

Spring 1967
Midcontinent American Studies Association (MASA) Bulletin

Published in the *Midcontinent American Studies Journal*, vol. 8, no. 1
(Spring 1967).

MASA BULLETIN

- FIRST NATIONAL ASA CONFERENCE: Dates, major speakers and a good deal of the program for the American Studies Association's first "solo" convention are now set, and readers of the Journal should receive a preliminary announcement at about the same time that this issue reaches them. For those who don't, here are some details: the dates are October 26-28, 1967; the place, the Hotel President in Kansas City, Missouri. This is a medium sized hotel; the committee's thought was to pick one which had good facilities, but which was small enough so that a convention our size could dominate it. We have tried out the various rooms which we will be using, and, while the decor is, shall we say, whimsical, the place seems highly satisfactory.

Oscar Handlin and John Hope Franklin will be the major speakers, Handlin speaking on Thursday evening, and Franklin after the big banquet Friday night. Also involved in the program in one way or another are Richard Wade, Ray Browne, Henry Wasser, James Vitelli, Robert Walker, Allen S. Weller, Wayne Carver, Paul Carter, E. McClung Fleming, Arthur P. Dudden, Russel Nye, Thomas D. Clark, John B. Foster, Alexander Kern, Raven R. McDavid, Stuart Levine and Hennig Cohen.

The conference is divided into three main sections, each "set off" by a theme paper, followed by a number of sessions on more specialized subdivisions of the theme topics. Friday morning, the theme is Changes in Urban Society, followed by sessions on urban folklore, urban planning and racial minorities. In the afternoon, the theme is "The Artist in Society," followed by three sessions on various aspects of that topic. Friday also includes a "Kansas City Luncheon" at which the major speaker will be Homer Wadsworth, and a session on American Studies programs abroad. On Saturday, the various chapters of the ASA will hold individual breakfasts. The general session has as its theme "Changes in Rural Society," with discussion sections on topics like "Changes in the South." Later on Saturday morning, there will be a session on scholarly journals in American Studies with some of the editors of a number of these journals on the panel. At 12:30 comes an American Studies Association luncheon, and in the afternoon, a calendar for trips and visitations has been arranged. Local museums and cultural establishments plan events relevant to the conference.

A job placement center will be available throughout the conference; it is being managed by Robert Lucid, of the national ASA Office at the University of Pennsylvania; inquiries about it should go to him.

A significant portion of the financing of the convention is through a series of informal agreements with Mr. George Winslow, Director of the Multi-

(continued on page 111)

(continued from page 2)

Purpose Training Center, the regional coordinating agency for the various programs of the OEO. He is aware of the criticism from academics, intellectuals and, frequently, members of various "underprivileged" groups that the activities of the War on Poverty have often failed to take into account cultural matters -- ethnic patterns, the sense of community in many low-income areas, and justifiable social diversities. His thought is to use relevant portions of our program to brief members of his staff on what we know about these issues. Because two-thirds of the program is of potential interest to War on Poverty personnel, his office plans to give us a hand with expenses connected with bringing certain of our speakers here. Moreover, through an informal agreement to purchase copies of relevant symposia which we produce, he is in effect doing a great deal to help us get our American Studies publications series rolling.

It seems to me that we have here a great opportunity to make our field socially useful without in any sense sacrificing scholarly quality. The truth is that many men working in American Studies are dealing with problems of immediate national concern, and, when we encounter an administrator of government policy as imaginative and game as is Mr. Winslow, it seems proper to make every effort to make the results of our own thought and investigation available to him and to his colleagues. The chairmen of those sections of the program which seem relevant to areas which are the proper concern of the War on Poverty have been notified of this arrangement, and urged to explain it to their speakers, so that these people will take into account in preparing their papers, that in their audience are practical workers in the field, interested in making use of the best current point of view. The chairmen have also been urged to place their speakers in touch with one another, with an eye to producing as much unity in the various symposia as possible, so that, if the papers are collected for publication, the result will be coherent and integrated discussions.

- Two graduate schools currently require all American Studies graduate students to subscribe to MASJ. An admirable idea, which we commend to your attention. Students enrolled in work leading to degrees in the field certainly should feel sufficient professional commitment to it to subscribe to the two journals in the field, MASJ and American Quarterly. This is good for us, of course, since we like circulation. It is also good for them: the articles are good, and provide models for interdisciplinary scholarship.
- Here is the program for the twelfth annual meeting of the Midcontinent American Studies Association at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, Saturday, April 1, 1967:

Morning Session

Chairman: Harry Oster (English and Folklore),
State University of Iowa

**"The 'Spider-Web Conspiracy': The
Radical Right in the 1920's"**

Allan F. Davis (History),
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

"Ezra Pound and the Bollingen Prize Controversy"

Robert A. Corrigan (English), State University of Iowa

"The American: Typical and Heroic"

Martin F. Hasting, S. J. (American Studies),
St. Louis University

Luncheon

Presiding: Nicholas Joost, MASA past president
Southern Illinois University

Presidential Address: "Lessons from Editing"

Leon T. Dickinson (English),
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

MASA Business Meeting**Afternoon Session**

Chairman: Clinton Keeler (English),
Oklahoma State University

**"Transition: Materials and Their Uses in
American Architecture and Engineering"**

Donald I. McKeown (Architectural Engineering),
Iowa State University

"Civil War Music: An Overview"

Dudley T. Cornish (History),
Kansas State College, Pittsburg, Kansas

"American Humor in France"

James C. Austin (English),
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Fall 1967
Midcontinent American Studies Association (MASA) Bulletin

Published in the *Midcontinent American Studies Journal*, vol. 8, no. 2
(Fall 1967).

MASA BULLETIN

- A SPECIAL NUMBER: The next issue of MASJ (Spring, 1968) is a special number devoted in whole or in large part (we haven't yet counted pages) to the age of Jefferson. William Bottorff is serving as guest editorial consultant. As always, the issue is available for textbook use, but, as usual, we ask for orders in advance because we can't afford to print thousands of extras on the chance that someone will want them; we need firm orders. For details on the contents, write Miss Cassidy at our editorial office.
- OUR LAST SPECIAL ISSUE, the one devoted to the American Indian, is a case in point: it's all sold out. Please stop adopting it as a text for the time being. Adoptions continue to pour in, and we have no way to fill the orders. It will be reprinted, in expanded and much-revised form, this Spring, and will then be permanently available. If you would like to be put on the publisher's mailing list to receive an announcement of its publication, write Miss Cassidy. It should be handsome, with a four-color cover, illustrations, a large map showing the locations of all known groups of Indian people in North America north of Canada, an index and a bibliography.
- THE CITY IN AMERICAN CULTURE is the title of yet another special number. The date is not yet set; interested prospective contributors should contact John Hancock, the American Studies Program, 1135 Maine St., the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044.
- A POE NEWSLETTER, no less! G. R. Thompson, Department of English, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 99163, asks us to announce it; address inquiries to him.
- Since the Journal does not run reviews of anthologies, there is no way to review Warren French's new The Thirties: Fiction, Poetry, Drama (Everett/Edwards, 1967). But since we do run, in this column, literary gossip about our editors and contributors, we can at least list the contents of this rather extraordinary collection:
Eleanor Widmer, "The Lost Girls of U. S. A.: Dos Passos' 30s Movie"; Sheldon Norman Grebstein, "Hemingway's Dark and Bloody Capital"; Jones Spatz, "Fitzgerald, Hollywood and the Myth of Success"; Richard Walser, "The Transformation of Thomas Wolfe"; Pascal Covici, Jr., "John Steinbeck and the Language of Awareness"; Warren French, "William Faulkner and the Art of the Detective Story"; David Madden,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 87)

(Continued from page 2)

"James M. Cain and the Tough Guy Novelists of the 30s"; Frederick J. Hoffman, "Henry Miller, Defender of the Marginal Life"; Clifford Hand, "The Struggle to Create Life in the Fiction of Richard Wright"; David G. Pugh, "Reading the Proletarians---Thirty Years Later"; Kingsley Widmer, "The Sweet Savage Prophecies of Nathanael West"; William Freedman, "Henry Roth and the Redemptive Imagination"; Max Halperen, "Ezra Pound: Poet-Priest, Poet-Propagandist"; Sy Kahn, "Kenneth Fearing and the Twentieth Century Blues"; Dan Jaffe, "Archibald MacLeish: Mapping the Tradition"; Donald Sheehan, "Wallace Stevens in the 30s: Gaudy Bosh and the Gesture's Whim"; Guy Owen, "Southern Poetry During the 30s"; Gene W. Puoff, "The New Criticism: One Child of the 30s That Grew Up"; Jordan Y. Miller, "Maxwell Anderson: Gifted Technician"; Robert J. Griffin, "On the Love Songs of Clifford Odets"; Gerald Rabkin, "The Federal Theatre Project"; James H. Justus, "William Saroyan and the Theatre of Transformation"; Patrick J. Hazard, "The Undiscovered Art: Drama on and off American Radio in the 30s"; Jackson R. Bryer, "The Literature of the Thirties: A Selected Checklist of Criticism".

- THE NATIONAL MEETING WAS A BALL, we thought. Many of its papers will appear in print; details in a future issue. We've been given a very free editorial hand: any coherent groups of papers can be assembled into a book; single items can appear in the Journal; papers which should be expanded can be published on monographs.