

Spring 1971
Midcontinent American Studies Association (MASA) Bulletin

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LIKE OUR NEW NAME? We do, too.

STUPIFYING AND CATAclysmic is the idea of Jerzy Hauptmann resigning as Executive Secretary of MASA. The mind searches in vain, as the nineteenth-century magazinists liked to say, for hypothetical precedents of comparable enormity. Buddha resigning from Buddhism? The Marquis de Sade from sadism? Washington turning in his sword two weeks before Yorktown?

All those years of selfless service! MASA's only continuity!

Dogged inverter of English sentence structure! Majestic manipulator of trusts and foundations! The only treasurer in history, as one member put it, able to manage an organization with no income and many outgoes and keep it in the black!

The only Republican ever to please, totally, an entirely Democratic constituency!

Perhaps the real measure of Jerzy's contribution to the organization is not our consternation at his resignation—he had abundantly good reasons, related to his prominence in his field, his editorship of a journal, pressing responsibilities as chairman of a department and as administrator at his college—but that he gave a thankless, unsalaried and unglamorous office sufficient dignity that not one but two very good MASA members were willing to step forth and offer themselves up as replacements. The executive board meeting on the evening of March 26, 1971 was thus faced for the first time in MASA history with a contested election.

"Contested" perhaps has the wrong connotations. Through a comedy of errors, two different names had been suggested independently, both of good men willing to have a crack at this impossible job. The matter was settled with commendable amicability and even a certain amount of healthy MASA hilarity. The new Executive Secretary will be Robert Corrigan of the American Civilization

Program at the University of Iowa. In Corrigan we think we have found a wheeler and dealer of truly Hauptmannian proportions who, like his predecessor, combines energy, know-how and high ethical standards. Friends of the new Executive Secretary are urged to keep an eye on him, to serve him milk at cocktail parties, to be sure he gets plenty of sleep, and to watch for telltale tics and gray bags under his eyes.

AT THE SUGGESTION of Professor Wayne Wheeler of our editorial board, we are going to try separate meetings of the editorial and executive boards beginning in the fall of 1971 when both boards will meet in Parkville, Missouri. The thought is that separate meetings will allow more time for the picky details of journal operations, while still allowing the Editor and Chairman of the editorial board to present large scale problems to the assembled executives. If the plan works well, it will be used again in the spring, 1972, general meeting of the chapter.

THE 1972 MEETING will be at Park College in Parkville, Missouri. Jerzy Hauptmann (who?) has volunteered to be program chairman, which means he is currently our Vice-President and will be President in another year.

HERE IS THE PROGRAM for the spring, 1971 meeting. The general topic was Women in America.

"Women's Liberation and Its Impact on the Campus"—Jo Freeman, University of Chicago

"The Male Sociologist's Burden: The Place of Women in Marriage and Family Texts"—Carol Ehrlich, University of Iowa

"The Loneliness of the Long Distance Mother"—Pauline Bart, University of Illinois, Chicago Medical Center

"The Airline Hostess: The Sociology of a Special Opportunity Occupation"—Elizabeth

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Moles and Norman Friedman, California State College at Los Angeles

"Major Themes in the Nondomestic History of American Women"—Janet Wilson James, Radcliffe College

"From the Kinzie Mansion to the Palmer Mansion: Continuity and Progression Among the Women of Chicago in the Nineteenth Century"—Ann Massa, University of Leeds

"Handmaids of Tradition: Women Teachers in America, 1830-1860"—Keith Melder, Smithsonian Institution

"Clinging Vine or Independent Elm: The Feminists, the Church and the Struggle for a New Image of Woman in Ante-bellum America"—Barbara Ellingson-Waugh, University of Chicago Divinity School

"Women's Magazines: Feminine Consciousness, Past and Present"—Ruth Rosen, University of California at Berkeley

"A New Feminine Mystique?"—Mary Jane Harmon, University of Kansas

"Cinderella Revisited: The Feminine Image in the Novels of Mary Stewart, Victoria Holt and Phyllis Whitney"—Kay Mussell, University of Iowa

"Coring the Apple: Myth-Making in Ladies' Magazine Fiction"—Mary Dunlop, Iowa State University

"The Iron Madonna: The Culmination in Muckracking Fiction of a Nineteenth-Century American Stereotype of Women"—Barry Hayne, University of Toronto

American Studies has rights of first refusal on all papers given at MASA conventions; presumably, a number of these good papers will be accepted for publication, and will appear either as a special issue or as a special section in a general issue in a future number of our magazine. Consensus of participants in the convention was that chairman Norman Yetman had assembled an unusually rich and valuable program. Attendance was very good, and the papers seemed to "speak to one another" in a healthy way. There was, moreover, a good mix geographical and professional: the speakers ranged from graduate students to professors well established in their fields, and the institutions represented ranged in location from Great Britain to the California coast.

THE MASA CHOWDER, BOURBON PUNCH, MARCHING AND PHILHAR-

MONIC SOCIETY was in full cry at the Friday night soiree and stomp which followed the executive board meeting and preceded by only a few hours the Saturday morning sessions. The brawl broke up at about 3:15, and your Editor's wife reports that something in excess of a hundred and forty celebrants were there to toast the retiring Executive Secretary, special issues of the journal past, present and future, the new slate of officers, and seventy or eighty other persons and topics. Seventy-seven sturdy choruses of the MASA Blues poured out of the music room, wherein the Philharmonic played no less than six sets. Personnel varied, but for the sake of *Metronome* when All-Star nomination time rolls around, the pianist was Terry Buchanan, an unidentified gent with a beard played drums until the rumpus awakened the Editor's six-year old son, who sat in from 11:00 until 2:00 a.m.; Tim Miller played lead guitar, electric and acoustic; Jim Austin, by special arrangement with the Old Guys' Jazz Band, contributed a gritty and solid trombone; Ernie Grundy was there with sound trumpet work in Handy's "Loveless Love," and your humble correspondent committed certain abominations on the trumpet, banjo and guitar. At certain memorable moments, a toy electric organ was in use, as was a battery of percussion instruments.

Robert Buchanan served in his new position as Assistant Punchmaster. The up-state returns are not yet in, but our impression is that seventeen gallons of punch, 100 pounds of ice and six gallons of bourbon are no more.

PUFFERY II: In response to the editor's request for some immodest remarks about the activities of American Civilization people at the University of Iowa, the following comments are offered for a friendly, if critical, MASA audience. Iowa's program over the last few years has assumed an increasingly important role on the campus as legitimate student demands for academic relevancy and flexibility have gained a fair hearing from the central administration. We are the home of the new interdisciplinary program in Afro-American culture, the source of courses on Women in America, and one of the developers of the undergraduate environmental studies program. In addition, the program has pioneered in providing supervised training in undergraduate instruction for Ph.D. candidates who wish to become teachers as well as

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scholars. The undergraduate introductory course, staffed largely by graduate students, is elected by six hundred non-majors a year and several hundred others are turned away annually for lack of space.

The chairman of the program, Alexander C. Kern, is a member of the editorial board of the Henry David Thoreau edition being prepared under the auspices of the CEAA and will spend the fall semester in Chicago working on one of the three volumes he will edit for the series. Sherman Paul, a member of the executive committee of the program, has just published a major essay on the poetry of Gary Snyder in *The Iowa Review*, a book on William Carlos Williams, a volume of his own poetry, and saw the third edition of *Emerson's Angle of Vision* through the Harvard Press. Charles T. Davis, who joined the program this year as chairman of the Committee on Afro-American Studies, has just published *On Being Black: Writings by Afro-Americans from Frederick Douglass to the Present* and is at work on book length studies of E. A. Robinson and Walt Whitman, and a critical survey of the Harlem Renaissance.

Robert A. Corrigan, executive secretary for both American Civilization and Afro-American Studies, just accepted a \$56,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to aid in the development of the Afro-American program. He is currently at work on finishing a complete revision of his book-length manuscript on the political and social role of Ezra Pound and bringing out a definitive edition of the poetry of Michael Wigglesworth. A second edition of *American Fiction and Verse*, an anthology for use in European universities, co-edited with former MASA member John Hancock, has recently been published.

WE HAVE had other responses to our suggestion that MASA members use this column to announce interesting new scholarship and publications. Professor Edward L. Schapsmeier of Illinois State University tells us that he and his brother, Frederick, have just come out with a volume published by Iowa State University Press, entitled *Prophet in Politics: Henry A. Wallace and the War Years*. Robert Hemenway, who was guest editorial consultant for "Perceptions of Black America," our last issue, has also in print a handsome new anthology, *The Black Novelist*, published by the Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company.

HARVARD STUDIES IN URBAN HISTORY is the title of an interesting-sounding new series for which we have received an announcement. The editors are Stephen Thernstrom, History, UCLA, and Charles Tilley, Sociology and History, Michigan; the publisher is Harvard University Press. Manuscripts are welcomed.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM at the University of Iowa announces an institute on "Richard Wright and His Influence," scheduled for July 18-31, 1971. For further information contact Robert Corrigan, Institute for Afro-American Culture, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

READERS ARE URGED to examine *American Studies* new book review policy, as announced in Volume 11, Number 2. We are currently soliciting review articles which conform to the general format therein described.

GRATIFYINGLY GOOD THINGS are being said about our last issue, "Perceptions of Black America." Hemenway, Yetman and your Editor, the guilty parties, admit that it came out better than we thought it would. A thoughtful note from a leading scholar calls it the best thing of its sort yet published: that not only pleased us, but surprised us, too. It cost too much to print, though, so if you feel it's all that good, *please* adapt it for class use. For a measly \$2.50 your students will own "the best thing of its sort," and *American Studies* will survive to print another special issue.

FOREIGN LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *AMERICAN STUDIES*: Between one and fourteen libraries in the following countries are receiving copies of *American Studies*.

Puerto Rico	El Salvador	New Zealand
China	England	Nicaragua
Cuba	Finland	Nigeria
Germany	France	Norway
South Africa	Guatemala	Panama
Africa	Holland	Paraguay
Australia	Honduras	Peru
Austria	Hungary	Philippines
Belgium	India	Poland
Bolivia	Israel	Rumania
Brasil	Wales	Scotland
Canada	Italy	Sweden
Chile	Jamaica	Spain
Colombia	Japan	Turkey
Costa Rica	Korea	Uruguay
Czechoslovakia	Malta	USSR
Denmark	Mexico	Venezuela
Ecuador	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

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SPECIAL THANKS to Walter Rundell, Jr., who submitted his resignation from our Editorial Board when he moved from our region to become chairman of the history department at the University of Maryland, but who has, at our invitation, gone on working for us, and working hard, on a *de facto* basis. How good an editor he is his article in the *AAUP Bulletin*, for Autumn, 1971 suggests; read it: "Author and Editor: Symbiotic Need."

MACHINATIONS were doubtless the order of the day when the MASA Executive Committee met at the Park College Meeting House in Parkville, Missouri on November 19. Your editor, absent in his sabbatical hideaway near Ju Achi, Arizona, surmises as much from the note which Ms. Harmon provided him to use in composing this item. She writes, "The typical frivolity of these meetings was also punctuated with some important decisions." The frivolity I understand, but what important decisions? I'll have to read the MASA Bulletin to find out.

SCARY NEWS about diminished university support makes our financial situation again precarious. More subscribers would help: please help us peddle subscriptions: \$3.00 per year for individuals, \$1.50 for students. And many thanks to subscribers who responded to our Executive Secretary's letter in September.

DATE for the 1972 MASA convention has been announced. The place is Parkville and Jerzy Hauptmann, Department of Political Science, Park College, Parkville, Missouri is program chairman. The meetings officially start at noon on Friday, March 24. There will be a meeting of the journal's editorial board that morning, and a full executive committee meeting that evening. Six sessions—three general ones and three specific ones—are planned. If you have papers and/or topical suggestions please contact Professor Hauptmann.

Parkville is near Kansas City. If you plan to fly in, contact Professor Hauptmann on the fair chance that he can find a participant coming on the same plane to share expenses, or a member with wheels who can give you a lift from the airport. The Parkville Hilton isn't scheduled for completion till 1997, so be sure to arrange a place to stay in advance. Professor Hauptmann will be happy to put interested non-members on the mailing list to receive announcements and registration forms.

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PEACE MOVEMENTS IN AMERICA is our spring special issue topic. Several good papers have already been accepted, and others are still making the editorial rounds. Charles Chatfield, Department of History, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, is guest editorial consultant; manuscripts may still be submitted either to him or to our Lawrence office. Please spread news of this issue to interested groups so that they can order copies in advance: we'll have to know how many to print. Our special issues tend to sell out.

THE URBAN ISSUE is still in the works and Ms. Harmon thinks the fall, 1972 number is a good bet. That would mean two special issues in the same volume. John Hancock, Department of Urban Planning, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, is the guest editorial consultant for this issue; contact him if you are working in the field.

DOS PASSOS: Melvin Landsberg writes: "With Mrs. Dos Passos' permission, I am preparing an edition of the letters of the novelist John Dos Passos (1894-1970). I shall be very grateful for any help in locating them, particularly those in private hands. Please write me % Department of English, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044."

NEW RESOURCES FOR AMERICAN STUDIES: Norman Lederer of Wisconsin State University-Platteville writes to brief us on the new Wisconsin State University System Ethnic and Minority Studies Center, now open for business at Platteville. Bibliographies, syllabi and such are now in preparation, and attractive programs are planned. The Center seems designed to serve as a clearing-house for ethnic work throughout the state, but Mr. Lederer's note suggests willingness to make its facilities available to others in the field.

NEW PAMPHLET SERIES: James Maguire of Boise State College, Boise, Idaho and his colleague Wayne Chatterton are editors of their college's new Western Writers Series, and announce their first two titled: Vardis Fisher and Mary Hallock Foote. It's a shoestring operation, so don't expect to receive four-color advertisements; if you are interested, write to the gents at Boise.