

Spring 1975
Midcontinent American Studies Association (MASA) Bulletin

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masa bulletin

SCOPE OF THE VENTURE as of April, 1975:

1.) Since we began counting last spring, the journal has received 241 submitted articles. Of these, it has accepted sixteen, all but one after one or more extensive revisions by the author.

We continue to make it a policy to provide contributors with detailed critical comments, even in cases in which we are not able to use their articles.

2.) In the past year, we have accepted articles by authors who list their affiliations with the following universities: the University of Arizona, California State University at Hayward, the University of California at Los Angeles, San Diego State University, Yale University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, Bradley University, the University of Chicago, the University of Maryland, Michigan State University, the City University of New York, the University of Pennsylvania and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

3.) Our reviews this year have been written by reviewers at the University of Alabama, El Camino College, the University of Miami, Indiana University at Indianapolis, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Kansas, the University of Maryland, the University of Missouri at Columbia, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Southwest Missouri State University, Washington University, the University of Nebraska, Sarah Lawrence College, Duke University, the University of Akron, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the University of Texas at Arlington.

4.) In addition to the regular members of our editorial board, we have used consultants at Tuskegee Institute, the Hagley Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, the Latin School of Chicago, Indiana Univer-

sity at Indianapolis, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Kansas, the University of Maryland, Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Nebraska, the University of Akron, the University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Brown University and the University of Washington.

5.) We have subscribers in all fifty states, and in the following foreign countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rhodesia, Rumania, El Salvador, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

ANNUAL THANKS AND WELCOME go, respectively, to Roy C. Male of the University of Oklahoma and Theodore R. Hovet of Northern Iowa University, the first, on the completion of four years of faithful unpaid labor; the latter on the occasion of his joining our editorial board. The editorial and executive boards of MASA invited Max Skidmore of the Political Science Department at Southwest Missouri State University to serve another four year term on our staff.

SON OF SHAO-HSING CHIU: These oriental intelligences are of interest to certain MASA regulars; we offer them here because one must cherish traditions. They constitute a translation, somewhat literal, of certain timeless assertions

(continued on page 84)

masa bulletin

(continued from page 4)

—"But they say pretty much the same thing on anything you buy," protests the translator—put forward beyond the scope of Truth-in-Packaging.

Glutinous rice lagered [e.g., aged
for a long time]
Shao-Hsing wine's
mash thereby is ferment-formed—
the method [of its manufacture
is] venerable
preserved for ages—
its pure flavor fragrant—
a prince among wines—
drinking it comforts and cheers,
prolongs life, placidity and health.

Shao-Hsing in modern Chekiang
province

It won't do to be too skeptical! The Adprose is scarcely more rhapsodic on the topic than was the great scholar Hung Liang-Chi (1746-1809) of the Ch'ing dynasty (quoted in *The Great Sino-Japanese Dictionary* [Dai Kanwa Jiten] of Morohashi Tetsuji 27361:25) who proclaimed it, "... the highest form of Chinese wine," "... the best of Chinese wine," and averred that it "was already famous in the Liang dynasty" [about the sixth century].

SOCIAL SCIENCE HISTORY: A new Social Science History Association plans conferences, "special interest networks, data resource and curriculum development and related action." Information from Jerome M. Clubb, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Robert Swierenga, Department of History, Kent State University (Kent, Ohio 44240), editor of the association journal, is ready to receive submissions.

ROMANTICISM AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION is the title of a special Fall, 1976 issue of *Studies in Romanticism*. Essays by interdisciplinarians solicited. Deadline: May 1, 1976; details from Morton Paley or Charles Stone, III at Boston University, zip 02215. Speed counts.

WESTERN ILLINOIS University and *Essays in Literature* solicit papers, 2,000-8,000 words long, on Lindsay, Masters and Sandburg, for a Bicentennial book. John E. Hallwas is editor; WIU is in Macomb, Illinois, zip 61455. Write for details. Deadline is December 1, 1975.

A LETTER we sent recently in response to a question from a contributor is perhaps some general interest to prospective

contributors. A long excerpt from it follows:

You write, "perhaps they [the commentators] mean to say my discussion is not socially or culturally important? It's hard to believe that a serious student of art history could believe that in all good faith." The confusion, I think, centers in the word "culture." American Studies people tend to use it in the "small c" sense in which anthropologists use it, as opposed to the "capital C" kind of culture which means, essentially, the arts, philosophy and so forth. Now *American Studies* automatically rejects articles, no matter how good, which address themselves only to problems in the history or criticism of high culture, not because we're not interested, or, for that matter, because we are not committed to the arts ourselves, but rather because we conceive of the history and criticism of such fields as being the province of journals in literature, art history, music and so forth. We deal with the high arts only when the discussion is focused on the relationship between Culture and culture. Thus we usually say "no" even to articles, for example, which relate literary movements to major trends in intellectual history, because we usually (I say "usually" because we're not completely consistent on this score) feel that intellectual history journals are the proper place for such pieces.

Since few art historians are trained in social or cultural history, they have a very hard time understanding what we want; it's a problem we've faced since the early days of our magazine. We are serious in saying that the most important movement or tendency in art history is of interest to us only to the extent to which the author can relate it to a larger body of theory about the structure of American society or the nature of American culture. That's our real subject, and we welcome approaches to it from all angles, from sociological nose-counting to the analysis of literary texts.

It is accurate to say that we have a strong bias in favor of articles which reach social or cultural conclusions through examination of such arts as painting, music, architecture, cinema or other arts. We receive a good number in literature, but too few in the rest.

(continued on page 85)

masa bulletin

(continued from page 84)

OKLAHOMA STATE has a new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, run out of the English department. Students earn a doctorate in English built upon "three examination areas from English and American literature and two from one or two other disciplines." An interdisciplinary dissertation is possible, too.

NEW *AQ* SERVICE: Leila Zenderland writes to tell us that *American Quarterly* will begin to list book length American Studies research-in-progress each August.

UNPAID, UNSUNG: Editorial board members are unpaid, but at least named on page one. Those non-members who helped by reading articles for *American Studies* in the past months should at least be acknowledged gratefully. They are Bruce Adams, Tuskegee Institute; James C. Austin, Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville; Hennig Cohen, University of Pennsylvania; George Ehrlich, University of Missouri—Kansas City; Norris Hetherington, University of Kansas; Warren A. Jennings, Southwest Missouri State University; David Katzman, University of Kansas; Sidney Kronus, University of Illinois—Urbana; Regina Morantz, University of Iowa; Harold Orel, University of Kansas; Calder Pickett, University of Kansas; Stitt Robinson, University of Kansas; Kenneth M. Roemer, University of Texas—Arlington; Beth Schultz, University of Kansas; Leonard J. Simutis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Haskell Springer, University of Kansas; Susan Suchman, University of Iowa; Frank Tirro, University of Kansas and Lynne E. Withey, University of Iowa.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A SATISFIED USER: "I have never enjoyed myself more among a gathering of academics, in ten years of graduate work and teaching, than I did with MASA. The lack of pretensions among the people and the diversity and importance of the papers made it a memorable experience for me. Somehow, by hook or crook, I am going to try to get to Missouri next year."

And here is the program for that conference:

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1975
2:30-3:45

SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE IN THE
MIDWESTERN SMALL TOWN

"Junction City, 1890-1915." *A motion picture and discussion.*

Roy E. Gridley, University of Kansas

4:00-5:00

ASPECTS OF COWBOY CULTURE

Moderator: Theodore Agnew, Oklahoma State University

"Cultural Influences on the Lexicon of the American Cowboy"

James S. Hedges, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"Sport on the Great Plains in the Nineteenth Century: The Origins of Rodeo"

James F. Hoy, Emporia State College

POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE PLAINS

Moderator: Max J. Skidmore, Southwest Missouri State University

"Midwestern Populists and Edward Bellamy: 'Looking Backward' into the Future"

Christine McHugh, Roosevelt University

"The Irish National League in Lincoln, Nebraska: Late Nineteenth Century Radical Chic"

Thomas A. Kuhlman, Creighton University

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1975
9:00-10:15

NEW APPROACHES TO FRONTIER STUDIES

Moderator: Hamilton Cravens, Iowa State University

"Expeditionary-Sedentary Frontiers: A Proposal for Comparative Frontier Studies"

Jerome O. Steffen, University of Oklahoma

"Settlement on the Canadian Prairies: Towards a More Realistic Township Model"

John L. Tyman, Brandon University

"The Myth of the Pioneer Mother: Attitudes of Frontier Women Toward the Western Frontier Experience, 1850-1890"

Lillian Schlissel, Brooklyn College of C.U.N.Y. (Read *in absentia*.)

THE CONFLICT OF CULTURES

Moderator: Joseph R. Millichap, Tulsa University

"The Noble and Ignoble Savage: The Racist Rationale for the Westward Movement"

David C. Stineback, Union College

"Dakota Philosophy"

George W. Linden, Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville

"Paradoxical Attitudes Toward the Non-Anglo-Saxon in the Hamlin Garland Autobiographies"

James Robert Payne, New Mexico State University

(continued on page 86)

masa bulletin

(continued from page 85)

10:30-11:45

TEACHING THE PLAINS EXPERIENCE

Moderator: Nancy Walker, Stephens College

"Images of the Frontier Great Plains: A Focus for Interdisciplinary Teaching"

Carol G. Barrett, University of Wisconsin—River Falls; Nicolas J. Karolides, University of Wisconsin—River Falls; James T. King, University of Wisconsin—River Falls

"The Uses of Literary Landmarks: Hannibal and Red Cloud"

Donald C. Irving, Grinnell College

"Mari Sandoz and Her Sense of Place: The Use of Geography and Landscape in Presenting *Old Jules*"

Helen Stauffer, Kearney State College
CULTURAL ADAPTATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Norman R. Yetman, University of Kansas

"The Social Cost of Minority Group Behavior in the Yonland"

Carl F. Kraenzel, University of Texas—El Paso

"Utopias Revisited: The Hutterites and the Old Order Amish in the Great Plains"

Dorothy Schwieder, Iowa State University; Elmer Schwieder, Iowa State University

"The Conservative Cultural Function of Great Plains Windmills"

Anne M. Marvin, Office of New York State History

1:00-2:15

SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE IN THE MIDWESTERN SMALL TOWN

"Junction City, 1890-1915." *A motion picture and discussion.* (Second showing.)

Roy E. Gridley, University of Kansas
Response: "Socio-Technological Change (1890-1915): Junction City and the Nation"

Forrest J. Berghorn, University of Kansas

LITERATURE AND A SENSE OF PLACE: HISTORY, MYTH AND IMAGE

Moderator: Sara Jane Gardner, Hastings College

"General Charles King and the Fictional Representation of Garrison Life on the Plains"

Kathryn D. Whitford, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

"The Use of Hugh Glass as Mythic Hero in Neihardt and Manfred"

Sally McClusky, Eastern Illinois University

"*Ceremony at Lone Tree* and *Badlands*: The Starkweather Case and the Nebraska Sandhills"

Ginny Brown Machann, University of Texas—Austin

2:30-5:30

WORKSHOP ON MUSEUMS AS INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES

Moderator: Roger Welsch, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Panelists: Jan Brunvand, University of Utah; Louis Gorr, Fairfax County, Va., Park Authority; Harold Holoun, Stuhr Museum; Paul Petrescu, Institute of Art History, Bucharest, Rumania; Linna Funk Place, National American Studies Faculty

2:30-3:45

LITERATURE AND A SENSE OF PLACE: THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

Moderator: Alexander Kern, University of Iowa

"Toward a Theory of Agrarian Literature: Garland, Cather and Rolvaag"

Gwen S. Argersinger, University of New Mexico

"New Virginia in Nebraska: The Cathers and Their Neighbors"

Paul D. Riley, Nebraska State Historical Society

"The Adaptation of Sources in Cather's *A Lost Lady*"

Lonnie Pierson, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

4:00-5:30

LITERATURE AND A SENSE OF PLACE: THREE POETS

Moderator: James C. Ballowe, Bradley University

Poetry Readings and Discussion: William C. Kloefkorn, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Greg Kuzma, University of Nebraska—Lincoln; Don Welch, Kearney State College

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MEETING AT THE FLESHPOTS this spring, according to the program chairman, Max Skidmore. The 1976 annual MASA rally will be at a Lake of the Ozarks resort, the Tan-Tar-A, on March 26 and 27. Papers of two sorts are welcome, those on the general theme "The People and Cultures of American Mountain Regions," and those on any topic "pertinent to American Civilization." The preliminary scheme is to run simultaneous sessions throughout the conference, one on the mountain theme and the other on more miscellaneous topics, thus making the conference attractive both to regionalists and to others. Proposals for papers are now being accepted; as always, "proposals that cross disciplinary lines will be especially welcomed." Further data are available from Skidmore, Walker, Cravens or Hostetler; see page one for their addresses, and act fast if you're interested.

WE'RE NON-PROFIT (IS THAT NEWS?): Reconfirmation of MASA as a non-profit corporation means that *American Studies* can have patrons. Given the severe financial pressures which bear down on our magazine, we would welcome them. Categories of beneficence will likely be defined at the next business meeting—Patron, Benefactor and so on, but tax deductible gifts may be made as of now. We might promise donors interim titles of their choice—ranging, perhaps from "Princely Endower" to the more modest "Sugar Daddy, jg."

TUESDAY AFTERNOON MASSACRE: Actually, he just got too busy and had to resign. Norman Yetman has been since 1969 a constant source of advice and expertise for yr. faithful ed. His ideas and initiative have affected *American Studies* in numerous good ways; he also managed the store when YFE was on leave, so that there are whole issues which represent primarily his editorial decisions and not those of YFE. His escape from editorial consultation will be less than complete—his office is too near the journal office for our staff to resist the temptation of a

quick conference on this or that essay or so-and-so's new book.

Neither William C. Jones nor Robert A. Jones will be with us after this issue, either, the latter because his research interests have developed away from American topics, the former a) because he is currently in Turkey on a Fulbright, b) because the arrangement between *American Studies* and his university has been amicably terminated. Gratitude to both Joneses.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE ERROR: Jon C. Teaford of Purdue University writes to inform us of a misattribution: he, and not Bill Jones, is the author of the brief review of William Brock's *The United States, 1789-1890*. We apologize.

AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS was the concern of an Iowa organization a few years past; for a period, Iowa secondary school teachers were regularly involved in MASA affairs. At least one article in this journal resulted from the contact; perhaps some pedagogical good came of it, too. We have to report, at any rate, that Ernest Grundy and Norman Hostetler have been traveling about as consultants in American Studies to Nebraska high schools. Should good things come of their efforts, we will report on them in this column.

AMERICAN STUDIES AT STEPHENS COLLEGE: Within the past five years, the American Studies program at Stephens College has grown from a brochure and one team-taught course to an area of concentration for undergraduates, with a coordinator, a separate budget—and a new brochure, which is already out of date. Half a dozen students have graduated from the program, most of them to do graduate work in American Studies, library science or law. The Program was organized during the 1970-71 academic year by a group of faculty members from the departments of English, Social Science, Business, and Religion and Philosophy.

(Continued on page 106)

masa bulletin

(Continued from page 4)

Beginning with a single seminar on the 1920's, American Studies is now a regularly listed program with its own budget, coordinated by Nancy Walker. Students shape their own programs of study which, in addition to traditional classwork included (this past spring) a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts.

For a small college, an American Studies program offers some particular benefits. Even though course offerings must be more limited than those of a university, an interdisciplinary seminar makes it possible for students to study specialized topics in which they are interested, but which cannot be offered as a regular part of the curriculum. The faculty can thus respond to student need, and provide opportunities for work on a wide range of problems. In addition, such a program may be adapted to suit the strengths and interests of the faculty. Most colleges have strong English and social science faculties, which provide the traditional basis for American Studies, and the program may develop from there to include other disciplines, as it has at Stephens.

THANKS. Here are the non-members of our editorial board who helped by reviewing mss. for us in the past six months. In some cases, this meant commentaries on an original version and then, months later, on one or more revisions before final decisions were made. We're grateful for their care and patience. Joel Conarroe, University of Pennsylvania; James Enyeart, University of Kansas; Robert Findlay, University of Kansas; Park Dixon Goist, Case Western Reserve University; Shirley Harkess, University of Kansas; Geoffrey Harpham, UCLA; Sondra Herman, De Anya College; Raven McDavid, University of Chicago; Timothy Miller, University of Kansas; Regina Morantz, University of Kansas; Stow Persons, University of Iowa; John Henry Raleigh, University of California-Berkeley; Stitt Robinson, University of Kansas; William D. Russell, Graceland College; Elizabeth Schultz, University of Kansas; Clark Spence, University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana; Geoffrey Steere, University of Kansas; Arthur Townsend, University of Kansas; Deward Walker, University of Colorado-Boulder; Theodore Wilson, University of Kansas; Lynne Withey, University of Iowa; James Woelfel, University of Kansas.

BAD MOUTH: We have in hand a prospectus from Reinhold A. Aman de-

scribing activity and publications of Maledicta: International Research Center for the Study of Verbal Aggression, Inc., "a non-profit tax-exempt organization established . . . to promote, conduct and support inter-disciplinary research on verbal aggression, pejoration, value judgment and related subjects in all languages, dialects, cultures, religions and ethnic groups." The address for further information is 3275 North Marietta Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211.

JEWISH STUDIES: David Bunis writes to inform us that *Working Papers in Sephardic and Oriental Jewish Studies* is in operation "to provide a fast and inexpensive way of circulating in pre-publication form the results of recent research on any facet of life in Sephardic, Oriental or other non-Ashkenazic Jewish communities. Sponsorship is by the American Sephardi Federation in conjunction with ADELANTRE!, the Judezmo Society.

AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY fellowships, doctoral and post-doctoral, are to be had at the Newberry Library. You write for information to Martin Zanger, address 60 West Walton St., Chicago 60610.

ART AND POLITICS: That's the theme of the third annual conference on social theory and the arts, SUNY Albany, April 2-4, 1976. Arnold Foster is in charge, and the address is MT 504, SUNYA, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12222. John M. Reilly writes to tell us not only that papers are invited, but that "artists and others" are "urged to volunteer for panels."

RELIGIONS AND THE CITY: A very snazzy-sounding symposium series running from late 1975 through April 1976 on the general theme "Religious Freedom: The New City Dweller" is in progress at St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia. The general topic is "the relationship of eleven selected ethnic groups with their religious institutions in terms of adjustment to urban life. . . ." Information from Thomas D. Marzik or Randall M. Miller in the St. Joseph History Department. The zip is 19131.

SOUTHERN POPULISTS RALLY: The Popular Culture Association in the South meets in Knoxville, Tennessee, October 7, 8 and 9, 1976. Paper and panel items

wanted; one page abstracts go, before June 15, 1976, to Duncan R. Jamieson, History, University of Alabama, University, Alabama 35486.

SUMMER SEMINARS: Marjorie A. Burlingcourt is the lady to write for information about the National Endowment for the Humanities program of summer seminars for undergraduate teachers. These are aimed at folks who teach in junior or community colleges, or at four year schools which don't have doctoral programs and big library collections in the humanities. The program looks notable and interesting.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY: Assistantships for Minnesota graduate students

and grants-in-aid for others are available through the Immigration Research Center, 826 Berry Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114. It is likely that this issue of *American Studies* will reach readers after the November 15, 1975, deadline, but it is our impression that this is an ongoing program.

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT and the placement of American Studies Ph.D.'s and near-Ph.D.'s therein were the subject of a considerable discussion at the fall 1975 joint meeting of the editorial and executive boards of MASA. We would like lots of data. If you know of such folks, or are one of them, please communicate with the Executive Secretary.