

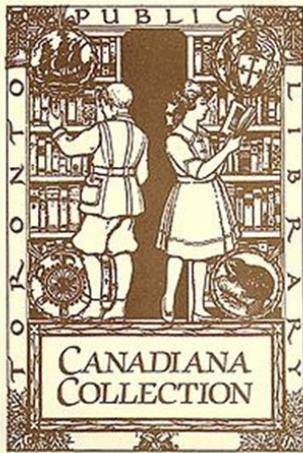
# CANTEXT

*The Newsletter of the BACS Literature Group*

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Editor Linda Knowles

## CanaDiana: Siena's New Canadian Studies Club



**Canadiana: materials (as historical documents and artifacts) concerning or characteristic of Canada, its civilization, or its culture; also: a collection of such materials (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)**

**CanaDiana: a conflation of the word Canada with Diana, the name of the mythical underground river of Siena: a new place for Canadianists to meet**

Since 1991 the Universities of Toronto and Siena have collaborated in an academic and cultural interchange through the Centro Siena-Toronto /Siena-Toronto Centre through student exchanges, seminars and academic meetings and joint research projects. From its offices in the centre of the historic city, Direttore Laura Ferri-Forconi has established a dazzling series of seminars, readings and interviews with authors such as Timothy Findley, Janice Kulyk Keefer, Alistair MacLeod, Anne Michaels, Michael Ondaatje, Al Purdy, Jane Urquhart, and other prominent personalities such as former Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson. However, as with other Canadian Studies Centres, the Centro is suffering from the recent loss of financial support from Canada.

"But," says Laura, "we do not want to be defeated by adverse circumstances." Instead, Laura has set up the CanaDiana Club, "a cultural stream into which elements of the Canadian and Italian experience flow and meet other cultures." The club will be relying on the collaboration of scholars from Italy, Canada, and other foreign countries through an annual membership fee of €30 or contributions to the cultural activities of the association. The BACS Literature Group has already agreed to support this new group with publicity through *CanText* and the editor, Linda Knowles, will be speaking at a seminar in Siena this October to launch the association.

For more information or to request a membership application form contact Laura Ferri-Forconi ([Laura\\_Ferri@alice.it](mailto:Laura_Ferri@alice.it)).



## Literature Group Convenors

The new BACS Literature Group co-ordinators are Milena Marinkova (M.D.Marinkova@hud.ac.uk) and Simone Lomartire (cla2sl@leeds.ac.uk). If you have any ideas or suggestions for Literature Group activities they would be happy to receive them.