Jackson, Michael Edwards, Jean-Noël Robert, Antoine Compagnon, Luciano Rossi, Jean-Paul Allouche, Yves Bonnefoy. In addition the following were

officially invited to participate: Giovanna Angeli, Anna Maria Babbi, Ursula Bähler, Jacqueline Cerquiglini-Toulet, Alain Corbellari, Claudio Galderisi, Daniel Heller-Roazen, Lino Leonardi, Patrick Labarthe, Charles Ridoux. The delayed conference *St. Thomas Becket and the vernacular Medieval Literature*, organized with Professor Carla Rossi (Zürich) will be held at the Centro Stefano Franscini in May 2013.

2. Fellowships for young researchers (*Prix de recherche en philologie romane*).

A fellowship program has made 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 Giovanna Angeli (Università di Firenze), Karlheinz Stierle (Universität Konstanz), and Michel Zink. In 2009, the first fellowship was awarded to Chiara Concina. The second was awarded in 2011 to Mr. Hedzer Uulders who, under Professor Sylvie Lefevre (Columbia University), helped put together an edition of *Saluts d'amour* (love poems in the form of letters) to be published in the *Lettres gothiques* collection which is now almost complete.

3. Support for 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*.

- A research group is working with the Prizewinner on a project *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 to be published in Florence by Edizioni del Galluzzo (Fondazione Ezio Franceschini). The first part *Gaston Paris – Joseph Bédier* supported by the Fonds national suisse de la recherche scientifique appeared in 2009. The Balzan research funds will contribute to the publication of the following volumes of correspondence: *Gaston Paris – Karl Bartsch*; *Gaston Paris – Pio Rajna*; *Pio Rajna – Francesco D'Ovidio*; *Joseph Bédier and his correspondents besides Gaston Paris*; *Gaston Paris – Paul Meyer*, *Alfred Morel-Fatio*, etc. Alain Corbellari who was working on the volume *Joseph Bédier and his correspondents besides Gaston Paris* was on the point of consigning his manuscript to the publisher when he found unexpected hoards of correspondence which has necessitated reformulating the whole publication schedule. The volumes *Gaston Paris – Karl Bartsch* and *Gaston Paris – Pio Rajna* are almost finished but publication has been further delayed by both personal and professional circumstances affecting the editors Ursula Bähler and Patrizia Gasparini. The volume (or perhaps two volumes) of the enormous correspondence *Gaston*

Paris - Paul Meyer is on track: the letters were transcribed and the annotations almost complete. However Charles Ridoux, who is for the editing of the volume, is still encountering some difficulties regarding the decryption and translation of letters written in various languages and the identification of certain individuals.

- The research funds from the Balzan Prize have also make it possible for the collection *Lettres gothiques* (Le Livre de Poche, Hachette) to include important works from the beginning of the fourteenth century. It would have been difficult to publish such specialized and essentially unprofitable works without the Balzan Foundation's help. The Balzan funds function as backup in ensuring that the required financial backing is always topped up. The *Chronique* attributed to Jean de Venette, the *Roman de Fauvel* and *Baudouin de Flandre* have already been published .

Researchers:

Fellowships	Chiara Concina Hedzer Ulders
Research Group	Ursula Bähler Alain Corbellari Patrizia Gasparini Charles Ridoux

Publications:

- The volume *Livres anciens, lectures vivantes*, the proceedings of the first conference, was published by Odile Jacob in June 2010.
- Ursula Bähler and Alain Corbellari (eds.), *Gaston Paris, Joseph Bédier. Correspondance*, Edition du Galluzzo pour la Fondation Ezio Franceschini, Florence, 2009.
- *Chronique dite de Jean Venette*, Lettres gothiques, Hachette, Paris, 2011.
- *Baudouin de Flandre*, Lettres gothiques, Hachette, Paris, 2011.
- *Le Roman de Fauvel*, Lettres gothiques, Hachette, Paris, 2012.

Links:

Conference, *D'autres langues que la mienne*
<http://calenda.revues.org/download.php?id=9728>

Conference, *St. Thomas Becket and the vernacular Medieval Literature*
<http://www.becketproject.ch/conference2011.html>