

1) Criteria for writers

The writers approached by this foundation will be, firstly, European (i.e; E.U) writers whose fame and teaching skills have been demonstrated by their participation in any of the aftermentioned projects:

- a) A short story collection named 'Fictions Européennes', published by CNES, Editions Observatoire de l'Espace, Oct 2008, consisting of 30 stories from 28 countries, each in its own language, in French and in English, on the theme 'Union and Space'
- b) The European Constitution in verse. 54 writers from the EU collaborated in this volume of Dutch, French and English poetry which aims to compensate for the lack of any founding political text.
- c) Experience as a laureate in one of the 3 European Writers' Residences supported by the Peregrin Falcon Project, namely:
The Villa Mont Noir (Belgium)
The Ventspils Residence (Latvia)
The Passa Porta Residence , Brussels, Belgium. The Het Beschrijf network has been asked to suggest suitable Dutch-speaking, and particularly Flemish-speaking writers.

We of course welcome any other suggestions from our partners in this scheme.

- The present Villa Marguerite Yourcenar, which used to be called the Villa Mont Noir, is not part of this scheme, as it has other obligations.

2) Criteria for the European Literature University Network

This network is recognized and financed by the European Commission as part of its civil society initiative. Its Citizens' Unity file number is 2009/2105/001/001, and its official title is "Peregrin Falcon Project"

The following residences come under its aegis:

Ventspils Residence in Latvia and Passa Porta Residence in Brussels, Belgium, both well-known for their skills in bringing culture to the public, with the backing of the Het Beschrijf network.

The Cité Scolaire des Flandres (Hazebrouck High School) in France, where the French educational authorities have set up a course in European Culture and Literature.

The Jules Verne House in Amiens (France), shortly to be twinned with a writers' Residence.

The Residence Norwid which is due to open soon in Little Poland at Nowy Sacz, near the Slovakian border).

Like a peregrin falcon, literary creation and exchanges of educational skills will travel from West to East and from East to West.

The peregrinations which took place in 2009-10 have been a concrete step towards a network of structures, both creative and educational , officially recognizing the concept of European Literature.

We can imagine in the future that a Peregrin Falcon label might be awarded to cultural establishments, such as the Residences, and secondary- or further-education institutions working towards Education in European Citizenship through culture and education.

No decision has yet been taken concerning the criteria for such a label.

3) Who chooses the writers?

PF writers for 2009-10 will be chosen by a jury consisting of one representative of each of the associated Residences, namely:

Het Beschrijf in Belgium

Ventspils in Latvia

Jules Verne House in France

Residence Norwid in Poland

And the European Literature Commission which proposed the candidate (Maryla Laurent, Sophie Kepes, Guy Fontaine)

4) Terms of Residence

A duo (preferably) consisting of two writers of different nationalities will stay successively in two different places; each stay will be of at least 20 days.

The organiser in each host establishment will arrange for the guest writers to be taken in charge by a local author (i.e. a Latvian author in Latvia) to favour cultural exchanges. The host residence will defray this host author's expenses.

NB An all-in-one payment to help meet travelling, translating and public appearance expenses might be offered by the European Literature Network.

5) Terms and Conditions

a) Our philosophy

The Peregrin Falcon Project has been set up to unite 5 establishments in Western, Central and Eastern Europe for the following reasons:

The French, Dutch and Irish referendums have shown a general lack of awareness of European identity.

Ideas circulate faster and imagination is given a freer run in writers' residences than in universities and other educational establishments which have national curriculums to conform to.

Most publishing houses are hidebound by national language considerations, publishing in one single language when multilingualism should be encouraged.

The European Literary Network has initiated three projects:

a) opening the Villa Mont Noir as a writers' residence in 1997

b) proposing a Teaching of European Literature bill which was voted unanimously by the EU Parliament on 17 april 2008;

c) publishing the first 'History of European Literature' in Sept 2007

The Peregrin Falcon Project, approved and financed by the European Commission, is a first step towards buiding a common European cultural identity by bringing together contemporary authors and their works.

b) Logistics

The duos should preferably be composed of two writers from two countries far apart

Travel costs will be paid for for by the European Literary Network from a major train station or airport in the country of origin to either the most central station or airport in the host country, or the one nearest to the residence.

Internal travel costs (e.g. Riga-Ventspils, or Amiens-Paris) will be paid for by the host residence.

Board and lodging will be paid for by the host residence.

A telephone and internet connection will be provided by the host residence, and bills will be settled by the wriers-in-residence.

Basic daily living expenses will be paid for by the host residence and will be dealt with in their usual way. At the least, host residences should offer a fully-equipped kitchen and enough money to buy food. Writers could be given one, or several free meals per week, perhaps in nearby university or school canteens. Any expenses over and above these basics would of course be for the writers to settle themselves.

Apart from living expenses, the writer may receive fees; for example if he/she gives a performance or a workshop at the instigation of the national Education Board, the Residence, or a local university.

Any travelling done in this context (i.e. dissemination of culture) will be paid for either by the host residence or by the establishment which has invited the author. If necessary, the host residence can apply for a grant to cover this (see N.B.a))

c) Reciprocal duties

The writer must:

Sign the residence convention

Stay for the entire period

Participate in the various meetings mentioned in the convention

Leave a text he has written, published or not, free of copyright

Give an educational speech about the culture and literature of his country

Hold a valid passport and be insured.

The residence must:

Sign the residence convention

Welcome the writer when he arrives and help him to settle in

Show him around the region so that he can

learn about the artistic and historical heritage of the region

meet university members, schoolchildren, reading groups, cultural associations

be 'adopted' by a local author

In return, all possible steps should be taken to introduce the writer to audiences in the region by helping to have work done in residence published, either as a magazine article, micro-edition etc...in at least two languages. For oral presentations this could take the form of public readings or voice-overs by actors.(also in two languages, at least). The host country should do everything possible to create interest in the writer and his work.

d) Educational project

The committee which set up the PF initiative is working on the following projects:

Establishing a university network to translate literary works

Establishing a writers' network in the Residences

Creating teaching methods to encourage cultural exchanges between East and West, in the spirit of the great humanist Erasmus or the Republic of Literature.

For this project to be successful, we need

To find a secondary-or further education teacher or lecturer willing to get his students to study the writers' work and/or the literature of their own country one month before the pair of writers arrive

And when they have arrived, to welcome the writers into classes and have them work together with the students.

After the three weeks of working together, all parties involved (writers, students, audiences) should be able to define what makes them Europeans, and in what ways this identity is different from that of other continents.

Little glossary of terms used:

Convention= an agreement defining the terms of residence, to be signed by the writer and the host structure.

Guest writer or writer-in-residence (not to be confused with 'author')

Restitution= publishing, or public performance of work done by the writer during his residence

Host structure= residence

Supporting structure= European Literature Network (where applicable)

NB The residences in Ventpils, Nowy Sacz, Amiens and Brussels have been asked to translate this charter into their own languages. For the English translation, many thanks to Christian Nodarian and Suzanne Pilot.